

8th Dragoons persisted in mounting the female; she kicked and plunged, and threw herself down, but the man kept his seat till the enraged animal, taking a leap from the high bank of the river, threw both herself and her rider into the water; but the soldier, still keeping hold of the bridle, was dragged by the zebra to the shore, where, walking up quietly to him, she put her head down to his face and completely bit off his ear. Some of the bystanders enjoyed the joke, and others consoled with the sufferer: "Now," said Pat, "it's just nothing at all, it will soon grow again."

Among the divers animals about this place were several ostriches, and one of our Hottentots found a nest full of eggs, and brought us a couple; he placed them in hot ashes, and by a small hole made in the end, stirred round the contents till they had acquired the consistence of an omelet, and certainly a better omelet never was eaten. Very often, in the course of my long journeys over the wilds of Africa, have I found an ostrich-egg thus prepared an excellent repast, and fully sufficient for two persons.

On the 17th, we proceeded about twenty-four miles over a rising country, but altogether barren, except that here and there were straggling over the surface a few species of the mesembryanthemum; and among them large patches of the curious and elegant ice-plant. At night the thermometer was down to the freezing-point. The Black Mountains, fifteen miles to the southward, were white with snow. The nights, indeed, from our first entering upon the Karroo Desert, had been so intensely cold, that our horses, accustomed to the stable, had become sick and low-spirited, and two of them died this day under the severity of the weather, a third had

a narrow escape ; several of the oxen had perished, but rather from want of food and water than from the coldness of the nights.

On the 18th, we encamped on the Dwyka, or Rhinoceros River, finding a few streamlets creeping over its bed. Though every part of the surrounding country was destitute of vegetation, a thick forest of mimosa covered the banks of this river, and followed it through all its windings.

Twenty miles, on the 19th, brought us to the Ghamka, or Lion's River, the whole of this distance being as level as a bowling-green, consisting of a hard compact bed of clay, tinged with iron. Not a swell to interrupt the line of the horizon, which was as unbroken as that seen over the surface of the sea ; in vain did the eye wander in search of tree or lofty shrub, or blade of grass, or living creature. The banks of the Ghamka, like those of the Dwyka, brought us some small relief from the horror of the land of utter desolation, over which we had just passed ; here, too, we had plenty of hares, partridges, mountain-geese, and wild-ducks to feed upon.

It may be thought, perhaps, that the time hung heavily on the mind during this long and dismal journey. Not in the least, as far as I was concerned ; whenever a hill or a distant mountain was visible, I took its bearing, and noted the hour at the time, and having proceeded to a given distance, pretty well ascertained by the regularity of the oxen's rate of travelling, I again intersected the line of bearing of the same mountain ; thus, together with the observed altitude of the sun at noon—by the artificial horizon when the natural one was uneven—I had the materials noted down for

transferring them to my chart, which I invariably kept in all my travels, with as much accuracy as circumstances would allow; and this, with my note-book, occupied a part of the evenings in my tent.

At our last station we learned from our accompanying boor, that at the distance of twelve miles to the southward, at the kloof, or entrance to the Zwarteberg Mountains, we should find a farm-house, and others farther on, which were within the district of Graaff Reynet; the landrost, therefore, thought it might be worth while to go somewhat out of our way, for the chance of procuring the loan of fresh teams of bullocks, many of ours having died, others being left to perish in the desert, and the rest so exhausted by the effects of cold, of bad water, and little food, as not to be likely to hold out the remaining part of the Karroo. We therefore proceeded; but before reaching the kloof, a party, mounted on horseback, were observed to be making for the waggons in full gallop. On coming up to the first, they stopped short and fired a discharge of musketry; loaded again, and proceeded in succession to every waggon; and then set off at full gallop back by the same way they had approached, and were out of sight in a few minutes. This manœuvre was interpreted to be a salute in honour of the landrost; and, moreover, as a change of sentiment or conduct—at least, of this portion of the Graaff-Reynettters.

We found here not only a friendly reception, but refreshments of all kinds; wine very tolerable, fruits of various kinds and of good quality, vegetables luxuriant, and cauliflowers measuring eighteen inches in diameter. The mistress of the mansion, at the age of sixty, the mother of sixteen children, was a tall, straight, well-

looking woman, and all the males were above the common size. The effect upon us of such a change, from starvation to abundance, may easily be conceived, but this was not all; we here completed our stock of provisions, and, having procured the loan of sixty stout bullocks, proceeded, on the 23rd, nearly thirty miles, to Sleutel Fonteyn: and, on the following day, encamped on the Traka River, which, however, contained little water, and that little both muddy and salt, its banks being covered with a pellicle of nitre, out of which was growing abundance of the salsola plant. At sunrise, thermometer five degrees below freezing-point.

On the 25th we reached the Great Loory Fonteyn; small quantities of water in holes, muddy, salt, and bitter. As the oxen had obtained no food but the shrivelled leaves or stems of the mesembryanthemum, our journey was continued, though in the dark, in search of some better place for refreshing the cattle. A little clump of mimosas and salsola were met with at the Little Loory Fonteyn.

We advanced about thirty miles the following day, over a naked surface of solid clay, and late at night pitched our tents in the midst of a meadow covered completely with herbage knee-deep. This sudden transition from unbounded barrenness to luxuriant vegetation had much the same effect on our hungry cattle, as our deviation from the desert to Zwarteberg's friendly people had upon us. The oxen, in their impatience, made no small havock in liberating themselves from their yokes and traces, to glut their empty stomachs with food. This place is named De Beer Valley, and is the recipient of small rivers from three several groups

of mountains. Here, too, was plenty of game: three species of antelope: the spring-bok, or *pygarga*; the gems-bok, or *oryx*; the koodoo, or *stripsiceros*.

The spring-bok is always met with in large herds: the peasantry will tell you, to the number sometimes of ten thousand, which is absurd; but in the course of my travels in South Africa I have met with a herd not much less, if at all, than a thousand; they will also tell you, that he will spring at a leap from fifteen to five-and-twenty feet; the hair on the rump, at every spring, sheds back on each side, and displays a surface of snowy whiteness. The gems-bok is a beautiful creature, and of larger size than the former; it is also the least timid of the antelope tribe, so that if closely pressed or wounded, it will sit down on its haunches and keep both sportsman and dogs at bay; in defence it strikes back its long straight-pointed horns, making it dangerous to be approached. The koodoo, on the contrary, though nearly the largest, is the most timid of the family; its body is marked with transverse white stripes on a bluish ground, its fine long horns are twisted in a spiral form, a black mane adorns its neck, and along the spine is a ridge of black hairs.

Our cattle having refreshed themselves with the herbage and mimosa leaves of this valley, we advanced about twenty miles to the Hottentot River, containing a little muddy water. Here, however, we were met by some inhabitants of Camdeboo, a district of Graaff Reynet, who, being apprised of the approach of the landrost, had come a journey of two days, bringing with them several teams of large fat oxen, to convey him to the Drosdy, where, he was informed, the well-disposed part of the district were anxiously expecting him.

On the 28th, our tents were pitched at the Poort, or narrow pass through a ridge of hills that stretch across the desert from the mountains of Camdeboo. Beyond this pass we had hoped to get rid of the interminable Karroo, but were disappointed. Twelve miles beyond it brought us to the first habitation, ten miles in advance to the second; fifteen miles beyond that to the third, which was the last that occurred till we had reached the Drosdy, and distant from it ten miles.

It was late in the evening of the 30th before we arrived at this village, at the entrance of which the landrost was received by a body of the boors on horseback, who welcomed him, in their usual manner, by a discharge of several platoons of musketry. The month of July was thus wholly expended in travelling about five hundred miles, of which sixteen or seventeen days were spent in crossing the dreary Karroo desert, whose width may be estimated to extend, from east to west, about three hundred miles, two-thirds of which, at least, I traversed on foot, with my little rifle in my hand, though game of any kind was so scarce as to be found only in the neighbourhood of the springs.

My travelling companion was not very brilliant, or very active: he stuck to his waggon nearly the whole journey, but spurred on his Malay cook in the preparation of our evening's repast; while I, in a separate tent, wrote out the minutes of the day's journey, and laid down our route on the chart, as already mentioned.

The first business of the landrost was to call a meeting of the inhabitants, to read to them his commission, to administer the oath of allegiance to his Majesty, to

appoint members of the Council, and to explain to them the views and intentions of the British Government, as intended to be pursued by his Excellency the Lord Macartney, who had arrived at the Cape, and assumed the government of the colony; that in addition to his (the landrost's) instructions, he had sent his own secretary, as a proof of the interest he took in the affairs of the colony, who would explain for their guidance the various points of the instructions that might be thought to require explanation; that he was directed to declare to them a general amnesty for the grave offences that had been committed by certain ill-disposed or mistaken persons, and that even to the offenders themselves he was authorised to hold out the olive-branch.

They all seemed to be much pleased, and departed to their homes, cordially shaking hands with the landrost and myself. There was, however, a party under the influence of a clever but mischievous boor, who at night, for the purpose of intimidation it was supposed, had assembled at a sort of tavern in the village, not far from the landrost's house, and whose noise, shouting, singing, and firing of muskets, gave great alarm to Mr. Bresler, who wished me to find out or see what they were really about. I tried to persuade him that it was nothing more than an ebullition of joy at his return, and for the general amnesty announced.

To ease his mind, however, I set off at once, entered the room where they were assembled, and said I rejoiced to find them so merry. They were extremely civil, made me sit down and drink a *sopie* (a dram of *Schiedam*) with them, and professed much friendship for

the English; but they assured me they had many grievances, which they wished me to know. Unable, from the little Dutch I had yet acquired, to listen or reply to what they had to state, I made them understand that, if they would put down in writing what they had to say, and send it to me, I would pledge myself that their grievances would be taken into immediate consideration, and, if possible, redressed. With this they appeared fully satisfied, and cheered me vociferously. I shook hands with all, and departed.

The paper came in the course of the following day, and the only grievance was, that the Kaffirs had invaded their district with three or four thousand head of cattle, and that the acting landrost had not condescended to give any answer to a requisition made for a *commando*—that is, a detachment of farmers to make war upon the Kaffirs, and take away their cattle. The fact was that the acting landrost had the office thrust upon him by these very people—a weak man, who dared not to give a refusal, and had not the courage to tell them that their old landrost, whom they had expelled, was on his way to resume his office, and that they must wait his arrival.

In my reply to the paper, I told them that my instructions from the Governor were to accompany the landrost to the part of the district where the Kaffirs had located themselves, and to endeavour to persuade them to retire across the boundary into their own country, and that it was hoped we should prevail upon them to do so; but that it was the decided determination of the Governor to put an end to those *commandos*, which had caused so much bloodshed and ill-feeling on the part of those who were at least disposed to be

peaceable; and, moreover, that the general opinion of their own countrymen, at the Cape and southern districts, was, that the plunder of the Kaffirs' cattle was the main object of these hostile expeditions.

SECTION III.

Expedition to the Zuure-Veldt and Kaffir-Land.

THE landrost having settled affairs in this part of his district, I arranged all matters relating to our intended expedition to the southward, where the Kaffirs had posted themselves; and I laid out the route of our journey, according to the information I could collect. All things being prepared, on the 11th of August we departed from Graaff Reynet, our party consisting of Mr. Bresler and myself, our two servants, and at least half-a-dozen Hottentots, besides an old Hottentot who could speak the Kaffir language; the two hemraaden (or councillors), with their servants, waggons, and oxen, and I know not how many Hottentots—more perhaps of all kinds than were necessary, as we were now mostly to travel through an inhabited part of the country. Our route was S.S.E. as far as Zwart-Kopi Bay, and thence westerly to the Zuure-Veldt, of which the Kaffirs had taken possession; and from thence N.W. into Kaffir-Land, and to the residence of the King.*

* Having, in my two volumes, which passed through two editions, entered into so minute a detail of the nature of the country, its inhabitants, Dutch, Kaffirs, Hottentots, and Bosjesmen, I shall on the present occasion confine my notices to a glance merely of the objects which this part of the country affords, and to the transactions and occurrences connected with the present expedition.

We passed through Camdeboo, the first portion of which was as sterile as the great desert; but it improved as we proceeded. The bullocks were large, and in excellent order; and the broad-tailed sheep were in fair condition. Springboks and ostriches were abundant, and we profited by both of them. We also saw in the course of the day a gnu, a hartebeest, and a quacha.

The two following days we had again to cross a portion of country equally bad as the Karroo, but of a different nature. It is called the Zwaart Ruggens, or Black Ridges. Excepting a small plain, on which we encamped, there scarcely occurred, in the distance of forty miles, a hundred yards of level ground. The road, of course, was execrable: the ridges requiring to be constantly ascended or descended were besides covered with large fragments of loose stones. In other places the waggons had to be dragged over ledges of firm rock. Besides this, we had to cross the Sunday River nine times since our departure—every time in peril of overturning the waggons. These ridges and ledges, however, did not prevent the luxuriant growth of two species of euphorbia: one, scarcely rising above the surface, encloses a milky fluid, not less than a pint, which the farmers assured us was eagerly devoured by the cattle, and made them fat. It is used also for greasing the axles of their waggon-wheels.

On the 14th, we passed through an opening in a ridge of hills, called the Poort, the approach to which was more beautiful than anything I had yet seen. For three or four miles the road over which we had passed was through clusters of *crassulas* and *aloes*, the latter rising above all other shrubs in spikes of blood-red blossoms, to the height of fifteen feet, just as we had

seen them on our journey to Graaff Reynet. In fact, we were now on a portion of the same country, and of the same ridges of hills, as before described.

On quitting this forest of most beautiful and luxuriant shrubbery, at least thirty miles in extent, I observed, at a little distance, a whole line of strelitzias in full flower, which, on approaching, I was pleased to find were not of the species *reginæ*, but a new species (at least in England), with pointed instead of spoon-shaped leaves, and from six to ten feet long. I procured half a dozen roots for the botanical garden at the Cape, whence the plant was sent to England; but I have not happened to meet with any one of them in our hot-houses.

On the evening of our escape from the shrubbery, we encamped on the verdant bank of a beautiful lake, of an oval form, about three miles in circumference, the water perfectly clear, but as salt as brine. The bottom was one continued body of salt, like a sheet of ice—a mass of crystals as hard as rock. Here we found a peasant encamped on the green bank, with his whole family of sons and daughters and grand-children, men, cows, sheep, and dogs. He stated that two of his horses had, in the preceding night, been devoured by lions; that these treacherous animals, like the rest of the feline tribe, lie in ambush till they can securely pounce upon their prey. While we were here, one of the farmer's Hottentots brought down a large male buffalo (*Bos Caffer*), the strongest and the fiercest of the bovine genus. Its immense horns are so broad at the base as to leave only a narrow channel down the forehead; and this is said to fill up with age, giving to the animal a front of horn as hard as rock. The lion

sometimes attacks the buffalo, but always by stratagem, and generally succeeds.

Our next halt was on the shore of Algoa Bay, which the Dutch named Zwart Kop's Bay, from the river of that name, which flows into it. We found H.M.S. 'Hope' at anchor in the bay, having been sent expressly by Admiral Pringle to meet us; and here we remained a few days to examine, and make observations on, the bay and the surrounding country. In Lieutenant Rice I found an expert and intelligent gentleman; and on my proposal we agreed to take advantage of this meeting, to ascertain by lunar distances the latitude and longitude of the best anchorage. He had already obtained the latitude of the landing-place, which I took several occasions to repeat, and found to be $33^{\circ} 56'$, the same as that of the anchorage in Table Bay; and this result occasioned some surprise, as all the old charts made the trending of the land nearly N.E. from the Cape L'Aguillas to Algoa Bay, whereas, by our observations, the said Cape and Algoa Bay are not more than E. by N. of each other. The land, therefore, from the Cape to Algoa Bay, juts out into the sea far beyond what was supposed, and laid down in the charts; and it was probably owing to the want of this knowledge that the unfortunate loss of the 'Grosvenor,' East Indiaman, may be ascribed.

On the western part of Algoa Bay, where the landing-place was pointed out, as being the most practicable and secure, a beautiful verdant terrace of grass and shrubby clumps extended about a quarter of a mile along the coast, but elevated above it, and enclosed on its northern side by a bushy ridge. It appeared to me so lovely a spot, and so delightfully situated, that I was tempted to

declare I would erect there my *baaken*, or landmark, and solicit from the Governor possession of it, either as a free gift or by purchase. Future events, however, put an end to this speculation; and I understand that now a whole line of houses and gardens occupy my enviable terrace.

At the distance of fifteen miles, which I rode over, to the westward of the bay, and close to the sea-shore, I was agreeably surprised to meet with an extensive forest, of many thousand acres, covered with trees of various kinds and dimensions, the most common apparently being the *geel-hout*, or yellow wood (*Taxus elongatus*); many of the trees rose to the height of thirty or forty feet without a branch, with a trunk of ten feet in diameter. Next in size was the *yzer*, or iron-wood (*sideroxylon*); *hassagai-hout* (*Curtisia faginea*). This beautiful tree is used for the naves and spokes of waggon-wheels. *Stink-hout* takes its name from an offensive odour which it exhales while green, but which goes off entirely with age. It is by many degrees the best wood produced in the colony, and well calculated for use in ship-building, either as knees, beams, timbers, or planks. Not being anywhere described, that I was aware of, I gave it the name of *Quercus Africana*. Several other timber-trees were growing here and along the coast, of which I procured specimens to the amount of about forty different kinds; yet in Cape Town a general complaint prevailed of the want of wood, and the extravagance of prices, which no doubt long before this have found a remedy.

The Zwart Kop's River meanders, in its course to the bay, through a valley about twenty miles long, and two to three wide, the hills on either side exhibiting an

unbroken forest of trees and shrubby plants, among which are the tree *crassula*, *euphorbia*, and several *aloes*. The whole of this rich valley was divided among four families, each having not less than five thousand acres of land; yet not content, they made endeavours to burn the enclosing shrubberies, in order to get more grass-land for their cattle, but the heated aloes and euphorbias burst open their stems, and the rushing streams of their juices extinguished the fire.

In game, Zwart Kop's district was the most prolific we had yet seen. We found five or six species of antelope; and among them the *pigmæa*, supposed to be the smallest of hoofed quadrupeds, except only the pigmy musk-deer. We found also a third species of *korhaen*, or bustard, larger than either of the other two, called the *wilde pauw*, or wild peacock; and also the *falco serpentarius*, which the Dutch have named the secretary bird, from the pen-like feathers sticking on its head.

I have so fully described the moral and physical character of the Hottentot, his good qualities, and the cruel and inhuman treatment he receives from the Dutch boors,* that I must forbear, in this place, any further notice of them. In vain have I endeavoured to discover by whom, or on what ground, the name of Hottentot was conferred on the tribe. In their own language, it has neither place nor meaning: they call themselves, in every part of the country over which they are scattered, *Quaiquæ*. But the mystery is from whence and how they came to the extreme point of a continent, hemmed in on one side by negroes, and on the other by Kaffirs, neither of whom, nor any other nation on that continent, have feature, form, character,

* Travels into the Interior of Southern Africa.

or colour, bearing the least resemblance to theirs. From all that I have seen of them (and I have had them in my service from five to six years), I have ever found them, with one single exception, an honest, faithful, intelligent, and well-conditioned people.

We are now about to proceed among a very different race of men, called Kaffirs, a name of whose origin they are equally ignorant as the Hottentots are of theirs: they call themselves Koussie. Advancing on our intended visit to the party, who had established themselves within the British colony, on the 29th of August we crossed the ford of the Sunday River, and encamped on its wooded banks, where, during the night, for the first time, we were disturbed by a troop of elephants coming to drink; but on finding the place occupied, they turned quietly away, without further molesting us. We saw them next morning in an extensive thicket, and chased them many hours, but to no purpose.

Thirty miles over a wild and uninhabited country brought us in the evening to the banks of the Bosjesmans' river, after a tedious journey through thickets of shrubbery, in which a road had been cut just wide enough to admit the waggons. The next day we reached the Hassagai-bosch River, whose source is in the Riet-berg, a range of hills that extend to the eastern limit of the colony, and lose themselves in the high banks of the Great Fish River.

We had now passed through a portion of the Zuure-Veldt, on which the emigrant Kaffirs had placed themselves and their herds of cattle; and were about to proceed to an interview with their chiefs, when several farmers with their waggons, and a party of thirty or forty boors, approached, for the purpose, as it appeared,

of accompanying us into the Kaffir country. The two hemraaden who had officially accompanied the landrost now proposed, as a necessary precaution for our safety, to take with us a party of armed men. Poor Bresler was silent, but knowing the Governor's feeling and intention on this subject, I stood forward and declared that not a single armed man should approach the King of the Kaffirs, in my company; that to take twenty armed men into the heart of a country that could bring almost as many thousands into the field would be folly, and would afford no better defence than three or four, and that by multiplying our numbers we should probably multiply the danger of giving offence; and therefore it could not be done; that my instructions were peremptory on that head, and that mine was not a mission of hostility, but of conciliation and peace. They pressed the landrost to interfere, but he told them he could not; that, if they had any apprehensions as to their personal safety, they were at full liberty to return to Graaff Reynet.

We lost them for the present; but as none of us were acquainted with a single step of the country, we took an old man of Upper Zuure-Veld and Van Rensberg, who had been one of the companions of Van Reenen, the person who had proceeded along the eastern coast in search of the unfortunate passengers and crew of the 'Grosvenor' Indiaman; and these we took for the sole purpose of being our guides.

Rensberg was a most useful man; he was not only acquainted with the country, but was an excellent marksman; and an old Hottentot he had with him was still better—from this old man he generally reckoned upon a beast for every ball. With all our care, however,

two or three others joined us in the evening, under pretence of looking after their oxen, and the first night that we passed in Kaffirland no fewer than ten had contrived to smuggle themselves into that country; but they were disappointed in their object.

We had not advanced far beyond the Hassagai-bosch River, when our approach to the Kaffirs was announced by the whole surface of the country appearing in flames. On arriving, in the evening, on the banks of the Kareeka, we pitched our tents amidst several hundreds of these people, who came swarming out of the thick shrubbery that skirted the river. A party of women were the first to salute us, laughing and dancing and putting on all the coaxing manners they could invent, with the view of getting from us some tobacco and brass buttons for their husbands. Good humour, animation, and a cheerful turn of mind beamed conspicuously in all their actions and in their countenances. They appeared to be, as I believe they were, modest without reserve, curious without being troublesome, lively without impudence, and sportive without the least shadow of lasciviousness. Getting over the prejudice of colour, a dark glossy brown verging on black, several of them might be accounted handsome. The rapid movement of the dark sparkling eye gave animation to the countenance; their teeth were beautifully white and regular; and the whole contour of the face and head was equally well formed with that of the European, which it resembled. They were mostly, however, low in stature, strong-limbed, and very muscular in the leg.

The men, on the contrary, were the finest specimens of the human figure I ever beheld. They possessed a firmness of carriage and an open, manly demeanour,

which, added to the good nature that illumined their features, declared them at once to be equally unconscious of fear, suspicion, or treachery. A young man of about twenty, of six feet ten inches high, was one of the finest figures, perhaps, ever created; he was a perfect Hercules. Some wore skin-cloaks, but the greater part were entirely naked. The women wore cloaks that extended below the calf of the leg; they had leather caps trimmed with beads, shells, and pieces of polished copper or iron. In the evening they sent us some milk in baskets made from a species of *cyperus*, exceedingly clever and neat. Having no bread, vegetables, or roots, and rarely killing any of their cattle, they may be said to live entirely, or nearly, upon coagulated milk; and the best proof of its nutritious quality is the general healthy appearance and vigour of their persons.

A chief of the name of Tooley paid us a visit; he was good-humoured and cheerful, but declined entering into conversation on the subject of our visit; he said his brother Malloo could talk to us. It was not long before he made his appearance, followed by a third chief of the name of Etonie. They were all stout, well-formed men, but Etonie might be called handsome; he had a lively, pleasing countenance that always wore a smile, his eyes were vivid and active, his teeth as white as the purest ivory, and his nose of the same form as that of the European.

They were asked if they were acquainted with the treaty that fixed the Great Fish River as the boundary between the Christians and the Kaffirs. Malloo said they knew it very well. "Then," it was asked, "had they not violated that treaty, by crossing the river and

taking possession of the country belonging to the colonists, and thus depriving them of their habitations?" Malloo immediately replied, "There were no habitations where they had fixed themselves; and as to the motive for passing the boundary, he could only say, for his own part, that he had come over for one of the reasons that had carried the colonists *first* after the treaty, into the Kaffir country—that of hunting for game."

It was at once clear that we had a shrewd people to deal with. I told them that the colony had now passed into the hands of a great and powerful sovereign, the King of England, and that his chief, who was now the Governor of that colony, had directed me to say, that the established boundary should be strictly observed by the colonists; but that the Kaffirs and all the others who had spread themselves over this side of the Great Fish River were expected to recross that river, with their families and cattle, returning quietly and peaceably into their own country. And as a proof of the good intentions and friendship of the English Government towards the Kaffir nation, we were now proceeding to their King Gaika with presents from the Governor of the colony.

This intelligence seemed to alarm them; and it was soon discovered that they were on bad terms with the King, and had been obliged to leave the country to avoid the effects of his displeasure. They now entreated our intercession on their behalf with the King, and gave a promise that, if a messenger of peace came to them direct from Gaika, they would immediately return into their own country. We assured them that every attempt should be made to bring about an amicable ad-

justment, and hoped, from the general good character of their King, to be successful; and thus we parted.

We skirted the banks of the Kareeka, passing through multitudes of Kaffirs and their herds of cattle, which our boors estimated to have amounted, in the course of the day's journey, to not less than five thousand head. Old Rensberg gave us an account of the multitudes of elephants he had formerly seen in this neighbourhood; he asserted that he had once seen in one troop between four and five hundred, scouring the plains and making for the forests. They are considered harmless, in comparison with the lion, the leopard, wolves, and hyænas, and other beasts of prey, with which this wild and rugged part of the country abounds.

We went out of our way to take a look at the mouth of the Great Fish River. A bar of sand crosses the mouth, but there appeared to be sufficient water for the admission of large boats; within the bar the width was from three to four hundred yards. Towards the evening a vast number of hippopotami, or sea-cows as they are named by the Dutch, appeared with their heads above the surface, but too far towards the opposite shore to be hit by musket-balls. Sea-cow is a name mal-appropriate enough, but it is still somewhat better than sea-horse, which it has borne from the days of Aristotle and Pliny down to our time; *river-hog* would best suit it. The water affords this huge animal no sustenance, which it has to seek among the reeds and rushes and succulent plants, that are generally found on the shores of the rivers they inhabit.

The frutescent plants we observed on the forests skirting the Great Fish River were the lofty *ghell-hout*, *euphorbia*, with its trunk of thirty or forty feet high;

the *erythrina coralladendron*; the *Scotia speciosa*, or African *lignum vitæ*; the *zamia cycadis*, or Kaffir's bread-tree; the *tamus elephantopus*, its stump resembling the foot of an elephant. Among the herbaceous plants, common to the colony, were the *xeranthemum* and *gnaphalium*, to the flowers of which the Dutch have given the name of *seven-yaars'-bloom*—seven years' flowers, a duration which in England we have extended to *everlastings*.

We crossed the Great Fish River into the Kaffir country, passed the deserted villages of the chiefs Malloo and Tooley, and arrived at the River Keiskamma. Between the two great rivers villages and huts abounded, yet not a human being appeared in the two days we had travelled in this part of Kaffirland, till we were met at the close of the second day by one of our interpreters with a Kaffir chief, who had been despatched by King Gaika to invite and to conduct us to his place of residence.

The Keiskamma was here found not fordable by waggons, and the country on the opposite side so mountainous and woody that wheel-carriages were out of the question. I was not sorry for the boors, who had smuggled themselves into the country, and were obliged to remain behind with their waggons; and our Hemraaden were pretty much in the same plight. Indeed, before we came to this river, I gave notice that not a single musket should cross it, and that the landrost and myself, and whoever accompanied us to the King, should go entirely unarmed. By this determination we got rid of the whole party, Hemraaden and all, except Rensberg and the interpreter.

We were four hours in riding fifteen miles. On our

arrival at the residence of the King, his majesty, not having expected us till the following day, had gone to his grazing-village, ten or twelve miles to the northward; a messenger was immediately despatched after him. In the meantime, the King's mother and his queen, a pretty Kaffir girl about fifteen, with their female attendants, to the number of fifty or sixty, formed a circle round us on the ground, and did their best to entertain us with their good-humoured and lively conversation, which would have been more agreeable if directly conveyed, instead of through the medium of a Hottentot interpreter.

While thus pleasantly chatting, Gaika made his appearance riding on an ox in full gallop, attended by five or six of his people similarly mounted. He invited us into his kraal, where the cattle are shut up at night, and received us under the shade of a spreading mimosa. From thence we proceeded to a clear place of grass, on which he requested us to sit down with him, that, as he said, we might the more conveniently hear what each party had to say. He was evidently pleased with our visit, of the nature of which he was fully aware; assured us that none of those Kaffirs who had passed the boundary were his subjects; that they were chiefs entirely independent of him; that he was only a chief himself, but his ancestors had always held the first rank in the country, and were so considered both by Kaffirs and colonists; that he regarded none of his countrymen, who wished to be independent of him, in the light of enemies. In short, he solemnly assured us, that Malloo and Tooley particularly had committed great depredations on the cattle of his people, and that when he sent them a civil message, to inquire if these had strayed into their territories, to his surprise he was informed they had

quitted the country; that he had frequently since sent them proffers of friendship, but they detained his messengers; that to give them no pretext for quarrelling with him, he had forbidden any of his people to molest the habitations they had left behind—the truth of this we witnessed, the villages of Malloo and Tooley remaining unmolested when we passed them.

It was impossible not to be satisfied with the candour that marked his whole conversation with us; and he readily agreed to send a messenger of peace to the Kaffir chiefs in the Zuure-Veldt to invite their return; that none of his subjects should pass the boundary to give them any disturbance; and that he should keep up a friendly intercourse with the landrost, by sending annually one of his captains to Graaff Reynet, bearing a brass gorget, with the arms of His Britannic Majesty engraven upon it.

We were surprised to find so much good sense and prudence in so young a man, and a Kaffir. He was at this time under twenty years of age, of an elegant form and a graceful and manly deportment; his height about five feet ten inches; his countenance open, but marked with the habit of reflection; and he possessed, in a superior degree, a solid understanding and a clear head. To every question, he gave, without embarrassment or reserve, direct and unequivocal answers. His disposition appeared to be amiable. He seemed, indeed, to be adored by his subjects; the name of Gaika was in every mouth, and was seldom pronounced without symptoms of pleasure. He had one wife only, very young and very pretty, by whom he had a little girl called Jasa.

The ceremony of the circumcision of male children

is universally practised among these people, but from whom they had it, is not easy to imagine. That they have descended from the Arabs is most probable: that tribe known by the name of Bedouins are and have long been wanderers over a great part of Africa. Their pastoral habits and manners, their kind and friendly reception of strangers, their tent-shaped houses, and, above all, that grand feature of Islamism to which I have alluded, strongly impressed on my mind, when among them, their Arabian descent.

Notwithstanding the friendly disposition of the Kaffir King towards the emigrant chiefs, we had scarcely reached Graaff Reynet, when it was reported to the landrost that those foolish people had positively refused to return beyond the Fish River, instigated no doubt by the rebel outlaws, lurking in the neighbourhood of that river and in various parts of the Zuure-Veld, and encouraged probably by a set of adventurers, whom we fell in with on our return, chiefly soldiers or sailors, who had either deserted or been discharged from the Dutch army and the Company's shipping.

We arrived at the Drosdy on the 30th of September, having made our long circuitous journey in less than two months.

SECTION IV.

Expedition over the Sneeuwberg to the Orange River and through the Country of the Bosjesmans.

THREE weeks had scarcely elapsed when we were ready for another expedition. My very general instructions directed me to visit the boundaries of the

colony. The journey therefore was now to be taken to the northward and to return by the eastward; in short, to explore the country, which is mostly in possession of a singular people, known by the name of Bosjesman, from their living and concealing themselves among the bushes or thickets. I may here at once describe them. At the house of one Krüger, at an early part of the journey, I saw one of these wild men, with his two wives and a little child, who had just been captured or stolen. The man measured four feet five inches, one of the women four feet two, the other four feet three. Physically speaking, they are evidently of the same class of beings with the Hottentot, whose ugly features in this diminutive race are greatly exaggerated, even to disgust. We afterwards surrounded a *kraal*, or village of huts, the population of which was estimated at about a hundred and fifty persons. I had several, both men and women, measured, and the tallest of the former was four feet nine inches, and the tallest woman four feet four inches; one of these, who had borne several children, measured only three feet nine inches. These unfortunate beings are in every respect, I should suppose, the ugliest of all human creatures: the flat nose, high cheek-bones, prominent chin and concave visage, partake much of the apish character, which their keen eye, always in motion, does not tend to diminish. The upper lid of this organ, as in that of the Chinese and the Hottentot, is rounded into the lower on the side next the nose. They are known in the colony, from this circumstance probably, by the name of Chinese Hottentots.

The activity of this diminutive race is incredibly great. It is said that the klip-springing antelope can

scarcely excel them in leaping from rock to rock, and that on rough ground or up the sides of mountains horsemen have no chance in keeping pace with them; yet the form of their bodies would not appear to indicate this. The great curvature of the spine inwards and the remarkably extended posteriors are characteristic of the whole Hottentot race; but in some of the little Bosjesmans they are carried to such an extravagant degree as to excite laughter. In most other respects, mentally at least, they differ very widely. In disposition the latter is lively and cheerful; in his person active; averse from idleness he seldom wants employment. Concealed by day in his hovel, for fear of the boors, he will dance on moonlight nights from the setting to the rising of the sun. Yet every morsel the Bosjesman eats is earned with danger and fatigue—danger from their inveterate enemies, the boors, and fatigue in searching and laying out plans for capturing different kinds of game. This poor creature neither cultivates the ground nor breeds cattle. The bulbs of the liliaceous plants and a few gramineous roots are all that the vegetable kingdom affords him; the larvæ of ants and of locusts are luxuries; of the former we could not but observe, that an ant-hill, so very common in most parts of Africa, was here a rare object. The larvæ of locusts he can only procure on the occasional visits of this destructive insect.

When all these means fail, they are driven by hunger to the necessity of hazarding a toilsome and dangerous expedition of plunder into the colony. They are probably the less scrupulous of this, as the treatment of the boors towards them has been most flagitious. The country was once their own; it was taken from them

by the boors, and their children were seized and made slaves. The result of all this has been the abominable expeditions carried on, under the sanction of the Dutch government, against this miserable race of mortals, by the name of *commandos*, which it was the determination of Lord Macartney should no longer be tolerated.

To bring about a conversation with some of the chiefs of these poor people; to persuade them, if possible, to quit their wild and marauding life, on being assured that the colonists would not be permitted to molest them; at the same time to see the state of this portion of the colony, and of the Christian inhabitants (as they designate themselves), the present journey was undertaken. It promised also many subjects of curiosity; and as no European traveller, except the late Colonel Gordon, had ever ascended the Mountains of Snow, much novelty might be expected from it.

On the 20th of October we departed from the Drosdy, and at the distance of eighteen miles found ourselves among the extensive plains and scattered mountains that compose the Sneuwberg; the latter of which, with their sides of bare rock and level summits, resemble, on a smaller scale, the Table Mountain at the Cape of Good Hope. We encamped on one of these enclosed plains, the thermometer 45° , which, during the day's journey, had been at 83° —the former figure occasioned not so much by the elevation, which, from a barometrical observation in a Dutch MS. journal, appears to be only 4800 feet, as by the evaporation from heavy rain, which at least may probably have been the main cause.

In company of the late provisional landrost of Graaff Reynet, an inhabitant of Sneuwberg, I made an excursion in search of Bosjesmans, a party of whom had

carried off a number of cattle but two days before. In one of the retreats among the mountains we discovered their recent traces; their fires were scarcely extinguished, but the Bosjesmans were gone. We discovered, however, in a cavern drawings of several animals, made, it is supposed, by these people. The animals represented were zebras, quachas, gemsboks, springboks, ree-boks, elands, baboons, and ostriches. The figure of the zebra, in particular, was remarkably well executed; all the marks and characters of this animal were well represented. The materials used were charcoal, pipe-clay, and different ochres. Several crosses, circles, points, and lines were placed in a long row, as if intended to express some meaning. The upper part of the cavern was covered with a thick coating of a black substance, not unlike pitch. In reaching up to cut off a specimen the people called out to me to desist, that it was deadly poison, and used by the Hottentots to smear the points of their arrows, and that it was well known as *klap-gift*, or rock-poison.

As we advanced to the northward the sorry sight of a compact mass of that destructive animal the locust resting upon the ground presented itself, completely covering a space of about a square mile, giving it the appearance from a little distance as if burnt up and strewed over with brown ashes. The waggons drove directly through the mass, compelling these creatures to rise on the wing in a cloud that darkened the air on each side of and under the waggons; the rest remaining quiet, our horses were made to gallop through them, but a few only just under their feet would deign to stir.

On the 23rd we encamped at the foot of a detached mountain, remarkable only for its pointed peak. It

was called by Colonel Gordon the Compass Mountain, as the waters of the surrounding meadows flow from it in all directions. I measured its altitude trigonometrically, and found it about fifteen hundred feet.

The termination of the Snowy Mountains is somewhere about twelve miles to the north-east of the Compass-berg, where a *poort*, or passage through the last ridge opens upon a plain, extending to the northward without a swell farther than the eye can command. Eight miles beyond this pass we encamped on the plain, where the weather was found to be more raw and cold than hitherto experienced; and we observed the Compass-berg white near the summit with snow. The plains, however, were embroidered with almost the whole tribe of syngenesious plants; of these the most abundant were various species of *arctotis*, *othonna*, *cineraria*, *aster*, *calendula*, *athanasia*, *tanacetum*, *senecio*, and *gnaphalium*—all of them at this time in the height of their bloom. Few frutescent plants were met with. Many of the Sneuwberg farmers have never seen a tree; their fuel is the dung of the cattle collected where pent up at nights, dug out in squares like turf, spread out to dry, and then piled up in stacks.

The boors of Sneuwberg appeared to be, in general, a better description of men than those towards the sea-coast—a peaceable, obliging, and orderly people; a brave and hardy race of men: the women also were evidently possessed of more animation, and led a less sedentary and listless life, than those of the lower divisions. Many examples of female fortitude have been shown and recorded. The wife of one of our party having received intelligence, in the absence of her husband, that the Bosjesmans had carried off a troop of

their sheep, instantly mounted her horse, took a musket in her hand, and, accompanied by a single Hottentot, engaged the plunderers, put them to flight, and recovered every sheep.

Proceeding, on the 25th, about twenty miles northerly over a level country without a bush, to the Gordon's Fonteyn, where we encamped, we saw on every side such a multitude of gnoos and quachas, spring-boks and hartebeests, as we had never before met with in any part of the country. Near this spring stood the last Christian habitation in this quarter, the abode of four families, for mutual protection against the Bosjesmans.

We were now in the midst of this wild people, as the boors name them, and to travel with safety through their country it was deemed necessary to increase our numbers; for this purpose the commandant of the district had been ordered to meet us here with an adequate force. He brought with him sixteen farmers and eight armed Hottentots, which, with our own party, the drivers, and leaders, amounted to about fifty persons. We had seven waggons, about a hundred oxen, and fifty horses, besides a flock of fifty or sixty sheep for our consumption. The farmers were all young men, who seemed to be delighted on the present occasion, which they considered only as a jaunt of pleasure.

We collected all our forces the following day at the Sea-cow River, about six miles to the northward of our last station. It is a chain of deep stagnant pools or *gats*, some of which were five or six miles in length, and deep enough to float a line-of-battle ship; neither tree nor shrub adorned its banks; the tall *arundo-phragmites* alone supplied their place, affording food for the hippopotamus, an animal that now and then

makes its appearance in these holes, where it was once found in such numbers, as to give a name to the river; but now they are nearly destroyed.

Twenty miles farther to the northward brought us to a part of the river where Governor Van Plettenberg ended his journey, and caused a stone or *baaken* to be erected, as indicating a point in the line of demarcation between the colony and the country of the Bosjesmans; it no longer exists; the boors, disliking any such lines, demolished it. Here, however, on the opposite side of the river, for the first time since we came upon it, we observed some clumps of large shrubby plants, loaded with a vast number of nests, on approaching which numerous flocks of birds issued from them. They were immediately recognised by the colonists to be the nests of the locust-devouring thrush, whose food is stated to consist wholly of the larvæ of that animal, which they hunt out and pursue wherever they go. They are, it seems, to the locusts what the king thrush is to the ants.

These nests consisted of a multitude of cells, each having a tube leading into it. One general roof covered each clump, composed of interwoven twigs, to protect them from birds of prey. The numbers of these birds, which we disturbed, were not less astonishing than those of the locusts, which we had speedily to encounter. Numerous as the birds were, there was no danger of their wanting their favourite food.

Of the multitudes of the incomplete insect or larva of the locust, which at this time infested this part of Africa, no adequate idea can possibly be conceived without having been an eye-witness. For the distance of ten miles on each side of the Sea-cow River, and

eighty or ninety miles in length, an area of sixteen or eighteen hundred square miles, the whole surface of the ground, as far as we could see, might literally be said to be, or to have been, covered with them. They had completely destroyed every green herb and every blade of grass; and had not the insulated reeds of the river afforded subsistence for our cattle, our journey must here have ended for want of food. To the southward, where these swarms had already been, the traces of their route appeared as if the surface had been swept by a broom, or as if a harrow had been drawn over it. In coming to the first troop, the waggons, as usual, drove right through them, when they rose up on each side like a cloud, and the horses crossed the group in a gallop; those that escaped from being crushed immediately squatted down again. They swarmed in thousands into our tents, to devour the crumbs of bread that fell on the ground. The present year was the third of their continuance in this part of the colony. Their last departure, with its result, is described as rather singular, and it was confirmed by the inhabitants of the lower part of the colony. All the full-fledged insects were driven by a tempestuous north-west wind into the sea, and afterwards thrown back upon the beach, where they formed a bank three or four feet high, between the mouths of the Bosjesmans River and the Beeka, a distance of nearly fifty miles; and our present company assured me that when this mass became putrid, the stench was sensibly felt in several parts of Sneeuwberg.

In proceeding to the northward we reached a *poort*, or gap in the hills, and a little beyond it a second, when we found the surface of the country broken and rugged with rocks, and the hills as we advanced be-

came higher, and their summits were capped with sandstone. This second pass or *kloof* was so narrow, and the river had become so serpentine and hemmed in by such high rocky banks, that we were compelled to make a further search before we could attempt to let the waggons proceed.

We, therefore, took a day's journey on horseback to examine the country and to look out for game. We fell in with spring-boks innumerable, hartebeests, elands, and bonteboks; and quachas, from fifty to a hundred in a troop, were frequently seen, but not a gnou among them. On a previous day we had fallen in with a troop of this singular animal between two hills, amounting to nearly fifty, when our party of boors, six or seven in number, discharged a whole volley of their tremendously-large muskets, which they call *rooars* or *caveers*, into the herd, and killed or wounded five or six. This animal is supposed to be the swiftest in all Africa. It partakes of the character of three others; its head being bovine, its neck and body equine, and its legs cervine. As to its vertical and stiff mane, white streaked with black hairs, it is peculiar to itself, being from two to three inches long and appearing as if cut and trimmed artificially. The animal is so fierce and wild as not to be tamed. In the Surrey Zoological Gardens they had procured one, which was fierce, but not considered dangerous. One day, however, it made an attack upon his keeper and slew him.

Being now in the Bosjesmen's country, the commandant represented the necessity of sending out exploring parties to discover the retreats of Bosjesmen tribes, to which I reluctantly consented; but on a solemn promise that on no other consideration than

that not a shot should be fired upon them;—they were merely to explore and report. That very evening lights had been seen behind some bushes on a neighbouring rocky hill; it was suggested that an attack should be made on them the following evening: I positively forbade any such an outrage, but told the commandant I would go with them myself, and endeavour to bring about an intercourse with them: but in so doing, I must exact a solemn pledge from every man of the party that not a shot should be fired, and that he, the commandant, as the provisional landrost, should be held responsible for the rest—an office he had held, during the time of Mr. Bresler's expulsion.

On setting out, our very devout boors prepared themselves for the enterprise by singing three or four hymns out of 'William Sluiter,' and drinking each a *sopie*, or glass of Cape brandy. We moved on gently and without noise, and the boors, taking another stave and another glass of brandy, advanced towards the hill to observe the motions of the Bosjesmen. A report was made that they appeared to be very numerous; after halting a couple of hours, in order to arrive at the mouth of the defile, in which the kraal had been ascertained to be situated, just at the first dawn of day, when we were proceeding along in solemn silence, our party was divided into three companies with a Hottentot to each to secure an interview; mine consisted of the commandant and another farmer, and we rode directly up to the defile, our Hottentot pointing out the spot where the kraal was placed. By the faint light I could only discover a few straw mats bent between two sticks, and not a single human creature: but my ears were stunned by a horrid scream like the

warwhoop of savages, and immediately followed by the shrieking of women and the cries of children. My commandant and his companion both fired on the kraal, empty as it appeared to be ; I expressed my surprise that he, of all others, should have been the first to break the solemn pledge he had given, and that I had expected from him a very different kind of conduct : “ Myn Got ! ” he exclaimed, “ have you not seen a shower of arrows falling among us ? ” which his companion confirmed, though I certainly had not seen either arrows or people to shoot them.

The report of a musket now reached us from another part of the hill ; and, on riding round the point, to my horror I perceived a poor Bosjesman lying dead upon the ground. The excuse was, that as one of the party was in the act of endeavouring to prevail on the savages to come down, the unfortunate man had stolen behind a rock, and with his drawn bow was taking aim at him, on seeing which another shot him dead. I had hoped that this little expedition would not only have terminated without bloodshed, but might be the means of conciliating the two parties inhabiting the same tract of country, which was capacious enough for both. All that could now be done was to order the party to dismount, to turn the horses to graze, and, having grounded their muskets, to make signs for the natives to approach. This produced the desired effect ; and several little children were observed coming down from the heights to the plain ; we gave them biscuits and other trifles, and let them return ; presently the women and young girls, to the number of thirty or forty, followed, but not without symptoms of timidity. We gave them such trifles as we possessed, and sent them

back to invite their husbands to come down to receive a present of tobacco. The men, however, seemed to hesitate, and the women came to us twice or thrice before they could prevail on more than one man to trust himself with us, and *he* made his approach in the utmost state of agitation—half-laughing and half-crying, like a terrified child. We sent him back with a roll of tobacco; but no more than three others ventured to trust themselves with Christians. These three, however, acquired so much confidence as to accompany the waggons for several days; and they left us, with presents to each of tobacco, beads, knives, flints, and steels, with which they returned to their kraals highly delighted.

I forbear to enter into any further description of the persons or condition of this most diminutive, and certainly the most miserable, of the human race, than what I have already done. In fact, the Bosjesman is neither more nor less than a degraded, blighted, pigmy Hottentot; reduced, perhaps, to their present condition by a constant state of destitution and starvation.

Returning to the second Poort, and on our way to the northward, we found the river meandering round so many rocky points, that we were obliged to cross the stream almost a hundred times; when, just as we were about to abandon any further progress, we fell into a large beaten hippopotamus track, which carried us through reeds and thick shrubbery to the very end of the kloof, about fifteen miles from its entrance, where we had left our waggons. Here we found the termination of the Sea-Cow River, its tranquil waters forming a confluence with another river of prodigious size, whose rapid stream rolled over its rocky bed a vast

volume of muddy water ; its current flowed to the north-westward. At this place it was about four hundred yards wide, and apparently very deep ; the boors had no other name for it but that of the Great River. I had no doubt of its being the same which flows into the Southern Atlantic, on the western coast, where Colonel Gordon saw it and gave to it the name of the Orange River.

In order to know a little more of this river, we returned to our waggons, and by directing our course easterly, we were able with difficulty to approach it ; but seeing no prospect of the waggons being able to get to the eastward, we took to our horses, and followed the windings of the river four days in the hope of meeting with a ford, when we gave up all chance of being able to cross it.

In coasting this river, we gathered on its pebbly beach a coarse kind of opal, cornelians, chalcedonies, and agates, figured in every form and colour, plain and striped. In every part of the Orange River the hippopotamus was found snorting and playing in vast numbers ; our party killed three or four one day, but one only could be hauled on shore : it was a female ; and a full-grown foetus, on dissection, was taken out of the womb, perfect in every part except in the want of teeth and tusks. I put it in brandy, but the jolting of the waggon had, in a few days, reduced it to a jelly.

My small double-barrelled rifle of poor Anguish had, but a few days before, astonished the boors by sending its little ball directly through the body of a spring-bok, from the haunch to the lower part of the neck, and not many days before it performed a neater feat ; two noble *korhaens*, or bustards of the largest

size, were sitting near together on the summit of a rock ; my rifle was loaded with large round-shot ; I fired and brought down one of them ; the other immediately got upon the wing and seemed to take a sweep in the air over its dead companion ; I discharged the second barrel, and brought the bird to my feet with a broken wing. I was alone, and how to get them to the party was the puzzle ; I toiled and sweated for nearly an hour in getting one of them across the horse : it was in vain I laboured to succeed with the other. The boors would not believe that I had shot two, but I compelled the commandant to go with me to the spot : and being a stout fellow—as they all are—he took the second on his horse, and we had a jolly feast ; the bustard being one of the best flavoured birds that fly.

Notwithstanding their conviction of the power of my little rifle, they ridiculed the idea of my joining in the operation of shooting the hippopotami ; somewhat nettled, I insisted that the very next hippopotamus that put its head out of the water should be left to me solely, which was not long in happening. I lay down on the bank—for the animal is both shy and cunning—and waited till his face was turned towards the bank, when I took a deliberate aim and struck him on the head ; he instantly disappeared, but as rapidly rose to the surface, the blood flowing from the wound. I fired the second barrel to make all sure, but the first had given the fatal stroke. He floundered about for a little time, heaving occasionally his huge body to the surface, and in the course of half-an-hour my comrades succeeded in hauling him out on the beach. The boors were now fully satisfied, and more astonished than ever, at the powerful little gun ; they found the ball had entered

just below the eye and had penetrated to a great depth, probably into the brain.

Mr. Bresler, having heard that the gelatinous hoof of the hippopotamus was delicious, had one of them cooked in his iron pot. I had the curiosity to taste it, but, like other jellies, it was nearly tasteless; the land-roast, however, got through the whole foot, exclaiming repeatedly how *lekker* (delicious) it was. My curiosity went no farther than to have a slice from the haunch broiled, which I found to be sufficiently *lekker*—not unlike pork. The tasting of it served me, some years afterwards, to crow over my friend Sir Joseph Banks, who was once boasting, at the Royal Society Club, that he had eaten of every species of animal, terrestrial and marine, from the whale and the elephant downwards, which he thought few men could boast of. “Sir Joseph,” I said, “it is a question if you were ever in the way to taste a hippopotamus.” “No, I have not met with that creature.” “Then, Sir Joseph, I have got to windward of you, for I have.” “Yes, you are too many for me; you have doubled the Cape.”

But Sir Joseph had his retaliation; for the hippopotamus, or its skull, was the cause of some mirth at my expense. I had ordered the skull, being a very large one, to be taken to the Cape, and was thence sent to England, as a present to my young friend Sir George Staunton. One evening, at the meeting of the Linnean Society, there was lying on the table the skull of a hippopotamus, which had been sent as a present, and was much admired for its great size. I happened to say, that I shot one, some years ago, in South Africa, whose skull appeared to me to be of a much larger size. A gentleman present said, in a slow and solemn

tone, "I should not wonder if the two turn out to be one and the same—that on the table is a present from Sir George Staunton." The laugh, of course, was against me.

On the 5th of December we left the river, and directed our course to the southward over a level country, as far as the *Zuure-berg*, or Sour Mountain, from whence the waters flow in opposite directions; those taking a northerly course fall into the Orange River; the other united streamlets flow to the southward into the Great Fish River, the southern boundary of the colony and the Kaffirs. A little beyond this we discharged our party of boors; and, with the intention of skirting the colony to the eastward, we took another party better acquainted with that part of the country.

We entered the division of *Tarka*, close to a lofty mountain named the Bambosberg, from which proceeds a chain of mountains; in one of these we discovered a cavern full of drawings of animals of the larger kind, such as elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotami, and, among the rest, one of the giraffe. The Bosjesmen had told us that the people, who make these drawings, live on the other side of the Great River, which may account for the drawing of an animal never found on the south side of that river. From hence we made a long excursion in the Tarka Mountains: our object was to find, as we were frequently told there is, the drawing of an animal with a single horn. One of our party said he would conduct us to a cavern where drawings of many animals were on its sides. At the place indicated, we found sketches of several animals, and among them one of the giraffe. Still the object of our search was wanting, and our farmers seemed to be

as anxious as ourselves that what they had told us should turn out to be true.

We therefore continued our search in the mountains, and came, in one of them, to a deep cavern, the front of it covered with shrubbery. One of the boors mounted up the steep ascent, and having made his way through the brushwood, he called out that the sides of the cavern were covered with drawings. I ascended, and having got the bushes partly cleared away to let in light, numerous drawings made their appearance: some tolerably well executed, and among them was part of a figure evidently meant to represent an animal with a horn projecting from its forehead: all the body was covered by the figure of an elephant painted over it. The resemblance of the head to that fanciful animal which we call an unicorn may, perhaps, have been sketched by some of the boors; but that there is a beast in Southern Africa, with a single horn on his forehead, there can be no doubt; or that one species of the rhinoceros, in Southern Africa, is a monoceros; for one of the missionaries brought to England the horn of one he had met with to the northward of the Orange River, which I saw, and which I think was about two feet in length. It is now fifty years since the present reminiscences were originally written; but no other unicorn has since been discovered, except the one-horned rhinoceros above-mentioned. In a letter from Lord Macartney to Sir George Staunton, dated *Castle of Good Hope, July 24th, 1798*, is the following:—

“ I must not forget to tell you that, from what I hear, I am almost persuaded of the existence of the unicorn, ten feet high; the horn of brown ivory, two and a half feet long, twisted, and tapering to the point,

thick at the root as a man's arm, and thick as a man's finger at the end; hoofs and tail like a bullock's; a black short mane; skin like a horse's—colour white, watered with black (I have a pair of slippers, said to be made of it); very fierce; roots up trees with its horn, and feeds on the boughs; an object of worship to the inhabitants, &c. I have just put down these loose particulars, as asserted to belong to this wonderful animal. I am using my best endeavours to come to the truth of the matter, and I shall send it to you when cleared up."

I was at this time absent, for in the same letter it is stated—"Mr. Barrow left us on the 1st of this month on a very distant excursion, which I flatter myself will prove of some amusement to him, as well as of benefit to the public," &c.

In another letter, of a date just one year later, his Lordship is pleased to say (what, as an autobiographer, I am justified in quoting), "Mr. Barrow is returned from his northern tour, which completes his Hottentot travels; and I do believe that no person, whether native or foreigner, has seen so much of the country, or seen it so well, and to such good purpose, as he has done. I imagine his travels will be a great acquisition to the world. His map must be particularly valuable, as it is the only one that can at all be depended on. Every one that I have yet seen published is strikingly erroneous, and shamefully executed," &c.

On proceeding to the southward, little occurred that was curious or amusing. Near the junction of a stream with the Great Fish River, we observed a vast quantity of the tall spreading mimosa, scattered over the face of the country, and in full blossom, with clusters of golden

flowers; and from these were thousands of bees busily employed collecting the material to work up their winter's store. Nests of this little industrious animal were hanging in large clusters from almost every rock, and the honey was now in perfection. The Hottentots say, that when the *doorn-bloom* (mimosa) blossoms, the honey is fat.

We here met with, as we were told we should, the little brownish bird to which the name of honey-guide has been given by Latham, from its habit of discovering and pointing out to man, by a chirping and whistling noise, and its fluttering about, the places where the bees' nests are found. It will even fly to a distance to find some human being, to whom, by its chirping, and flying from bush to bush or from rock to rock, it displays its anxiety to point out its discovery. Nor is it wholly disinterested; for after the nest has been plundered, there still remains enough of the honied sweets for the little discoverer to feast upon. The name of this little creature, as given in the 'Systema Naturæ,' is *cuculus indicator*.

If this was the only instance of superior sagacity among the feathered tribe, we should be apt to get rid of the question by ascribing its action to instinct—without, however, pretending to define what is meant by instinct. In Africa (which abounds with tigers and leopards and hyænas—with ravenous vultures, and numerous other beasts and birds of prey), all the smaller and impotent species of the feathered tribe have contrived the means of protection and security for propagating their respective classes. Some construct their nests so that they can be entered only by one small orifice; others suspend them from the slender extremi-

ties of small branches. A species of *loxia* always hangs its nest from a branch extending over a river or pool—the aperture of its long neck, like that of a chemist's retort, almost touching the water. A note in my journal observes that the sparrow, in Africa, hedges round its nest with thorns; and even the swallow, under the eaves of houses, or in the rifts of rocks, makes a tube to its nest of six or seven inches. The same kind of birds in Northern Europe, having nothing to fear from monkeys, snakes, or other noxious animals, construct open nests; and I ask, is this difference the effect of mere accident or of design? Is it, I might have added, the effect of imitation or observation? This, however, is not a subject for discussion here; and therefore I conclude by merely stating that we arrived at the village of Graaff Reynet on the 24th of November, the warmest day I had yet experienced in Southern Africa, the thermometer in the shade and open air being 108°, in the house 82°.

SECTION V.

Journey from Graaff Reynet, by the Sea-Coast, to the Cape.

I HAD soon reason to discover that I had made a false move, which might have proved fatal, in taking the line of route I commenced on this journey. The shortest way to return was that which brought us from the Cape to Graaff Reynet; but my object was to complete the boundary line along the sea-coast, which the direct way home would not have done. Deceived by the heavy and continued rain, that for three successive

days and nights had fallen, both at the Drosdy and in the mountains of Sneuwberg and Camdeboo; trusting to the few springs and the driblets of water which remained in the beds of the rivers, on our former journey over the northern part of the Karroo, and moreover finding that the Sunday and Camdeboo Rivers were so much swollen by the rains as scarcely to be fordable, I could not hesitate; and therefore, on the 9th of December set out, and too soon found by sad experience, that the extent of the rains had been very limited.

The face of the country soon presented one uniform surface of aridity and barrenness. The few saline plants were shrivelled up, crackling under the feet like so many bundles of dry sticks. I passed, with pain, a poor horse at his last gasp for want of food and water: exhausted and hopeless, the only relief that could be given to his sufferings was that of bringing them to a speedy end. A few miles farther, another was lying by the roadside already dead. Our object was now to push on to the Hottentots' River, where I arrived at nine o'clock at night, and found it completely dry.

I now became seriously alarmed for our own cattle: they were not only deprived of water, but there was neither a blade of grass nor a shrub of any sort on which they could browse. Scarcely a living creature had appeared the whole day; but at night, attracted by the light of the candle, there came into my tent such a host of cockchafers that they literally extinguished the candle, and drove me out.

At midnight I again started afresh, and made for the Karooka; arrived at daylight, but found not a drop of water. What was now to be done? I had advanced

too far to think of retreating. I could anticipate the misery and fatality that such a step would be sure to produce; whereas, in case of proceeding, I had hope at least to sustain me, and I was advancing to the southward. The sun rose in all its splendour, to present to my eye a melancholy picture of cheerless desolation, and to my mind the misery of a scorching day. Not a beast of any kind, except my own exhausted oxen, not a bird, or even an insect, was to be seen: every trace of animated nature appeared to have fled from, or been extinguished in, the dreary and parched waste. One hope alone remained for speedy relief, and that was placed on De Beer Valley. The hollow lowings of the cattle, the bleating of the sheep, and the cries of the Hottentot children, yearning in their distress for want of water, were truly melancholy.

Seen from a distance, De Beer Valley indicated no appearance of want of water. It was that of a beautiful green meadow—a blessed oasis in the desert; and the cattle, the horses, and the Hottentots, the moment it caught the eye, scampered away in full career: those even in the waggons were not behind the rest. But I cannot attempt to describe the heart-rending disappointment felt by all, man and beast, on arriving at the deceitful spot, to find the beds of both pools and rivers perfectly dry; I can only say it was most painfully expressed by the looks and the manner of the poor beasts. In one place, shaded by mimosas, was a small puddle of muddy water. Of this I caused to be baled out a small quantity for the horses; and the strong grass and the reeds, still retaining their verdure, were greedily devoured by the oxen; and to this alone I am satisfied that their final safety was owing.

The reeds and rush-like grass having in some degree refreshed the cattle, they were once more put into the waggons; and moving slowly to the southward, we came to a place called the Karree Fontyn, a kind of swamp, containing in places a little muddy and fœtid water; but bad as it was, both Hottentots and cattle swallowed it with great avidity. For myself, servant, and Hottentots, a bottle of chalybeate, and another of hepatic water, were acceptable and refreshing.

On the 15th, after proceeding south about five hours, we came to a clear limpid stream called the *Keur Fontyn*, or Precious Spring; and never certainly did a spring of water appear to be more truly precious and delicious. The danger now lay in the excess of drinking after so long an abstinence.

On the 17th we encamped on the banks of the Olifant's River, where several hot chalybeate springs issued out of a bog. The river itself was dry; but fine mimosas, with their golden flowers, enriched its banks. From hence continuing to the southward, we crossed a range of hills, and descended into the *Lange Kloof*, or Long Pass, a narrow valley, continuing to run east and west about one hundred and fifty miles, abounding with streams of water and good pasturage, well peopled, and most of the habitations having good gardens, fruiteries, and vineyards. Through this kloof would have been our direct route, but my anxiety to skirt the sea-coast induced me to cross the only pass of the high mountains, on the south side of Lange Kloof, that is accessible by waggons; and thence to proceed easterly, through the forests to Plettenberg's Bay, about fifty miles.

These forests extend between the Zwarteberg chain of mountains and the sea, from Mossel or Muscle

Bay to Sitzicamma on the south-eastern coast; an extent of about two hundred miles, consisting chiefly of forest-trees, many of them of very large dimensions, producing good timber for ship-building, and for domestic architecture. I procured a list of their colonial names, and of the uses to which they are severally applied, amounting to forty-two distinct species; but I found it impossible, for want of time and from the difficulty of obtaining blossoms from the lofty trees, to get even specimens. In the list will be found some fifteen or sixteen Linnæan names, which, with those of the country, may be of assistance to travellers.*

Numerous small rivers take their rise, and large lakes are found, in these extensive forests. One of the latter, in particular, has broken down its barrier, and communicates with the sea through a narrow opening, in which, however, there appear to be rocks that obstruct the passage of any vessels except small craft. Within, it spreads out to a large size, and its numerous arms run through the forests in various directions. It is called the Knysna. The whole of this line of country is boldly marked, and magnificently clothed; and I do not hesitate to say, is beyond comparison the grandest and most beautiful portion of the whole colony.

On the banks of a small rivulet, not far from Plettenberg's Bay, I met with a whole forest of what I thought to be *Strelitzia alba*, whose tall tapering stems were as regular and well proportioned as the Corinthian shaft. It was called by the peasantry the wild plantain, from its resemblance to the *Musa sapientium*. I have since discovered that the plant is not known in England, and that it may probably not be a *Strelitzia*, but the

* Inserted in Barrow's 'Travels into Southern Africa.'

Heliconia alba. Many of them ran to the height of five and twenty or thirty feet.

In proceeding to the eastward, we found the Kayman or Crocodile River deep and dangerous. It separates the division of Plettenberg's Bay from Autinicquas Land, which the Dutch Government appropriated to itself, on account of the grand forests and fine pasturage. It extends to the Brakke River, which falls from the north, and discharges itself into Mossel Bay. Here I observed a stone building one hundred and fifty feet in length, capable of containing ten thousand bushels of corn. Fish of different kinds are here plentiful, and muscles and oysters are abundant. Near the landing-place, and under the lee of the rocks, were many hundred loads of the shells of these animals.

We crossed the Gauritz River, which, from its frequent and destructive floodings, may be called the sink of the colony. We next had to cross the False River, and then the Kaffir Kuyl's River, and found the country better inhabited. Neat houses were on the banks of the rivers; and the gardens, the vineyards, and fruiteries were more extensive, and kept in a better state of culture, than is generally the case. From Mossel Bay to the westward, the forests had ceased, but the country was found to improve; and the valley that stretches along the foot of the mountains, nearly to the Drosdy of Zwellendam, is very beautiful. This village is composed of about twenty houses, scattered over a fertile valley, with a perpetual stream of water flowing down it; at the head of which is the dwelling of the landrost, with an excellent garden attached to it, surrounded by a plantation of oak.

The river Zonderend, or Endless, brought us into

the district of Stellenbosch; and proceeding up the valley through which the Endless River meanders, I halted at a place called Bavian's Kloof, where there was an establishment of Hernhüters, or Moravian missionaries. They had been here several years, for the purpose of instructing the Hottentots in the doctrines of Christianity. Since the colony had become English, the number of their disciples had greatly increased, the Dutch having had no desire to Christianise the Hottentots.

Early in the morning I was awakened by some of the finest voices I ever heard, and on looking out saw a group of female Hottentots sitting on the ground. Being Sunday, they had assembled thus early to chant the morning hymn. All were dressed in neat cotton gowns. A sight so different from that I had hitherto been accustomed to witness, in regard to this unhappy class of beings, could not fail to be highly gratifying. Everything about the place was found to partake of that neatness and simplicity which distinguish the character of their instructors. All was done, as it appeared, by the labour of this good people's own hands. The church they had built was plain and neat; their mill for grinding corn was superior to any in the colony; their garden was in high order, and produced abundance of vegetables for the table.

Six hundred Hottentots had been brought together by these worthy people, and the number was daily increasing. They had all huts in the valley, each with a patch of ground for vegetables; numbers of the English poor are not half so well off, and few better. Many learn trades, and are paid as soon as they can earn wages; some hire themselves out by the week, month,