

the time that the crew, consisting of about sixty persons, had got on shore, they found themselves surrounded by Kaffers, and expected immediately to be put to death by these savages. Instead of which, to their no small degree of joy and surprise, the chief gave orders for an ox to be instantly killed, and the flesh distributed among the unfortunate sufferers. There is, however, one temptation which a Kaffer cannot resist—the sight of metal buttons; and those who suffered shipwreck, and who happened to have any of these articles about their persons, had them cut off without much ceremony. They were deprived of no other part of their property; and they were conducted in safety to the residence of some of the colonists, from whom a demand was made of five rixdollars for the captain, and an equal sum for the whole of the crew, as a full compensation for their trouble—a very moderate and just demand; and it were to be wished that the example of the Kaffers was observed on other coasts, that pretend to a greater degree of civilization than prevails on those of Southern Africa.

Having arranged with the king the business that brought us into Kaffer-land, we made him a present, consisting of sheets of copper, brass-wire, glass-beads, knives for skinning animals, looking-glasses, flints, steels, and tinder-boxes, and a quantity of tobacco. His mother also received a present of the same nature. Except this lady, all the other women kept in the back-ground during the conversation, as did also *Zambie*, the uncle and usurper, who was then a prisoner at large in the village. The young king's treatment of this man did him great honor. All his former attendants, his cattle, and his six wives, were restored to him, with as much liberty as the

rest of his subjects, except that he was always obliged to reside in the same village with the king.

Gaika was a young man, 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 face of a deep bronze colour, approaching nearly to black; his skin soft and smooth; his eyes dark brown, and full of animation; his teeth regular, well-set, and white as the purest ivory: his countenance open, but more marked with the habit of reflection than is usually observed in that of a Kaffer; he had the appearance, indeed, of possessing in an eminent degree, a solid understanding and a clear head: to every question that related to their manners, customs, laws, and various other points, he gave, without embarrassment or reserve, direct and unequivocal answers; and it is to him I am principally indebted for the little information I am enabled to give concerning the Kaffer nation: his understanding was not more strong than his disposition appeared to be amiable: he seemed to be the adored object of his subjects; the name of Gaika was in every mouth, and it was seldom pronounced without symptoms of joy. He had one wife only, very young, and, setting aside the prejudice against color, very pretty, by whom he had a little girl called *Jasa*. Like the chiefs in the colony, he wore a brass chain suspended, on the left side, from a wreath of copper beads that encircled his head: on his arm he had five large rings cut out of the solid tusks of elephants, and round his neck was a chain of beads; his cloak was faced with skins of leopards; but he threw this dress aside, and, like the rest of his people, appeared entirely naked.

The queen had nothing to distinguish her from the other women, except that her cloak seemed to have had more pains bestowed upon it in the dressing, and had three rows behind of brass-buttons extending from the hood to the bottom of skirts, and so close that they touched each other. The rest of the women were contented with a few of these ornaments straggling over different parts of the cloak. This weighty covering seems never laid aside by the females in the hottest weather; but they wear nothing whatsoever under it, except the little apron that the Hottentot women take such pains to decorate. The Kaffer ladies are not however less anxious to appear smart about the head. Their skin-caps were ornamented with buttons, buckles, beads, or shells, according as fancy might suggest or their wardrobe could supply.

Though the country between the Keiskamma and the residence of the king was rugged, poor, and mountainous, it here began to assume a very different appearance. The knolls of grass were well covered, and the hanging woods on the steep sides of the high mountains to the northward were extremely beautiful. The village at which he now lived, was but a temporary residence. It was situated upon the *Kooquanie*, a small stream that fell into the *Keiskamma*, and consisted of about forty or fifty huts of the form of beehives. That which seemed to be destined for the use of the queen stood at the head of the village; was somewhat larger than the rest, and finished in a neater manner: it was about ten feet in diameter, and eight feet high. These huts are first shaped by frames of wood, and afterwards daubed over with a kind of mortar composed of clay and the dung of cattle; and, when

this is sufficiently dry, a neat covering of matting is worked over the whole. Such huts are completely water-tight, and very warm.

The Kaffers having always been represented as agriculturists, we were a little disappointed in not meeting with gardens and cultivated grounds about their habitations, not a vestige of which had any where appeared. On putting the question to *Gaika*, he replied, that having been engaged in war for the two or three years last past, during which he had not been able to fix at any one place above a month or two at a time, they had consequently been under the necessity of suspending their pursuits of agriculture ; that in time of peace they always planted millet, and several kinds of vegetables ; and that nothing could give him an equal degree of pleasure to that of seeing the *keerie*, now an instrument of war, converted into an utensil of husbandry ; but that at present he was just on the eve of another campaign. He seemed much pleased when the landrost told him, that if, on his return from his expedition, he would send to Graaff Reynet, he should be supplied with corn and different garden-seeds ; and he appeared to anticipate the happiness that his people would experience, after the fatigues and horrors of war, in returning to their ancient habits of peaceful industry.

The country inhabited by the people whom the colonists distinguish by the name of Kaffers, is bounded on the south by the sea-coast ; on the east, by a tribe of the same kind of people who call themselves *Tambookies* ; on the north, by the savage Bosjesmans ; and on the west, by the colony of the

Cape. With the Tambookies they live on friendly terms; but, like the Dutch peasantry, they have declared perpetual war against the Bosjesmans. Their expeditions, however, against these savages are not attended with the same success as those of the colonists. The Bosjesmans care as little for a Hassagai as they dread a musquet. The principal weapon used by the Kaffers is an iron spear from nine inches to a foot in length, fixed at the end of a tapering shaft about four feet long. Such an instrument is called by the Hottentots a hassagai, but the Kaffer name is *omkontoo*. In throwing this spear they grasp it with the palm of the hand, and raising the arm above the head, and giving the shaft a quivering motion to find the proper point of equilibrium, it is delivered with the fore-finger and the thumb. At the distance of fifty or sixty paces they can throw at a mark with a tolerable degree of exactness; but beyond that distance they have no kind of certainty. It appears to be a very indifferent sort of weapon, and easily to be avoided. In battle they receive the point of the hassagai upon an oval shield about four feet in depth, made from the hide of a bullock. Their other weapon, the *keerie*, is less formidable than the hassagai; this is a stick about two feet and a half long, with a round knob at the end about two inches in diameter, and very weighty, being the root of some shrub. They throw it in the same manner as the Hassagai, and are very expert in killing birds and the smaller sort of antelopes, particularly the little *pygmæa*. The small end of the *keerie* serves, in time of peace, in their agriculture, as an instrument for dibbling, for which purpose it seems to be much better adapted than for a hostile weapon. The government on the east side of the Keiskamma is not exactly

the same as on the west. Gaika is the acknowledged sovereign over that part of the country which lies to the eastward of the river. The few chiefs who live among his people are obedient to his commands, and consider themselves as his captains. Among the emigrant Kaffers, each chief is independent, though the inferior ones look up, in some measure, to those who are more powerful than themselves. These detached hordes seem in their government to resemble the ancient clans of the Highlands of Scotland.

Every Kaffer is a soldier and a herdsman. The first is not a profession, but taken up occasionally as the state, of which he is a member, may demand his services. War is not made by them for extension of territory or individual aggrandizement, but for some direct insult or act of injustice against the whole, or some member, of the community. His habits and way of life are better suited for the herdsman than for the warrior. From the nature probably of his food, which is chiefly milk, his manners are mild and gentle, at the same time that the exercise of the chase, which from pleasure he follows as well as for profit, gives him an erect deportment, and a boldness and openness of expression that indicate nothing like fear. This in fact is an impression on the mind which can hardly be said to exist in that of a Kaffer. In time of peace he leads the true pastoral life; his cattle is his only care: he rarely kills one for his own consumption, except on some particular occasion. When a stranger of distinction visits a Kaffer chief, he selects from his herd the fattest ox, and divides it with his visitors. The evening that we departed from the village of the king, curiosity had brought

together about a thousand people to see the strangers. Before they returned to their houses the king ordered four oxen to be slain, and the flesh to be distributed among them. For our party he intended a present of three oxen; but these he observed must be selected from his herd with his own hands. The whole management of the cattle is left to the men, and they easily render them uncommonly expert in comprehending their meaning. The horns of their greatest favorites are twisted in their nascent state into very whimsical forms. These are effected by grasping the young horn with hot irons till it becomes soft, in which state the direction wished for is given to it. Those of the ox on which the king rode were laid along each side of the neck with the points just touching the shoulders.

Among their cattle was a particular breed different from any I had seen in the colony. They were short-legged, short-necked, generally of a black and white color, and their horns were only from four to eight inches in length, curved inwards; and their extremities, which were nearly of the same thickness as at the roots, pointed to the ears. These horns had no connection with the skull, but were attached merely to the skin, and so loose that they might be turned round in any direction. When full grown they strike against the animal's face as it walks. They were considered as excellent beasts for riding or for bearing burthens. This variety of the common ox had not the dorsal tuft which the loose-horned ox of Abyssinia is described to possess.

While the men are employed in rearing and attending the cattle, the women are engaged in the affairs of the house, and in cultivating the ground. These, with the manufacture of baskets with the *Cyperus* grass, and of earthen pots for boiling their meat or corn, which are the chief part of their household utensils, the making their skin-cloaks, and nursing their children, furnish sufficient employment for the women. They are said to be exceedingly prolific; that twins are almost as frequent as single births, and that it is no uncommon thing for a woman to have three at a time. Their children, soon after birth, are suffered to crawl about perfectly naked; and at six or seven months they are able to run. A cripple or deformed person is never seen. The Dutch have an idea that if a Kaffer child should be born imperfect, the parents immediately strangle it; and, that if the mother should die in childbed, or before the infant can walk without support, it must be interred alive with her; also, that if twins are born one of them must perish. *Gaika's* mother seemed shocked at questions of this nature being put to her; and assured me that a woman who could suffer such an unnatural crime to be committed, as that of the murder of an infant, would be driven out of society. A high degree of civilization may indeed dull the feelings of nature, and policy may sometimes silently approve of crimes committed against it; but a savage is most likely to feel the force of parental affection in its fullest extent.

There is not perhaps any nation on the face of the earth, taken collectively, that can produce so fine a race of men as the Kaffers: they are tall, stout, muscular, well made, elegant

figures. The particular causes to which they are indebted for their fine forms and athletic strength of body I do not pretend to develop, but, it may be observed, that they are exempt from many of those causes that, in more civilized societies, contribute to impede and cramp the growth of the body. Their diet is extremely simple; their exercise that of the most salutary nature; their limbs are not encumbered with clothing; the air they breathe is pure; their rest is not disturbed by violent love, nor their minds ruffled by jealousy; they are free from those licentious appetites which proceed frequently more from a depraved imagination than a real natural want: their frame is not shaken and enervated by the use of intoxicating liquors, for they are not acquainted with them; they eat when they are hungry, and sleep when nature demands it. With such a mode of life, languor and listlessness and melancholy have little to do. The countenance of a Kaffer is indeed always cheerful; and his whole demeanor bespeaks content and peace of mind.

Though black, or very nearly so, they have not one line of the African negro in the shape and turn of their person. The comparative anatomist might indeed be a little perplexed in arranging the skull of a Kaffer in the chain, which he has so ingeniously put together, comprehending all the links from the most perfect European to the Ourang-Outang, and from it through all the monkey-tribe. The head of a Kaffer is not more elongated than that of an European; the frontal and the occipital bones form nearly a semicircle; and a line from the forehead to the chin drawn over the nose is as finely rounded and as convex as the profile of a Roman or

a Grecian countenance. In short, had not Nature bestowed upon him the dark-coloring principle that anatomists have discovered to be owing to a certain gelatinous fluid lying between the epidermis and the cuticle, he might have ranked among the first of Europeans.

Among other causes that may have contributed to keep up the tall and athletic stature of the Kaffers are their frequent inter-marriages with strangers. The principal article of their trade with the Tambookie nation is the exchange of cattle for their young women. Almost every chief has Tambookie wives, though they pay much dearer for them than for those of their own people. Polygamy is allowed in its fullest extent, and without any inconvenience resulting from the practice, as it is confined nearly to the chiefs. The circumstances of the common people will rarely allow them the indulgence of more than one wife, as women are not to be obtained without purchase. The females being considered as the property of their parents, are invariably disposed of by sale. The common price of a wife is an ox or a couple of cows. Love with them is a very confined passion, taking but little hold on the mind. When an offer is made for the purchase of a daughter, she feels little inclination to refuse; she considers herself as an article in the market, and is neither surprised, nor unhappy, nor interested, on being told that she is about to be disposed of. There is no previous courtship, no exchange of fine sentiments, no nice feelings, nor little kind attentions which catch the affections, and attach the heart. It would be unjust at the same time to tax them with sensuality. A Kaffer

woman is both chaste and modest; yet, in many points of her conduct, in which she differs from females of more polished nations, the latter part of her character might be called in question. If, for instance, a young woman should be asked if she is married, not content with giving the simple negative, she usually throws open her cloak and displays her bosom; and, as she has seldom any other covering beneath, she perhaps may discover at the same time, though unintentionally, more of her secret charms.

Instances of infidelity are said to be very rare; and, when they do occur, are accidental rather than premeditated. The punishment is a fine, and, if the man chuses it, the dismissal of his wife; but should a husband surprise his wife in the act of adultery, the law would justify him in putting the parties to death. The laws by which their society is governed are very simple, and grounded less on deep policy than on plain natural principles. If a murder should appear to be premeditated, the perpetrator is instantly put to death. If a man should kill another in his own defence, in a quarrel, or by accident, he must pay to the relations of the deceased, as a compensation for their loss, a certain fine, which is either agreed to among themselves, or settled by the chief and elders of the horde. In doing this, the value that the deceased held in the society, and the family left behind him, are the only objects taken into consideration. A chief has no power over the lives of his subjects: should he by design, or in the heat of passion, put a man to death, he would incur the hazard of being expelled out of the community. For theft there is no other

punishment than that of restitution. They know nothing of the practice of imprisonment for any crime.

The ancients were of opinion that the face was always the index of the mind. Modern physiognomists have gone a step farther, and pretend, that a fine form, perfect in all its parts, cannot contain a crooked or an imperfect mind. Judging the mind of a Kaffer by such a rule, it would not be pronounced deficient in talent. The experiment of giving him a suitable education has not yet been made; but there are perhaps no unlettered people on the face of the earth whose manners and opinions have more the appearance of civilization than those of the Kaffers: they are no contemptible artisans. Though they have no knowledge of smelting iron from the ore, yet when it comes to their hands in a malleable state, they can shape it to their purpose with wonderful dexterity. Every man is his own artist. A piece of stone serves for his hammer, and another for the anvil, and with these alone he will finish a spear, or a chain, or a metallic bead that would not disgrace the town of Birmingham. The shafts of their spears are also neatly made. Many of the ornaments of copper and iron, with which they adorn their heads, are far from being void of taste. The article that furnishes their dress is prepared and put together with some degree of ingenuity. Calves' skins only are used for this purpose: when first taken from the animal they are fixed to the ground with wooden pegs, extended as far as they will bear, and well scraped, so that no part of the flesh remains upon them. As soon as they are sufficiently dry to have lost the power of

contraction, they are beaten with stones till they become soft and pliant. In this state the interior side is scraped with sharp stones, and smeared with red ochre, till a nap, like that on cloth, is raised over the whole surface: they are then cut into proper shapes, and sewed together exactly in the same manner that the shoemakers of Europe stitch together two pieces of leather. Their bodkin is a piece of polished iron, and the thread is the fibres of the tendons of the long dorsal muscle taken from various animals; those in a wild state are preferred, as furnishing a much stronger thread than such as are domesticated. The Hottentots sew together their sheep-skins with the same material; and the colonists, following the example of the natives, have recourse to the same article as a substitute for flaxen thread, which, when the English took possession of the settlement, bore a profit on the prime cost of a thousand *per cent*.

The progress of their agriculture, as observed by the king, had lately been checked by internal dissensions, and the encroachments of a rival power. They seem however to be much more inclined to the pastoral than the agricultural life,—a circumstance which will materially retard their advancement in civilization. The husbandman finds leisure to sit down and reflect; the herdsman is never stationary, but wanders from place to place in search of food for his cattle. The chase employs the greatest portion of the time which the Kaffers have to spare. In their country the larger kinds of game, particularly the elephant and the buffalo, are become very scarce; and not an ostrich nor a springbok is now to be found there. These two animals, keeping generally upon the plains,

and avoiding the woods, were easily enclosed by the numerous hunting parties, and wholly destroyed or frightened away. The elephant and the buffalo fell also in the woods by the Hassagai, but more frequently by deep pits made in the ground across the paths that led to their usual haunts. In this manner they sometimes took the hippopotamus ; but the usual gait of this animal, when not disturbed, is so cautious and slow that he generally detected the snare that was laid for him, and avoided it. The more certain method of destroying him was to watch at night behind a bush close to his path ; and, as he passed, to wound him in the tendons of the knee-joint, by which he was immediately rendered lame and unable to escape from the numerous Hassagais that afterwards assailed him. Numbers of this huge animal still remain in all their large rivers ; indeed they seem not very solicitous about destroying it. The tusks, though of the finest ivory, are too small for the usual purposes to which they apply this article ; and they seem to have less relish for grease than either the Hottentots or the colonists. The spoils of the chase are always bestowed upon their persons. The tusks of the elephant furnish them with ivory rings for the arm ; the leopard supplies his skin to ornament the front of the cloak ; and the skin of the tyger-cat is used by the women as pocket-handkerchiefs.

Besides the illicit trade that the Dutch farmers have carried on with this people, consisting of pieces of iron, copper, glass-beads, and a few other trifling articles, given to them in exchange for their cattle, the Kaffers have no kind of commerce with any other nation except their eastern neighbours the Tambookies. In addition to the young girls which they purchase from these people, they are supplied by them with a

small quantity of iron in exchange for cattle. It has been supposed that the Tambookies, and other nations farther to the eastward, possessed the art of obtaining iron from the ore; but it is much more probable that they are supplied with it by the Portuguese settlers of Rio de la Goa, not far from which their country is situated. The only metals known to the Kaffers are iron and copper; and their only medium of exchange, and the only article of commerce they possess, is their cattle.

There are perhaps few nations beside the Kaffers, that have not contrived to draw some advantages from the possession of a sea-coast. They have no kind of fishery whatsoever either with nets or boats. Whether they retain any remains of superstition that might have been attached to some of the various modifications through which the Mahometan, as well as the Christian, religion has undergone in its progress through different countries, and which forbids them the use of fish; or whether their mode of life has hitherto prevented them from thinking on the means of obtaining a livelihood from the waters, I cannot take upon me to decide; but it is a fact that they scarcely know what kind of a creature a fish is. The whole extent of their coast, which is washed by the sea and intersected by the mouths of several large rivers, does not possess a single boat, nor canoe, nor any thing that resembles a floating vessel. The short space of time, perhaps, which they have occupied that part of Africa they now inhabit, has not yet sufficiently familiarized them to the nature of deep waters, to entrust themselves upon a frail bark.

“ Illi robur et æs triplex

“ Circa pectus erat, qui fragilem truci

“ Commisit pelago ratem.

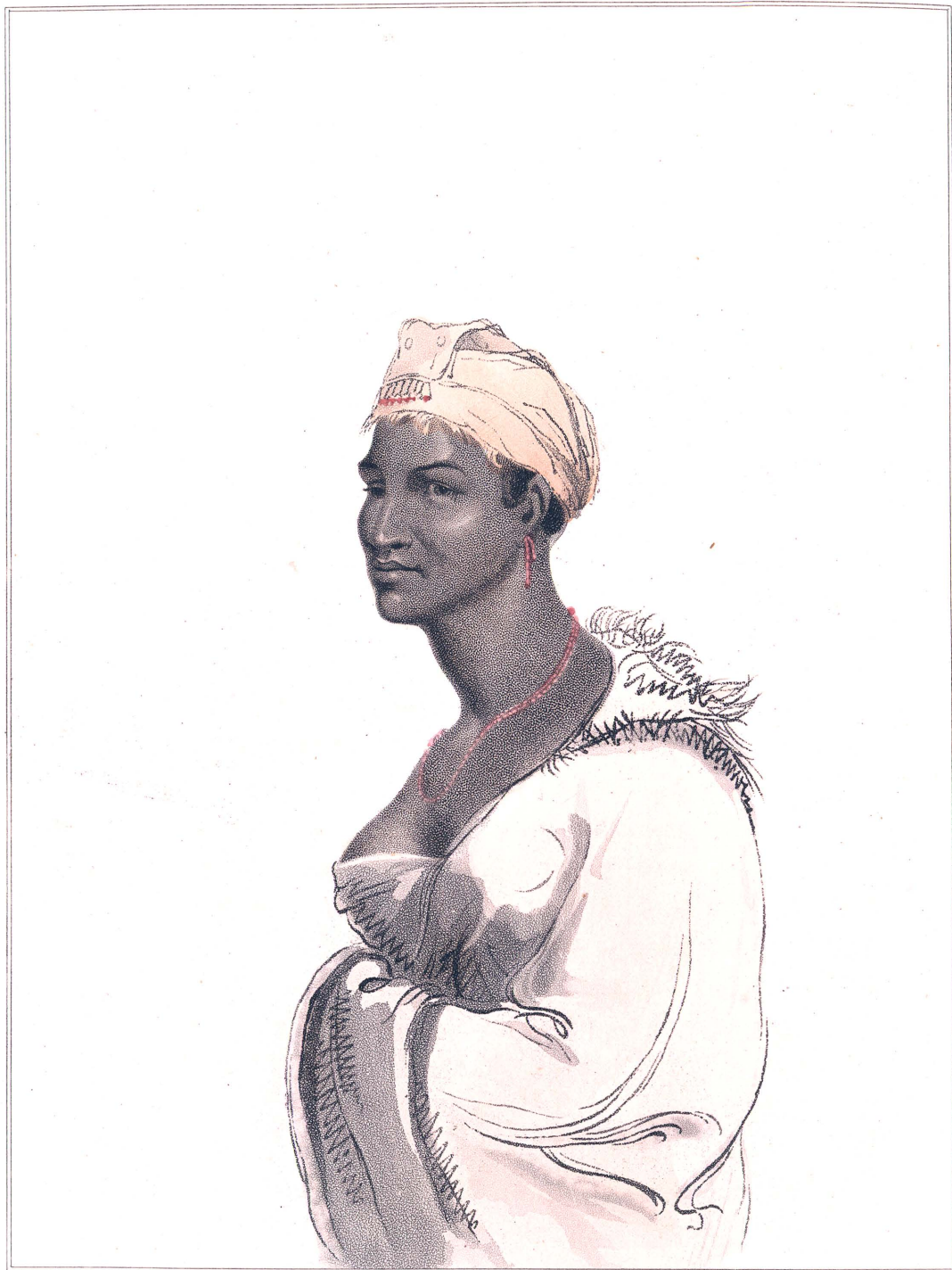
“ Primus”————

The Kaffers most certainly are not the Aborigines of the southern angle of Africa. Surrounded on all sides by people that differ from them in every point, in color, in features, in form, in disposition, in manners, and in language, it would be absurd to consider them as indigenous to the small spot they now possess. Were I to speculate upon their origin, I should have little hesitation in giving it as my opinion that they are descended from some of the tribes of those wandering Arabs known by the name of *Beduins*. These people are known to have penetrated into almost every part of Africa. Colonies of them have found their way even into the islands of South Africa, where more serious difficulties would occur than in a journey over land to the Cape of Good Hope. By skirting the Red Sea, and turning to the southward along the sea-coast, the great desert of sand that divides Africa into two parts is entirely avoided, and the passage lies over a country habitable as far as is known in every part. Their pastoral habits and manners, their kind and friendly reception of strangers, their tent-shaped houses, the remains of that grand feature of Islamism, the circumcision of male children, which is universally practised among all the Kaffer hordes, all strongly denote their affinity to the Beduin tribes. Their countenance is also truly Arabic; they differ only in color, which varies from deep bronze to jet black, but that of the latter is most predominant. If they had the smallest resemblance to the African negroes, either in their features or conformation, they might be supposed to owe their dark complexion to an intercourse in their passage through the country with these people, but there is not the least appearance of this having been the case. To the Ethiopians or Abyssinians they

bear a much stronger resemblance. The annexed portrait, drawn from nature by Mr. S. Daniell, will shew better than any description which I can give, the head-dress and the countenance of a Kaffer, whose features, I apprehend, will not be considered as deficient in point of symmetry, nor as indicating any want of intelligence.

Circumcision of male children is universally practised among the Kaffers, and is indeed the only exterior mark that seems to remain of a religious or sacred institution. The Kaffer considers it, however, merely as a duty which he owes to the memory of his ancestors, a prescriptive custom handed down to him as an example which he is bound to follow. He neither ascribes the practice of it to a principle of cleanliness, from whence in all probability it derived its origin, nor to any other cause or motive, but contents himself by pleading ancient usage. A circumcisor is a profession, and I believe the only one that exists among the Kaffers. The time of performing the operation is generally at the age of eight or nine years. Those who follow the profession travel from village to village, in quest of business, cutting all the male children who may be of a proper age. During the time they remain in a village, which may be eight or ten days, to see that their patients are doing well, they are invited to feasts and entertainments from house to house.

To perform the operation of circumcision nothing more is necessary than a sharp piece of iron in the form of a blade of a knife. The point of this instrument is inserted between the glans and the prepuce on the upper part, and the skin laid



S. Daniell del.

T. Medland sculp.

Kaffir Woman

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open to the root where they unite; from thence the instrument is passed down each side to the frænum, close along the edge of which the whole prepuce is divided into two parts, and entirely removed at the under side. After the operation the boy adopts a small bag of leather which extends a little beyond the *glans penis*, fitted sufficiently tight to remain on without binding, though some wear a belt to which the covering is attached by a string. The projecting end of the purse or bag has a small shank about an inch in length, by which it may more conveniently be drawn off; this very slight and indecent covering, with the rings, and other ornamental appendages, constitute the whole of a Kaffer's summer dress. He does not wear any covering on his head, which nature has clothed with the same kind of curling hair as that of the Hottentot. The circumstance of their having short hair should seem to militate against the supposition of their Arabic origin; but their intermixture with the Hottentots and other neighbouring nations along the coast, might have produced this variation from their supposed origin; and when a twist is once got into the hair, in a warm climate, it seems to increase with every generation. The *Bastaards*, or those who are produced between an European and a Hottentot, have strong curling hair, and are, except in color, very like the Kaffers.

So different are the opinions and the feelings of different nations concerning religion, and so difficult do the most civilized people find it to express their notions clearly and consistently of the "unknown God," that little satisfactory information can be collected on those points without a very familiar and extensive knowledge of the language of the people among

whom the inquiry is made, which was far from being our case in the present instance. The king being asked if they had any belief in a supernatural power, and, if so, what were their notions concerning it? replied, that they believed in the existence of some invisible power that sometimes brought good and sometimes evil upon them; it was this power that caused men to die suddenly, or before they arrived at years of maturity; that raised the wind, and made thunder and lightning to frighten, and sometimes to kill them; that led the sun across the world in the day, and the moon by night; and that made all those things which they could neither understand nor imitate. I then shewed him my watch; and from his great surprise it was clear he had never seen one before. On examining attentively the movements, and observing that the motion was continued in his own hands, he looked at the surrounding spectators, and pronounced emphatically the word *feegas*, which was echoed back with a nod of the head from the whole crowd. Concerning this word the Hottentot interpreter could get no other information than that it was some influence of the dead over the living in instigating and directing the actions of the latter. He called it a ghost or spirit, and said it was the Kaffer way of swearing. It appeared that if a Kaffer swore by a deceased relation, his oath was considered as inviolable. A promise was always held sacred when a piece of metal was broken between the parties; a practice not unlike the breaking of a sixpence between two parting lovers, still kept up in some country places of England. That these people have not bewildered their imaginations so far with metaphysical ideas of the immortality of the soul, as the more civilized part of mankind has exercised the reasoning faculties on this subject, and that

their notions have been little directed towards a future state of existence, were clearly to be collected from his replies to various questions put to him on those topics ; but as little information was likely to be gained on such abstruse points through the medium of a Hottentot interpreter, the conversation was turned to other subjects less embarrassing, and such as came more immediately before the senses.

Their skill in music is not above the level of that of the Hottentots. They have in fact no other instruments except the two in use among the latter, and a small whistle made of the bone of some animal, and used sometimes for giving the necessary instructions to their cattle when at a distance. They seldom attempt to sing or to dance, and their performances of both are miserably bad. A Kaffer woman is only serious when she dances, and at such times her eyes are constantly fixed on the ground, and her whole body seems to be thrown into convulsive motions.

A greater degree of amusement appears to be derived by the women from the practice of *tattooing*, or marking the body by raising the epidermis from the cuticle ; a custom that has been found to exist among most of the uncivilized nations inhabiting warm countries, and which may probably owe its origin to the paucity of ideas to keep the mental faculties in exercise, and the want of means for the proper employment of time. By slightly irritating the surface of the body, it conveys to the feelings a pleasurable sensation. In Kafferland it has passed into a general fashion. Every woman has a tattooed skin ; and their ingenuity in this way is chiefly exercised between the breasts and on the arms.

The temperate manner in which these people live, their simple diet and their duly-proportioned quantity of exercise, subject them to few complaints. A limited number of simples compose the dispensary of all nations where physic is not a profession. The Kaffers make use of very few plants, and these are chiefly employed in embrocations for sprains and bruises. The mother of Gaika was so solicitous to procure from us a quantity of common salt, to be used as a purgative, that she sent a person to our waggons, fifteen miles distant, for a small quantity of this article. They do not seem to be subject to any cutaneous diseases. The small-pox was once brought among them by a vessel that was stranded on their coast, and the disorder is said to have carried off great numbers. The marks of it were apparent on the faces of many of the elder people. They have neither fermented nor distilled liquors to impair the constitution by an improper use of them. The only two intoxicating articles of which they have any knowledge are tobacco and hemp. The effects produced from smoking the latter are said to be fully as narcotic as those of opium. In the use of this drug, as well as of tobacco, the oriental custom of drawing the smoke through water by means of the hookah, though in a rude and less elegant manner, is still retained by the Kaffers. The bowl of their earthen-ware pipe is attached to the end of a thick reed which passes obliquely through one side of an eland's horn. This horn being filled with water, the mouth is applied to its open end, and the smoke drawn out of the reed is qualified and rendered less acrid by its passage through the water. The Hottentot differs very materially from the Kaffer in the construction of *his* pipe. He reduces the stem to the length

of two inches, that two senses may at the same time receive the benefit and the gratification resulting from the practice of smoking.

Few are the dietetic plants cultivated by the Kaffers. The millet, called by botanists the *holcus sorghum*, and a very large species of water-melon, seem to be the most important articles of their kitchen garden. The *zamia cicadis*, a species of palm, grows wild in almost every part of the country, and is sometimes used, as a substitute for millet, to mix with milk as a kind of furmety. Preparatory for this purpose the pith of the thick stem is buried in the ground for a month or five weeks, till it becomes soft and short, so as easily to be reduced to a pulpy consistence. They eat also the roots of the *iris edulis*, and several kinds of wild berries and leguminous plants.

Had the Kaffers been more generally employed in tilling the ground, they would probably before this have obtained a more competent knowledge of the general causes by which the vicissitudes of the seasons are produced. At present they know little more of astronomy than that the moon in about thirty days will have gone through all her different phases; and that in about twelve moons the same seasons will return. Their only chronology is kept by the moon, and is registered by notches in pieces of wood. It seldom extends beyond one generation till the old series is cancelled, and some great event, as the death of a favorite chief, or the gaining of a victory, serves for a new æra.

Not the least vestige of a written character is to be traced among them ; but their language appears to be the remains of something far beyond that of a savage nation. In the enunciation it is soft, fluent, and harmonious ; it has neither the monotonous mouthing of the savage, nor the nasal nor guttural sounds that prevail in almost all the European tongues. It is as different from that of the Hottentots as the latter is from the English. In a very few words, and these are generally proper names, they have adopted the palatial clacking of the tongue used by the Hottentots. The mountains and rivers in the country, for instance, still retain their Hottentot names ; a circumstance which affords at least a presumptive proof that the Kaffers were intruders upon this nation. It is singular enough that both the one and the other should have obtained a name that never belonged to them. The word *Kaffer* could not be pronounced by one of this nation, having no sound of the letter R in his language. A *Koffray*, among the Indians, is an infidel, a pagan, and was a general name applied by the early voyagers to those people, in whom they did not perceive any features of a particular religion ; but the origin of the name of Hottentot seems not yet to have been ascertained. The Kaffers call themselves *Koussie*, which word is pronounced by the Hottentots with a strong palatial stroke of the tongue on the first syllable. I am ignorant if the Kaffer language bears an analogy to any dialect of the Arabic ; but their word *eliang* for the sun, and some others, appeared to have an oriental derivation. The following brief specimen of the Kaffer language, with the synonymous words in that of

the Hottentots, may serve to shew how little resemblance they bear to each other. The hyphen, in the latter, expresses the dental, and the circumflex the palatial, action of the tongue on those syllables over which they are placed.

	KAFFER.	HOTTENTOT.
The Sun,	Eliang,	Surrie.
The Moon,	Inyango,	kā.
The Stars,	Imquemqueis,	Kōro.
The Earth,	Umclabo,	Kōo.
Air or light,	Amaphoo,	Kōm.
Fire,	Leaw,	Ei.
Water,	Amaanzee,	Kām.
Thunder,	Ezoolo,	hōōnoo.
Lightning,	Leaw Ezoolo,	hōōnoo-ei.
Wind,	Oomoi,	qūa.
Rain,	Imphoola,	Tōōkai.
The Sea,	Ooloanje,	hurroo.
A Man,	Abaantoo,	Quaina.
A Woman,	Omfaas,	Quaisha.
An Ox,	Incabai,	Mnoo.
A Dog,	Eenja,	Toona.
To-day,	Emenie,	Hasai.
To-morrow,	Gamtzo,	Quātrie.
One,	Eenyé,	Qūæ.
Two,	Zimbeenie,	Kām.
Three,	Zintaté,	gōna.
Four,	Zeené,	haka.
Five,	Zincano,	gosé.
Six,	Zintantaat,	

Seven,	Zinnoné.
Eight,	Zintoamnayené.
Nine,	Tuamnumyé.
Ten,	Leeshung.
Eleven,	Leefang-gay-yé.
Twelve,	Leefangbeenie.
Twenty,	Amashoomomabeenie.
Thirty,	Amashoomomataté.
Forty,	Amashoomomazeené.
A Hundred,	Ecoloo.

The Kaffers differ also very materially from all the neighbouring nations in their manner of disposing of the dead. Funeral rites are bestowed only on the bodies of their chiefs, and of their children. The first are generally interred very deep in the dung of their own cattle accumulated in the kraals or places where they are pent up at nights; and the bodies of infants are most commonly deposited in the ant-hills that have been excavated by the myrmecophagæ or ant-eaters. The common people are exposed to be devoured by wolves. As these animals drag them away immediately into their dens, the relations of the deceased are in no danger of being shocked or disgusted with the sight of the mangled carcase. A Kaffer, in consideration of this piece of service, holds the life of a wolf to be sacred, at least, he never endeavours to destroy it; the consequence of which is, that the country swarms with this voracious and destructive animal. Some ingenious author has observed, that the custom of burning the dead was universal, till the practice, which had been adopted as the most prudent and conve-

nient disposal of an unpleasant object, became a subject of ostentations parade; and the funeral pile by its extravagance having at length exhausted the forests, necessity obliged them to have recourse to other means, some to interment, and others to exposure in high places to be devoured by crows and vultures. Had the Kaffers ever burned their dead in the country they now inhabit, they were under no necessity of discontinuing the practice for want of fuel, being still immured in the midst of inexhaustible forests.

The business that had brought us to the Kaffer king being finished, our next step was to examine the mouth of the Keiskamma. The magnitude and strength of this river being so much superior to those of the Great-Fish River, gave us a hope that there might be found at its embouchure some kind of bay or harbour. Little is known of any part of the Kaffer coast between the mouth of the Great-Fish River and the Bay of Rio de la Goa; so little, indeed, that in our latest and best Charts, this part of the Eastern coast of Africa is laid down on no better authority than what the reckoning has given of ships making the land on their homeward bound voyage from India. I shall have occasion hereafter to make a few observations on this subject.

As in our journey to the mouth of this river we had an untravelled and an uninhabited country to pass, in order to arrive at our object, most of the party thought fit to quit us, and to seek amusement in shooting sea-cows in the Keiskamma, whilst we turned off to the southward towards the sea-coast. In the dusk of the evening we came to a small

clear stream, upon the bank of which we pitched our tent. It intersected one of the most beautiful tracts of country that had yet fallen under our observation in Southern Africa. The bold eastern bank clothed with hanging-wood, and the extensive meadows rising gradually on the opposite side into fine swells covered with grass, and interrupted here and there by clumps of tall shrubbery and straggling trees, gave to the country the appearance of a suite of English parks or pleasure grounds. On the banks of the river stood a number of small villages and detached huts; but they were entirely deserted. The land had evidently been under cultivation at no distant period. Fields of millet that had been consumed by the birds were still standing in regular rows. It appeared to be the *holcus sorghum* of Linnæus. Several large water-melons, of an insipid taste, were growing, having spontaneously planted themselves to all appearance from the seed of the old ones which were laying in a decayed state on the ground. Several implements of husbandry, *keeries*, and small wooden spades, were lying in the gardens; and from these and other circumstances it appeared that the inhabitants had been driven away in haste,

From some fires being seen at no great distance from the place of our encampment, and from the perpetual barking of the dogs after it grew dark, we began to suspect that our motions were watched by the spies of one of the parties, namely the Kaffer king, or the emigrant chiefs. In the course of the night, however, the disturbance made by the dogs was sufficiently explained by an immense troop of wolves, which were attracted by the smell of an ox that had been killed the preceding evening. These creatures came in such a body as

completely to chase away the dogs, and to frighten all our people though armed with musquets.

Beside the common wolf and the domestic dog, there are no fewer than five distinct species of the canine tribe in Southern Africa that have passed through my hands ; three of these are called in the colony by the general name of jackal ; one of them is the *mesomelas*, an animal well known and very common in every part of the Cape ; another, the *aureus*, which is smaller than the first, goes generally in troops, and is commonly met with in the Sneeuwberg : the third is a species of fox, as yet, I believe, not described ; the color is grizzle, the ground cinereous blue mixed with silvery hairs ; face, legs, and belly light-brown ; tail straight, grizzled, and bushy ; ears long, pointed, erect ; face remarkably pointed ; the hair soft, and resembling fur ; in stature it is considerably less than the common fox. The other two species go under the name of wolves ; one is the *crocuta*, called the spotted wolf ; the other is an animal of an enormous size, and seldom met with except in the remote parts of the colony : being as tall and as bulky as the largest Newfoundland dog ; the color a pale fallow ; the hair of the neck and back long, thick, and clotted ; tail short and straight ; shoulders, thighs, and legs marked with large irregular black blotches ; and it has only four toes on the fore-feet ; a circumstance from whence it may probably be considered as a variety of the common hyæna.

The smell of the carcase presently attracted a prodigious number of birds of prey, one species of which, a small kite, entirely brown, with a forked tail, was so bold that it suffered

itself to be knocked down with sticks. Just the reverse was the conduct of a beautiful small hawk only nine inches long, of a chocolate brown, with a triangular black spot on each of the back feathers; the exterior side of the wing feathers marked with semicircular ferruginous spots passing into white at the edges; tail barred with alternate black and cinereous-blue stripes; beak and nails of a livid color. A species of crow in vast numbers is generally found to attend the larger kind of birds of prey. It is uncommonly bold and ravenous, and all its habits are vulturine: the beak is stronger and more crooked than that of the raven, and the upper mandible is carinated. One sex has a white shield down the back only; the other, both on the back and the breast. I cannot pretend to determine whether it is either a variety of the raven, or an undescribed species. Of other kinds of birds, there seemed to be few that are not commonly met with in most parts of the colony. Thrushes and turtle-doves were the most numerous. The former are known in the colony under the general name of *sprew*. A description of the different thrushes of Africa would alone nearly fill a volume, though not more than thirty species appear to have been noticed, of which the *nitens*, reflecting every shade of azure, green, and purple, is the most elegant, as well as one of the best warblers. The only curious and rare bird that I obtained in the Kaffer country was the *buceros Africanus*, or the African horn-bill.

In one day's journey from the Beeka we arrived at the mouth of the Keiskamma, near which the river was about the width of the Thames at Woolwich, the water still, and apparently of great depth; but the entrance of this as well as of the Fish

river was guarded by a bar of sand, upon which the surf broke with great violence. On each side of the mouth reefs of rocks ran out to a considerable distance ; and the wild and rocky coast was without sinuosities or indentations as far as the eye could reach. The mouth of the Keiskamma was found by observation to be in $33^{\circ} 12'$ south latitude, and $28^{\circ} 6'$ east longitude.

The only kind of game that was met with near the sea-coast was the harte-beest, the riet-bok, and the ree-bok. Innumerable traces of hippopotami were visible along the bank of the river ; but none of these animals made their appearance.

The weather being remarkably fine, butterflies and moths were flying about in the greatest abundance. Of the latter, I noticed near fifty distinct species that, in one evening, came upon the table in my tent, attracted by the light of the candle. Entomologists, employed in making a collection of the *phalænæ*, could not, I am convinced, adopt a better plan than that of placing a tent with a light in it near the side of a wood. Some of the *papiliones* were very brilliant ; and there were, no doubt, among them many species that could not be matched even in Mr. Drury's extensive and valuable cabinet of foreign insects. I could only regret the want of time and convenience to make a collection of the insects, as well as of other curiosities of a country which is so little known.

Having recrossed the Great-Fish river on our return, we directed our course across a plain towards Graaff Reynet. On this plain was found, some years ago, upon the surface of the

ground, a mass of pure iron in a malleable state. Considered as a great curiosity, it was carried from place to place, and is now in Cape Town. The mass was entirely amorphous; exhibited no appearance of having ever been in a mine; no matrix of any kind was adhering to it; nor in the cavities of its surface were any pebbles or marks of crystallization. It was exceedingly tough, and the fracture more like that of lead than of iron. The weight of the mass might be about three hundred pounds. From a specimen of the same mass carried into England, some time ago by Colonel Prehn, it was supposed that this metal was to be met with in its native state at the Cape of Good Hope. Mineralogists, however, are still in doubt whether iron, though the most abundant of all metals, has yet been discovered in a native state; and whether those masses that have been found in Siberia, in Senegal, and a few other places, were not the products of art, which, on some occasion, or by accident, had been buried in the ground. The mass in question exhibited evident marks of force having been used in order to flatten and to draw it out. It had probably been the thick part of a ship's anchor, carried from the coast to the place where it was found by the Kaffers, and attempted by them to be reduced into smaller pieces. The missionary Vander Kemp observes, that near the mouth of the Keiskamma he saw an old anchor lying on the ground, which a Kaffer never passes without making a low reverence; and the reason they assign is, that some years ago one of their people contrived, with great difficulty, to strike off a piece of the iron, but he died the next day, the evil spirit having killed him for his presumption.

Travelling along the feet of the *Rietberg* before mentioned, and on its northern side, we passed several fine clumps of forest-trees in the kloofs of the mountain, and among these obtained three new species of timber which were not observed in the woods near Zwart Kop's bay. The face of the country was here particularly rugged; the hills were composed of sand-stone, resting on bases of blue slate. In the perpendicular side of one of these hills was oozing out a salt of various colors, similar to that described and found near the salt lake of Zwart Kop's river. The upper part of the face of this hill consisted of large, regular, rhomboidal tablets of stone, whose projecting angles formed a kind of cornice to the face: these rested on a mass of purple slate, crumbling into dust. The white veins of quartz that appeared to have once been liquid, and to have flowed through the slate in curved seams, were now far advanced in their transitions into clay; pieces of these veins were friable between the fingers; several prismatic quartz crystals were found in a corroded state, and evidently decomposing into the same earth. The change of quartz into clay is indeed perceptible in all the mountains of Southern Africa. It should seem that this is the last stage of all the earthy bodies. Future discoveries in chemistry may perhaps demonstrate that the earths, now considered as having different bases, were originally formed of one, and are reducible to the same, ultimate principle; or that they are convertible substances. That by exposure to, and combination with, the different airs which float in the atmosphere, or with water impregnated by different materials, they become subject to pass into the nature of each other.

Several detached pieces of hematite were found among the mass of slate. Indeed there is scarcely a mountain in Africa that does not produce iron ores ; and ochres are every where found in the greatest abundance. The finest of these earths are met with in the state of impalpable powders inclosed in crustaceous coverings of a reddish color, of the hardness and consistence of baked earthen ware, sometimes in single nodules of an inch or two inches diameter, but more frequently in clusters of two, three, or four nodules, connected by necks which are also hollow. In these stones every shade of color is said to have been found, except the greens ; but the most common are those of a pale yellow and chocolate brown. The country people know them by the name of *paint-stones*, because the powders they contain, when mixed up with oil, make very good paint, without any sifting or further preparation.

On the upper part of the Bosjesman's river we received a visit from the chief of the Ghonaquas, followed by the last remains of this mixed tribe of Kaffer and Hottentot, consisting of about a dozen people. The prediction of Vaillant concerning this horde has turned out but too true. The name of Ghonaqua, like those of the numerous tribes of Hottentots now extinct, is just on the eve of oblivion. Driven out of their ancient possessions in the Zuure Veldt by the colonists, they yet found an asylum from the father of Gaika, in one of the most fertile districts of his kingdom, watered by the river *Kaapna* : here they were suffered to remain in quiet till the late disturbances among the Kaffers, occasioned by the refusal of Zambie to yield to his nephew the reins of the go-

vernment. Unwilling to act, or undecided which part to take, they became a common enemy; and those who remained in the country were plundered and massacred by both parties; whilst those who fled across the Great-Fish river met with the same treatment from the Dutch farmers of Bruyntjes Hoogté. Some sought refuge in the plains of Zuure Veldt, and were there plundered by the emigrant Kaffers. The last remaining party, with their chief at their head, had concealed themselves among the thick cover of the Rietberg, where they had been surprised by some straggling Kaffers who had put the greatest part of the horde to death, and carried off the whole of their cattle. It was the remaining few who were left in this helpless and deplorable state, who came to entreat us to lay before the Kaffer king their melancholy condition, requesting they might be restored to his protection. Unluckily for them they made their application too late; and all that could now be done was to furnish them with such documents to that king, as we could give them, with a verbal message favorable to their wishes.

The chief Haabas and the gay Narina, who have furnished so long and so eccentric an episode in the pages of a French gentleman's travels among these people, were no longer recollected by them. The names even were totally unknown in their language.

Notwithstanding the friendly disposition of the Kaffer king towards the emigrant chiefs, we understood at this place they had positively refused to return beyond the Fish river, withheld, no doubt, by the gang of outlaws before mentioned, on

the banks of the *Kareeka*. To drive them over at that time by an armed force, to be sent from the Cape expressly for that purpose, was deemed an unadvisable measure ; but fresh disturbances among the foolish people of Graaff Reynet having since rendered it indispensably necessary to throw troops into that district, and the Kaffers having been instigated by promises and presents from the boors to enter into hostilities against the British troops, coercive measures were found to be unavoidable in order to endeavour to drive these people out of the colony, and to break the connection that subsisted between them and the peasantry.

In our way to the Drosdy we passed over the fertile division of Bruyntjes Hoogté, notorious for the turbulent spirit of its inhabitants ; a set of adventurers, chiefly soldiers or sailors, who had either deserted or were discharged from the Dutch army and the Company's shipping. These men having, at this great distance from the seat of government, found a country that with little or no labor would supply most of their wants, thought themselves independent and superior to all authority. They attempted even to dictate to the Government, which indeed was weak and timid enough to suffer their excesses to be committed with impunity.

From Bruyntjes Hoogté we descended to the Karoo plains of Camdeboo. These plains are intersected by the Bly river, the Vogel river, the Platte river, and the Melk river, in their passage from the Sneuwberg into the Sondag river. Naked as the surface appeared to be, game of every sort was very plentiful, particularly springboks and the larger kinds of

antelopes. Upon those parched plains are also found several species of a small quadruped which burrows in the ground, and which is known to the colonists under the general name of *meer-cat*. They are mostly of that genus of animals to which zoologists have given the name of *viverra*. An eagle, making a stoop at one of these, close where we were passing, missed his prey; and both fell a sacrifice, one to the gun, the other to the dogs. Both the bird and the quadruped appeared to us to be undescribed species. Of the eagle, the head, neck, back, and abdomen, were of a pale ferruginous brown; wings and tail steel-blue, the latter faintly barred with small bands from the root to the middle; the *cera* pale yellow; beak and nails black; the feet entirely covered with downy feathers; length two feet two inches. The *viverra* was wholly of a bright chesnut color; the tail shaded with black hairs, bushy, straight, and white at the extremity; ears short and round; on the fore feet five, and the hind feet four, toes; the body and tail each one foot long. Others of this genus are the *muskiliatte cat*, or *zenik*, of the *Systema Naturæ*; the *tigrina* or tiger-cat; the *mellivora* or *ratel*; and the *cafra*. In general these animals are easily domesticated. One species, however, is very difficult, if not impossible, to render tame. It resembles the *putorius* or pole-cat of America, with this difference only, that the latter has five parallel white lines along the back, and the African species only four, that diverge from the shoulder. When first taken they smell very strongly of musk, which however shortly wears off by confinement. There is also found in this part of the country a beautiful little ground-squirrel, with a white stripe on each

side from the shoulder to the flank ; the body a dark chesnut color, about eight inches in length ; tail ten inches, grizzled, black, brown, and white.

That elegant bird, the Balearic crane, *grus pavonina*, was first met with near the Melk river ; and Guinea fowls were very abundant near every streamlet. Bee-eaters, *merops apiaster*, with their beautiful plumage, and *certhias*, or creepers, with colors still more brilliant, were fluttering about in vast numbers among the mimosas of the Sunday river, where are also many beautiful species both of kingfishers and woodpeckers. The modest garb of the *colii*, of which I met with three species, formed a striking contrast with the gaudy plumage of the others. There are several species of swallows in the Cape, all migratory. One in particular, with a red-spotted breast, frequents the habitations of man, where it builds its nest. In many of the farm-houses are small shelves nailed against the beams, expressly for the swallows ; and I have heard it asserted very commonly, that the same birds return to their places for many years, and generally on the very same day ; which, if true, is a striking instance to prove that Nature is not more constant in the organization of the machine than in the effects that are intended to result from it.

The Sunday river was nearly dry, which gave our people an opportunity of taking plenty of turtle with great ease. These, when full grown, are in size generally about a foot in diameter : the females are exceedingly prolific in eggs, and

the flesh is by no means wanting in flavor. The river abounds also with short thick eels, that are very delicious. From the ford of the river to the Drosdy of Graaff Rēynet is but a short walk. We arrived at this village on the 30th September, having made our long circuitous journey in less than two months.

CHAP. III.

Sketches made on a Journey into the Country of the Bosjesmans.

THREE weeks had scarcely elapsed, after our return from the Kaffer country, before we were ready for setting out on another expedition to the northward, across the Sneuwberg or Snowy Mountains. In these mountains, and in the country immediately behind them, dwells a race of men, that, by their habits and manner of life, are justly entitled to the name of savage ;—a name, however, of which, there is great reason to apprehend, they have been rendered more worthy by the conduct of the European settlers. They are called by the colonists *Bosjesmans*, or men of the bushes, from the concealed manner in which they make their approaches to kill and to plunder. They neither cultivate the ground nor breed cattle, but subsist, in part, on the natural produce of the country, and make up the deficiency by depredations on the colonists on one side, and the neighbouring tribes of people that are more civilized than themselves on the other. Twenty years ago, it seems, they were less numerous and less ferocious than at the present day ; and their boldness as well as their numbers is said of late to have very much increased. At one time they were pretty well kept under by the regular expeditions of the peasantry which were undertaken against them. Each division had its commandant, who was author-

ised to raise a certain number of men, and these were furnished by government with powder and ball. It was a service at all times taken with reluctance, especially by such as were least exposed to the attacks of the savages; and, during the late disturbances of Graaff Reynet, these expeditions met with considerable interruptions. The people of Bruyntjes Hoogté were the first who failed in raising their proportion of men. Zuure Veldt was deserted, and Camdeboo and Zwart Ruggens became negligent and remiss. The people of Sneuwberg, lying nearest to the common enemy, were left to sustain the whole burden of repelling its attacks; and, had they not conducted themselves with great fortitude, perseverance, and address, that valuable part of the colony, the nursery of cattle, would now have been abandoned. A whole division called the *Tarka*, and a great part of another, the *Sea-Cow river* and *Rhinoceros-berg*, had been deserted, as well as a small part of Sneuwberg. There is, however, another cause which, more than the interruption to the expeditions, has tended to increase the strength and the audacity of these savages, and which, unless removed, will probably in the end effect the utter ruin of this distant part of the colony. The government of the Cape, which seemed to have been as little acquainted with the temper and disposition of its distant subjects as with the geography of the country, formed all its resolutions, respecting the Bosjesmans, on representations made to it by the persons who were immediately interested. In consequence of these representations, it decreed that such of the Bosjesmans, as should be taken alive in the expeditions made against them, were to be distributed by lot among the com-

mandant and his party, with whom they were to remain in a state of servitude during their lives. Such as have been taken very young and well treated, generally became very excellent servants; many have shewn great talent, great activity, and great fidelity. But an opposite treatment has been productive of a contrary effect; and the brutal conduct of the Dutch farmers towards those in their employ is but too general. The poor Hottentot bears it with patience, or sinks under it; but on the temper and the turn of mind of the Bosjesman it has a very different effect. He takes the first opportunity that offers of escaping to his countrymen, and contrives frequently to carry off with him a musquet, and powder and ball. With tales of cruelty he excites them to revenge; he assists them in their plans of attack; tells them the strength of the whole district, and of individuals; the number of their cattle, and the advantages and the dangers that will occur in the attempt to carry them off; puts them in possession of the manner in which expeditions are conducted against them; and, in short, of every thing he knows respecting the colonists. Armed with musquets and poisoned arrows, a party of these people was bold enough, a few days before we commenced our journey, to approach within four or five miles of the Drosdy, from whence they carried off several hundred sheep. They were followed into a kloof of one of the mountains of Sneuwberg, where they remained in possession of their plunder, laughing at their pursuers, and inviting them to approach and taste a little of their own mutton. One of them fired a musquet, the ball from which grazing the hat of a peasant, caused the pursuing party to make a precipitate retreat.

In order therefore to bring about a conversation with some of the chiefs of this people ; to try if, by presents and persuasion, they could be prevailed upon to quit their present wild and marauding way of life ; at the same time to see the state of the colony, and the situation of the inhabitants ; to inspect the boundaries, and to examine the nature of the country, a journey to the northward appeared indispensably necessary. It promised also much curiosity : and as no European traveller, except the late Colonel Gordon who accompanied the Governor Van Plettenberg, had ever ascended the mountains of Snow, a great deal of novelty was to be expected from it.

On the 20th of October we departed from the Drosdy, crossed the *Sunday* river, and its accompanying Karroo, and at the distance of ten miles north-westerly reached the foot of the mountains, into which a narrow defile of five miles in length, and a steep ascent of three miles at the farther extremity, led us upon the extensive plains, and among the scattered mountains that compose the Sneeuwberg. From the lower plains of Camdeboo, the fronts of these mountains appear to be the most regular formed, though the most confusedly placed, of any within the limits of the colony. The uppermost stratum of naked rock that terminates their summits is so perfectly horizontal, and so regularly squared at the angles, that their vast height and magnitude alone contradict the idea of their being gigantic lines of masonry.

It was on one of the elevated plains that lie extended within these clusters of mountains, where we encamped in the

dusk of the evening. The wind blew fresh, and the thermometer had descended to forty-five degrees. On the preceding day, at Graaff Reynet, it stood at eighty-five in the shade till near sun-set, and at seventy-six during the night; and in the course of this day's journey it was at eighty-three. The sudden change was probably occasioned, not so much by the difference of elevation, which in a Dutch manuscript journal is estimated, by a barometrical observation, at 4800 feet, as by the sudden evaporation of the moisture caused by a heavy fall of rain that had here continued during the preceding day and night. An extraordinary decrease of temperature is always the consequence of continued rain in Southern Africa.

The following day brought us to *Waay Hoek*, or Windy Corner, the habitation of the late provisional landrost of Graaff Reynet, who had signified an inclination to accompany us on our intended expedition. He had attended the Governor Van Plettenberg on his journey northwards, and had since been commandant for many years on expeditions against the Bosjesmans, which had given him an opportunity of being acquainted not only with the different parts within, but also with much of the country beyond, the limits of the colony. Having prepared himself for the journey, we remained with him only for the night; and on the following morning sent forward the waggons, while we made an excursion into the mountains on our left in search of Bosjesmans. A large party of these people had carried off a number of cattle but two days before, and another was supposed to be still hovering about in this neighbourhood. Their usual

haunts are easily discoverable, but generally difficult of access, and not safe to approach. The torrents of water rushing down the steep sides of the high stratified mountains, frequently carry with them the loose materials, and leave a succession of caverns, of which the Bosjesman pitches on the highest, for his temporary habitation, not only as the means of removing him farther from the danger of a surprise, but as affording him at the same time the command of a greater extent of country.

In one of these retreats we discovered their recent traces. The fires were scarcely extinguished, and the grass on which they had slept was not yet withered. On the smooth sides of the cavern were drawings of several animals that had been made from time to time by these savages. Many of them were caricatures; but others were too well executed not to arrest our attention. The different antelopes, that were there delineated, had each their character so well discriminated, that the originals, from whence the representations had been taken, could, without any difficulty, be ascertained. Among the numerous animals that were drawn, the figure of a zebra was remarkably well executed; all the marks and characters of this animal were accurately represented, and the proportions seemingly correct. The force and spirit of drawings, which are given by bold touches judiciously applied, and by the effect of light and shadow, could not be expected from savages; but for accuracy of outline and correctness of the different parts, worse drawings than that of the zebra have passed through the engraver's hands. The materials with which they had been executed were charcoal, pipe-clay, and

the different ochres. The animals represented were zebras, qua-chas, gemsboks, spring-boks, redboks, elands, baboons, and ostriches, all of which, except the gemsbok, are to be found upon the very spot. Several crosses, circles, points, and lines, were placed in a long row, as if intended to express some meaning; but whether designed to convey any particular ideas, or accidentally marked, I cannot pretend to say. In the course of our journeys, I had frequently heard the peasantry mention the drawings in the mountains behind the Sneeuwberg made by the Bosjesmans; but I took it for granted they were caricatures only, similar to such as we sometimes see on the doors and walls of uninhabited buildings, the works of idle boys; and it was no disagreeable disappointment to find them very much the reverse. Some of the drawings were recognized to be of recent execution; but many of them were remembered to exist from the first settlement of this part of the colony.

A part of the upper surface of the cavern was covered with a thick coating of a black substance, that externally had the appearance of pitch. In consistence, tenacity, and color, of a brownish black, it resembled Spanish liquorice. The smell was slightly bituminous, but faint, and rather offensive. It flamed weakly in the candle, and gave out a thin brownish fluid, but no smell while burning; the residuum was a black coaly substance, about two-thirds of the original bulk. The patch adhering to the rock was covered with myriads of very minute flies. In reaching up to it, in order to cut off a specimen with my knife, the people called out to me to desist, assuring me that if the smallest particle got into the eye the sight of it

would be lost for ever ; that it was deadly poison, and used by the Hottentots to smear the points of their arrows. They all agreed in the baneful qualities of this black matter, from having experienced the fatal effects of it on several of their companions, who had suffered lingering deaths from wounds received with arrows poisoned by the *klip gift*, or rock poison. Not having as yet the opportunity of trying the deleterious quality of the substance, I cannot pretend to say whether this account of the peasantry be strictly true, but I should rather conclude that it is exaggerated.

In the course of the day we arrived at the house of Krüger, the commandant of Sneeuwberg, who kindly offered his services to be of our party, though he had but just returned from an expedition against the Bosjesmans. He had at this time with him in the house one of these wild men, with his two wives and a little child, which by lot had fallen to his share out of forty that had been taken prisoners. The man was only four feet five inches high, and his wives were still of a shorter stature, one being four feet two, and the other four feet three inches. He represented to us, through a Bosjesman interpreter, the condition of his countrymen as truly deplorable. That for several months in the year, when the frost and snow prevented them from making their excursions against the farmers, their sufferings from cold and want of food were indescribable : that they frequently beheld their wives and children perishing with hunger, without being able to give them any relief. The good season even brought little alleviation to their misery. They knew themselves to be hated by all mankind, and that every nation around them was an enemy planning

their destruction. Not a breath of wind rustled through the leaves, not a bird screamed, that were not supposed to announce danger. Hunted, while at liberty, like beasts of prey, and inhumanly treated by the farmers when carried into slavery, their condition in either case was desperate. The burden of their song was vengeance against the Dutch. This little man was intended to have accompanied us; but as he proceeded with reluctance, and seemed more inclined to abide by his wives, he was permitted to follow his uxorious inclinations.

As we advanced to the northward, a curious but most deplorable spectacle presented itself to our observation. It was a troop of locusts resting upon the ground. The space they covered was about one square mile in extent, and so completely that the surface appeared to the eye, at a little distance, to have been burned and strewed over with brown ashes. Not a shrub nor blade of grass was visible. The wag-gons passed directly through them, before which they rose up in a cloud that darkened the air on each side. Desirous of seeing the whole troop on the wing, the Hottentots ran amongst them, and the horses were made to gallop through them, but without success; none but such as were immediately under the feet of the men and horses rose up. In all other parts they remained firm on the ground. The peasantry pretend that they are not to be driven away unless the signal for departure should be given from their commander in chief, one of which is supposed to accompany every troop.

On the evening of the 23d, we encamped at the foot of a large mountain, remarkable for its pointed peak, and also on

account of its detached situation. It was separated from all the circumjacent mountains, on four sides, by as many large level meadows abundant in springs of water. It forms one of the highest points of South Africa. The waters flow from the surrounding meadows in every direction; a circumstance from which Colonel Gordon probably was induced to give it the name of the *Compass Mountain*. On the south-east side is the source of the Sunday river. On all the others are springs whose streamlets unite at no great distance from their sources, and flow directly to the north. The general surface of the country, on the northern side of the mountain, is at least fifteen hundred feet above the source of the Sunday river; and the height of the peak above this general surface was found, by trigonometrical measurement, to be also very nearly fifteen hundred feet.

The rills of water that meandered through the meadows were covered with the common reed, and these were frequented with vast flocks of small birds, particularly with the *loxia orix*, called by English ornithologists the *grenadier*, and by the French, the *cardinal* of the Cape of Good Hope. The male is remarkable for its gaudy plumage during the spring and summer months: in these seasons the neck, breast, back, upper and under part of the rump, are of a bright crimson; the throat and abdomen are glossy black. During the other six months it is stripped of its gaudy attire, and adopts the modest garb of the female, which is at all times that of a greyish brown. They are gregarious, and build their nests in large societies. Another remarkable bird we observed in the reeds. This was the long-tailed finch, described in the *Systema*

Naturæ, as the *loxia Caffra*, on the authority of Thunberg; and in the same book, with more propriety, as the *emberiza longicauda*. The changes that this bird undergoes are still more extraordinary than those of the grenadier. The black feathers of its tail, which are fifteen inches long, while the body is barely five, are placed in vertical positions like those of the domestic cock. The bounty of nature seems to have been extended to this bird to its disadvantage; its tail, when on the wing, impeding, instead of assisting, its flight. This long tail, however, endures but the season of love. In the winter it assumes the same as that of the female, short, brown, and horizontal, and it can then fly like other birds. The change of plumage, in many birds, from that of the male to the female, and the contrary, has led some speculative naturalists to adopt an opinion that a change of sex also actually takes place. This, however, is not the case with respect to the two birds in question. The long-tailed finch appears to be one of those few of the feathered tribe that, in a state of nature, are found to be polygamous. I have frequently seen from thirty to forty of their nests together in one clump of reeds, but never more than two males at one place. The construction of their nests is very curious. They are entirely composed of green grass neatly plaited into a round ball, and knotted fast between the stems of two reeds. The entrance is through a tube whose orifice is on the under side, next to the water.

The termination of the Snowy mountains is about twelve miles to the north-eastward of Compassberg; and here a port or passage through the last ridge opens upon a plain extend-

ing to the northward, without a swell, farther than the eye could command. Eight miles beyond this pass we encamped for the night, where the weather was more raw and cold than we had hitherto experienced it on the Sneuwberg. The thick clouds being at length dissipated by the sun, the Compassberg appeared at a distance white near the summit with snow.

The division of Sneuwberg comprehends a great extent of country. The moment we had ascended from the plains behind Graaff Reynet to those more elevated of Sneuwberg, the difference of the face of the country and its natural productions were remarkably striking. One of the characters of the African mountains is that of having one of their sides steep and lofty, whilst the opposite one gradually slopes off in an inclined plane. The Compassberg is the last to the northward that presents a bold and high front to the southern horizon. Beyond this the northern aspects of the mountains are the highest.

It was an observation sufficiently striking, and which must have occurred to every one who has been the least attentive to the mountains and rivers of South Africa, that the ascent of the former invariably increases with the descent of the latter; or, in other words, that the highest sides of the mountains face that quarter towards which the rivers flow, whilst their sloping sides are opposed to the streams. That, such, indeed, are the appearances, which ought to present themselves on the surface of every country, of Neptunian origin, is conformable to what may every day be observed, on a small scale, in the beds