

of their agreeing to serve him for a year and a half, and being supplied by him with food and clothing; or, each individual was to pay him 30*l.* before leaving Scotland, in which case he would be free on his arrival. But if the mechanic did not choose either of these modes, he was to pay 60*l.* after his arrival, in work or money, as my brother should think fit. To the labourers he made similar proposals—with this difference, that they should serve him three years, instead of a year and a half. Fortunately for my brother, most of them preferred paying him in money after their arrival; which saved him from a great loss, as he could not possibly have found profitable employment for, or been able to manage, such a number of discontented spirits. Had he been able to anticipate the difficulties he afterwards experienced, he might have made better arrangements for his own security; but he was led into the undertaking by some interested individuals at the Cape, who promised their assistance, but drew back when they found that it was not likely to turn out so well as they expected.

On his arrival at Cape Town, he found a

considerable demand for labour, and was enabled to sell several of the indentures of his people to the English inhabitants of the town and its vicinity; but, for a great number, he could find no profitable employment, and had to keep them at a considerable expense. The majority of them soon dispersed over the whole colony, and were engaged by the farmers, who enticed them into their service, and paid my brother no part of their wages, notwithstanding a proclamation issued by the Governor, forbidding their being employed without his consent. To add to his misfortunes, on prosecuting some of the people who had illegally hired his servants, he soon found that he was saddled with the greater part of the law expenses, and was therefore playing a losing game. Law has been often called a lottery; but the court of justice at the Cape was, in those days, worse than a lottery. Most of the members of that court were at this time slave-holders; and, as may be supposed, not much inclined to encourage the importation of free labour.

It may appear surprising that a number of individuals selected with so much caution in a

country where the lower classes are so moral as in Scotland, should so easily break through their engagements. But the truth is, we are apt to over-rate the character of the lower classes in a country where bad conduct soon brings its own punishment, from their being thrown out of work ; while, at the Cape, no such check exists, on account of the scarcity of employment ; so that, whatever the labourer's character may be, he will always find people glad to hire him.

Notwithstanding the bad conduct of many of the servants my brother carried out, several of them voluntarily repaid him, after some years, when they had improved their circumstances ; and, taking them altogether, they were very superior in point of character to any of the other parties who afterwards came to the colony.

It is but fair to state on the part of the settlers who went out on these conditions, that the terms are peculiarly servile, and which nothing but necessity could induce them to agree to. Observing on their arrival the high rate of wages received by others, and subjected to a hundred temptations, without the same re-

straints on their conduct which operate so powerfully in their own country, it is no wonder that the deceitful sophistry of self-interest should readily suggest plausible reasons for evading engagements that interfered with their liberty and stood in the way of their advancement. It was also too much for their feelings to be taunted with being "white slaves" by the Dutch at Cape Town, whom they despised from their being inferior to them in education. There were at that period scarcely any white people in the condition of day-labourers; and both the prejudices and interests of the slave-holders prompted them to foster discontent among the new description of labourers introduced into the colony, with the view of discouraging further emigration, which necessarily tended to lessen the value of their slaves.

Drunkenness is the besetting sin of the lower classes in all our colonies; and at the Cape, few of the working people escape falling into this ruinous habit. Such propensity is generally attributed to the cheapness of wine and spirits, and no doubt this circumstance is one cause of it; but, to suppose that it is the

only, or indeed the principal, occasion of it, is, I believe, a very erroneous opinion. If this were the case, we might naturally expect that the higher orders, who have greater means of indulgence, would be most addicted to intemperance; but experience shows us the contrary. We always find that the people most given to habitual intoxication are those who are, or have been, most restrained from it by necessity, independently of prudential considerations. We may instance discharged soldiers and sailors, and those among the working classes generally who, from indigent circumstances, have suddenly come into the receipt of high wages.

Nothing is more dangerous to the character of men than sudden changes from a state of artificial restraint to entire liberty of action. For this reason, I cannot think that any permanent good will be effected by imposing taxes on spirituous liquors, or by prohibiting their distillation. Enhancing the price of spirits at the Cape, will only have the effect of increasing the ruinous consequences of intemperance, without materially diminishing the evil itself, so long as the other causes of it continue in opera-

tion. When I proceed to speak of the frontier districts of the colony, I shall have occasion to offer other reasons for removing all restrictions on distillation from grain, which has so injudiciously been prohibited, to the great injury of the corn-growers. The prosperity of this class has been sacrificed to the interest of the winefarmers of the Cape District, who enjoy a monopoly by exclusively supplying the whole colony with a cheap and pernicious spirit made from the refuse of their grapes.

CHAPTER III.

Departure from Cape Town for the Interior.—Aspect of the Country.—Scarcity of Fuel.—House of an English Settler.—Ascent of Hottentots-Hollands Kloef.—Optical Illusion.—Grand Scenery.—Agricultural Produce.—Dutch Waggons.—Hospitality of the Farmers.—Dutch Manners.—Laudable Custom.—Gigantic Mountain Range.—Improved appearance of the Country.—Hints to the Traveller.—An eminent Colonist.—The Zonder End River.—Moravian Missionary Station.

THE excitement produced by the novelty of the objects at Cape Town and the manners of its inhabitants having in a great measure passed away, I was delighted when my brother was ready to start for the interior, of the beauty and fertility of which I had formed the most sanguine anticipations.

We left Cape Town at dawn of day, to avoid as much as possible the heat of the sun, and proceeded at a slow canter—a pace which the horses of the country are trained to, and

can continue for hours together. Our little Hottentot followed at a respectful distance, with his feet stuck through the stirrup leathers, which he could not reduce to the length of his legs.

Our course for several miles lay across an extensive plain, which terminated at the base of the Blaawe Berg, or Blue Mountains, and the mountains of Hottentots-Holland; over the latter of which ranges, a rugged road was constructed for communicating with the eastern districts of the colony.

The soil of the country in the first part of our journey was generally very sandy and arid; a cottage was occasionally to be seen, around which the land was of a better description, and where there was a spring to irrigate a patch of ground or a garden. Yet, poor as the soil might appear between the scattered habitations, which rose like wooded islands in the dreary waste, the surface was everywhere covered with luxuriant shrubby plants and splendid heaths several feet in height, all of which were strangers to me.

In several places I observed excavations in

the sandy hills, whence large roots of trees in a half-decayed state are dug for fuel and, sold in Cape Town.

The scarcity and dearness of fuel in the neighbourhood of the town have led individuals to give their attention to the cultivation of the native silver-trees on the sides of the Table Mountain ; and there is little doubt that *fir* plantations on the sandy flats, if properly encouraged by the Government, would succeed equally well, and amply remunerate individuals who might be induced to make the attempt.

As we advanced, the soil gradually improved, until we came to a firm clay of a bright red colour, tolerably clothed with a short sweet herbage, and which seemed only to want water to render it abundantly productive. While the sun was yet high, we reached the base of the mountain, and refreshed ourselves and our horses at the house of an Englishman, who, quitting a seafaring life, had taken up his abode in this wild and romantic situation.

He had been captain of a merchant-vessel trading to the Cape, and having been taken with the appearance of the country, made up

his mind to become a settler, and had induced the mate and some of his crew to join him in his new mode of life. He was a shrewd fellow, and, besides his agricultural speculations, had taken especial care to establish himself where he could carry on an advantageous trade with the farmers from the eastern districts, whose waggons were obliged to pass his door in descending from the mountain. For this purpose, he kept an extensive assortment of goods in store, which he sold at lower prices than those demanded by the merchants in Cape Town, and took wheat and other produce of the farmers in exchange for them. Quite an enthusiast in his newly-adopted vocation, and undaunted by difficulties, he pursued his farming operations with unremitting ardour. In spite of his total ignorance of agriculture, he had succeeded in raising a considerable number of pumpkins among the rocks which encumbered his ground : this he regarded as a kind of miracle, and boasted of the feat with the most undisguised exultation.

We were not a little amused with the description he gave, in true nautical phraseology, of all his blunders and misadventures, and

the seamanlike manner in which he had overcome all difficulties : he appealed from time to time to some of his crew for a confirmation of his statements, which he thought we doubted by our smiling during the recital. Whenever he was at a loss for the proper name of any of his "shore-going tackle," his trusty mate, or one of the crew, was always ready at his elbow with a grin and a word to help him out of his dilemma. They all messed together, and every thing was conducted on terms of perfect equality. It was pleasing to observe the appearance of hearty cordiality that prevailed in their little establishment, which the vexatious jealousy of the Cape Town merchants, who purposely bid against them at their sales, tended only to confirm.

Having partaken of the best fare of our hospitable entertainer, and rested our horses, we resumed our journey, and commenced the toilsome ascent of Hottentots-Hollands Kloef, as the pass is called. The clearness of the atmosphere in this country, and the bold outline of the mountains, occasion an optical illusion in judging of the distance of objects, which some

experience is required to correct. In looking towards the range of mountains we were now crossing, from Cape Town, no one unaccustomed to these latitudes would imagine that the distance exceeded twenty miles, when in point of fact it is nearer forty.

The prospect from the commencement of the pass to the left of the road is gloomily grand and magnificent. The wild ravines, and dark rocky precipices overhanging their bases, strike an awe into the mind, and almost overwhelm it with an humbling sense of human weakness and insignificance in the mighty scale of creation. This feeling is heightened by the desert grandeur of the scene. Here we have the huge misshapen blocks cast rough and rude from Nature's manufactory—the foundations of the world, hove up from the dark unknown abyss, laughing to scorn all the tiny efforts of man and his wisdom.

In ascending the rugged pass, we were soon obliged to dismount, in mercy to our tired horses, and lead them after us to the summit. On our way, we met with several waggons heavily laden with corn, butter, and poultry,

for the Cape Town market; and, among other persons, a neighbour of my brother's, an old Prussian, who had come one hundred and eighty miles with two waggons laden with the produce of his farm.

The distance from which such produce is carried to market in this colony will appear extraordinary to the English reader, particularly when he is told that a Cape waggon will carry only about twelve muids of wheat, which generally sell in Cape Town at from ten to twelve rix dollars, or from fifteen to eighteen shillings British money, per muid, which weighs from one hundred and eighty to one hundred and ninety pounds, or nearly three bushels. The highest price of a waggon-load of wheat will thus be 10*l.* 16*s.* A waggon, if purchased of the maker, will cost about 45*l.* Each waggon, for a long journey, requires twelve oxen, which, at 1*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* per head (a very moderate price), will cost 22*l.* 10*s.* An ox-waggon proceeds at the rate of twenty-five miles a day; so that at least fourteen days, going and returning, will be spent on the road in travelling one hundred and eighty miles, the greatest distance

from which wheat is transported by land with any view of profit.

These statements will show how little is to be done in the way of *grain farming*, at any considerable distance from market, in a country which possesses so few harbours along the coast, and no inland navigation. It must be remembered, on the other hand, that most of the colonists make their own waggons at leisure times, and that they are exposed to no expenses on the journey, as they carry their provisions along with them, and pay nothing for grazing their oxen on the way; "Uit-span," or grazing places, being reserved for this purpose by the Government along the great roads.

When these circumstances are considered, it would be very unjust to blame the Dutch colonists for their indolence, with which some travellers, observing the natural fertility of the country, have so often taxed them.

I could not help admiring the light and elegant construction of the Dutch waggons, which form a remarkable exception to all their other articles, either for agricultural or domestic purposes. Though so slight in appearance, they

are made of the most durable materials the woods afford ; and to allow sufficient play for the wheels on the rough and uneven roads which they have occasionally to encounter in the precipitous ravines, the bottom and sides are left quite loose, so that the axles of the fore and hind wheels can deviate from the parallel without straining, and thus enable this vehicle to go safely over deep ruts and holes which would overturn any English waggon. Some of our countrymen, with that contempt of foreign usages which distinguishes them, have introduced the heavy English waggon ; but they soon found in this, as in other respects, that they would have done better had they profited by the experience of others.

There are no inns along the roads, and those who travel on horseback always avail themselves of the hospitality of the farmers, who rarely can be induced to accept of any remuneration for their entertainment. Enjoying in rude abundance all the necessaries of life, and many of its luxuries, the produce of their farms, they think themselves amply rewarded for their

substantial kindness by the news their visiter may have to give them in exchange.

By the time we had crossed the Palmiet river, a considerable stream, over which a wooden bridge had been constructed, where we paid a small toll, the sun was sinking behind the wild range of mountains we had just passed: we therefore stopped at one of the nearest farm-houses, and were immediately assailed by a parcel of furious dogs—as diversified a race of mongrels as ever puzzled a naturalist to describe.

The master of the house soon made his appearance at the door, and, addressing his noisy guards by name, “Vegyey Jaager,” and “Voertzik Vitvoet mag de Duivel vang yullen almal,” with great energy—dealing a kick to one, and throwing a beef-bone at another, which sent him yelping away on three legs—advanced with a composed and ceremonious air to receive us, holding out one hand while he slightly raised his hat with the other. He now recognised my brother, and asked us if we would “saddle off” our horses and enter his habitation.

We found the “vrow” seated at a little table opposite the door: she received us with the cold phlegmatic welcome peculiar to the Dutch ladies, who never shake hands with strangers according to the universal custom of the men.

Barrow has described the Dutch manners so admirably, that I need not repeat what he has said of them; for, excepting that the ceremony of saluting the females has fallen into disuse, to the great relief of bashful and fastidious travellers, time has produced but little alteration in their external habits.

Our host was rather a character in his way. His tall upright figure was surmounted by a narrow-crowned black hat, with broad straight brims somewhat torn and ragged at the edges; he wore a coarse blue great-coat with horn buttons, and a pair of velveteen trousers, with a pair of long white worsted stockings pulled up over his knees and secured with leather thongs. He had a grizzly beard on his chin of a fortnight's growth, beneath which appeared a dirty check shirt, open at the breast, displaying a tanned skin covered with strong black bristles.

He and his wife were equally dirty and slovenly in their habiliments.

While we were telling him the Cape Town news, and acquainting him with various curious particulars regarding England which excited his admiration to the verge of incredulity, the other members of his family entered the room. After shaking hands with us and wishing us "Goe'en avond," they seated themselves in silence, and continued staring at us without altering a muscle, unless when my brother, who was spokesman, related something which they had not heard from other English visitors, when our host, who, like his countrymen, was an excellent listener, would exclaim, "Alamagtig! mynheer, dat is dog wonderlyk!"* Hereupon, the young men would slowly turn their heads towards each other with a look between surprise and incredulity, but without allowing the shadow of a smile to appear on their countenances.

A large bucket of warm water was now brought in by a slave-woman, who proceeded

* "Almighty! sir, that is wonderful!"

to wash the feet of the company, male and female, in the same vessel. While this operation was going on, our host handed down a bottle and wine-glass from a square recess in the wall, and was going to pour out a "souple," or dram of brandy, for my brother, when, as if recollecting the more refined habits of his guests, he held up the glass between his eye and the candle, and discovered, what he had more than half suspected—that it was not over-clean. Quietly dipping it into the above-mentioned bucket of dirty water, which had just reached him, he then proceeded, with the greatest nonchalance, to polish it with the corner of his neckcloth.

As may be supposed, this specimen of cleanliness had by no means the effect of inducing us to partake of the proffered beverage, which, somewhat to the surprise of our host, we civilly declined. After discussing a most substantial supper, consisting of stewed mutton, cut into small pieces, into which each unceremoniously stuck his fork, and boiled barley and milk, which concluded the entertainment, we retired early to rest.

The Dutch colonists, though they rarely accept of any remuneration for the entertainment of the travellers themselves, never refuse payment for what their horses consume. This laudable custom precludes any feeling of delicacy on the part of their guests in asking for the forage they may require. Whatever the circumstances of these farmers may be—and many of them have very considerable property—they never have the least objection to retail any articles of produce they have in their houses, in the smallest quantities.

As soon as the sun was up, we saddled our horses, and, taking leave of our host, pursued our journey. The road lay over a country diversified by gently swelling hills, near the base of a continuous range of gigantic mountains on our left, which from time to time broke upon our view in all their rude magnificence, rising precipitously to the height of nearly four thousand feet from the plain below. This is one of those extensive chains which run nearly parallel with the eastern coast of the colony to its extremity on the Kaffre frontier.

The Cape mountains have a very peculiar

appearance when compared with the hilly parts of Britain; the latter having much greater variety in their forms and magnitude, and being more diversified by the contrast produced by intervening tracts of rich valley; whereas, the Cape mountains have a stiffness and formality in their aspect. This arises from their running in unbroken chains of nearly equal height, dividing the fertile country like huge walls, and presenting an impenetrable barrier to the traveller who attempts to cross them. From this circumstance, the country generally, though it possesses many situations of surpassing beauty and grandeur, is somewhat deficient in variety when the different prospects are compared with each other.

The surface of the country from the time we left Hottentots-Hollands Kloef had been gradually improving, and was better covered with grass. There were more springs, as well as more atmospherical moisture, along the mountains, where the farms are the most numerous. The young corn was springing up, and the fields near the farm-houses presented a brilliant verdure, when contrasted with the sombre hue of

the grass, which was still of a dry and coarse quality, and closely eaten by the numerous cattle and flocks of sheep.

To our right, at some distance from the mountains, the country was of the most uninteresting description, and had a cold, forbidding aspect, being without wood, and the habitations few and far between. The mountains intercepting the moisture which ascends from the sea, give rise to numerous springs, and thus a general humidity is imparted to the soil, which enables the farmers near them to grow every kind of grain and pulse without there being any necessity for irrigating the land. But to have a good garden and orchard, it is absolutely necessary to have the command of a constant spring of water.

This part of the colony, like the greater portion of it, is exceedingly deficient in wood, which is only to be found in the deep and sometimes inaccessible ravines among the mountains. Nothing can exceed the romantic beauty and grandeur of some of these sequestered woody spots that occasionally break the uniformity of this mountain range, which seems to

owe its origin to some dreadful convulsion of nature, which has rent it to its very foundation, leaving the bare perpendicular rocks towering up to an immense height on all sides.

The manners and habits of the Dutch have an extraordinary similarity from one extremity of the colony to the other, and it is only in compliment to the English that they ever deviate in the smallest particular from their long-established usages. The traveller would therefore do well so to time his journey that he may arrive at the farm-house where he intends to dine before twelve o'clock, and, after unsaddling his horse, (which he is always asked to do,) wait patiently until the table is covered, and then taking his place at the nearest cover, without waiting for an invitation, help himself to what he likes best, by harpooning it with his fork.

Any unnecessary politeness, as helping the ladies or those around him, will only excite astonishment at his outlandish manners, and much impede his making a hearty meal; for the Dutch swallow their food with extraordi-

nary despatch, barely allowing time for the necessary exercise of mastication. Should he arrive too late for dinner, he need not expect to be asked to eat anything, for they always conclude that if he wanted any he would have come in time.

In this respect, we were fortunate; for though we came to our halting-place too late for dinner, our host, who knew my brother's inattention to these niceties in his journeys to the Cape, immediately ordered a side-table to be covered for us, with the addition of a bottle of wine, which is rarely to be seen at the tables of the poorer description of farmers. Everything showed that our host, besides being far superior in manners and intelligence to most of the colonists in this part of the country, was a substantial, if not a wealthy, farmer.

He was one of those patriarchal characters so frequently to be met with throughout the colony, who so forcibly remind us of those described in Scripture, as possessing an extensive tract of land, with their children, children's children, bondsmen, and flocks of sheep and

cattle. The whole country round him was occupied by his married sons, inhabiting as good houses as his own, and being as well supplied with cattle and everything which in the rude simplicity of their habits is considered essential to comfort. His manners were free and rough, yet courteous withal; he was, in short, a highly respectable and independent old man; and if he was not just and humane to his slaves and dependants, his manly, open, and benevolent countenance, and the cheerful demeanour of his servants, much deceived me.

In the afternoon, we resumed our journey, and soon arrived at the "Zonder-end River," or river without end, as it has been called, from its long course. The stream was swelled from the rains in the interior, and we had to cross it on foot, by a long log of wood which was laid across, about a foot and a half in breadth. It required all the nerve that we could command to preserve our footing on this slippery and trembling support, for the impetuous rush of the torrent beneath made our heads giddy.

We carried over with us to the other side a long thong, the other end being tied to the neck of one of our horses, and by this contrivance swam them all over in safety.

About dusk, we arrived at the Moravian missionary station of Genadendaal, where we remained for the night.

CHAPTER IV.

Situation of Genadendaal.—Account of the Moravian Missionaries. — Employment of the Women. — Community of Property.—Restraints on Hottentot Servants—Their Improvident Habits.—Benevolent intentions of the Missionaries.—Curious mode of obtaining Wives.—Variety of African Exotics. — Knowledge of the Botanist. — Wild Animals. — The Rheebock Antelope.—The Duiker, or Ducker.—Village of Swellendam.—Economy of the Dutch. — Respect for the English.—The Buffel Jaagt River.—Missionary Station of Zuure Brack.—Conduct of Mr.S——. —Privations of the Hottentots.

GENADENDAAL is situated in a most romantic and sequestered nook among the mountains, and everything has been done which a command of running water can accomplish—and in this country water is everything—to render it fertile and beautiful. It was, indeed, as Campbell, the missionary, says on many occasions, “a fine situation for a missionary station.” We were anxious to get a knowledge of the system of management of these Moravians, and of the

nature of their institution, from themselves. One of the missionaries, in the kindest manner, patiently answered our questions ; my brother, as usual, being spokesman from his knowledge of Dutch.

I have since had some opportunities of gaining further information regarding these worthy people at another of their stations, from which I have been led to form opinions regarding their utility which I shall endeavour to communicate, as well as the particulars we were able to collect on the present occasion.

The Moravian missionaries enjoy all their property in common : they all meet together at their meals ; they have a common garden, which is superintended by their wives in turn. Each of the men is brought up to some trade, at which he works through the day : one is a miller, another is a blacksmith, a third is a carpenter, and so forth—such trades being preferred as are likely to be most useful in an infant state of society.

In the evening, they all meet in the church, when that one whose turn it may be to preach expounds some portion of Scripture in language

adapted to the capacities of his hearers. Meantime the school is not neglected, the instruction of the scholars being also taken in turn by the missionaries, at certain hours which may the least interfere with their other numerous avocations. Besides superintending the garden, the women teach the female Hottentots needle-work, in which art some of them arrive at considerable proficiency. Each of the men has several apprentices, whom he initiates with great patience into his trade. The surplus proceeds arising from these varied sources of profit, above what is required for their own wants, are remitted to the common fund of the society in Europe, to be applied to the formation of other missions in different parts of the world.

Though the Moravian brethren have established an entire community of property among themselves, they informed us that they did not require the Hottentots on their institution to follow their example in this particular; which shows that, whatever beneficial results they might anticipate from this system among themselves in their capacity of teachers, they are

sensible that it is by no means calculated for general adoption. Indeed, to imagine that anything like an equality or community of property can ever be generally adopted by mankind, is to suppose that the passions, talents, bodily strength—and, in short, all the mental attainments and physical qualities of the different members of our species—should undergo a total change, and be reduced to an exact level.

If Mr. Owen can effect this change in the constitution of human nature, he is something more than man, and may be able to persuade the rich to throw their possessions into the common stock, and the slothful to become industrious, and join heart and hand in the establishment of some other “New Lanarks” or “New Harmonys.”

Supposing such a system be inconsistent with human nature as it is found in civilized society, and inimical to the development of its moral capabilities, how little is it calculated to elicit the dormant energies of uncivilized nations sunk in sloth and ignorance, and who require every stimulus which individual interest

and ambition can apply to rouse them from the torpor of ages !

The Moravian missionaries are generally sensible and practical men, warmed with a sincere desire of instructing and improving the general condition of the people under their care, and less under the influence of that wild enthusiasm and ambition which so strongly characterize the other missionaries throughout the colony. But their praiseworthy efforts to restrain vicious propensities and improvidence, have led them into an error which a more enlarged knowledge of mankind, and of the progressive steps by which society rises in the scale of existence, would have enabled them to avoid.

The error to which I allude is, their system of obliging the Hottentots who belong to their institutions to deposit all their earnings in their custody, supplying them in lieu thereof with such articles of wearing apparel or food as they may stand in need of ; thus keeping them in a state of perpetual restraint, like children.

Though these poor creatures are in consequence most effectually prevented from spend-

ing their money in drink, to which vice they are particularly addicted, or from squandering it away, this compulsory measure has no effect whatever in permanently bettering their morals. On the contrary, it has the most obvious tendency to perpetuate their reckless and improvident habits, and to render them more open to temptation, so soon as the artificial check is removed. This is one of the principal causes of the languid and stationary condition of the Moravian missionary establishments; and it may safely be predicted, that as the political oppression which formerly impeded the improvement of the Hottentots has now been removed, they will soon be entirely deserted, unless this servile system be relinquished. Without some degree of liberty in these matters, there can be but little industry.

The missionaries informed us that there was only one instance on their institution of a Hottentot having accumulated any property; and that was of an individual who had been from his infancy almost entirely estranged from the rest of his nation. I have had ample opportunities, during my subsequent residence

in the colony, of observing the character of Hottentots who have come from the Moravian stations; and I have generally found them more improvident and lazy than those who came from other missionary institutions.

In making these observations on the Moravians, I have no intention of conveying any censure on their individual conduct, as no one at all acquainted with them can for a moment doubt that they act from a sincere belief that their arrangements are beneficial. These missionaries are a single-hearted, honest, and unaffected class of men, entirely free from cant, or any spirit of rivalry with regard to other sects engaged in the same cause; and if their institutions are conducted on a less liberal plan, it is easily accounted for by their early habits of thinking, and the manners of their own country. At the same time, it need not be a matter of surprise, that they are deceived by the order and regularity of conduct, and external decency of demeanour, which their timid and cautious policy for a time produces among their followers. The open and candid way in which the good missionaries explain all the peculiari-

ties of their sect, and their cheerful and unaffected manners, cannot fail to give any unprejudiced person the highest opinion of their sincerity and benevolence of intention.

They are furnished with wives from the parent society in Germany; and it was sufficiently obvious to us, that personal attraction was but little attended to in the selection of the helpmates for their distant brethren. One was lame, another wanted an eye, a third was somewhat ancient; however, all seemed pleased with their partners—especially the ladies, some of whom looked as if they had made a narrow escape from perpetual celibacy.* They laughed very heartily when they explained this peculiarity, and heard our objections to it. In this they showed their wisdom, as well as their good nature.

We had accompanied them to their evening

* A few years after our visit to Genadendaal, a friend of mine fell in with a Moravian sister on her way to join the husband assigned her by the society, and was much amused by the minute and curious questions she put to him as to the personal and mental qualifications of her betrothed, and laughed heartily at his expressing some surprise at her interrogatories.

service in the church; and, after supper, at which they were all assembled, men, women, and children, we were shown to a low building appropriated to bed-rooms for the accommodation of travellers. In the morning, we joined them at breakfast, after walking round the village, which was laid out in streets composed of miserable reed-huts thatched with rushes. The moment our meal was finished, all the missionaries, excepting the senior of the brethren, who was old and feeble, hurried away to their different mechanical occupations. After receiving their kind wishes, we took leave of them with a hearty shake of the hand all round, and, mounting our horses, pursued our journey.

Throughout the day we passed over a varied country, in which the great fertility of the farms, where the owners had running streams at command, formed a striking contrast to the aridity of the intervening pasture-grounds; but still there was much, even in the bleakest parts of it, to interest the mind. The endless succession of luxuriant plants and shrubs of the most novel and singular appearance and manifold hues, gave me the idea that I was wander-

ing through a vast garden of rare exotics. Any one can enter into this feeling who has observed how distinguished a place African plants occupy in the English hothouses and gardens: not a foot of ground is lost, or unproductive of something belonging to the vegetable kingdom, adapted to the soil or situation; and, if we believe that nothing has been created in vain, what an ample and delightful field for reflection does a journey through a country like this afford!

Were I a botanist, I could have given my readers a catalogue of exotics that would excite the astonishment of the uninitiated, and fill their minds with the most strange and indescribable ideas of the country. But a knowledge of that science is, I believe, by no means necessary to enjoy, in the highest degree, the contemplation of the rich and infinite productions of nature. The botanist may describe the varieties of the different species of plants, and point out their habitations; but it is principally to accident that we are indebted for the discovery of the useful qualities of the vegetable world: and it is only after these qualities have

been ascertained, that botanical science becomes really useful in perpetuating and extending this knowledge, however it may be attained.

In riding along, I was no less charmed with the novelty and beauty of the wild animals of the country. Occasionally we observed herds of the rheebock antelope quietly grazing on the sides of the low sloping hills to our right, with one generally on the watch to guard against surprise. If we chanced to pass to windward of them nearer than they judged to be safe, the sentinel would suddenly extend his long elegant neck, and, giving a sharp snort, away they would all bound as lightly as the wind, tossing aloft their graceful heads, until they reached the face of some distant hill, when they would stop all at once as if by common consent, and, turning half round, reconnoitre us so long as they thought they had anything to apprehend, and then quietly resume their grazing. The rheebocks, like many of the other species of antelope, rarely run straight up a hill, but wind round its base, which affords an opportunity to the hunter to gallop across in

a direct line, and, dismounting from his horse, to shoot them in passing.

From time to time, we started a duiker antelope, crouching in some tuft of brushwood, or among the rhinoceros bushes, a heathy-looking plant that skirts the great road in this part of the colony. The animal would dart away in a straight line, over hill and dale, with a speed that few greyhounds can equal. The duiker, or ducker, derives its name from its manner of plunging itself into cover. It is not a gregarious animal, like the rheebok, being never found with more than one in company. It is also both considerably smaller and much swifter.

In the evening, we reached the village of Swellendam, the seat of magistracy of the district of the same name, and took up our quarters for the night with one of the principal Dutch inhabitants, who understood a little English. He had accumulated a considerable fortune by contracting for the supply of provisions for a regiment of dragoons, which had been formerly stationed in the village, in those happy days for

the district when the farmers found a ready market for their produce close to their own doors.

Swellendam, which had formerly consisted of only a few scattered brick buildings, occupied by the Landdrost, or magistrate, and the other officers connected with the government of the district, entirely owed its short-lived prosperity to this apparently trifling circumstance. It now had extended in a single street to the length of a mile from the house of the Landdrost. A spring, that had been conducted into the village from a considerable distance, watered the gardens along the street; these were tolerably supplied with fruit.

Behind the village, a chain of immense mountains rises abruptly to a great height, thickly clothed with low shrubby plants, but nearly destitute of timber, excepting in the deep ravines in its face. Several of the villages of the colony, like Swellendam, have been indebted for their prosperity to their being the headquarters for the troops; but, as soon as these are removed, unless when near a sea-port, they soon sink into poverty and insignificance.

Judging from our European manners, we should naturally expect that the neighbouring population would receive their supplies from the nearest village, and thus find a profitable employment for the retail dealers. But this is not the case with the Dutch, who, from their peculiarly saving habits and the little value they set upon time, generally prefer going a long distance in their waggons to the capital, to supplying themselves nearer home at somewhat higher prices. In these long journeys, which are the delight of the Dutchmen, they usually take their wives and families with them, and enjoy the opportunity of visiting their friends on the road. These circumstances will sufficiently account for the present poverty of Swellendam.

Our landlord was a curious compound of Dutch and English bluntness engrafted on Cape cunning, and a complete master of that kind of respectful flattery which so few men are proof against. He professed the most devoted attachment to the English, and affected to despise his own countrymen. Whenever my brother told him anything a little out of the common

way, he would throw himself into an attitude of the utmost astonishment, and, turning round to his wife, say to her in Dutch, loud enough to be heard by us, "You see, now! did I not always tell you that the English are a clever people?" He never lost an opportunity, when he met me alone, to tell me what a "groot agtenis," or profound respect, he entertained for my brother.

The house of mine host was much resorted to by the English who passed through this part of the colony, and he found his interest in flattering them; for, though he would not accept of any remuneration from us for his entertainment, he was not so nice with others, and calculated on my brother's recommending him to our countrymen. As might be expected, he was hated and envied by his townsmen, not because he praised the English—for they will all do the same when it serves their turn—but because his superior cunning enabled him to get their money.

We were now only about twenty miles from my brother's estate, or farm, which is known by the homely appellation of "Groot Vaders

Bosch," or Grandfather's Wood. The great road diverges at Swellendam from the line of the mountains; from which cause travellers along the eastern road lose several miles of the most magnificent and delightful prospects the country affords. Our course skirted the base of these mountains, which in height, as well as beauty of form, exceeded anything we had yet witnessed in African scenery. I have already noticed the progressive improvement in the verdure of the country the farther we advanced to the eastward. The tract between Swellendam and Groot Vaders Bosch suddenly assumed a new character; and the grass that clothed the narrow valley between the mountains and a lower range of hills to the right of the road, though far inferior to that of our English pastures, was of a fresher green and more succulent description than any we had yet seen.

Soon after quitting the village, we crossed the Buffel Jaagt river,* a fine stream which takes its rise a mile or two beyond Groot Vaders Bosch, and, after receiving numerous

* The River of the Buffalo Hunt. The buffaloes are now entirely extirpated in this part of the colony.

rivulets from the mountains, discharges itself into the Breede river, a few miles below the point where we forded it. We now entered the valley, following the windings of the river by a narrow foot-path in the face of a steep bank overhanging the deep pools formed by the rocky obstructions the stream meets with in its course.

The opposite bank was beautifully fringed with small trees and shrubs, tangled and matted over with vines and creeping plants in all the wild luxuriance of nature. Every mile or two, we passed neat white-washed houses seated in the little plains at the foot of the mountain, surrounded with vineyards and corn-fields, and shaded with rows of orange-trees.

The path by which we travelled was so narrow, that a false step of our horses might have precipitated us into the deep pools of the river beneath; and we were occasionally not a little incommoded by the sharp-pointed leaves of the aloes, that delight in these dry rocky banks.

We now descended into the valley, visited the missionary station called the Zuure Brack,

and stopped at a comfortable brick house, occupied by the missionary, Mr. S——, a little laughing round-headed German, who had formerly been a commissary in the Dutch service, but having been reduced to midshipman's half-pay, had taken up the trade of an instructor of the heathen.

The Zuure Brack was one of those lots of ground reserved for the use of the injured Hottentots, and was formerly of much greater extent than it is at present; but, by granting the surrounding country to the Dutch colonists, its dimensions were exceedingly reduced. Here, however, numbers of this unfortunate race had congregated, and, to the great annoyance of the farmers, managed to keep soul and body together with much less labour than was thought necessary to support the unwieldy carcasses of "Christen menschen," as the boors call themselves.

The captain, or petty chief, of this little tribe was furnished by government with a long brass-headed staff as a badge of the authority he was supposed to possess over his people, who procure a wretched subsistence by killing game, as well as from the milk of their cattle, of which they

could keep but a small stock. They also cultivated little patches of ground with the spade; but, as the extent of their lands was curtailed, their numbers increased, from the oppressions of the farmers towards those who served them.

To complete their misery, this notable missionary was sent among them,—the person to whom I have already alluded, and whose misdeeds, I am happy to say, have at last occasioned his expulsion. He persuaded the Hottentots to give their assistance in erecting his house, for which they were not paid, on the score of its being for their common benefit. Next, he got them to labour for months in leading out a spring of water from a ravine in the mountain, to irrigate a strip of rich land situated along its base: this he kindly allowed them to clear from brushwood, and bring into cultivation on their own account for a year or two; and then, the moment the principal difficulties were overcome, he very coolly appropriated the ground to his own use, without giving them any remuneration for their labour.

These proceedings were quite to the taste of the neighbouring farmers, for many of the Hot-

tentots even preferred returning to their service, to remaining under Mr. S——'s patronage. Justice was then, under the old government of the native Landdrosts, but a vain mockery, inasmuch, at least, as the Hottentots were concerned. The complaints of the people of the Zuure Brack at length reached Cape Town, and the district functionary was directed to inquire into them. The result of the investigation was, that Mr. S—— was allowed to remain for many years longer to tyrannise over these hapless people.

Nothing could exceed the appearance of wretchedness in the institution. The Hottentots occupied two or three rows of huts made of reeds, sewed with thongs to laths tied to posts planted in the ground. Some of these habitations were rudely plastered over with cow-dung and clay to keep out the wind, and thatched with rushes.

We observed several of the women cutting each other's hair close to the skin with knives or scissors; and I never recollect to have seen any of the gentler sex that inspired me with such disgust, both as to their personal appearance and uncleanly habits. Their clothing, too,

was of the most miserable description, many of the females having little more than a ragged petticoat, and a piece of an old sack, or a sheepskin with the wool on, thrown over their shoulders.

The men were somewhat better provided, having leather trousers, tied round the middle with a belt, which they often tighten to allay the pangs of hunger; and they had generally an old patched jacket, besides the "carosse," or blanket, made by sewing sheepskins together, in which they roll themselves up on the ground, to answer for bed and bedding.

These people have several wretched substitutes for food to which they resort when they have nothing better. Sometimes they will devour bits of bullock's hide roasted over the fire; at others, they eat the tender leaves of the "palmiet," a plant resembling flags, which grows in the rivers. This plant is very grateful to the taste; and, though it possesses hardly any nourishment, has the effect of deadening the sensation of hunger. On occasions of scarcity, they drink water in large quantities, and compose themselves to sleep, which they have the power of doing at will.

Such are the miseries to which the Hottentots voluntarily subject themselves to gratify their habitual indolence, and that inherent love of freedom which is so deeply implanted in the breast of a savage. So little do they think of these, as an European would suppose, insupportable privations, that they have often pointed out to me the before-mentioned and other kinds of "veldt koat," or field-food, laughingly exulting in the resources which bountiful Nature had supplied to enable them to subsist without being exposed to the more intolerable hardship of bodily labour.

My heart sickened within me at the deplorable and degrading picture of human nature exhibited by the original possessors of the soil, now sunk into a vicious and despised caste beneath the more favoured race; and I felt relieved from the painful feelings it excited when we were ready to pursue our journey.

CHAPTER V.

Female Hottentots Bathing.—Neat Farm-houses.—Residence of the Author's Brother.—Description of his Estate.—Interior of the Dwelling.—A singular mode of building Houses.—Climate of the Colony.—Qualities of the Soil.—Aridity of South Africa.—Lofty Mountain Range.—Produce of the Land.—Effects of Summer Heats.—Agriculture of the Dutch Colonists.—Requisites for a successful Farmer.—Agricultural Implements.—Construction of the Dutch Ploughs.—Mode of preparing the Grain for Market.—Indian Corn.—Pumpkins and Melons.—Culture of Tobacco recommended.

A RIDE of eight miles terminated our journey. The valley became wider as we advanced; we had to ford the winding stream several times, and surprised divers parties of female Hottentots enjoying themselves with swimming in the deep pools near the crossings of the road. The moment they saw us, they raised a shrill outcry, and dived under the surface like ducks, or leaped into the water from the woody banks

like scared frogs, darting away into the dark recesses formed by the drooping branches of the trees which overhung the water, or popped up their round laughing faces above the surface as if exulting in their security.

Amused with the novelty of the scene before me, I could not help observing the very beautiful forms of some of the younger females; particularly of those of a mixed race, for they varied in colour from black to nearly white.

We passed two neat farm-houses, one of which was delightfully seated on a level peninsula formed by the river, near a perpendicular rock in the face of the mountain, with a little sloping wood at its foot, from whence a fine spring was led out to water the fruit-trees and vineyard. My brother's house at length appeared at two miles' distance, on a sloping eminence fronting the magnificent range of mountains on the left of our road, to which I have so often alluded, and which now became more diversified and picturesque, being broken by deep valleys and wild craggy ravines, where the nimble "klip-springer" antelope might be seen perched on