

and was a noble specimen, standing about six feet high at the shoulder. Observing us, he made off at a gallop, springing over the trunks of decayed trees which lay across his path; but he very soon reduced his pace to a trot. Twice in the thickets I lost sight of him, and he very nearly escaped me; but at length the ground improving, I came up and rode a few yards in his rear. Long streaks of foam now streamed from his mouth, profuse perspiration had changed his sleek grey coat to an ashy blue; tears trickled from his large dark eye, and it was plain that the eland's hours were numbered. Pitching my rifle to my shoulder, I let fly at the gallop, and mortally wounded him behind; then spurring my horse I shot past him on his right side, and discharged my other barrel behind his shoulder, when the eland staggered for a moment and subsided in the dust. This magnificent animal is by far the largest of all the antelope tribe, exceeding a large ox in size. It also attains extraordinary condition, being often burthened with a very large quantity of fat. Its flesh is most excellent, and is justly esteemed above every other; it has a peculiar sweetness, and is tender and fit for use the moment the animal is killed. Like the gemsbok, the eland is independent of water, and frequents the borders of the great Kalahari desert in herds varying from ten to a hundred; it is also generally found throughout all the wooded districts of the interior where I have hunted. Like other varieties of deer and antelope, the old males may often be seen consorting together apart from the females, and a troop of these, when in full condition, may be likened to a herd of stall-fed oxen. The eland has less speed than any other variety of antelope, and by judicious riding may be driven to camp from a great distance; in this manner I have often ridden the best bull out of the herd, and brought him within gunshot of my waggons, where I could more conveniently cut up and preserve the flesh, without the trouble of sending men and pack-oxen to fetch it. I have repeatedly seen an eland drop down dead at the end of a severe chase, owing to his plethoric habit. The skin of the animal I had just shot emitted, like most other antelopes, the most delicious perfume of trees and grass. But to return to my narrative. The

two Baquainas soon made their appearance, delighted at my success, and having kindled a fire roasted some steaks of the eland on the embers: I also cooked one for myself, and having eaten it rode to my waggons. My dogs had a large share of the eland, and assisted me in despatching a white rhinoceros the same afternoon. I had a very narrow escape on this occasion, for the animal finding herself hemmed in near a watercourse turned round to charge, but galloping up on one side, I gave her a bad wound in the shoulder, soon after which she came to bay in the dry bed of a river. Here I dismounted to reload, and before I could do so she was off once more. I followed her, putting on my caps as I rode, and firing at the gallop, sent a ball which entered somewhere near her heart. On receiving this shot she reeled about, torrents of blood streamed from her mouth and wounds, and rolling over she expired, as rhinoceroses invariably do, uttering a shrill screaming sound while in the agonies of death.

The chace had led me to the northern base of a lofty detached mountain, the highest in all that country, called by the Bechuanas the Mountain of the Eagles. Having rounded it, I had the satisfaction to behold a few vultures soaring over the forest in advance, a certain sign that the eland I had shot in the morning was not far distant; and calling loudly for Carrollus, I was instantly answered by that individual, who, heedless of his master's fate, was actively employed in cooking a choice steak. That night I slept beneath the blue and starry canopy of heaven; my sleep was light and sweet, and no rude dreams or hankering cares disturbed the equanimity of my repose.

## CHAPTER XII.

BOAR-HUNT—CAMELOPARD—NATIVE CONSPIRACY TO PREVENT MY  
FARTHER PROGRESS.

At an early hour on the 7th, having loaded the pack-horse with a burden of flesh and fat, I despatched one of the Baquainas with him to camp. Carollus and I then rode to secure the horn of the muchocho, which with considerable difficulty we separated from the skin by means of a long sharp knife. It was nearly three feet in length, and measured about a foot in diameter at the base. Lions had consumed a large part of the rhinoceros, and sneaked off on hearing us approach, leaving, as is usual, matted locks from their shaggy grey manes sticking on the broken points of the projecting ribs. Returning to camp, I found that Isaac had not been idle in forwarding his own views, and saw at once that my followers had something unusual on their minds, for dismay was depicted on every countenance. I had scarcely seated myself beside the fire when he approached me with a slow funereal step, and asked me if I had heard the news. I replied, What news? when he stated that, on the preceding evening, two men from the Bamangwato country had passed my waggons on their way to Bakatla, to warn that tribe of the on-coming of the cruel and warlike Matabili, whose powerful chief, Moselekatse, has been so ably described in the pages of my fellow-sportsman Captain Harris. These men said that the Matabili had a few days previously attacked and plundered various Bechuana tribes to the northward, and were now advancing by rapid marches to devastate the country and murder the inhabitants.

This I at once knew to be a fabrication, intended to prevent my penetrating farther, and, laughing at Isaac, told him he had dreamed it; to which he replied, "Yes, you will not listen to my advice, when you are warned of danger, but both you and your men will one day acknowledge the truth of my

forebodings." I had considerable difficulty in calming the minds of my followers, and prevailing on them to proceed farther with me

In the afternoon we continued our journey to the northward, through beautifully wooded hills and valleys, captivating to the sportsman's eye, with rivulets of crystal waters in the valleys and the spoor of large game very abundant. On the march my dogs dashed up the wind, and in two minutes the peaceful forest was disturbed by their united voices, angrily barking around some animal which they had brought to bay. Snatching up my rifle, I rushed to the scene of conflict, and found them baying a fierce and grisly boar, whose foaming jaws were adorned with a pair of tusks, each of them upwards of a foot in length. Owing to the eagerness of my dogs, it was some time before I could obtain a clear shot, but at length an opening occurred, when I dropped the grim boar with a bullet in the heart. Night had scarcely set in when lions began to roar in concert on every side of us, and continued their deep and awful music until the sun rose.

On the 8th we made a short march before breakfast, and in the afternoon resumed it, a bull buffalo falling to my rifle towards evening.

On the 9th we continued our route through a lovely and romantic country, steering for Sesetabie, an extremely bold and picturesque pass, in the lofty mountains in which the Kouloubeng, or "river of wild boars," a tributary to the Ngotwani, takes its rise.

Having breakfasted, I went out on foot with Isaac, and ascended a lofty mountain range to the westward of the pass, where I fell in with large colonies of baboons and a few klip-springers, and also saw for the first time green parrots and grey squirrels. A number of interesting birds, possessing melodious voices, and plumage more or less gaudy, adorned the groves and forests since I had crossed the range of the Kurrichane mountains; but throughout my career in the interior my attention was necessarily so taken up with the pursuit of larger, and to me more interesting, objects of the chase, I could rarely bestow upon the feathered creation more than a short and passing glance of admiration. Having

ascended to the summit of the highest mountain of the chain, I obtained a glorious view of the surrounding country; it was truly a fair and boundless prospect; beautifully wooded plains and mountains stretched away on every side until distance was lost among the faint blue outlines of the mountain-range. Throughout all this country, and vast tracts beyond it, I had the satisfaction to reflect that a never-ending succession of herds of every species of noble game which the hunter could desire pastured there in undisturbed security; and as I gazed, I felt that it was all my own, and that I at length possessed the undisputed sway over a forest, in comparison with which the most extensive moor and mountain tracts of the wealthiest European sportsman sink into utter insignificance.

Our next march brought us to the bold mountain-pass of Sestetabie, and wending our way along the margin of the stream, which danced and sparkled down its abrupt and rocky channel, forming a pleasing succession of babbling streams and foaming waterfalls, we advanced farther up the gorge, which became extremely contracted, there being barely sufficient room to admit of the waggons passing between the steep and rocky brink of the stream, and the rugged base of the lofty, inaccessible mountain that towered on our left. On the opposite side, the mountain forming the eastern bulwark of the pass rose suddenly from the water's edge, presenting an impassable barrier. This was a wild and lonely glen, hitherto untrodden, save by the wild denizens of the forests, which from time immemorial had roamed these solitudes: large stones and masses of granite rock obstructed our progress, and several hours were occupied in rolling these to one side before we could venture to bring on the waggons. The rocky way was imprinted with the spoor of the large herd of buffaloes which my followers had that morning disturbed, and before I reached the waggons, which we drew up on a narrow open glade above the junction of the two streams, I killed two of these animals. All night long lions and hyenas prowled around us, and the dogs maintained an incessant barking.

The next morning was cold and windy, and I lay in my waggon longer than usual, my Hottentots having thought

proper to go in quest of honey under the guidance of a garrulous honey-bird. About twenty minutes after they had started I heard the oxen come trotting along in front of the waggons, as if sharply driven, and on raising my head, perceived a lioness following within a few yards of them. The next moment her mate, a venerable-looking lion, with a shaggy mane which swept the ground, appeared in the yellow grass in front of the oxen, waiting for her to put them to flight, this being the usual manner in which the lion attacks buffaloes. Fortunately the oxen would not run, and the lions seemed surprised at the confidence of their game. Springing to my feet and shouting to them, they joined one another, and stood together beneath a shady tree within a hundred and twenty yards of the waggons. The horses were pasturing at a short distance from the lions, feeding towards me, and on them they now seemed to meditate an attack, their attention being divided between the horses and myself. Snatching up my two-grooved rifle, I at once ran forward under cover of a convenient bushy tree within seventy yards of the lions, in which a forked branch afforded an admirable rest. I placed my rifle in it, and, taking the old lion low, let fly, hitting him in the shoulder; the two then wheeled about, and, bounding forward with angry growls, disappeared among the trees.

Having been perfectly cool when I fired, and the forked branch affording a steady aim, I felt convinced that the lion, if not dead, must be mortally wounded, but I prudently resolved not to proceed in quest of him alone. Presently some of my men returned with the dogs; and, having informed them of what had happened, we proceeded to take up the spoor of the wounded monarch of the forest. On reaching the spot where the lions had stood, my dogs barked angrily, looking sharply around in every direction, their hair bristling on their backs. Here we discovered blood, which increased as I proceeded from small red drops to large frothy blotches; and on approaching a dense green bush, two hundred yards farther, my dogs, which led the way, sprang suddenly to one side, barking with great vehemence. By this I knew that the monarch was dead, and, cautiously rounding the bush, had the satisfaction to behold a princely lion stretched lifeless on

the ground. He was in the prime of life, having fine sharp teeth, and it being now the dead of winter, he carried a most luxuriant coat of hair, the rankness of his flowing mane exceeding in beauty anything I had hitherto seen; I considered myself extremely fortunate in having secured so noble a specimen of this animal with so little danger, and immediately set men to work to unrobe him, which they were not long in accomplishing.

About midday we inspanned, and trekked on till sundown through a country the most wild and primitive that can be conceived, under the guidance of two Bechuanas, who had joined us on the preceding day, and were proceeding to Booby. The two Baquainas who accompanied me from Bakatla had forsaken my standard after I shot the bull eland, so liberal a supply of flesh being far too powerful a temptation to admit of their leaving it behind them. On gaining the neck of the mountain-pass of Sesetabie, our march for a few miles wound through beautifully-wooded grassy hills, and after this descended into a rugged and densely-wooded valley, intersected with deep watercourses which threatened momentarily the destruction of my axletrees: so dense was the jungle that we were obliged repeatedly to halt the waggons, and cut a path-way with our axes before we could advance. Emerging from this valley, we entered upon a more level country, still, however, densely covered with forest-trees and bushes in endless variety: here water was very abundant. We crossed several streams and marshes, the margins of which were the spoor of wild animals, that of rhinoceros, buffalo, and camelopard being most abundant—at one stream the fresh spoor of a troop of lions was deeply imprinted in the wet sand.

Although I am now acquainted with the native names of a number of the trees of the African forests, yet of the scientific ones I am utterly ignorant. The shoulders and upper ridges of the mountains are profusely adorned with the graceful sandal-wood tree, famed on account of the delicious perfume of its timber: the leaf of this tree emits at every season of the year a powerful and fragrant perfume, which is increased by bruising it in the hand. The foliage is small, of a light silvery grey colour, and contrasts strongly with the dark and

dense evergreen of the moopooroo tree, which also adorns the mountain-ranges. This beautiful tree is interesting, as producing the most delicious and serviceable fruit I met with in those distant parts; it continues in season several months, and the poorer natives subsist upon it: the moopooroo is of the size and shape of a very large olive. At first green, but gradually ripening, like the Indian mango, it becomes beautifully striped with yellow, and when perfectly ripe its colour is the deepest orange; it is sweet and mealy, similar to the date, and contains a small brown seed. It covers the branches, and when ripe the golden fruit beautifully contrasts with the dark green leaves of the tree which bears it. Besides the moopooroo, a great variety of fruits are met with throughout these mountains and forests, all of which are known to, and gathered by, the natives: I must, however, forego a description of them, as it would swell these pages to undue bounds. Throughout the densely-wooded dells and hollows the rose-wood-tree occurs, of considerable size and in great abundance.

During the night we were beset by a daring troop of hyænas, which, notwithstanding the vigilance of my dogs, consumed a part of my buffalo trektow and also a number of straps from off the yokes. The dogs kept up a loud and incessant barking until the day dawned, when I shot one of the hyænas, the rest made off.

On the 11th we were in the yoke soon after daybreak; it was a bitterly cold morning, ice a quarter of an inch in thickness covering the pools. We were now clear of the extensive mountain-ranges through which our road had wound since leaving Bakatla, and approaching towards the south-eastern limits of the great Kalahari desert, on whose borders Booby is situated. We continued our march, steering north-west; in which direction the distant blue hills, pointed out to me as the position of Booby, shot abruptly above the unvaried sameness of the intervening forest scenery: to the west, one eternal ocean-like expanse of grey forest stretched away in a level and unbroken plain, terminated only by the far horizon. Having performed a march of three hours, we crossed a small stream, where I outspanned to breakfast.

This was to me another memorable day, the first on which



I saw and slew the lofty, graceful-looking giraffe or camelopard, with which, during many years of my life, I had longed to form an acquaintance. These gigantic and exquisitely beautiful animals, admirably formed by nature to adorn the fair forests that clothe the boundless plains, are widely distributed throughout the interior of Southern Africa, but are nowhere to be met with in great numbers. In countries unmolested by the intrusive foot of man, the giraffe is found generally in herds varying from twelve to sixteen, but I have not unfrequently met with thirty, and on one occasion I counted forty individuals together; this, however, was a chance, and sixteen may be reckoned as the average number of a herd. These herds are composed of giraffes of various sizes, from the young one of nine or ten feet in height to the dark chestnut-coloured old bull of the herd, whose exalted head towers above his companions, generally attaining a height of upwards of eighteen feet. The females are of lower stature and more delicately formed than the males, their height averaging from sixteen to seventeen feet. Some writers have discovered ugliness and a want of grace in the giraffe, but I consider that he is one of the most strikingly beautiful animals in the creation; and when a herd is seen scattered through a grove of the picturesque parasol-topped acacias which adorn their native plains, and on whose uppermost shoots they are enabled to browse by the colossal height with which nature has so admirably endowed them, he must indeed be slow of conception who fails to discover both grace and dignity in all their movements. There can be no doubt that every animal is seen to the greatest advantage in the haunts which nature destined him to adorn, and amongst the various living creatures which beautify this fair creation I have often traced a remarkable harmony between the form of animal and the general appearance of the locality in which it is found; this I first remarked at an early period of my life, when entomology occupied a part of my attention. No person following this interesting pursuit can fail to observe the extraordinary likeness which insects bear to the various abodes in which they are met with; thus, among the long green grass we find a variety of long green insects, whose legs and antennæ so resemble the shoots

emanating from the stalks of the grass that it requires a practised eye to distinguish them. In sandy districts varieties are met with of a colour similar to the sand which they inhabit. Among the green leaves of the various trees of the forest innumerable leaf-coloured insects are to be found; while, closely adhering to the rough grey bark of the same trees, we observe beautifully coloured grey-looking moths of various patterns, yet altogether so resembling the bark as to be invisible to the passing observer. In like manner among quadrupeds I have traced a corresponding analogy, for, even in the case of the stupendous elephant, the ashy colour of his hide so corresponds with the general appearance of the grey thorny jungles which he frequents throughout the day, that a person unaccustomed to hunt these animals, standing on a commanding situation, might look down upon a herd and fail to detect their presence. And further, in the case of the giraffe, which is invariably met with among venerable forests, where innumerable blasted and weather-beaten trunks and stems occur, I have repeatedly been in doubt as to the presence of a troop, until I had recourse to my telescope, and on referring to my savage attendants, I have known even their practised eyes deceived, at one time mistaking these dilapidated trunks for camelopards, and again confounding real camelopards with these aged veterans of the forest.

Although we had now been travelling many days through the country of the giraffe, and marched through forests in which their spoor was abundant, our eyes had not yet been gifted with a sight of Tootla himself, it was therefore with indescribable pleasure that, on the evening of the 11th, I beheld a troop of these interesting animals.

Our breakfast being finished, I resumed my journey through an endless grey forest of camel-dorn and other trees, the country slightly undulating and grass abundant. A little before the sun went down my driver remarked to me, "I was just going to say, Sir, that that old tree was a camelopard." Looking where he pointed, I saw that the old tree was indeed a camelopard, and, on casting my eyes a little to the right, I beheld a troop of them standing looking at us, their heads actually towering above the trees of the forest. It was im

prudent to commence a chace at such a late hour, especially in a level country, where the chances were against my being able to regain my waggons that night. However, I resolved to risk everything; and directing my men to catch and saddle Colesberg, hastily buckled on my shooting-belt and spurs, and in two minutes was in the saddle. The giraffes stood looking at the waggons until I was within sixty yards of them, when, galloping round a thick bushy tree, under cover of which I had ridden, I suddenly beheld a sight the most astounding that a sportsman's eye could encounter. Before me stood ten colossal giraffes, the majority of which were from seventeen to eighteen feet high, but beholding me they at once made off, twisting their long tails over their backs with a loud switching noise, and cantering along at an easy pace, which, however, obliged Colesberg to put his best foot foremost to keep up with them.

My sensations on this occasion were different from anything that I had before experienced during a long sporting career, and I was so absorbed by the wondrous and beautiful sight before me that I rode along like one entranced, and felt inclined to disbelieve that I was hunting living things of this world. The ground was firm and favourable for riding, at every stride I gained upon the giraffes, and after a short burst at a swingeing gallop was in the middle of them, and turned the finest cow out of the herd; finding herself driven from her comrades and hotly pursued, she increased her pace, and cantered along with tremendous strides, clearing an amazing extent of ground at every bound, while her neck and breast, coming in contact with the dead old branches of the trees, were continually strewing them in my path. In a few minutes I was riding within five yards of her stern, and, firing at the gallop, sent a bullet into her back; increasing my pace, I next rode alongside, and, placing the muzzle of my rifle within a few feet of her, fired my second shot behind the shoulder—the ball, however, seemed to have little effect. I then placed myself directly in front, when she came to a walk, and dismounting, I hastily loaded both barrels, putting in a double charge of powder; but before I was ready she was off at a canter. In a short time I brought her to a stand at

fifteen yards in the dry bed of a watercourse, and fired, aiming where I thought the heart lay, upon which she again started; having reloaded, I followed, and had very nearly lost her, for she turned abruptly to the left, and was far out of sight among the trees. Once more I brought her to a stand, and dismounting, gazed in wonder at her extreme beauty, while her soft dark eye, with its silky fringe, looked down imploringly at me: I really felt a pang of sorrow in this moment of triumph for the blood I was shedding; but the sporting feeling prevailed, and pointing my rifle towards the skies, I sent a bullet through her neck. On receiving it, she reared high on her hind legs and fell backwards with a heavy crash, making the earth shake around her—a thick stream of dark blood spouted far from the wound, her colossal limbs quivered for a moment, and she expired.

I had little time to contemplate the prize I had won, night was fast setting in, and it was very questionable whether I should succeed in regaining my camp; so, having cut off the tail of the giraffe, which was adorned with a bushy tuft of flowing black hair, I took "one last fond look," and rode hard for the spoor of the waggons, which I reached just as it fell dark.

No pen nor words can convey to a sportsman what it is to ride in the midst of a troop of gigantic giraffes: it must be experienced to be understood, they emitted a powerful perfume, which in the run came hot in my face, reminding me of the smell of a hive of heather honey in September. The greater part of this chace led through bushes of wait-a-bit thorn of the most effective description, and my legs and arms were covered with blood long before I had finished the giraffe; I rode as usual in the kilt with my arms bare to the shoulder—it was Chapelpark of Badenoch's old grey kilt, but in this gallop it received its death-blow.

On the 12th we made two long marches through thickly wooded plains, the spoor of camelopard being extremely abundant, and on the 13th cast loose the cattle at dawn of day. Breakfast being finished, we inspanned, and having proceeded about eight miles through the forest, steering for a range of rocky mountains, reached a gorge in the same

crossed a small river, and having followed its banks about three miles, arrived at Booby, a village of Bechuana, a branch of the tribe of the Baquainas, governed by a subordinate chief, who was then absent on a visit. I was, however, welcomed by his nephew, Caachy, a man of pleasing exterior and prepossessing manners, who shortly afterwards became, and now is, chief of that tribe.

As the manner in which Caachy succeeded to the chieftainship was peculiar, I may here relate the circumstances attending it. Throughout all the Bechuana tribes an absurd belief prevails in witchcraft and supernatural agencies of every kind; they also believe that for every transaction there is a medicine which will enable the possessor to succeed in his object. Thus they think those who work in iron, do so under the power of medicine; their rainmakers by the power of their medicines can propitiate the friendly clouds during the protracted droughts of summer; and they have medicines to protect them from the lightning's stroke, the deadly bite of the viper, and the fatal spring of the lion. They further believe that there is a medicine for guns, the possession of which will cause the gun to shoot well; and likewise one for gunpowder, which will give it strength.

During my stay at Booby I obtained from the natives some interesting specimens of arms and other curiosities, in exchange for which they required gunpowder, their chief having in his possession one or two muskets. When he and his men first used my powder, they missed all they fired at; the Bechuana mode of firing being to withdraw the face from the gun, from a natural impulse of fear before drawing the trigger, and to look back over the left shoulder, instead of at the animal they expect to kill. The cause of their ill-success they at once ascribed to the powder, which they affirmed required medicine; accordingly, the chief and all the long-headed men in Booby assembled, and having placed the unworthy gunpowder upon a large kaross, sat round it, and commenced a variety of ceremonies and incantations with a view of imparting to it that power which they considered it had lost. At length some wiseacre among the soothsayers informed the king that the presence of fire was indispensable

on the occasion. Fire was accordingly introduced along with the other medicines, and a censer of hot embers was passed frequently over the powder. Suddenly, however, an unlucky spark fell upon the heap, which of course instantly exploded, and the quantity being very considerable, the Booby men and their chief were blown heels over head on every side—several of the party, and among others the chief, being so severely burnt, that they shortly died. So much for Bechuana medicines.

The kraal of Booby is encompassed on three sides by rocky hills, which to their summits are densely clad with sandalwood trees; these hills are in parts extremely precipitous, and the abode of baboons and klipspringers. As we approached Booby, I took my rifle and ascended to the base of one of these precipices, where I shot two immense baboons; one of them was sitting on the shelf of a rock very high above me; and on receiving the ball he fell about a hundred feet without a break. The valleys between the mountains are extensively cultivated by the women, as also a large level piece of ground to the north-east of the kraal. The costume of this tribe is the same I have already described as worn by the Bechuanas; but I remarked that they used the atrocious mixture of red clay and grease more freely than their neighbours. The Booby men flocked around my waggons, evidently much gratified with so novel a sight, and continued with me until nightfall. Shortly after I reached Booby a party of Baquainas arrived from Sichel; they had been sent to endeavour to dissuade me from visiting Bamangwato, and to inform me that Sichel had ivory and karosses, with which to purchase all my guns; and, above all, wished me to promise to reserve my big Dutch rifle for him. I informed these men that I was determined to visit Sicomy, but that I would keep the Dutch rifle for their chief, as he requested it.

Having informed Caachy I intended to march next day, he expressed surprise, and said I made his heart sore, and that evening there was a meeting of all the wise men in Booby to consult how I could best be prevented from journeying on to Bamangwato. In the morning I felt far from well, probably having drunk too much of Caachy's beer on the preceding

evening, and before I was inclined to turn out, the regent and all his great men were standing thick around my waggons. I pretended to be asleep, so they kindled fires, by which they squatted, till I arose and gave the chief his breakfast, during which I told him that I wished him to send some men with me to Bamangwato, and to this he replied that there was war in that country, and that he was afraid of Moselekatse. I then said, that, though he would not give me men, I possessed medicine which would enable me to discover the way without his assistance; and informed him that, if he persisted in his refusal, I should tell Sicomy, the great and paramount chief of Bamangwato, that he endeavoured to prevent white men from visiting his domains. Upon this Caachy altered his tune, and said that four men should accompany and return with me.

This being arranged, I gave him some presents, and requested him to take charge of my buffalo and other heads until my return, which he promised to do, and ordered men to bear them directly to his kraal. About midday we left Booby, accompanied by nearly the whole tribe, every man carrying two or three assagais and a battle-axe; they followed us in the hope that I would shoot large game for them. The guides at first held north-east, but presently drawing off that course, and steering due east, I halted, and said that was not the road to Bamangwato, when they replied, they held that course on account of water. I then directed them to place an assagai on the ground with its head pointing to Bamangwato. Thereupon the savages laid one down, and, having pretended for some minutes to be discussing among themselves the exact position of that place, they ended by pointing it due east, declaring that Bamangwato lay in that direction. I told them that I had a needle in my pocket rubbed with medicine, by which I could tell if their spear really pointed to Sicomy's country, and knowing that Bamangwato lay a little to the east of north, said that by turning the needle three times round my left wrist it would point a little to the left-hand side of that country. On hearing this the savages looked at one another with surprise, and pressed round me to see if my needle possessed the power I represented. I then pulled out my pocket-compass, and, passing it three times round my left

wrist with the utmost gravity, whistled shrilly; and opening the compass put it on the ground before them. Snatching one of their assagais, I placed it beside the compass a little to the east of north, and told them that it was in that direction Bamangwato lay; at this they were struck with astonishment, and at once considered me as working by supernatural agency.

I now inquired if they would lead me to water in this line of country, but they all shouted it was a desert, and that no man had ever found water there; they then turned right about, and, retreating two hundred yards, squatted on the ground. Isaac and I then approached them, but they remained silent, and looked down. I asked them why they all sat thus, when they answered they would proceed no farther with me. I replied I was happy to hear it, for that I could find the way better without them, and, returning to my waggons, I ordered my men to turn about and retrace their steps to the nearest water. The savages then requested me to halt and speak with them. I told them to go home to their captain, as their presence troubled me; and having proceeded a few hundred yards, encamped beside a pool of water.

It was plain to me that Isaac, my interpreter, was in league with the Baquainas and their regent in their designs against my wishes; but as I did not then intend to part with him, because his presence gave confidence to my people, I deemed it best to pretend that I believed him sincere. My flesh being exhausted, I resolved to halt a day for the purpose of hunting, and having obtained a good supply, steered through the forests by compass a little to the east of north, to search for water with my horses in advance of the waggons. I felt poorly in health, and was much troubled in mind. My situation was by no means an enviable one; I was far in the interior of Africa, alone and friendless, surrounded by a tribe of men who would do anything short of violence to prevent my attaining my object. What I most dreaded was their stealing my oxen or horses, which they could easily have done; my men also were faint-hearted and anxious to return homewards.

That night I slept little, from vexation and anxiety. The whole tribe of Booby men lay on the ground around a number of fires, with a hedge of thorny bushes placed in a



semicircle to windward of each party. After breakfast I rode east to hunt, accompanied by Kleinboy leading a packhorse, and about thirty of the Bechuanas followed us in the hope of flesh. Having proceeded about two miles, I shot a bull and two fat cow wildebeests; I presented the bull and one of the cows to the Bechuanas, who were delighted with my success, and, having placed the remaining cow upon my packhorse, we returned to camp.

Here I found Caachy with all his retinue, who thanked me for the game, when I informed him that his men did not lead me as Dr. Livingstone had told me to ride; to which he replied that the road was circuitous, and that they led me so on account of water. At length he had almost persuaded me to follow his guides, but as I had no friend to consult, I resolved to wait there that night and determine finally in the morning. Caachy then drank coffee with me and departed. In the evening I inquired of the guides concerning the waters and the distances betwixt them; they replied that the first supply was a moderate day's journey, but after that I must ride more than two days without any, and also persevered in pointing to the east as my course. I was now convinced that their intention was to lead me astray, and finally bring me to Sichele, and therefore resolved to adhere to my first resolution of steering my own course by compass, but I kept this intention secret, fearing they might steal some of my oxen.

## CHAPTER XIII.

THE GUIDES TRY TO MISLEAD ME—WANDERING BECHUANAS POINT OUT  
MY RIGHT COURSE—LOST IN THE FOREST.

ON the morning of the 16th a large party of Caachy's men were still encamped beside us, probably under the impression that they had succeeded in prevailing upon me to follow them. Having filled all my water-casks, I ordered my men to inspan, the Bechuanas cracking their jokes and fancying I should ride east as they led; but to their astonishment, when the team was ready, I told them they had better all return to their captains, as I would shoot no more game for them, and then ordered my men to ride for a conspicuous tree in the distance, bearing N.N.E. The Bechuanas sat still for some time, but presently shouldered their assagais and followed in our wake. This was a bold step on my part; the country looked very unlikely for water, and the savages still protested there was none for seven days' journey in the course I determined to hold; it lay through a boundless forest, with no hill nor landmark to give me an idea where to search for water. Fortune, however, favoured me as usual, for if I had lived all my life in the country I could not have taken a more direct line for the spot I wished to reach, though some miles were passed without a gleam of hope, the view from a rising ground exhibiting one slightly undulating, ocean-like expanse of forest and dense thorny jungles.

We nevertheless held on, steering N.N.E. by compass, when all the Bechuanas forsook me except four ill-favoured men whom Caachy had given me as guides; these, contrary to my expectations, followed in our wake at some distance. After travelling for several hours, compass in hand, the country became more open, and we presently entered upon a wide tract that had been recently desolated by the Bakalahari, or wild inhabitants of the desert. The trees and bushes stood

scorched and burnt, and there was not a blade of grass to cheer the eye—blackness and ashes stretched away on every side wherever I turned my anxious glance. I felt my heart sink within me as I beheld in dim perspective my famished and thirsty oxen returning some days hence over this hopeless desert, all my endeavours to find water having failed, and all my bright hopes of elephant-hunting ending in bitter disappointment—it was indeed a cheerless prospect. I had no friend to comfort or advise me, and could hear my men behind me grumbling, and swearing that they would return home, while the guides asked them why they followed me to destruction.

At length we reached the farther side of this dreary waste of ashes, but an equally cheerless prospect was before us. We entered a vast forest, grey with extreme age, and so thick that we could not see forty yards in advance, being obliged occasionally to halt the waggons and cut down trees and branches to admit of their passing. To make matters still worse, the country had become extremely hoavy, the waggons sinking deep in soft sand, and my men began to show a mutinous spirit, expressing their opinions aloud in my presence. I remonstrated with them, and told them that, if I did not bring them to water next day before the sun was under, they might turn the oxen on their spoor. We continued our march through this dense forest until nightfall, when I halted beside a wide-spreading tree, cast the cattle loose for an hour, and secured them on the yokes by moonlight.

I felt very sad and unhappy, for I considered the chances were against me, and I loathed the idea of returning to the colony, after coming so very far, without shooting or even seeing what my heart most ardently desired, viz. a wild bull elephant free in his native jungle. However I took some wine, and, coming to the fire which the men had kindled beneath an old camel-dorn tree, affected great cheerfulness and contentment, and, laughing at the four Bechuanas, told them that I was no child that they should lead me astray, but an old warrior and a cunning hunter, who could find his way in strange lands. I laughed, but it was the laugh of despair, for I expected that next evening they would, on seeing me

compelled to retrace my steps, he laughing at me. One of the greatest difficulties that presented itself was, that, if I rode in advance to search for water, it would be almost impossible to find my way back to the waggons through that vast and trackless forest. I went to bed, but tried in vain to sleep; care and anxiety kept me awake until a little before morning, when I dozed for a short time and dreamt that I had ridden in advance and found water. Day dawned, but I awoke in sorrow; my hopes were like a flickering flame. Having breakfasted I directed my men to give the Cow and Colesberg some corn, ordering my people to remain quiet during the day and listen for shots, lest I should lose my way in returning, and having given them ammunition to reply, I saddled up and held N.N.E. through thick forest, accompanied by Kleinboy. The ground was heavy, being soft sand, and the grass grew at intervals in detached bunches. We rode on without a break or a change, and found no spoor of wild animals to give me hope: I saw one duiker, but these antelopes are met with in the desert, and are independent of water.

At last we reached a more open part of the forest, and emerging from the thicket perceived a troop of six or eight beautiful giraffes standing looking at us about two hundred yards to my right; but this was no time to give them chase, which I felt very much inclined to do, so I allowed them to depart in peace, and continued my search for water. In this open glade I found two or three vleys that had once contained a little, but they were now hard and dry, and re-entering the dense forest we held one point more to the east. For miles we continued our search, until my hopes sank to a very low ebb, and Kleinboy swore we should never regain the waggons. At length I perceived a sassaby in front of me: this antelope drinks every day;—"fresh vigour with the hope returned." I once more pressed forward and cantered along, heedless of the distance which already intervened between me and my camp and the remonstrances of my attendant, who at last reined up his jaded steed, and said that he would not follow me farther to my own destruction. I then pointed to the top of a distant grey tree that stretched its bare and

weather-beaten branches above the heads of its surrounding comrades, and said that, if we saw nothing to give us hope when we reached that tree, I would abandon the search, and hunt during that season in Sichel's mountains to the east of Booby.

But fate had ordained that I should penetrate farther into the interior of Africa; and before I reached the old grey tree I observed a small flight of Namaqua partridges crossing my path in a westerly direction. It was impossible to tell, until I should see a second flock of these, flying at a different angle, whether the first flock had come from, or were going to, water; for this I accordingly watched, nor watched long in vain. A considerable distance ahead of me I detected a second flight of these birds likewise flying westerly; and it was evident, from their inclination, that they held for the same point as the first had done. Shortly afterwards the first flight returned, flying high above our heads, uttering their soft melodious cry of "pretty dear, pretty dear." I then rode in the direction from which the birds had come, and before proceeding far we discovered a slight hollow running north and south; this I determined to follow, and presently discovered fresh spoor of a rhinoceros, a certain sign that water was not very distant.

Once more my dying hopes revived, and I looked north at the sky, which on this particular day was quite different from anything I had beheld for months. It was like one of those glorious days when the bright blue firmament in my own dark land is seen through ten thousand joyous fleecy clouds, and all nature seems to strive in its sunny hour to make poor unhappy man forget his cares and sorrows; I took it as a favourable omen, and, stirring my good but weary steed, cantered along the glade. The hollow took a turn, on rounding which I perceived that I was in an elevated part of the forest; and, for the first time, I obtained a distant view of the surrounding scenery. Far as the eye could strain it was all forest without a break; but it was now an undulating country before me, instead of the hopeless level through which I had come—I felt certain of success. We soon discovered vleys that had recently contained water; and at last found a large

pool, enough to supply my cattle for several days. This was indeed a glad moment—a grand step towards attaining my object, for as my difficulties had seemed to increase, my wish and determination to overcome them had become stronger; I knew that, whether I reached Bamangwato or not, if I could now only manage to travel north about eight days' journey I should fall in with elephants.

Regaining my waggons, which I did without a turn in my course, I at first pretended not to have discovered water, and said to the guides, "There is nothing but dense wood in this country; can you not show me water? my oxen will die." They replied that if I wanted water I must travel till sunset, steering south of east, and were amazed when I said, "Now I am certain you wish to lead me astray; for I have seen abundance of water, and I will find my way to Bamangwato, though you do all in your power to prevent me." Having inspanned, we held for the water, which I reached at a late hour, the Bechuanas still following in our wake. It appeared to me that the orders they had received from their chief were, to endeavour to lead me astray, and take me to Sichely; but in the event of my finding the way to Bamangwato myself, they were to accompany me to Sicomy to insure his friendship and convince him of their chief's sincerity. On the morning of the 18th, while lying in my waggon, undecided whether I should hunt or explore the country in advance, I heard the voices of men a little distance down the glade, and springing from my bed discovered a party of Bechuanas. These men had been hunting jackals at a place called Bootlonamy, halfway from Booby to Bamangwato, and they, at my request, at once pointed out to me my correct line of route for the latter place, and the position of a fine vley in the forest one march in advance.

Having breakfasted, I inspanned, and after trekking for about six hours through dense forest we reached the vley; on the march it was necessary to have constant recourse to our axes to clear a path for the waggons. I was much delighted with the little round loch; it covered about an acre, and the margin was imprinted with the fresh spoor of the giraffe, rhinoceros, buffalo, sassayby, pallah, zebra, lion, &c. We

encamped beneath two wide-spreading shady trees, and I at once saddled up, and rode forth with Kleinboy to hunt, our flesh being at an end. I had ridden about half a mile in a north-easterly course, through shady groves of mokala-trees, when suddenly I observed a stately giraffe walk slowly across my path, and crop the leaves from the upper branches of one of them about a hundred yards in advance. This was a fine look-out; with hasty hand I shifted my saddle from Sunday to the Old Grey, and ordering Kleinboy to put the pack-saddle on Sunday, and listen for shots, I rode slowly towards the giraffe. As I advanced, I perceived another standing a little on my left looking at me, and on rounding an intervening clump of trees came full in sight of a troop of eight giraffes cantering before me. In another minute I was in the middle of them; and selecting a fine fat cow, rode hard at her, and fired my first shot at the gallop, which took effect. Again and again I broke her from the troop, and again she joined them; at length I fired my second barrel at her stern; after which, by heading her, I brought her to a stand, and hastily loading both barrels, fired right and left for her heart. Her colossal frame shook convulsively for a few seconds, when, tottering forward, she subsided in the dust with tremendous violence.

Four signal-shots brought Kleinboy and the packhorse, and also Isaac with the four guides; the chase was all in thick forest, and had led me to within a few hundred yards of the waggons. The hungry guides, enchanted at the prospect of such a banquet, at once kindled a fire, and slept that night beside the carcass, while I returned to the waggons with my horses laden with flesh. My mind being now once more at rest, I went to bed and slept soundly. During the night lions roared around us.

On the 19th strolling through the forest I found some old dung of elephants; and observed several full-grown trees torn up by the roots or shivered by the gigantic strength of those animals. The guides, finding they prevailed nothing, at length volunteered to lead me to Bamangwato by a northerly route, and promised that I should not lack water; we accordingly inspanned, and held on till sundown, proceeding

in a north-easterly course, when we halted in dense forest without water. Our march lay through an interesting country well adapted for hunting the eland and giraffe; the forest was in many places thin and open, with here and there gigantic old trees of picturesque appearance, some half-dead, and others falling to pieces from age. The soil, soft yet firm, was admirably suited for riding, and the spoor of eland and giraffe abundant.

On the 20th we inspanned, and having proceeded about five miles reached a miserable little kraal or village of Bakalahari. Here was a vley of water, beside which we outspanned, and in its vicinity were a few small gardens, containing water-melons and a little corn. Starvation was written in the faces of these inhabitants of the forest. Occasionally they have the luck to capture some large animal in a pitfall, when for a season they live in plenty; but as they do not possess salt, the flesh soon spoils, when they are compelled once more to roam the forest in quest of fruits and roots, on which, with locusts, they in a great measure subsist. In districts where game is abundant, they construct their pits on a large scale, and erect hedges in the form of a crescent, extending nearly a mile on either side of the pit, and by this means the game may be easily driven into the pitfalls, which are carefully covered over with thin sticks and dry grass; thus whole herds of zebras and wildebeests are taken at once, and the capture is followed by the most disgusting banquets, the poor famished savages gorging and surfeiting in a manner worthy only of the vulture or hyæna. They possess no cattle, and if they did, the nearest chief would immediately take them. All this part of the country abounded with the pitfalls made by the Bakalahari; many of these had been dug expressly for the giraffe, and were generally three feet wide, and ten long; their depth was from nine to ten feet.

At midday we resumed our march through dense forest, and were obliged to cut a way with our axes, halting at sunset without water—the spoor of eland was abundant.

On the 22nd, ordering my men to move on to the fountain of Bootlonamy, I rode forth with Ruyter, and held east through a grove of lofty wide-spreading mimosas, most of which were



more or less damaged by the gigantic strength of a troop of elephants, which had passed there about twelve months before. Having proceeded about two miles with large herds of game on every side, I came upon a black rhinoceros feeding on some wait-a-bit thorns within fifty yards of me. I fired from the saddle, and sent a bullet in behind his shoulder, when he rushed forward about one hundred yards in tremendous consternation, blowing like a grampus, and then stood looking about him. Presently he made off, and I followed; the chace led through a large herd of blue wildebeests, zebras, and springboks, which gazed at us in utter amazement as we passed. I expected in my ignorance that he would come to bay, which a rhinoceros never does. Suddenly he fell flat on his broadside to the ground, but, recovering his feet, resumed his course as if nothing had happened. Becoming annoyed at the length of the chace, for I wished to keep my horses fresh for the elephants, and being indifferent whether I got the rhinoceros or not, as I observed his horn was completely worn down with age and the violence of his disposition, I determined to bring matters to a crisis; so, spurring my horse, I dashed ahead, and rode right in his path. Upon this the hideous monster charged me in the most resolute manner, blowing loudly through his nostrils; and although I quickly wheeled about, he followed me at such a furious pace for several hundred yards, with his horrid horny snout within a few yards of my horse's tail, that my little Bushman, who was looking on in great alarm, thought his master's destruction inevitable. The animal, however, suddenly turned about, and I, being perfectly satisfied with the interview I had already enjoyed with him, had no desire to cultivate his acquaintance any further, and accordingly made for camp. We left the fountain of Bootlonamy the same day, and trekked about six miles. At night large flocks of guinea-fowls roosted in the trees around our encampment, several of which I shot for my supper.

On the 23rd we spanned by moonlight, and continued our march through a thinly-wooded level country. Having proceeded about ten miles, it became thickly covered with detached forest-trees and groves of wait-a-bit thorns. The

guides now informed us that the water, which is called by the Bechuanas Lepeby, was only a short distance in advance; upon which I rode ahead with the Bushman, intending to hunt for an hour before breakfast. The game increased as we proceeded, until the whole forest seemed alive with zebras, pallahs, springboks, wildebeests, and rhinoceros. I might have killed any quantity of game if venison had been my object; but I was trying to get a few very superior heads of some of the master-bucks of the pallahs, and in the dust and confusion caused by the innumerable quantity of game I managed to lose all I wounded.

We had now come many miles, and feeling faint from want of food, I dropped the chace in disgust, and continued my course as I thought in the direction of the waggons; but as evening drew near I began to have my suspicions that the Bushman, in whom on such occasions I placed the most implicit confidence, had lost his way. This proved to be the case, and after having ridden some miles farther he acknowledged that he knew nothing at all about the matter, but stated it to be his impression that we ought to bear farther to the west. My head was so confused that I lost all recollection of how we had come, and felt at my wits' end, I knew not what. To find the waggons was comparatively a trifle, for the pangs of thirst began to seize me; I had ridden all day, under a burning sun, and had neither eaten nor drunk since the preceding evening; my heart sank as horrible visions of a lingering death by maddening thirst arose before me. Dismounting, I sat down to think what I should do; I knew exactly by compass the course we had been steering since we left Booby, and after considering well, remounted my horse, which was also half dead with thirst and fatigue, and rode south-west for several miles. At length I recognised the country we had passed through in the early morning, and eventually, to my inexpressible gratification, we discovered the spoor of the waggons, and reached them after following it for about four miles in a north-easterly direction. Thankful indeed I felt to see them again. They were drawn up beside the strong fountain of Lepeby, which, issuing from beneath a stratum of white tuffous rock, formed a deep and extensive pool of pure water.

adorned on one side with lofty green reeds. This fountain was situated at the northern extremity of a level bare vley, surrounded by dense covers of wait-a-bit thorns; and such a peculiar sameness characterised the country, that a person wandering only a few hundred yards from the fountain would have considerable difficulty in regaining it, it was night before I reached the waggons, and two or three cups of coffee soon restored me to my wonted vigour.

On the following morning, from earliest dawn until we trekked, which we did about ten A.M., large herds of game kept pouring in to drink from every side, completely covering the open space, and imparting to it the appearance of a cattle-fair; blue wildebeests, zebras, sassaybys, pallahs, springboks, &c., capered fearlessly up to the water, troop after troop, within two hundred yards of us. I shot a pallah and a wildebeest, which we secured behind the waggons. In former years some Bechuanas had frequented this fountain, but the powerful and cruel Matabili had attacked the tribe, and driven them to seek a home elsewhere. About ten A.M. we inspanned, and within a mile of Lepchy passed through another similar open vley, containing a strong fountain of delicious water. We continued our march till sundown through an undulating open country, thinly covered with detached trees and thorny bushes, and encamped in a sandy desert without water.

## CHAPTER XIV.

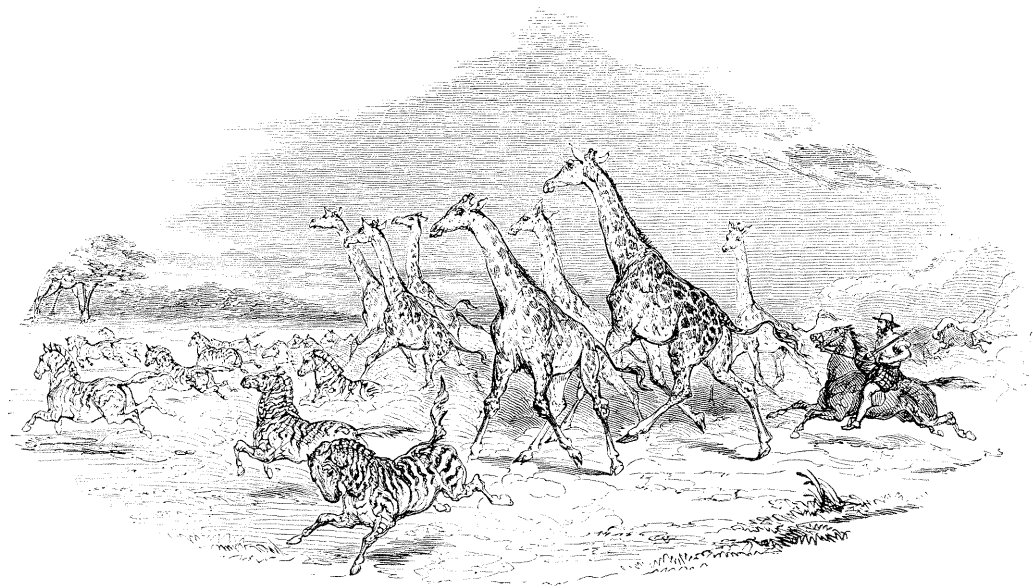
BAMANGWATO MOUNTAINS—GIRAFFES—ELEPHANT-HUNT—SICOMY,  
KING OF BAMANGWATO.

ON the 25th we trekked about five hours in a north-easterly course, through an open country, sparingly adorned with dwarfish old trees, and in the distance the long-sought mountains of Bamangwato at length loomed blue before us. We halted beside a glorious fountain, which at once made me forget all the cares and difficulties I had encountered in reaching it. The name of this fountain was Massouey, but I at once christened it "the Elephant's own Fountain," for it was on the southern borders of endless forests inhabited by that animal, at which I had at length arrived. The spring, deep and strong, was situated at the eastern extremity of an extensive open vley, in a level stratum of old red sandstone, and here and there was a thick layer of soil upon it, covered with the fresh spoor of elephants; the very rock around the water's edge being worn down by the gigantic feet which for ages had trodden there.

The soil of the surrounding country was white and yellow sand, but grass, trees, and bushes were abundant. From the borders of the fountain a hundred well-beaten elephant foot-paths led away in every direction, like the radii of a circle; the breadth of these paths was about three feet, and those leading to the north and east were the most frequented, the country in those directions being well wooded. We drew up the waggons on a hillock on the eastern side of the water; for this position commanded a good view of any game that might approach to drink. I had just cooked and commenced my breakfast when my men exclaimed, "Almagtig keek de ghroote clomp cameel;" and, raising my eyes from my sas-sayby stew, I beheld a magnificent sight. Up the middle of the vley stalked a troop of ten colossal giraffes, flanked

by two large herds of blue wildebeests and zebras, with an advanced guard of pallahs. They were all coming to the fountain to drink, and would be within rifle-shot of the waggons before I could finish my breakfast; but I continued to swallow my food with the utmost expedition, and directed my men to catch and saddle Colesberg. In a few minutes the giraffes were slowly advancing within two hundred yards of me, stretching their graceful necks, and gazing in wonder at the waggons. Grasping my rifle, I mounted my horse and rode slowly forward until I was within one hundred yards of them, when, whisking their long tails over their backs, they made off at an easy canter. As I pressed upon them, they increased their pace; and before we had proceeded half a mile I was riding by the shoulder of a dark-chesnut old bull, whose head towered high above the rest. Letting fly at the gallop, I wounded him behind the shoulder, soon after which I broke him from the herd, and presently, going ahead of him, he came to a stand; I then gave him a second bullet, somewhere near the first. These two shots took effect, and he was now in my power, but I would not lay him low so far from camp, and, having waited until he had regained his breath, I drove him half-way back towards the waggons; here he became obstreperous, so, reloading one barrel, and pointing my rifle upwards, I shot him in the throat, when, rearing high, he fell backwards and expired. This was a magnificent specimen of the giraffe, measuring upwards of eighteen feet in height. I stood for nearly half an hour engrossed in the contemplation of his extreme beauty and gigantic proportions; and, if there had been no elephants, I could have exclaimed, like Duke Alexander of Gordon when he killed the famous old stag with seventeen tines, "Now I can die happy." But I longed for an encounter with the noble elephants, and thought no more of the giraffe than if I had killed a gemsbok or an eland.

In the afternoon I drew up my waggons among some bushes about four hundred yards to leeward of the water. In the evening I was employed in manufacturing hardened bullets for the elephants, using a composition of one of pewter to four of lead, and had just completed my work when we



CAMELOPARD HUNTING AT MASSOUÉY.

heard a troop of elephants splashing and trumpeting in the water; this was to me a joyful sound, and I slept little that night.

On the 26th I arose at earliest dawn, and having fed four of my horses proceeded with Isaac to the fountain to examine the spoor of the animals which had drunk there during the night: a number of the paths contained fresh spoor of elephants of all sizes, which had left it in different directions. We reckoned that at least thirty of these gigantic quadrupeds had visited the water during the night.

Having breakfasted, I saddled up, and proceeded to take up the spoor of the largest bull elephant, accompanied by after-riders and three of the guides to assist in spooring; I was also accompanied by my dogs. Having selected the spoor of a mighty bull, the Bechuanas went ahead, and I followed; it was extremely interesting and exciting work; the footprint of this elephant was about two feet in diameter, and was beautifully visible in the soft sand. The spoor at first led us for about three miles along one of the sandy foot-paths in an easterly direction without a check; we then entered a very thick forest; the elephant had here gone a little out of the path to smash some trees and plough up the earth with his tusks, but soon returned and held along it for several miles.

We were on rather elevated ground, with a fine view of a part of the Bamangwato chain of mountains before us; the trees were well grown, but not strong enough to resist the inconceivable strength of the mighty monarchs of these regions, for half the branches were broken short, and at every hundred yards we came upon entire trees, and these the largest in the forest, uprooted clean out of the ground, or broken short across their stems: I observed several with their roots uppermost in the air. Our friend of whom we were in search had halted here, and fed for a long time upon a wide-spreading tree which he had broken within a few feet of the ground. After following the spoor some distance farther through the dense mazes of the forest, we got into ground so thickly trodden by elephants that we were baffled in our endeavours to trace it farther; and after wasting several

hours in attempting by casts to take up the proper spoor, we gave it up, and with a sorrowful heart I turned my horse's head towards camp.

Having reached the waggons, I reviewed the whole day's work, and feeling much regret at my want of luck in my first day's elephant-hunting, resolved that night to watch the water, and try what could be done with elephants by night-shooting. I accordingly ordered the usual watching-hole to be constructed, and having placed my bedding in it, repaired thither shortly after sundown. I had lain here about two hours, when I heard a low rumbling noise like distant thunder, caused (as the Bechuanas affirmed) by the bowels of the elephants which were approaching the fountain. I was on my back, with my mouth open, listening attentively, and could hear them ploughing up the earth with their tusks. Presently they walked up to the water, and commenced drinking within fifty yards of me, approaching so quietly that I fancied it was the footsteps of jackals, and I was not aware of their presence until I heard the water which they had drawn up in their trunks and were pouring into their mouths, dropping into the fountain. I then peeped from my hole with a beating heart and beheld two enormous bull elephants, which looked like two great castles, standing before me; but I could not see very distinctly, for there was only starlight. Having lain on my breast some time taking aim, I let fly at one, using the Dutch rifle carrying six to the pound; the ball told loudly on his shoulder, and uttering a loud cry he stumbled through the fountain, when both made off in different directions.

All night large herds of zebras and blue wildebeests capered around me, coming sometimes within a few yards; several parties of rhinoceroses also made their appearance, and feeling a little apprehensive that lions might join the party every time that hyenas or jackals lapped the water, I looked forth, but no lions appeared. At length I fell into a sound sleep, nor did I again raise my head until the bright star of morn had shot far above the eastern horizon.

Before proceeding further with my narrative, it may here be interesting to make a few remarks on the African elephant



and his habits. This wonderful animal is met with in herds of various numbers through the vast forests. The male is very much larger than the female, consequently much more difficult to kill; he is provided with two enormous tusks, which are long, tapering, and beautifully arched; their length averages from six to eight feet, and they weigh from sixty to a hundred pounds each. In the vicinity of the equator elephants attain a greater size than farther south, and I am in the possession of a pair of tusks of the African bull elephant, the larger of which measures ten feet nine inches in length, and weighs one hundred and seventy-three pounds: the females, unlike Asiatic elephants in this respect, are likewise provided with tusks. The price which the largest ivory fetches in the English market is from 28*l.* to 40*l.* per hundred and twelve pounds. Old bull elephants are found singly or in pairs, or consorting together in small herds, varying from six to twenty individuals; the younger bulls remain for many years in the company of their mothers, and these are met with in large herds of from twenty to a hundred individuals. The food of the elephant consists of the branches, leaves, and roots of trees, and also of a variety of bulbs, the situation of which he discovers by his exquisite sense of smell: to obtain these he turns up the ground with his tusks, and whole acres may be seen thus ploughed up. Elephants consume an immense quantity of food, and pass the greater part of the day and night in feeding. Like the whale in the ocean, the elephant on land is acquainted with, and roams over, wide and extensive tracts; he is extremely particular in always frequenting the freshest and most verdant districts of the forest, and when one district is parched and barren, he will forsake it for years and wander to great distances in quest of better pasture.

The elephant entertains an extraordinary horror of man; a child passing at a quarter of a mile to windward will put a hundred of them to flight, and when thus disturbed they go a long way before they halt: it is surprising how soon these sagacious animals are aware of the presence of a hunter in their domains. When one troop has been attacked, all the other elephants frequenting the district are aware of the fact within two or three days, when they all forsake it, and migrate

to distant parts, leaving the sportsman no alternative but to inspan his waggons, and remove to fresh ground. This constitutes one of the greatest difficulties a skilful elephant-hunter encounters. Even in the most remote parts, which may be reckoned the head-quarters of the elephant, it is only occasionally, and with inconceivable toil and hardship, that the eye of the hunter is cheered by the sight of one. Owing to habits peculiar to himself, the elephant is more inaccessible, and much more rarely seen, than any other wild animal, excepting certain rare antelopes; they choose for their resort the most lonely and secluded depths of the forest, and generally at a very great distance from the rivers and fountains at which they drink. In dry, warm weather they visit these every night, but in cool and cloudy weather they drink only once every third or fourth day. About sundown the elephant leaves his distant midday haunt, and commences his march towards some fountain, which is probably from twelve to twenty miles distant; this he generally reaches between the hours of nine and mid night, when, having slaked his thirst and cooled his body by spouting large volumes of water over his back with his trunk, he resumes the path to his forest solitudes. I have remarked that full-grown bulls, having reached a secluded spot, lie down on their broadsides, about the hour of midnight, and sleep for a few hours; they usually select an ant-hill, which is often from thirty to forty feet in diameter at its base, and lie around it with their backs resting against it the mark of the under-tusk is always deeply imprinted in the ground, proving that they lie upon their sides. I never remarked that females had thus lain down, and it is only in the more secluded districts that the bulls adopt this practice; for I observed that, in districts where the elephants were liable to be disturbed, they took repose standing on their legs beneath some shady tree. Having slept they feed immensely. Spreading out from one another, and proceeding in a zigzag course, they smash and destroy the finest trees which happen to lie in their way. The number of them which a herd of bull elephants will thus destroy is utterly incredible. They are extremely capricious, and on coming to a group of five or six trees not unfrequently break down the whole of them,

when, having perhaps only tasted one or two small branches, they pass on and continue their wanton work of destruction. I have repeatedly gone through forests where the trees thus broken lay so thick across one another that it was almost impossible to ride through them, and it is in situations such as these that attacking the elephant is attended with most danger. During the night they will feed in open plains and thinly-wooded districts; but as day dawns they retire to the densest covers within reach, which nine times in ten consist of impracticable wait-a-bit thorns, and here they remain drawn up in a compact herd during the heat of the day. In remote districts, however, and in cool weather, I have known herds to continue pasturing throughout the whole day.

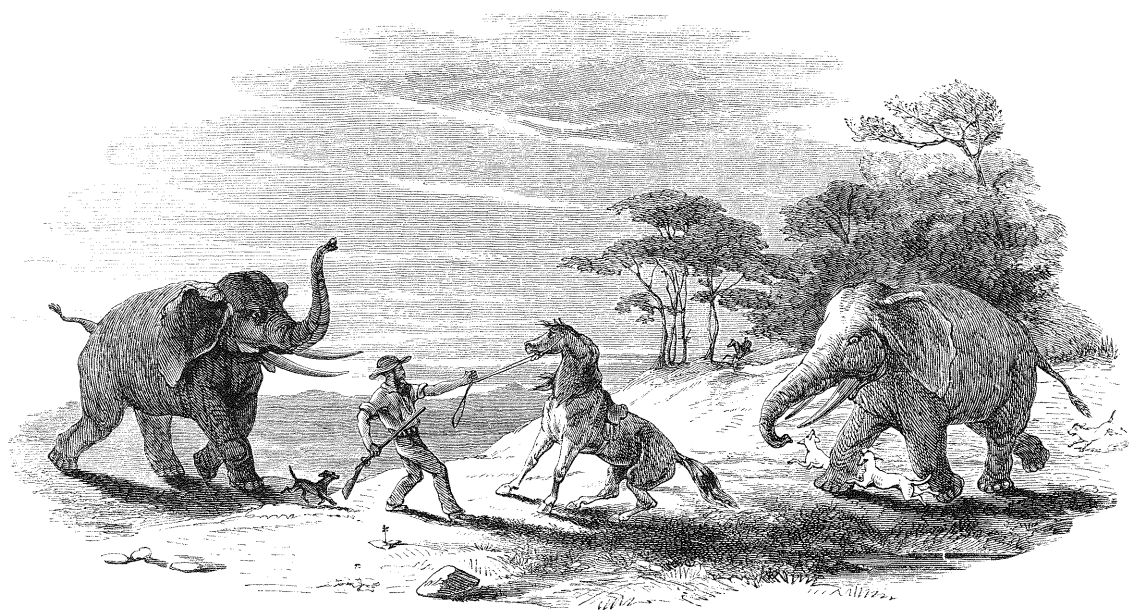
The appearance of the wild elephant is inconceivably majestic and imposing; his gigantic height and colossal bulk, so greatly surpassing all other quadrupeds, combined with his sagacious disposition and peculiar habits, impart to him an interest in the eyes of the hunter which no other animal can call forth. His pace when undisturbed is a bold, free, sweeping step; and from the spongy formation of his foot, his tread is extremely light and inaudible, and all his movements are attended with singular gentleness and grace; this, however, only applies to the elephant when roaming undisturbed in his jungle, for when roused by the hunter, he proves a most dangerous enemy, and far more difficult to conquer than any other beast of the chase.

On the 27th, as day dawned, I left my shooting-hole, and proceeded to inspect the spoor of the wounded elephant; after following it for some distance I came to an abrupt hillock, which I ascended, fancying that from the summit a good view of the surrounding country might be obtained. In this I was not disappointed, and looking east, beheld to my inexpressible gratification a troop of nine or ten elephants quietly browsing within a quarter of a mile of me. I allowed myself only one glance, and then rushed down to warn my followers to be silent; a council-of-war was hastily held, the result of which was my ordering Isaac to ride hard to camp, and return as quickly as possible with Kleinboy, my dogs, the large Dutch rifle, and a fresh horse. After this I once more ascended the hillock

to feast my eyes upon the enchanting sight before me; and, drawing out my glass, narrowly watched the motions of the herd; this consisted entirely of females, several of which were followed by small calves.

Presently, while reconnoitring the surrounding country, I discovered a second herd of five bull elephants, quietly feeding about a mile to the northward, while the cows were towards a rocky ridge that stretched away from the base of the hillock on which I stood. Burning with impatience to commence the attack, I resolved to try the stalking-system with these, and hunt the troop of bulls with dogs and horses. Having thus decided, I directed the guides to watch the elephants from the summit of the hillock, and the ground and wind favouring me, I soon gained the rocky ridge. They were now within a hundred yards, and with a beating heart I resolved to enjoy the pleasure of watching their movements as they came slowly towards me, breaking the branches from the trees with their trunks, and eating the leaves and tender shoots. At length two of the troop walked gently past, and the finest which I had selected was feeding with two others on a thorny tree about sixty yards from me.

My hand was now as steady as the rock on which it rested, so, taking a deliberate aim, I let fly at her head a little behind the eye; she got it hard and sharp, just where I aimed, but it did not seem to affect her much. Uttering a loud cry, however, she wheeled about, when I gave her the second ball, close behind the shoulder, upon which they all made a strange rumbling noise, and set off in a line at a brisk ambling pace, their huge fanlike ears flapping in the ratio of their speed. I did not wait to reload, but ran back to the hillock, and on gaining its summit the guides pointed out the herd standing in a grove of shady trees, the wounded one being some distance behind with another elephant, doubtless its particular friend, who was endeavouring to assist it; these elephants had probably never before heard the report of a gun; and, having neither seen nor smelt me, were unconscious of the presence of man, and did not seem inclined to go any farther. My servants now came up, but I waited some time, that the dogs and horses might recover their wind. We then rode towards



COLFSBERG DECLINES BEING MOUNTED.

the elephants, and had advanced within two hundred yards of them when, the ground being open, they observed us, and made off in an easterly direction; the wounded one dropped astern, and next moment was surrounded by the dogs, which, barking angrily, engrossed her attention.

Having placed myself between her and the retreating troop, I dismounted within forty yards of her, in open ground; and Colesberg being extremely frightened, gave me much trouble, jerking my arm when I tried to fire. At length I let fly; but, on endeavouring to regain the saddle, my horse would not allow me to mount; and when I tried to lead him, and run for it, he backed towards the wounded elephant. At this moment I heard another close behind me; and looking about beheld the "friend," with uplifted trunk, charging down upon me at top speed, trumpeting shrilly and following an old deaf pointer named Schwart, that trotted along before the enraged animal. I felt certain she would have either me or the horse, nevertheless I determined not to relinquish my steed, and held on by the bridle. My men, who of course kept at a safe distance, stood aghast with their mouths open, and for a few seconds my position certainly was not an enviable one; fortunately, however, the dogs took off the attention of the elephants, and just as they were upon me, I managed to spring into the saddle, expecting every second to feel one of their trunks lay hold of my body. Kleinboy and Isaac, pale and almost speechless with fright, now handed me my two-grooved rifle, when I returned to the charge, and sent another brace of bullets into the wounded elephant, but Colesberg was extremely unsteady, and destroyed the correctness of my aim.

The friend now seemed resolved to do some mischief, and charged furiously, pursuing me several hundred yards; I therefore deemed it proper to give her a gentle hint to act less officiously, and having loaded, and approached within thirty yards, gave it her sharp, right and left, behind the shoulder, upon which she at once made off with drooping trunk, and evidently with a mortal wound. I never recur to this my first day's elephant-shooting without regretting my folly in contenting myself with securing only one elephant; the first was dying, and could not leave the ground, the second

was also mortally wounded, and I had only to follow and finish her; but I foolishly amused myself with the first, which kept walking backwards, and standing by every tree she passed, allowed her to escape. Two more shots settled her: on receiving these she tossed her trunk up and down two or three times, and, falling on her broadside against a thorny tree, which yielded like grass before her enormous weight, uttered a deep hoarse cry, and expired. This was a very handsome old cow elephant, and, as I have before remarked, was decidedly the best in the troop; she was in excellent condition, and carried a pair of long and perfect tusks. I was in high spirits at my success, and felt so satisfied with having killed one, that, although it was still early in the day, and my horses were fresh, I allowed the troop of five bulls to remain unmolested, trusting to fall in with them next day. So little did I then know of the habits of elephants, or the rules to be adopted in hunting them!

Having knee-haltered our horses, we set to work with our knives and assagais to prepare the skull for the hatchet, in order to take out the tusks, nearly half the length of which, I may mention, is embedded in bone sockets in the fore part of the skull; to remove the tusks of a cow-elephant requires barely one-fifth of the labour requisite to cut out those of a bull, and by the time the sun went down we had only managed by our combined efforts to detach one of the tusks, with which we triumphantly returned to camp, having left the guides in charge of the carcase, near which they volunteered to take up their quarters for the night. On reaching the waggons I found Johannus and Carollus in a happy state of indifference to all passing events: they were both very drunk, having broken into both wine-cask and spirit-case.

On the 28th I rose at an early hour, and, burning with anxiety to look forth once more from the summit of the hillock which the day before brought me such luck, I made a hasty breakfast, and rode thither with after-riders and my dogs; but, alas! I had allowed the golden opportunity to slip. I sought in vain; and although I often ascended my favourite hillock in that and the succeeding year, my eyes were destined never to hail a troop of elephants from it again.

We were now within two days' march of the kraal of Sicomy, king of the extensive territory of Bamangwato; this great chief was reported to be in possession of large quantities of ivory, and as I had brought a number of muskets and other articles for barter, I was anxious to push on and conclude my trading before resuming elephant-hunting; more especially since it was not improbable that, having once led the way, other adventurers might follow in my track, and perhaps spoil my market. Taking this into consideration, I marched on the morning of the 30th upon the kraal of Sicomy, and held for the Bamangwato mountains, the summits of which we could see peering above the intervening forest in an easterly direction. On our march we passed near to the carcase of the elephant which I had slain three days before; the number of vultures congregated here was truly wonderful—my guides had baked a part of the trunk and two of the feet, and these they now brought to the waggons. It was always to me a source of great pleasure to reflect that, while enriching myself in following my favourite pursuit of elephant-hunting, I was frequently feeding and making happy the starving families of hundreds of the Bechuana and Bakalahari tribes, who invariably followed my waggons, and assisted me in hunting, in numbers varying from fifty to two hundred. These men were often accompanied by their wives and families, and when an elephant or other large animal was slain, all hands repaired to the spot, when every inch of flesh was reduced to biltongue, viz. cut into long narrow strips, hung in festoons upon poles, and dried in the sun: sometimes even the entrails were not left for the vultures and hyenas, the very bones being chopped to pieces with their hatchets to obtain the marrow, with which they enriched their soup.

On the 1st of July we inspanned at dawn, and late in the afternoon reached Lesausau, having performed an extremely arduous and fatiguing march. Our route during the greater part of the day lay through dense jungle and thorny thickets, where it was necessary to clear a way with our axes before the waggons could pass; the ground, in many places extremely rocky, threatened the destruction of my wheels and axletrees, and caused us much labour, it being indispensable



to remove the masses of rock. On nearing Lesausau we entered upon a broad level strath, adorned throughout its length and breadth with a variety of picturesque acacia and other trees, which stood at intervals as if they had been planted by the hand of man; on either side the mountains rose abruptly from the plain, and assumed a very bold and striking appearance, their sides and summits consisting of huge masses of rock piled one above another, some of which seemed so balanced upon their exalted and narrow pedestals,

“As if an infant’s touch could urge  
Their headlong passage down the verge.”

A light and feathery fringe of dwarfish trees and varieties of gigantic cacti adorned the sides and upper ridges of these rugged hills, and, as we proceeded, I observed finely wooded wild ravines stretching away into the bosom of the mountains.

Here we were joined by three of Sicomy’s men, who informed us that they were in daily apprehension of an attack from the Matabili, and in consequence of this that chief and all his tribe had forsaken their kraals, and were now living in caves and other secluded retreats in the sides and on the summits of the mountains. Leading us round the base of a bold projecting rock, we came to a wild and well-wooded ravine, in which there were no traces of men; but on raising our eyes, we perceived the mountain tops covered with women and children, and very soon detached parties of Sicomy’s warriors came pouring in from different directions, to gaze upon the white man, I being the first that many of them had seen. These men were all armed and ready for action, each bearing an oval shield of ox, buffalo, or camelopard’s hide, a battle-axe, and three or four assagais; they wore karosses of jackal’s and leopard’s skins, which hung gracefully from their shoulders, and many of them sported a round tuft of black ostrich-feathers on their heads, while others had adorned their woolly hair with one or two wavy plumes of white ones—both men and women wore abundance of the usual ornaments of beads and brass and copper wire.

We were presently met by a messenger from Sicomy, saying the king was happy we had arrived, and that he would shortly

come to see me. We proceeded up the bold and narrow ravine of Lesausau as far as it was practicable, the water being at its upper extremity; and soon after we had encamped Sicomy drew nigh, accompanied by a large retinue of his principal men and warriors. He was of middle stature, and appeared to be about thirty years of age; his distinguishing feature was a wall-eye, which gave his countenance a roguish look that did not belie the cunning and deceitful character of the man. As he came up to the waggons I met and shook hands with him, and invited him to partake of coffee; and though I could see he was enchanted at my arrival, he assumed an abrupt and rather dictatorial manner, occasionally turning round and cracking jokes with his councillors and nobility, and talking at a very rapid pace. He was very anxious to ascertain from Isaac the contents of the waggons, and said that he would buy everything I had brought, and give me a large bull elephant's tusk for each of my muskets.

This was a fishing remark to hear what I should say; so I replied that the muskets cost many teeth in my own country, and I had not stolen them; for I resolved to maintain a firm and independent manner in my dealings, treating him at the same time with the utmost affability. I told him that other men feared to come so far to trade with him, but that his friend Dr. Livingstone had recommended me to do so, and that I was the bearer of a present from him. I then gave it him, with another from myself, consisting of beads, snuff, and ammunition. It amused me to observe the timid and cringing demeanour of the men of Booby when seated in the presence of the king; approaching him with the utmost humility, they saluted him by stretching out their hands and clapping the palms together, saying at the same time, "Rumèla, cosi!" signifying, Hail, king! which his majesty was graciously pleased to acknowledge by squinting at them with his cock-eye, and saying "Eh!" which is the invariable Bechuana acknowledgment of a salutation. The natives acknowledged mine by saying, "Eh! keitumèla, cosi a Machoa," signifying, "Eh! thank you, king of the white men." Having saluted the king, the Booby men at once proceeded to expatiate upon the difficulty they had had in prevailing upon the great white

man to visit his dominions, and the meritorious manner in which they had conducted me thither, for which his majesty expressed his gratitude, and ordered "boyalwa," or native beer, to be placed before them. Sicomy remained long at the waggon, engaged in deep and constant conversation with my interpreter and several of his elder councillors, and at a late hour departed, promising to visit us early on the following day; fearing, however, that any of his people might come and trade with me during his absence, he instructed his uncle Mutchuisho, with a retinue, to remain beside the waggon during the night.

At an early hour the king made his appearance, attended by a number of his warriors, all carrying their battle-gear; I was still in bed, and seeing his majesty peeping into my waggon, pretended to be asleep. Presently I observed a savage coming up the glen bearing on his shoulders a bull elephant's tooth, which he laid under the waggon. Coffee was now announced, so I arose, and the king breakfasted with me. I had resolved to say as little as possible about the ivory, and to appear very indifferent, a system indispensable in trading with the natives, which at all times progresses slowly, but much more so if the trader allows them to imagine he is very anxious to obtain possession of their goods. In dealing with the Bechuanas the most difficult point is agreeing about the price of any article in the first instance; but when business has once commenced, and the natives are satisfied with the price, exchanges are effected rapidly. The trader should ask a little more than he expects to get, that he may appear to yield to their importunity, otherwise they would not deal with him. They never conclude a bargain in a hurry, and always deem it necessary to ask the advice of nearly every one present before they can make up their minds; and should any one individual disapprove of the bargain, barter is for the time at an end.

I have more than once been prevented from effecting a sale, which I had all but concluded, by some old wife, who happened to be passing at the moment, exclaiming that I was too high in my prices, although she was perfectly ignorant of the terms of our transaction.

While Sicomy was taking his coffee, he told me he had despatched men to bring elephants' teeth, which he said were at a distance, and that he would purchase everything as quickly as possible, that I might be enabled to leave the country before the Matabili should come. The rumour about that tribe I at the time suspected to be a fabrication, but subsequently ascertained it was a fact.

In the forenoon I occupied myself in writing my journal, and could see that the king was annoyed at my indifference about trading; at length he asked me to come out of the waggon, saying he had brought a present for me, and he produced the elephant's tusk which lay beneath the vehicle. Having thanked him, I expressed myself satisfied with his gift, and in return immediately presented him with what he considered an equivalent in beads. He now asked me the price of my muskets, and I answered four large bull elephant's teeth for each, upon which he retired to an adjacent grove, where he sat consulting with his councillors for hours. Two men at length appeared, coming from opposite directions, each bearing a bull's tooth. When they arrived, Sicomy ordered the teeth to be placed before me, and calling Isaac, inflicted on me a long harangue, talking all manner of nonsense, and endeavouring to obtain a musket for the two, adding subsequently a third, but a much smaller one. After much chaffering till it was near sunset, he once more offered me two tusks for a gun, said he was going home, and that he did not know if he should come again. I replied that I had never asked him to purchase anything, and was perfectly indifferent whether he did or not; that there were other chiefs who were anxious to purchase my goods, and that my reason for visiting his territory was to enjoy the sport of elephant-hunting. Having thus spoken, I wished him good evening, and, shouldering my rifle, stalked up the rocky ravine.

At an early hour Sicomy was again at the waggons; and having breakfasted, commenced where he had left off on the previous day; after a protracted discussion, the third tusk was produced, when I handed him a musket. He next bothered me for a bullet-mould, which having received, he insisted on my giving him a lead-ladle. This I said I could

not give him with one gun, but promised if he dealt liberally with me he should have one; he continued his importunity about the ladle till late in the afternoon, when he began to talk about buying a second gun. Three more tusks were brought, and we had nearly come to an agreement, when some of his councillors told him that he ought to have had powder and bullets with the first gun. He continued to pester me and harp on this string till a late hour, when I told him that if he thought he had given too much for the gun he had better return it, and take away his tusks; and having consulted a short time with his wise men, he did so. I then shouldered my rifle, and held for the wells, to give the dogs water. They were situated at a great distance from camp, and yielded a very moderate supply. Here I met with large parties of the Bamangwato women drawing water, which they bore in earthen vessels balanced on their heads to their elevated retreats in the mountains. The pits where my cattle drank were also distant from the waggons, and did not yield a sufficient quantity, the consequence of which was that my horses and oxen had already sadly fallen off in condition; in this state of things I resolved that my stay at Bamangwato should not exceed another day, and determined if possible to come to terms with Sicomy on the following morning. On returning to camp, Carollus reported half the oxen missing, which threw me into a state of great alarm; I at once suspected treachery, and well knew that if Sicomy had taken them they would not easily be recovered. I instantly despatched two mounted men in different directions, with instructions to ride hard and seek the spoor; they returned at a late hour, having found them.

On reviewing my prospects of trading I could not help feeling annoyed at the dilatory mode in which it progressed; for this, however, there was no help, and on the following day I reaped the benefit of my policy.

Although I voted these matters an immense bore, it was nevertheless well worth a little time and inconvenience, on account of the enormous profit I should realise; I had paid 16*l.* for a case containing twenty muskets, while the value of the ivory I demanded for each firelock was upwards of 30*l.*

being about 300 per cent., which I am informed is reckoned among mercantile men to be a very fair profit. Sicomy was in those days possessed of very large quantities of splendid ivory, and a great deal still passes annually through his hands. Since I first visited Bamangwato, and taught the natives the use of fire-arms, they have learnt to kill the elephant themselves; but previous to my arrival they were utterly incapable of subduing a full-grown elephant, even by the united exertions of the whole tribe. All the ivory which Sicomy then had, and much of what he probably has now, is from elephants slain with assagais by an active and daring race of Bushmen inhabiting very remote regions to the north and north-west of Bamangwato.

He obtained this ivory for a few beads, and then compelled some of the poor Bakalahari, or wild natives of the desert (over whom he conceives he has a perfect right to tyrannize), to bear it on their shoulders across extensive deserts of burning sand to his head-quarters at Bamangwato; so great was the fatigue endured by these poor creatures while so employed that many of them continually died on the way. At an early hour on the 4th, Sicomy not appearing, I proceeded to his residence, accompanied by Isaac and a party of his own men, and after a long and weary walk up the mountain-side and through masses of rock, we reached the chief's temporary retreat; this consisted of a small circular hut, composed of a framework of boughs of trees, interlined with twigs and covered with grass. A number of similar ones were erected around the royal dwelling, on spots which his men had cleared among the rocks; this kraal, however, was the abode of only a very small part of his tribe, which was extensively scattered over different parts of the mountain range, and occupied sundry distant cattle outposts.

I found Sicomy seated before his wigwam, in earnest conversation with his councillors, and informed him that, owing to the scarcity of water at Lessausau, I could not prolong my visit, that I had come to take my leave, and had brought him a few presents. He thanked me, and said he was happy that I had visited his country; but that one thing made his heart sore, viz., that we had not been able to trade. I replied that

that was his fault, for I had offered him my goods on the same liberal terms I had done to others, but that I was still willing to deal with him, if he would do so fairly. We then all started for the waggons, where the barter went on briskly. The king continued drinking coffee and taking snuff at a tremendous rate, and large bowls of his boyalwa were freely circulated throughout the day. He gave me three bull's tusks for each of the first two muskets, I giving him some powder and lead to boot; after which the price fell to two tusks for each musket. With this rate of exchange the whole assembly seemed perfectly satisfied, and the trading went on without a murmur. Athletic savages were constantly coming and going throughout the day in three different directions, bearing on their shoulders the precious spoils of the elephants of the Kalahari; and when the sun went down all my muskets were disposed of, and I found myself in the possession of a very valuable lot of ivory. I also effected several exchanges of beads and ammunition for the tusks of cow-elephants. I had resolved to purchase fine specimens of the native costume and arms, &c; but ivory being the most important article, I thought it best to defer all minor transactions until our trade in that was concluded. The king seemed highly delighted with his purchases, and insisted on discharging each musket as he bought it—throwing back his kaross, and applying the stock to his naked shoulder, he shut his good eye, and kept the wall-eye open, to the intense amusement of the Hottentots, who were his instructors on the occasion. Each report caused the utmost excitement among the warriors, who pressed forward and requested that they also might be permitted to try their skill with these novel implements of war.

The king had a most wonderful knobkerry, which I was determined, if possible, to obtain; it was made of the horn of the kobaoba, a very rare species of the rhinoceros, and of extraordinary length, greatly exceeding anything I had seen of the kind before, or have ever met with since. Handing Sicomy my snuff-box, I pointed to the kerry, and asked him where the kobaoba had been killed. He answered it had been seen by a chief who resided at an amazing distance on the borders of the Lake of Boats. I then asked him to give it to

me to keep in remembrance of him; but he replied that it belonged to his wife, and he could not part with it. Presently, however, while sipping his coffee, he said that if I chose I might purchase it, if I would fill the cup which he then held with gunpowder. Accordingly, when his majesty had drained it, I handed him the powder, and became possessor of the kobaoba kerry, which I still have, and on which I place a very great value. It was now night, and the king with his suite bivouacked round the watch-fires which the Bechuanas invariably keep up. Their beds were of long dried grass, and the bivouac was fenced in by a hedge of thorny branches.

At an early hour next morning I obtained some very fine specimens of karosses and Bechuana arms: about these, as with the ivory, there was considerable haggling, and I paid them long prices for their "chakas" or battle-axes, on which all the Bechuana tribes place a very great value.

I had intended to penetrate beyond Bamangwato; but partly owing to gross misrepresentations made to me by Isaac relative to Sicomy's wishes on the subject, and partly to the threatened attack from the Matabili, I resolved for the present not to extend my peregrinations further, and hunt for the remainder of the season the fine country between Bamangwato and Siebely's mountains.



## CHAPTER XV.

TAKE LEAVE OF SICOMY—DIGGING FOR WATER—ROAN ANTELOPE—  
SICOMY'S CAMP AGAIN—BULL ELEPHANT.

ABOUT eleven o'clock A.M. on the 5th of July, everything being ready, I took leave of Sicomy and retraced my steps to Corriebely. It caused me much pain and anxiety to observe that my cattle were extremely hollow-looking and spiritless from want of water; not one of them having had a sufficiency of that essential of life since they left, and several were so distressed that I entertained considerable fears of their being able to reach that fountain. I was accompanied by a small party of Sicomy's men, who followed me in the hope of obtaining flesh, and having proceeded about a mile missed my greyhound Flam, which had been doubtless stolen by the king's orders, his predilection for that kind of dog being notorious. After trekking about six miles we reached a deep gravel-hole beside a mass of red granite rock, at the bottom of which was about a bucketful of spring water, and the fountain of Corriebely being still very distant, I set hard to work with all my followers to remove the gravel, and had the satisfaction to discover a small spring of excellent water, which issued from beneath the granite rock and ran as fast as we could catch it in our pails. This opportune supply of water was to me invaluable, my poor dogs, as well as the cattle, being much distressed.

Revived in spirits we continued our journey, and at sundown halted about half-way to Corriebely, reaching it about ten o'clock on the following morning, most thankful to have succeeded in bringing all my wretched cattle alive to a fountain where they could drink their fill. While we were at breakfast three of Sicomy's men approached, leading my greyhound.

In the afternoon we inspanned, and marched to the scene of the fall of my first elephant, where we halted for the night. On reaching Massouey I carefully examined the elephants' footpaths, and had almost made the circuit of the fountain, and hope had died within me, when, lo! there lay before me, broad and long, and fresh as fresh could be, the enormous spoor of two mighty bull elephants which had drunk there during the night. This was glorious! I had great faith in the sporing powers of the Bamangwato men, and felt certain that at length the day had arrived on which I was to kill my first bull elephant; the Bechuanas at once took up the spoor, and went ahead in a masterly manner, and with buoyant spirits I followed in their steps. The spoor led about due west, a direction in which I had not yet been; having followed it for many miles through a desert country, we reached a district where the berries to which Knop-kop is so partial grew in great abundance, and here the elephants had commenced feeding upon their roots, and ploughing up the sand extensively with their tusks. Their traces, old and new, extended on all sides, crossing and recrossing one another in every direction, and thus we eventually lost the spoor. After a fruitless search of several hours, and many vain endeavours to retrieve the day by trying back on the spoor and making wide casts to the right and left, I was completely beaten, and compelled to drop it, the Bechuanas sitting down and sulkily refusing to proceed farther. On the road home we came upon a herd of fifteen camelopards, and after a severe chase, during which they kept their line with a regularity worthy of a troop of dragoons, I succeeded in separating a fine bull, upwards of eighteen feet in height, and brought him to the ground within a short distance of the camp. The Bechuanas, delighted at my success, kindled a fire and slept beside the carcase, which they very soon reduced to biltongue and marrow-bones.

On the morning of the 8th I walked to the fountain, and examined the ground about it, but there was no fresh spoor. It was a charming cool day, with a fine bracing wind, the sky beautifully overcast with clouds, and as I rode along the elephants' footpaths after breakfast I perceived the marks of their strength in every grove, and all the large trees in the

vicinity of the muddy vleys, which at this season were dry, were plastered with sun-baked mud to a height of twelve feet from the ground.

In the evening I took my heavy single-barrelled rifle, and, sauntering towards the fountain, observed a large herd of blue wildebeests moving slowly up the vley to drink. I accordingly lay flat on the ground behind a low bush near which they must pass, and presently raised my head to see how they were advancing, when I perceived a pair of the rare and beautiful roan antelope or bastard gemsbok warily approaching within a hundred and twenty yards of me. Selecting the buck, I let fly, and missed. The whole herd of wildebeests now wheeled to the right-about, and, enveloped in a cloud of dust, thundered down the vley; but the two roan antelopes, which had probably never before heard the report of a gun, stood looking about them, while I hastily reloaded. This being accomplished, I again let fly, and the old buck dropped to the shot; the ball entered his shoulder, and he lay kicking and roaring until I had almost reloaded, when he regained his feet and made off after his comrade. At this moment Argyll and Bonteberg, two right good dogs, having heard the shots, and perceived the bastard gemsboks, gave chase, and, to my surprise, the wounded buck, instead of turning to bay, set off at a rapid pace. It was now almost dark, but I followed in the direction he had taken; suddenly I heard a rushing noise, and in another instant the wounded antelope met me face to face, closely pursued by five of the dogs. He was making for the water, where he would have bayed, had I not unluckily turned him; my rifle also was in its holster, which prevented my firing, so the buck held close past the waggons, where more dogs joined the pack.

On reaching the camp I found that Kleinboy had seen the chase and followed, and soon after he returned breathless to the waggons, with the news that the antelope was at bay beyond a low ridge within half a mile of camp, and killing the dogs right and left. Seizing my rifle, I accompanied him towards the spot, and soon heard the music of my pack, and found the bastard gemsbok lying beside a bush with the dogs barking round him. Three of them that followed me from camp, see-

ing the buck lying, rushed in upon him, when he struck furiously right and left, killed one dead on the spot, and severely wounded another behind the shoulder; these were Vitfoot and Argyll, two of my best hounds. Again he struck right and left, and knocked over Wolf and Flam with amazing violence, severely injuring them; he had killed Bles, my stoutest and fiercest dog, before I came up, the horn having entered his heart. It was a long time before I could fire, for the night was dark, and the gemsbok lay on the ground, with the surviving dogs still pressing close upon him; at length he stood up, when I shot him dead with a single barrel: he proved to be the wounded buck, having received my first ball in the shoulder. This was a first-rate specimen of the roan antelope, and carried a pair of superb scimitar-shaped horns, which were long and fairly set, and beautifully knotted. Before leaving Massouey two more noble giraffes fell before my rifle, also several fat elands and other varieties of game.

After remaining in the neighbourhood of the fountain several days, and finding it entirely deserted by the elephants, I determined to retrace my steps and seek for them beyond Bamangwato, for I found that I had been grossly deceived, and that the king was most anxious I should hunt in his country; accordingly on the 18th we again came to the camp of Sicomy upon the Rocky Mountains. I found the king seated beneath a low shady tree, with a few friends and some of his wives; a number of splendid koodoos' skulls and horns lay rotting about the kraal, among which were several pairs exceeding in size any I had yet beheld. The view in a south-east direction was commanding. From the base of the mountain stretched a dead level park through a bold opening in the range, with groves and forest-trees extending without the slightest break or change as far as I could see; the scene exactly resembled the ocean when viewed from the summit of some bold cliff standing near its shore. Having partaken of the royal malt and hops, we continued our march along the park accompanied by Sicomy's brother, and on looking behind me as we rode I saw many of the natives following in our wake, and small detached parties pouring down from the rocks and glens on every side, until my suite exceeded two hundred men,