decided advantage over them. Unless the cattle fly from them, they are not in much danger, particularly when several of them are together; for the hyenas are afraid of their horns, and never assail them but on the flank or rear; and even after they are severely bitten, large cattle or horses often make their escape from their huge jaws, which leave their marks ever afterwards. Horses generally run from them; but if they are shackled in the manner of the colony, (having their necks tied by a leathern thong to one leg,) finding that they have no chance of escape by flight, they turn round and face their enemy, when the dastardly hyena sheers off with a sulky growl. This is a most fortunate circumstance for the colonists, as they are often obliged, in travelling, to turn out their horses to graze through the night.

The hyenas in their predatory excursions are generally alone or in pairs. By the accounts of the old Hottentots, they seem to have been less in dread of man formerly, before fire-arms became common in this part of the colony. It is even said that they sometimes entered their huts and carried off their children. This I can rea-

dily believe, from the known boldness and ferocity of these animals near Port Natal, where the inhabitants live in great fear of them, and never venture to travel alone during the night.*

Hyenas are often hunted in the colony by tracking them to their dens in the mountains, and shooting them as they endeavour to make their escape. The colonists sometimes even catch them napping; and, while the foremost hunter enters their dark cave, the hyena continues glaring with affright at the torch which he carries in his left hand, while he delibe-

* Fire-arms have, indeed, wrought a great change in the character of many wild animals in Britain as well as in South Africa. A few years ago I visited the little island of Papa Westray in Orkney, where, on a small uninhabited islet adjoining, hundreds of seals were lying on the grass near the beach, which were so tame that they allowed us to come within forty paces of them before they attempted to move; and, when they at last took to their native element, they continued calmly looking at us with their heads above the water, only diving when we threw stones at them. This extreme tameness was simply owing to the proprietor never permitting a gun to be fired on the island. He caught great numbers of them for their skins and oil, by anchoring nets in the shallow water along the beach, in which they entangled themselves when they were driven into the water. He also got immense quantities of the eggs of gulls, and other sea birds, which were also exceedingly tame.

rately stabs it to the heart with a long knife. Many more are caught alive in traps, or wolf-houses, as they are called. These traps are generally constructed of wood, by fixing strong sticks in the ground, meeting at top like the roof of a house. They have either one or two doors at the ends, which, by means of a lever, are contrived to fall as soon as the animal seizes the bait, which is suspended in the inside. The hyena is exceedingly cunning and suspicious, particularly after an unsuccessful attempt to ensnare him; and it is therefore the better plan to have a door at each end of the trap, which gives him more confidence to enter. I have often known them go round and round a baited trap, and not venture within the doorway.

When a hyena is secured in this way, the Dutch colonists, to revenge themselves on the misdeeds of his species, indulge in a cruel sport at the expense of their captured enemy. They get hold of one of his hind legs, and, drawing it between the bars of his trap, cut a hole through the sinew above the joint, and fix a heavy waggon chain to it, and then raising the

door, turn him out and worry him with dogs, and stab him with bayonets and knives, until he is dead.

This savage and dastardly amusement would, I have no doubt, prove highly interesting to the cock-fighters of our own country; and as they profess to love the British amusement merely for the pleasure of betting, they might exercise their sagacity in nicely calculating the time and number of stabs requisite to terminate the hyena's existence.

These Cape wolves often carry away the bullocks' hides which are pinned out on the ground to dry, and, after devouring as much as they want of their tough prize, bury the remainder under the water in some rivulet. This manner of securing their plunder shows great sagacity, as in any other situation it could not escape the keen scent of other wild animals. They are frequently driven to great straits for want of food, and on these occasions devour grass, hair, and other indigestible substances. When the hyena is first roused by the hunters from his retreat in the rocks, he is exceedingly stiff and lazy, and it is some time before his

joints gain their suppleness, when he scampers over hill and dale with great speed. In the course of their nightly perambulations, they go over a very great extent of country,—I should suppose at least forty or fifty miles, and often much more.

The hyenas that retreat during the day to holes in the ground, seldom, if ever, excavate them for themselves, but profit by the labours of the ant-bears, which are much better furnished with strong claws for penetrating the indurated clay of a dry climate. The ant-bear, in the same manner, is often indebted to the porcupines for breaking the harder surface of the ground and tearing up the tough roots of grass, on which his claws, from their peculiar formation, could take but small effect.

When the hole is sufficiently enlarged by the hyena to form a roomy space suitable to its habits in the interior, the ant-bear is compelled to resign his domicile to the savage intruder, with whom he finds that he cannot associate on equal terms. But the porcupine, which is still more destructive to the gardens of the farmers than the hyena is to their flocks, forms

a little ante-chamber to himself in the side of the hole; and, protected by his prickly hide, is enabled to keep his ground, much in the same manner as a testy little man bristles up and retains his place in society in defiance of some gigantic bully who looks as if he could swallow him up at a mouthful.

I have read in the works of some traveller that the Cape wolf imitates the lowing of cattle to decoy them into his power. I never could perceive this resemblance myself, and I believe it only existed in their own imaginations; but if there is any, he is certainly eminently unsuccessful in the exercise of his oratorical powers, as the cattle instantly recognise his uncouth voice, and make off as he approaches, or prepare for resistance by throwing themselves into a solid mass with the calves and weaker cattle in the centre, and presenting an impenetrable barrier of huge horns towards their invader.

The farmers often teach their cattle to resist the attacks of the hyena by setting their dogs on them, and by imitating the howl of the animal; which, by eliciting their natural cou-

rage, and showing them the use of their horns, accustom them to defend themselves from their wily but cowardly enemy.

The only other animal destructive to the larger description of cattle to be found in this part of the colony is the wild dog.

There are two species of wild dogs in the colony. The larger, if not the smaller kind also, is now, I believe, considered by naturalists as a species of hyena. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to give any opinion on the propriety of the place assigned to them, but there is a manifest difference in the habits of the hyenas and the wild dogs; as the former confine their depredations to the night-time, and the latter always hunt in packs during the day.

The wild dogs are most destructive to sheep and goats; but they sometimes kill cows and oxen. As the hyena generally assaults the larger cattle in the flank, where his huge jaws can best take effect, the wild dog constantly attacks them under the tail, and renews his efforts until he succeeds in tearing out their entrails. When a troop of the latter attack a

flock of sheep, and they see people coming to the rescue, they bite right and left among the flock in order to do as much damage as possible, in hopes that more will fall to their share afterwards. In hunting antelopes they spread themselves over the country and act in concert, relieving each other in the chase until they tire out their prey; thus making up by cunning for their want of speed.

The wild dog appears to me to form the intermediate link between the hyena and common dog. I have often seen them domesticated, but they never lose their destructive propensities. When tamed, they also breed with the dogs of the farmers, and produce a race of ill-looking mongrels which are very far from bearing a good character in the colony.

Jackals are exceedingly numerous in Swellendam and most of the other districts of the colony, and, like the hyenas, seem to increase with the population, particularly in the sheep countries. They are about the size of the common fox, which they greatly resemble in appearance. As soon as the sun goes down, several of them assemble and set up a squall resem-

bling a concert of cats, such as we are often serenaded with in the back-yards of a street in the metropolis, and which they continue at intervals throughout the night.

These jackals prey on young antelopes and sheep which happen to have been left out at night. I have never known them kill poultry, nor do they appear to resort to the finesse and cunning of the fox. They conceal themselves in holes in the ground, like the hyena, but are often seen in the daytime. I once found a litter of young ones, and kept one of them for several months. Though I confined him in a dark chamber for some time, he continued to set up his peculiar squall regularly every evening as the sun went down. In time, he became tolerably tame and very playful; but his temper was exceedingly irritable, as his sharp teeth often made me feel to my cost.

Among the many four-footed enemies the colonists are annoyed with, the "mousehond" is the most troublesome. This animal, which is of the weasel kind, is about three feet in length: it commits great havoc among the poultry every night if they are not well secured,

for its long thin body enables it to creep through a very small opening in the door or walls of a house; and it is much more destructive than the foxes of Europe. In the fields this little creature preys on rats, mice, birds, moles, &c. &c.

The most common kind of mousehond is of a light grey colour, and the skin has a strong odour resembling musk. Another species is grey with black spots, and has a bag under the tail containing a liquid of the same odour. There are also numbers of wild cats, which are nearly as destructive to poultry as the animals already mentioned.

As the farm stock of the colonists are exposed to the attacks of many wild animals, their gardens are no less liable to the nocturnal visits of the porcupines, which force their way through the thickest hedges, or undermine the earthen enclosures that surround them, making sad havoc among pumpkins, melons, potatoes, and Indian corn. We frequently hunted these animals with dogs in the moonlight nights, and they afforded excellent sport.

We were always armed on these occasions

with bayonets fixed on long sticks; and it required some quickness in the use of our weapons to prevent the animal from running against our legs with their sharp quills, which they have a trick of doing, and to avoid tumbling over them in the confusion, which would be attended with very disagreeable consequences. In flapping their quills, it often happens that some of them fly out with great force; which circumstance has given rise to the story of their darting them at their enemies.

On one occasion, I recollect one of our people getting wounded through the flesh of the leg by one of these strong spines, which are as sharp at the point as a needle. The poor dogs are generally the greatest sufferers in these porcupine hunts, often getting their mouths and heads stuck full of the quills in attempting to get hold of them. Experience, however, teaches them caution; and a knowing old dog will get his head under the porcupine, and, seizing him by the leg, throw him on his back, when he soon makes an end of him by biting him in the breast, where there are no quills, or at all events can hold him till one of the hunters comes up

with his spear. The flesh of a young porcupine is excellent eating, and very nutritious. The flavour is something between pork and fowl. To be cooked properly, it should be boiled first, and afterwards roasted. This is necessary to soften the thick gristly skin, which is the best part of the animal. The flesh of the porcupine is said to be used by the Italians as a stimulant; but never having tasted it myself, I cannot speak from experience as to the virtue of this kind of food.

CHAPTER XII.

Passion for Field-Sports in England. — Discontent of the Lower Classes.—Amusements of South Africa. — Resorts of the Wild Boar.—Mode of hunting the Animal.—Excellent Sport.—Excursions in quest of Wild Pigs.—Picture of a Dutch Wife.—An Avaricious Colonist—Proceedings of his Nephews. — Advantageous Traffic. — Successful Manœuvre.

HAVING described the most destructive quadrupeds in this part of the settlement, I shall now give the reader some account of the animals that contribute most to the delight of the colonists in hunting, which here constitutes their principal recreation.

Hunting and shooting in our own country are generally resorted to as mere amusements by people who have no regular employment; but the pleasure attending such diversions must, to every reflecting mind, be alloyed with a painful sense of the many valuable hours misspent

in a pursuit which can hardly be said to benefit themselves, or mankind.

It is, indeed, much to be lamented that the inordinate passion for field-sports in England which pervades a great proportion of the higher classes, should, instead of an agreeable relaxation, become a serious business of life, to the total neglect, in many instances, of its important occupations and duties; and that so many men of excellent abilities should sacrifice their talents, energies, and wealth, to a frivolous and too often vicious pursuit of mere pleasure.

Such is the contagious effect of fashion and example, that a man in easy circumstances, if he has courage to admit that he takes little pleasure in such amusements, is looked upon with a species of contempt by others of the same class in society. This is one of the moral diseases of England which has grown out of the unequal division of property. While the agricultural population are groaning under hopeless poverty, we see very many of the great landholders spending their time between the dissipation of the metropolis, supporting by their extravagance a still more vicious population,

and the frivolous though less dissolute amusements of the country. Need we, therefore, wonder at the discontent of the lower classes in Great Britain, or the unpopularity of certain among the aristocracy?

The diversions of South Africa are free from many of these objections. Very few of the colonists are in such circumstances, or can find leisure from their more important avocations, to indulge in any amusements to an undue degree. Their farms require constant personal superintendence: and when they do indulge in the favourite sports of the country, it is at times when they have no more useful occupations. In hunting the wild animals they feel that they are usefully employed, either in ridding the earth of dangerous and destructive creatures, or in providing food for their families, and thus economizing their other means of support. I would not exchange the pleasure of destroying a leopard, hyena, or poisonous snake, for all the harmless game that Britain contains, —because I feel that while I gratify that innate destructive propensity which is natural to man, I free my neighbours from a dangerous animal.

In the woody ravines in the mountains of Swellendam there are many wild boars, which generally keep close in the jungles during the day, but at night descend to the valleys, and do no small damage to the Indian corn and vegetables of the farmers when they can get at them. My brother's garden, which was in the bottom of one of these woody ravines, was one of their favourite resorts; and here I often used to lie in wait for them with my gun behind one of the trees, taking care to observe the direction of the wind: for, like all the other wild animals, their sense of smell is exceedingly acute, and if one happens to be to windward of them, they instantly make off.

I was not often successful in this mode of making war upon them, from the difficulty of taking a good aim at night; and unless they are mortally wounded by the first discharge, they either get clear off to the bushes, or are too dangerous to approach in the dark. These creatures have very large tusks, with which they can break a man's leg at a stroke. They are generally hunted in the daytime with dogs, and afford a most excellent and exciting sport, in which

there is just danger enough to render it highly interesting, and to make the hunters keep on the alert.

Soon after my arrival at Groot Vaders Bosch, we had an excellent hunt of this animal. The best qualities a dog can have for boar-hunting are, a good nose, and strong jaws to keep a firm hold of the animal's ear to enable the hunters to approach with less risk.

My brother had a common mongrel which was famed in the vicinity for these useful qualities; and the Dutchmen near us often proposed hunting-parties, when our dog had ample opportunities of showing his courage and address.

One day, about a dozen of our neighbours assembled at our house with a number of dogs of all colours and sizes, and, after being refreshed with a "soupie," or dram of raw Cape brandy, which they prefer to every other liquor, we all proceeded, some mounted and others on foot, to beat the bushes along the margin of a little stream near the house, where the fresh tracks of a wild boar had been seen in the morning.

I was a little out of humour with our Dutch

friends, one of whom had dexterously purloined a leathern bag I had just manufactured for the occasion to hold my rifle balls. Though I had a pretty good guess who was the thief, I did not wish to destroy the harmony of the party by demanding restitution; and our subsequent sport perfectly restored my equanimity.

The dogs soon roused a huge boar from his lair among the thick bushes on the banks of the rivulet, and he made a violent rush through the midst of the hunters with all the yelping crew at his heels. He soon gained a little open plain at the base of the mountains, and ran with such speed that none of the dogs could overtake him. Some of us fired at him without effect; but, as he ascended a sloping path in the face of the mountain, his speed began to slacken, and we were in hopes that he would soon be brought to bay. We all followed pell-mell as fast as our horses or legs could carry us.

The dogs had by this time overtaken the boar, who made a desperate resistance, striking right and left with his tusks among his assailants, and succeeded in disabling or scaring some

of the boldest among them who attempted to seize him by the ears.

The Dutchmen shouted and swore the most uncouth left-handed oaths to encourage their dismayed hounds to renew the combat; but without effect. The grizzly monster, taking advantage of the short truce, continued his flight. By this time, however, he was a good deal exhausted with his exertions in the steep ascent, and was glad to take shelter in a clump of thick brushwood, where we overtook him and renewed the fight immediately, that he might get no time to recover his strength. As his legs failed him, his ferocity increased; and not one of our dogs could keep his hold. They still, however, gave him no breathing time; and we shot at him whenever he could be seen among the bushes. He could not, however, be fired at in his present situation without great risk of killing some of the dogs that surrounded him on all sides.

The Dutchmen, who pique themselves exceedingly on their shooting, never discharged their guns without swearing that they hit him. One declared he had shot him through the left

ear; another regretted that he had not taken his aim an inch or two farther to the right hand; a third cursed his gun for hanging fire. For my own part, I continued firing as well as I could, never expecting to get any chance among such admirable marksmen, as in my simplicity I then deemed them; and who, to believe their own accounts, could hear the balls strike the boar's skin at every shot.

My brother's dog, on whose courage so much reliance was placed, had made many attempts to seize the enraged animal by the ear; but he shook him off with ease, each time retreating backwards into the thickest part of the bushes, but still boldly facing his foes.

We at last succeeded in driving him from his hold, when he again set off at full speed down the path by which he had ascended. He returned to the margin of the rivulet where we had first started him; and the dogs again brought him to bay in a little bushy flat, surrounded by the high banks of the stream, on which we took up our stand and had a fine view of the sport.

The poor animal was now much exhausted,

and seemed to feel that his life was drawing to a close. Planting himself against a thick bush, he continued boldly to face his pursuers, sending the foremost of the dogs yelping away with a dreadful gash in his side from a stroke of his huge tusk. At length, quitting his position, he slowly ascended the bank at the point where my brother had taken his stand, but who could not see for the bushes. I called out, to make him aware of the animal's approach. As soon as he saw him emerge from the bushes, he levelled his rifle, and allowing the creature to come within a few yards of the edge of the bank, shot him through the shoulder and heart.

The boar rolled down to the bottom of the bank, where we cut off his head, which fell to my brother's share, according to the common usage in such cases. On examining the carcass, to my astonishment we found that the beast had received only one wound, to the great mortification of the Dutchmen, who could not conceal their chagrin at being outdone by a "stomme Englesman."

This was one of the strongest boars I have

ever seen; and it seldom happens that they afford such good sport. In most cases, the dogs soon secure them by the ears, so that the hunters can come up and shoot them at once, or disable them by hamstringing or stabbing them with a long knife without any considerable danger.

The Dutch have another curious mode of putting an end to them when they are not provided with a knife. As soon as the animal is secured between a couple of dogs, they cautiously approach him in the rear, and, seizing one of the hind legs to prevent him from turning, thrust an iron ramrod by main force through his body. This method is frequently resorted to merely to save a charge of powder and ball; for the careful Batavians calculate all expenses to the greatest nicety, never losing sight of their habitual economy.

When I could not make a party among our neighbours, I often went alone with my dogs in search of the wild pigs, following some of the long woody ravines in the face of the mountains.

During these solitary excursions I sometimes

called at the house of a Prussian settler, who had married a Cape-Dutch wife, the very opposite of everything elegant, feminine, or modest: she was, in fact, a sort of man-woman, with sinewy arms and a hard-featured countenance, which was moreover well furnished with a bristly beard. She was not, however, altogether devoid of the milk of human kindness; and, unamiable as she was in most respects, her hospitality and civility made some amends for her defects of character.

Our conversation often turned on hunting, in which she took great interest; and she related, with infinite delight, her feats in destroying the wild animals that daily and nightly infested her garden. One moonlight evening, she told me, when her husband was from home, her dogs had seized a wild pig that was committing sad ravages among her Indian corn and pumpkins. She no sooner heard the screams of the animal, than she rushed to the scene of action armed with a long knife. When she came to the spot, she found her enemy secured by the ears between two of the dogs, and making the glen resound with his cries. With-

out stopping to reflect on her danger, she instantly sprang on the captive, and plunged the blade of the knife in his heart's blood.

As she told her story, she flourished the knife in her hand in the most heroic manner, adapting the action to the word. I could not help recoiling from her during this recital with a mixed feeling of horror and fear, as if she would have served me as she did the pig, on the slightest provocation.

The reader will naturally wish to know what manner of being the husband of this virago might be. Probably he will picture him in his mind's eye as a weak, timid, pale-faced, tailor-looking man, yielding implicit obedience to his *stronger* half. Heyn Mülder, or, as he was commonly called, Old Heyn, was not a person of this description: he stood six feet high, and was extremely athletic. Old Heyn had never known his master in man or woman: he was hard and unyielding in his nature, cunning and tyrannical to his dependants.

The ruling passion of Heyn and his sleeping partner was avarice; every feeling was made to yield to this all-absorbing principle, and the

rest of mankind were only regarded by them both as fit subjects for the exercise of this propensity. A similarity of disposition, however, does not always secure tranquillity in the marriage state, where one of the parties must always submit; and old Heyn's spouse could not at all times bring her manly disposition to yield due obedience to the stern dictates of her husband.

On these occasions, Heyn never failed to make use of the all-persuasive powers of a trusty staff, which he always carried in his hand to quicken the movements of his refractory Hottentots.

One day, I surprised the couple in one of their toughest quarrels. Old Heyn was standing before the door brandishing his sapling over his head, while the gentle dame was laughing and taunting him from the branches of a tree in front of the house, whither she had fled for security.

As I approached, old Heyn put aside his wrath and came to greet me, observing, that "these d——d obstinate wives must be taught

to know their master." He then turned towards his offending fair one, who was now descending from her perch, and told her that the tree would not serve her turn another time, for he would cut it down rather than she should get the better of him, when he would pay her off all old scores.

The wife received this declaration with a laugh of scorn, telling him that she knew the old "schelm" too well to believe that he would sacrifice one of his best orange-trees on so slight a provocation.

The situation this loving couple had selected for their residence, besides commanding a fine spring to water their garden, was well suited to their unsocial and predatory dispositions: it lay in a sequestered nook between the mountains, and was barely accessible to wheel-carriages by a steep and rugged path, up which none but Heyn's oxen could draw a waggon. He had originally come out to the colony as a servant to the Dutch East India Company, and had for many years been employed in felling timber for their use in this

wild ravine, where he afterwards took up his abode when the term of his servitude had expired.

Like his natural brethren and neighbours, the hyenas, old Mülder was feared and hated by the Dutch colonists, who had often felt the strength of his arm and superior cunning, and besides regarded him as an interloper among them. He was universally denominated a "schelm," or rogue, which in Cape-Dutch phraseology is only a *comparative* term, and simply means that the old fox not only would not allow *himself* to be cheated, but took an active part in cheating his neighbours on all occasions.

As Heyn's years increased, he gradually began to be sensible of his lone and friendless condition, and often lamented to my brother that after the death of his wife and himself all his property, which had cost him so much toil to acquire, would go to the Government. He often also spoke of two nephews he had in Prussia, whom he wished to come out to the colony to assist him in his old age, and to inherit his property. Long, however, did his inclina-

tion contend with his avarice before he could summon resolution to part with a portion of his money to pay the expenses of the passage, to enable the young men to avail themselves of his kind intentions. The crafty old Heyn, who had much exaggerated his wealth to induce his nephews to emigrate at their own expense, never dreamed that the young blades might have a spice of his own character: the young men thinking, that if their uncle was really so wealthy as he represented himself, he might easily advance the necessary funds; and they steadily pleaded poverty as the only thing which kept them from joining their "dear uncle."

At an unlucky moment, Heyn actually put his hand in his pocket, and the nephews made their appearance in the colony. For a few months, all parties were pleased; old Mülder looked several years younger, and the youths were elated with their prospects: but the ruling passion and inveterate habits were not thus suddenly to be overcome. Heyn could not help seeing that he had now acquired a couple of domestic slaves bound to him by the strongest

of all ties—worldly interest: his avarice soon returned, and, while he exacted more and more labour from his expectant relatives, his wife gradually reduced the quality of their fare. For a time, they bore all this patiently; but, finding that their "dear uncle" was not likely to die so soon as they expected, their fierce northern blood at last rose up, and they made the country resound with their injuries.

Old Heyn discovered, when it was too late, that he had overbent the bow. It was now out of his power to retrace his steps; and the young men soon found advisers to put them on a plan of being revenged on the common enemy.

The Dutch laws in those days, if they might be made an engine of oppression against the poor and the helpless, were no less capable of being turned against the wealthy with equal effect. Lawyers must be paid by *somebody:* the young men were supposed to possess nothing, and old Heyn was believed to be rich. The nephews prosecuted him for wages: Heyn resisted, and had to pay the wages and the law expenses of a protracted suit, and was ruined.

His wealth, which, like a true worldling, he had exaggerated to increase his power, was very small; and, as often happens with men who think that cunning is wisdom, the very engine which he had used against others was at last turned against himself with unerring effect —*sic transit gloria mundi!*

Old Heyn Mülder, who possessed talents, energy and industry, and wanted only honesty and benevolence to make him a better and more fortunate man, was often to be seen hard at work in the fields, clad in leather trousers and a long slop frock, in the midst of his people, flinging his long staff at his Hottentots or oxen indifferently, as they incurred his indignation. He had always a barrel of Cape brandy in his house, which he retailed to the Hottentots, and managed to keep them constantly in his debt; by which means he was never without servants to assist him in his labours at the lowest wages. He often offered his estate for sale, but demanded an exorbitant price, insinuating at the same time that it possessed some mine which would realize a rapid fortune to the purchaser. This story was half

believed by his Dutch neighbours, who could not conceive how he had accumulated so much property from such small beginnings.

Heyn and his wife had often sent my brother little "presents," as they called them, of eggs and sundry other articles of small value, which he had repaid three-fold in brandy, wine, and European goods. Mülder, however, finding, when my brother was about to quit the district of Swellendam, that this advantageous traffic must cease, sent in a long account of the articles furnished, which amounted to a considerable sum, making no deduction for what he had received in return.

Unwilling to be imposed on in this impudent manner, the latter fell on a plan to meet the old fox's unconscionable demand. Finding that our neighbour had been in the habit of making use of an old dung-heap at the extremity of his estate which my brother had no occasion for, he made one of his people keep an account of the number of waggon-loads he carried away, and then sent him in a counter-claim, amounting to much more than the original demand.

This manœuvre completely established my brother's character among the neighbours as a man possessing *useful* talents; and even Heyn Mülder himself fairly admitted that he was outdone by the Englishman in his own craft.

CHAPTER XIII.

Different Species of Antelopes. — The "Bonte-bock," or Spotted Buck—Hunting the Animal prohibited.—Habits of the Rhee-bock—Mode of approaching them.—Shooting the "Duiker," or Diver.—Chase of the Grys-bock described.—Beauty of the Eyes of the Gazelle.—The Klip-springer.—An aged Hottentot.—Herds of Springbocks.—On the Instinct of the Antelope.—Distribution of the Brute Creation over the Earth.—On different Varieties of Animals.—Suppositions respecting the Flood.—Changes in the Earth's Surface.—Quadrupeds of New Holland.—Object of the Holy Scriptures.

THERE are several species of antelopes in the district of Swellendam. They all differ more or less in their natural habits, as well as in their external appearance: some are migratory — others are found only in certain situations in most of the different districts, or never quit some particular part of the colony.

The bonte-bock is one of the largest of the antelopes about Swellendam; but their numbers

are now reduced to a few herds which inhabit a small tract of country between the mountains and the sea-coast, and included between two streams, the Breede and the Duivenhoek rivers, as they are called, and are never found in any other part of the colony.

There is, indeed, another kind of antelope known by the name of bonte-bock, or spotted buck, on the frontiers of the settlement; but it is of a totally distinct species. The bonte-bocks feed together in herds of from ten to twenty in number. They are about three feet and a half in height. Their usual pace is a graceful canter, and they are not so difficult to approach as many of the other species. I can say little of the hunting of this animal, it having been forbidden by the Government under a severe penalty.

Such prohibitions, with the greater part of the colonists, only give an additional zest to the amusement, and act in a contrary manner to what was intended; as any man who should give information against a neighbour, would be regarded as a common enemy by the rest of the colonists. To use a vulgar phrase,

Government, like an individual, "should not show its teeth until it is ready to bite."

Much as it may be desired to prevent the total extinction of this rare animal, it may be a question whether, in a matter that in itself involves no moral turpitude and yields no revenue, any government can be justified in attaching a penalty to the breach of an arbitrary enactment, which can only be enforced through the medium of base informers, and tend to create dissension and distrust among the inhabitants.

The rhee-bock antelopes, like the bontebocks, are only found in the open country, and never enter the woods even when pursued. They are also gregarious, and are very numerous in most parts of the colony. They are exceedingly shy, and possess a quick eye and keen scent; so that it is difficult to get within shot of them. Various devices are used for this purpose, which I often had recourse to in hunting them.

The country between the mountains and the sea is composed of a series of rounded hills, divided by deep ravines with stagnant pools of

water in them, supplied by periodical streams in the rainy season.

In crossing the tops of these hills, I often surprised a troop of rhee-bocks grazing quietly below me. The sentinel generally gave the alarm to the rest of the herd by a sharp snort, when they would all look up; and, if I were not too near, they would continue regarding me for a length of time, irresolute how to act on the occasion.

Finding it would be in vain to attempt approaching them, I generally took off my jacket and hung it up on a stick fixed in the ground to engage their attention, while I cautiously stole round behind, keeping to windward of them, and availing myself of any bushes or ant-hills in my way. In this manner, I often managed to get within rifle-shot without being perceived.

The rhee-bock is not so large as the bonte-bock, but is lighter made and much swifter.

The "duiker," or diver, is a smaller species of antelope common in many parts of the country. They are always found singly, or in pairs, couching in or grazing near low bushes or brush-

wood. When roused, they fly straight forward, leaping and plunging among the bushes with wonderful agility, until they can gain a more secure shelter.

They afford excellent diversion; but the sportsman requires a quick eye to catch sight of them as they appear from time to time above the bushes. In hunting them, the colonists use either large shot or ball, but commonly the former. The best plan, however, is to have a double gun, one barrel loaded with shot, and the other with ball; which gives the huntsman a double chance, as he can get another long shot in the event of his first charge not taking effect.

There are two kinds of antelopes called steen-bocks;—the "flak" steen-bock, and the "grys" steen-bock. The habits of the former are nearly similar to those of the duiker. The grys steen-bock shows great cunning in avoiding the scent of the dogs. I have often watched their manœuvres, when they were pursued by my dogs, from the steep side of the mountain, which afforded me a fine bird's-eye view of their doublings, turnings, and wiles.

The valley below me, as well as the base of the mountains, was plentifully sprinkled with bushes and luxuriant brushwood. During the chase, the little grys-bock would return again and again on his track,—then turn sharply round a corner of the bushes and dart aside into some narrow foot-path, where he would stand still for a moment to listen for the dogs. When he found that his retreat was discovered, he would start off; and, as a last resource, would sometimes make a desperate spring into the middle of a thick clump of bushes, and completely baffle his pursuers.

The plaintive cries of the poor grys-bock, when it was caught by the dogs, so nearly resembled those of a child, and the animal seemed so keenly alive to its hapless situation, that this circumstance diminished my pleasure in the chase of it.

The beauty of the eyes of the gazelle, or antelope, is often alluded to in eastern poetry; and to none of the various species does the remark apply better than to the grys-bock. Its eyes have an indescribable expression of infantine simplicity, innocence, and helplessness, that

makes the sportsman inwardly curse his barbarity even in the moment of success. The grysbock is always found in the bushes, rarely quitting his shelter to any distance.

The "klip-springer," or rock-springer, is an antelope of habits totally distinct from the other species. It is only to be seen among the precipitous rocks and craggy summits of the mountains, bounding from shelf to shelf, or along some narrow projection in the face of the precipice where no dog would dare to follow it.

I believe these are all the species of antelopes to be found in the district of Swellendam at the present time; but, from the accounts of the older settlers and Hottentots, it appears that several other kinds have become totally extinct in this part of the colony, or have changed their abode.

I recollect meeting with an aged Hottentot, who, from his perfect recollection of the different succeeding governors of the colony, could not be less than a hundred and thirty years of age. He remembered the whole country abounding with various kinds of antelopes, the

names of which only are now known to the Dutch.

The spring-bocks were then frequently to be seen in this district. They are still found in large herds near the frontiers of the colony, and in the remote interior, where they wander in search of pasture and water over many hundred miles of country, and are often very destructive to the crops of the inhabitants, as they can leap with ease over the highest fences.

Several other species of antelopes, which, like the spring-bocks, are migratory, are to be found in other parts of the colony; but all the kinds I have enumerated as inhabiting the district of Swellendam never change their abode, but constantly return to their particular haunts after they have been chased or fired at.

It is curious to observe so striking a variety in the habits of animals that so nearly resemble each other in general appearance. This curious fact strongly militates against the supposition of their being all sprung from a common stock.

We can conceive that the colour, size, and even the shape of animals, may be altered by the peculiar circumstances of climate or locali-

ties; but we cannot so easily imagine that their natural dispositions—or instincts, as they are commonly called—can undergo a corresponding modification, when they are not compelled to change their habits. It may indeed be said with truth, that much of what is frequently considered as mere instinct in animals, is the result of a process of reasoning in a more limited degree than in man, and that they naturally resort to such expedients as are best calculated for self-preservation and the continuation of their species which circumstances may render necessary.

Observation, however, shows that the different species of antelopes have certain original habits from which they never deviate in the smallest degree, even when they are in immediate danger. Thus the rhee-bock, spring-bock, and many other antelopes, will never enter a wood or take refuge in the precipices when they are closely pursued by dogs. In the same manner several kinds of wood-antelopes never quit their natural haunts, or instantly fly to them when they are molested. All these different species constantly graze apart from

the other kinds, and have never been known to intermix their breed.

When we reflect on the distribution of the brute creation over the surface of the earth, we cannot help perceiving the peculiar adaptation of each species to the climates and countries they inhabit. Without questioning for a moment the truth of the Sacred Writings, we may be allowed to doubt whether we are to understand from them that a male and female of all the land animals now existing in every part of the earth were inclosed within the Ark.

Could we suppose that all the different species and varieties of animals of the same general classes have been produced since that period by accidental circumstances, the matter would in some measure be determined. This is a point, indeed, which is surrounded with difficulties; and it is only by experiment that we can arrive at just conclusions on the subject.

It would tend materially to clear up this obscure question, if naturalists could ascertain how far the different species of animals are

capable of producing new varieties by intermixture of the various breeds, and whether the creatures thus produced are able to continue their species.

The several kinds of antelopes found in Africa differ still more from each other in external appearance than do the various animals of the horse kind,—such as the ass, quagga, and zebra; and we know that the mule, produced between the horse and ass, is not capable of extending its species. It is therefore probable that this would also be the case with regard to the different species of antelopes: we may at least conclude so until the contrary is proved by experience.

During the many ages that elapsed from the Creation until the Flood, the different animals had certainly sufficient time to spread themselves to the utmost bounds of the earth, and to take up their abode in situations best adapted to their natural habits. Unless we suppose that the extent of the known world was then extremely limited, nothing short of an absolute miracle could have assembled all these animals: it still would be inconceivable

how room could be found for them in an ark of the dimensions given in the Mosaic account. It seems more rational to conclude that the Flood extended only to that portion of the earth which was already inhabited by mankind; and there is nothing in Scripture, when all circumstances are considered, to lead us to believe that it extended over the whole surface of the earth.*

Though geological observations show that great revolutions have taken place in the earth's surface, and that it has at some former period been covered by the ocean, it does not therefore necessarily follow that the whole earth has been inundated at the same time. On the contrary, it would rather appear that there have been several floods, which may have been occasioned either by a depression of the land or by an elevation of the waters.

The existence of various animals in New

* The author is in error. We find in *Genesis* that all the hills and mountains that were under the whole heavens were covered, the waters having risen fifteen cubits, or upwards of twenty-six feet, above the highest of them. This is an incontestable proof of the universality of the Deluge.—EDITOR.

Holland and in America which are found in no other part of the world, seems to prove that Noah's flood was not general: were this flood universal, we might naturally expect to find some of these animals in Europe or on the continent of Asia. It appears, therefore, much more probable that all animals were originally created, and at once placed in the regions and situations best adapted to their peculiar nature and habits.

The striking peculiarities observable in most of the quadrupeds of New Holland in particular, show clearly that it has been for many ages totally disconnected with the Asiatic continent; and to account for their being found in that portion of the world and in no other, two suppositions are necessary—either that they were originally placed in their present situations, or that New Holland was formerly joined to the continent of Asia, and that these animals found their way thither by land. Should we give the preference to the latter idea, and conclude that the races of those animals which are now peculiar to New Holland have become ex-

tinct in Asia, another question naturally occurs —how it happens that many other animals which still remain on the continent of Asia, and which are common to similar climates, are not to be found in that island? After considering these circumstances, we are irresistibly led to embrace the former supposition—namely, that these animals were originally created where they are still in existence.

In reasoning on the facts mentioned in Scripture, we should never lose sight of the time when and the people for whom it was written. Were we to take every statement in the literal sense, we should be led into a hundred errors which the increased knowledge of modern times enables us to avoid. The Bible does not profess to communicate scientific knowledge to men, but to show them the goodness and power of the Deity, and to supply them with a pure code of religion and morality; and it is therefore conceived in the language best adapted for general comprehension. When we read of the sun standing still, we are sufficiently warranted in concluding that it was not the sun, but the

earth which became stationary for a certain time, without for a moment doubting the truth of the scriptural account of the fact.

In the same manner, we can found no geological theories on the Mosaic description of the Deluge, and of the means taken by the Deity to destroy the human race. Language cannot be antecedent to ideas, which it was invented to represent; and even supposing that the inspired writers were themselves acquainted with the facts brought to light by the philosophers of subsequent ages — which we have no good reason to believe they were— they could only make use of the language already invented to express those ideas which preceded it, and which were commonly received by mankind at the time they wrote.

CHAPTER XIV.

Different Races of Men. — Diffusion of the Human Race over the Earth.—The Savage and the Civilized Man.—Progress of Civilization.—On the various Complexions of the different Races of Mankind.—Fair Tribe of Hottentots. — Peculiarities of Formation. — Causes of superior Stature.—Disgraceful Mode of Reasoning.

MANY people entertain doubts whether the different races of mankind could have sprung from the same common ancestors; but it is not my intention to extend to mankind the arguments which I have adduced to prove that the brute creation have not all drawn their origin from the same country.

The various races of man have none of those differences of habit or external formation which can authorize such a supposition. There is, indeed, a variety of complexion to be observed in different latitudes; but we know that many of the inferior animals undergo a change

of colour from particular circumstances. Many birds, for instance, acquire a different and more varied plumage when they are domesticated.

In investigating this obscure subject, we should bear in mind the very different situation assigned to man and the lower animals in the scale of creation. Brutes have been supplied by the Deity with a very limited portion of intelligence, which is only capable of extension so far as they may be rendered serviceable to the wants of the human race. Man, on the contrary, is an animal immediately and peculiarly destined for the service of his Creator, and capable of high moral and intellectual attainments.

Without intercourse with the rest of his species, man remains stationary with regard to improvement, or degenerates into the condition of the brutes. It is therefore evident that no apparent object could be served by limiting the creation of the lower animals to a particular part of the earth; but that it was absolutely necessary for their advancement that mankind should be propagated from one common centre, from whence they might receive the benefits of civilization and instruction.

No situation could be better selected for these important purposes than the country where our first parents are supposed to have been placed by the Deity. The Garden of Eden may be considered as the centre or heart of the world, from whence the blood of life was propelled to the farthest ramifications of mankind, and from whence all knowledge requisite to the well-being of mankind was originally derived.

It is impossible to contemplate without admiration the means by which the Supreme Being has spread the human race over the surface of the earth, so that no portion of the habitable globe is left entirely unoccupied by man.

As the countries near the common centre become more densely peopled, the inhabitants would naturally have recourse to greater industry and contrivance to enable them to subsist, and civilization would follow as a matter of course: but as soon as men began to find that the advantages of this condensed and more civilized state of society were counterbalanced by its evils, in the difficulty of procuring a subsistence, they would be induced to emigrate to