

other places throughout the colony. The great variety in the plans and sizes of the habitations shows at first sight that it is inhabited by a population whose pursuits and circumstances differ widely from each other.

I took up my quarters for a day or two with an old acquaintance, an officer of the Cape regiment, who had formerly served in the same regiment with myself some years before. Grahamstown, being the head-quarters of the troops on the frontier, the seat of magistracy, and the focus of the new British settlement in the district of Albany, had a greater appearance of life and activity than any of the towns I had formerly visited.

At the period of which I am now speaking, it was quite in its infancy; but, in consequence of its advantageous position for commerce with the Kaffres and other barbarous tribes beyond the colony, as well as with the farmers of the interior, it has now become the second town in point of general importance in South Africa. The mimosa-tree is still preserved, in the middle of the principal street, under which Colonel Graham lay when he

chose the site of the future town which now bears his name. At first, it only consisted of a few miserable wattled huts, erected by the officers and soldiers for a temporary shelter, and a house of a better description where the magistrate resided.

The market for produce and European goods afforded by the presence of the troops soon attracted a considerable population, which was much increased by the partial failure of the British settlers in Albany, many of whom being tradesmen and artisans, and totally unfitted by their habits for becoming agriculturists, naturally resorted to Grahamstown, where they soon repaired their losses by following their original occupations.

As soon as these people had acquired sufficient means by their labour, they built themselves small brick or stone houses; and, in a short time, found themselves in very comfortable and improving circumstances. Several habitations were also erected by officers of the Cape regiment, who were allowed to employ the Hottentot soldiers as labourers, on low wages; and many of them were thus enabled

to speculate on the growing prosperity of the town with considerable profit to themselves, as they had no difficulty in finding tenants.

Lieutenant A——, the officer at whose cottage I lived during my first visit to Grahams-town, had several of his men employed in this manner. In the sequel of my narrative, I shall take an opportunity of describing the state of society in this place more at large; for any account of it at the period of my first visit would convey a very imperfect idea of its present condition, when its extent, population, and importance are so much increased, in consequence of the more enlightened policy of the government, and the opening of the trade with the Kaffres and other tribes beyond the boundary of the colony.

Colonel Graham's judgment in selecting the present site for the town has often been called in question with some appearance of reason. The principal objection against it is the difficulty of communication with the most fertile portion of the district, which lies beyond a steep range of rocky mountains on the south side of the town, and towards the sea-coast.

The roads across these mountains are so bad, that they form serious obstructions to the farmers in bringing their produce to the only market in this part of the colony. But Colonel Graham appears to have been actuated by sounder and more enlarged views in the choice he made. The British settlers had not then arrived in the colony; and even if they had, I very much doubt whether he would have altered his opinion as to the eligibility of the spot he had selected. His first object must have been to adopt such a situation for the head-quarters of the troops as commanded the most ready communication with the different outposts stationed along the banks of the Great Fish river for the protection of the colonists in general.

No spot, commanding a sufficient supply of water for the use of the inhabitants, could have been chosen better situated for this purpose than Grahamstown, as it is nearly at an equal distance from the different military posts, to which reinforcements can readily be sent on any emergency. There are only some particular points where the Fish river can be forded, and through which the Kaffres must

drive the cattle they may have taken from the colonists in their plundering expeditions; and it is at these points that the military parties are stationed. Now, if the head-quarters had been fixed in any situation to the southward of the chain of mountains alluded to, it would certainly have been a great advantage to the British settlers in the immediate neighbourhood; but it would have been too far removed from all the outposts, except the one called Kaffre Drift, which is the lowest one on the river, and would have left the upper parts of the district, where the population is more scattered, in an unprotected condition.

## CHAPTER IV.

The Author sets out from Grahamstown with a Friend for Fredericksburg.—Trompetter's Drift.—Utility of a Gun.—Use of the Mimosa.—Monotonous Aspect of the Country.—A loquacious Companion.—A subject for Cruikshank.—Description of Blaaw Krantz.—Wild Chasm.—Rock Rabbits.—Military Post of Kaffre Drift.—Danger of crossing the Fish River.—“The Old Woman's Kraal.”—The Author and his Friend lose their Way.—Difficulty of striking a Light.—A Night in the Woods.—Sunrise in Africa.—Continued Wanderings.—Arrival at the Village.

LEARNING that a friend of mine was in Grahamstown, and was about to return to the new settlement at Fredericksburg, where he had accepted lands on the same terms as the officers, I gladly availed myself of his knowledge of the road. After taking an early breakfast, we set off on horseback by Kaffre Drift, the nearest route, while I sent my waggon round by the ford at Trompetter's Drift, where there was

a tolerable road for wheel-carriages. My companion rode on one horse, and led two others in his hand.

Having only one horse myself, I volunteered to carry my friend's gun, who had quite sufficient employment for both hands already. A gun was an indispensable article in the wild country we were about to enter, which literally swarmed with elephants and other dangerous animals.

The distance from Grahamstown to Fredericksburg is about fifty miles, and we expected to get there before dark. In this expectation, however, I afterwards found that I had both overrated my fellow-traveller's knowledge of the country, and the strength of his horses, which were all half-grown hacks, of the worst description for standing a long journey.

On quitting the town, we passed through a long narrow valley with numerous little settlements occupied by our countrymen. A little stream wound along in the bottom, crossing the road in several places; and the sloping sides of the hills were thickly sprinkled with mimosa thorns. The bark of the mimosa is generally

used in the colony for tanning leather, and the decayed trees supply the principal part of the firewood used in Grahamstown.

We soon quitted this pretty valley, and ascending the hills to our right, travelled along the top of a high ridge of rocky hills, from whence we had an extensive view to the sea-coast at thirty miles' distance, over an endless succession of grassy ridges of nearly the same height, divided by deep woody ravines. Even at this distance, we could perceive that the country improved in verdure as it approached the coast; but its general appearance was tame and uninteresting, from want of variety.

My companion became gradually more loquacious as we advanced, and treated me with an enumeration of all the great and titled personages he had the honour of being acquainted with, or whom he counted among his connexions to third and fourth cousins; not forgetting to relate a variety of little anecdotes and conversations, the chief merit of which consisted in showing the extreme familiarity in which he had lived with them.

Of course it did not become me to interrupt

so delightful a theme, and my companion, judging from my silence that I was already deeply impressed with a feeling of his great importance, and a humiliating sense of my own comparative nothingness, soon gave the reins to his tongue, which ran on in the most voluble manner, dealing out unconnected gossip, in which every legitimate object of conversation was totally lost.

In this manner, he went on without ceasing, until I could hear nothing but the names of lords, baronets, generals, and colonels, which were banded about in a most irreverent manner, and placed in a hundred absurd situations to augment the consequence of their biographer. I could not help thinking, if happiness depended on the countenance of the great and wealthy, what a fortunate man my fellow-traveller must have been.

If the reader has any inclination to become acquainted with the person of this gentleman, let him conceive in his mind's eye a man of middle stature, with broad shoulders, bent back, and the usual number of legs and arms hung to the trunk in the most loose and unsatisfactory

manner, so that it would be hard to say whether the legs belonged to the body, or the body to the legs; a face broader than it was long, a cat-like mouth, and a broad turned-up nose, affording an unsteady support to a pair of spectacles, which danced about with the motion of the body. Let him fancy this figure hunched up on the back of a horse with the chin projected forward over the mane, and his limbs dangling and shaking about in all directions in sympathy with every false step and ungainly movement of the suffering animal.

To complete his conception of the figure in question, let him picture him equipped in a low-crowned straw hat, with broad brims flapping about in the wind; an old velvet shooting-jacket, with sundry patches on the elbows, of a fresher colour; and with a dirty haversack slung over the shoulders, containing a very insufficient supply of provisions. I shall say nothing of the trousers, shoes, and gaiters, which were not worth noticing from their great antiquity, even had they been worn by a less dignified personage.

Unfortunately, as it was quite impossible to

expect anything like a corresponding motion in his different members, my companion slackened his pace in proportion to the morbid activity of his tongue; and much time was lost on the road, so that the sun was getting low in the sky before we reached Kaffre Drift. We had, besides, rested our horses for an hour in a romantic dell into which we had descended.

This singular spot, which is called Blaaw Krantz, or the Blue Rock, deserves a particular description. The little stream which supplies Grahamstown with water, flows for several miles along the narrow valley through which we had been riding, until it reaches Blaaw Krantz, where it is met by another rivulet from the opposite extremity of the valley, and both uniting into one, find an exit towards the sea by a tremendous chasm (with perpendicular rocks on either side about three hundred feet high) which runs at right angles to the course of the valley.

It is remarkable that this chasm is formed through one of the highest parts of the long ridge which bounds the valley to the south side, and it is impossible to observe it without

feeling convinced that it has been produced by some violent convulsion of nature. The tops of the hills on either side of the chasm are so exactly on a level, and so much higher than the sources of the two streams, that it cannot be supposed for a moment that the accumulated water can ever have risen to such a height as to have worn a passage for itself towards the sea.

The entrance to this wild chasm is partially blocked up by large rocks firmly wedged together, with the edges of the strata downwards, as they have fallen from the precipices. The projecting and receding angles of the chasm on either hand exactly correspond with each other. We saw several rock-rabbits running in the face of the precipices. These curious animals are similar to those described by Bruce the traveller under the name of "ashkoko," and of which he has furnished us with an excellent drawing. By means of their long fleshy toes, they can run with ease over the smoothest rocks without slipping.

The Blaaw Krantz is a favourite resort of the Kaffres in their plundering expeditions, as they can easily conceal themselves among the

wood and bushes in the chasm, where they stand little risk of being overtaken by the colonists. The stream which has found this singular passage to the southward, after running for about a mile between perpendicular crags and high trees and jungle, at last gains a more level tract of country, and forms the Kowie river, which winds its way through deep woody ravines, until it discharges itself into the sea at thirty miles' distance. The close jungle on the banks of the Kowie abounds with elephants and buffaloes, and harbours great numbers of hyenas, leopards, and wood-antelopes.

The military post of Kaffre Drift is situated on the edge of the high bank above the Fish river; and a road has been excavated in the face of the precipitous descent, which leads down to the ford. Thousands of tall euphorbia, resembling chandeliers, were bristling up high above the bushes and small timber that covered the sides and bottom of the deep channel of the river.

The day was so far spent when we arrived at the post, that we were obliged to push on in order to pass a woody valley on our road,

which was particularly dangerous in the night-time, from the number of elephants that frequented it. My companion had by this time nearly exhausted his powers of conversation, and rode on silently before to show me how to cross the stream at the shallowest place.

The Fish river is exceedingly rapid at this point during the ebb-tide; and, in crossing it, should the horse of the traveller stumble among the slippery rocks, he stands a good chance of being carried down the stream into deep water and get drowned,—an accident which had happened a few days before. My companion was in such a hurry to get on, that he did not take time to explain the peculiarity of the ford. Observing that he pursued a crooked course, to save time, I followed him in a direct line, when, before I could see my mistake, my horse suddenly plunged over head and ears into a deep hole, and was turned round by the current, which was rushing with great velocity between the large blocks of stone.

Fortunately, I did not lose my seat; and, by a desperate effort, my horse gained a flat rock, on which he clambered up. We effected the

rest of our passage in safety. No road had been made on the opposite bank, and we had to lead our horses to the top, which was about four hundred feet above the river, through thick jungle, huge rocks, and euphorbia which had been overturned by the elephants. We saw the fresh tracks of these animals in great abundance.

When we gained the open country above the river, I perceived a great alteration in the grass, which grew very luxuriantly, there being no cattle to eat it down. We had now entered the ceded territory, which had not been occupied since it had been evacuated by the Kaffres. All their curious beehive-huts were still standing, and the palings which they had erected to protect their little patches of millet and Indian corn. It was now getting dark, and as we had still nearly seventeen miles to ride, we pushed on as fast as our horses would carry us. I now perceived that my fellow-traveller began to be puzzled to find the road.

The woody valley to which I have alluded lay in the direct road to Fredericksburg. It had obtained the name of "The Old Woman's Kraal,"

in consequence of an old Kaffre woman having been cruelly burnt to death in one of the huts, which was set on fire by some savage soldier, or colonist, during the last expedition against that unfortunate people.

To avoid this place of evil report, my companion had deviated from the road, and had got thoroughly perplexed among a multitude of old Kaffre tracks crossing each other at all angles, and leading anywhere—or nowhere, for all that we knew of them. The more his perplexity increased, the faster he rode, to make amends for the time lost.

Sometimes we descended a long ridge; then we would follow the course of a deep valley, or groped our way through a forest of mimosas, getting our faces scratched by their long thorns. Hundreds of these trees had been torn up by the elephants, and were turned in a reversed position with their roots in the air. The roots of the mimosa form a great part of the food of the elephants in this part of the country. At length, to add, if possible, to our mishaps, the horses of my companion became knocked up,

and we were compelled to remain for the night by the side of a rivulet.

All the wild animals were now abroad, and our ears were from time to time saluted with the angry screeches of the elephants, mixed with the long dismal howls of the hyena, or the impatient panting of some stray leopard.

We tied our jaded horses to a tree, and began a series of unsuccessful attempts to strike a light; but found, to our great mortification, that my companion's gun, which I had been carrying, was without a flint. Here was a fine field for the exercise of our ingenuity, and we sat down to hold a consultation on the best means of remedying our loss. We called to mind the various modes of procuring a light resorted to by savages and shipwrecked mariners, and at last determined on trying what we could do by rubbing two pieces of dry wood together. We had little difficulty in finding the necessary materials among the bushes, but discovered that it would take longer time than we could spare to acquire sufficient dexterity in the use of them.

After toiling by turns at this hopeless task

for about an hour, we hit on a plan which we should have thought of at first, and each taking a different course, we commenced a search in the bed of the rivulet for a piece of stone to supply the place of our lost flint. We wondered how we could have been so improvident as not to have taken a tinder-box with us, which now appeared to be an article of inestimable value.

After groping among the stones for some time, a shout of triumph from my companion announced the happy discovery. He had found a flat piece of hard stone, which I fixed in the place of the flint, and, stopping up the touch-hole with a thorn, I succeeded in lighting a piece of paper rubbed with wet powder, and soon contrived to make a large fire with the branches of decayed trees.

We now considered ourselves tolerably secure from the attacks of the elephants, which are generally scared away by large fires. We were not, however, quite so comfortable as we could wish, for our scanty supply of provisions had been consumed in the forenoon, and we were much exhausted with our exertions in

making our fire, which was quite large enough to cook an excellent supper. To keep our fire up during the night, we agreed to watch by turns; but, somehow or other, neither of us could compose himself to sleep. Our horses kept stamping and snorting whenever they got scent of the elephants and hyenas as they passed near us, and the inharmonious voices of the latter animals made but indifferent lullabies to people in our situation.

In this manner we passed the night, sometimes talking to pass the time, or in making ineffectual attempts to sleep. At last, we could perceive the approach of daylight; not, indeed, by the crowing of the cocks, but by the distant howls of the hyenas as they retired to their dens, many of them supperless, no doubt, like ourselves.

The sun at length made his appearance, flinging his golden beams among the mimosas sprinkled over the sloping sides of the valley; and the transparent lumps of gum which had exuded from the cracked branches shone like gems among the light graceful foliage. The scenery was not bold, but it was picturesque

and beautiful, the country being divided into long sloping ridges by pretty valleys, covered with mimosas and round clumps of small wood.

My companion rose from the ground, where he had fallen into a short slumber, and shaking himself like a spaniel, replaced his spectacles on his nose, and we proceeded to untie our horses, for we could now allow them to graze without any danger. But my fellow-traveller's horses had been ill secured, and, knowing their way better than their master, had broken loose and arrived in safety at Fredericksburg, where every one concluded that my friend had been caught by an elephant.

My poor beast was still standing where I had tied him, looking very impatient for his breakfast. Fastening his neck down to his leg with a leathern thong in the usual manner of the colony, I turned him loose to graze, while we proceeded to look for the deserters. Our search however was vain ; so I saddled my horse, and we renewed our journey, riding and walking by turns.

At first, my companion was confident that he knew the locality perfectly, and that we

were only three or four miles from the new settlement. We saw several Kaffre kraals, or hamlets in the heights, each of which he fancied was close to the village. We wandered about the whole day, sometimes following the course of a rivulet, which my friend thought would lead us in the right direction, sometimes crossing deep ravines.

I now perceived that I might as well have had a blind man for a guide. At last, between hunger and vexation, I lost all patience with him, and told him that he might do as he pleased, that I would follow his meanderings no farther, but should proceed to the sea-coast and examine every river till I found the place we were in search of.

He was still unwilling to confess his ignorance, and begged me to make another trial, for he was sure that if we ascended a high hill, to which he pointed, we should be immediately over the village. After some discussion, I agreed to this proposal ; but, like our other attempts, it ended in disappointment.

We had seen several honey-birds, and I wished very much to follow them to the hives ;

but my companion was too much exhausted for any additional fatigue, so we contented ourselves with picking some pieces of gum from the mimosas, which relieved our hunger a little.

I now fully expected to spend another night in the fields, when we heard a shot at about half-a-mile's distance. It happened to be Sunday, when several of the soldiers were out shooting. We instantly made for the place where we heard the sound, and overtook two of our people, who conducted us to the village, which was not above three miles off.

## CHAPTER V.

Formation of a new Village.—The Author's Cottage.—Particulars respecting the Elephant.—Exciting Sport of hunting the Animal.—One killed.—Use made of the Carcass.—Detailed Account of an Elephant Hunt.—Miraculous Escape of the Author.—Meeting with his Brother after the Adventure.—Soldier killed by an Elephant.—Remarkable instance of Affection and Sagacity.—Search for the Body of the unfortunate Man.—Extraordinary Swiftmess of the Elephant when enraged.—Hottentot Mode of hunting the Animal.—Rhinoceroses and Buffaloes.—Hippopotami, or Sea-cows.—Leopards and Antelopes.

AFTER crossing the bed of a periodical rivulet and ascending a grassy hill, we came in sight of our new village, that had cost us so much trouble to find. It was seated in the bottom of a picturesque valley, surrounded on all sides by lofty hills studded with clumps of small wood and mimosas.

The streets of the future town had already

been laid out with exact regularity along the banks of a little stream, which formed several level and verdant peninsulas in its progress through the valley. Some of the hills terminated in perpendicular crags, with brush-wood and creeping plants growing among the shelves, which imparted additional beauty to the scenery.

On the opposite side of the village, the stream being obstructed by rocks, formed a long deep pool between its level banks, which were ornamented along the margin by a skreen of trees and graceful shrubs. At one place, which I afterwards chose for the site of my cottage, two venerable and wide-spreading yellow-wood trees, standing on the opposite banks of the stream, united their branches and formed a verdant arch over the glassy pool, covered with a rich drapery of climbing plants, which drooped into the water beneath. All the "erven," or building lots, had been marked out, and were divided from each other by turf walls, or artificial hedges of mimosa; and several comfortable cottages had already been erected by the new settlers.

#### 74 PARTICULARS RESPECTING ELEPHANTS.

I soon found the hut of my naval brother, who immediately produced something to relieve my hunger ; for, after my long fast, my appetite was much more keen than fastidious. The officers were all exceedingly diverted with my account of our journey from Grahamstown, and could not conceive how my companion could have mistaken the way, after having travelled so frequently over the country in the course of service.

Our conversation, among other matters, turned upon elephant-hunting ; and D—— informed me that the party had already shot eight or nine of them. The elephants are generally shy of the habitations of man, keeping close in the woods and in the jungly ravines in the daytime ; but in this part of the country, which had remained without inhabitants since the Kaffres had been driven beyond the Kieskamma, they had become bolder, and whole troops of them were often seen quietly browsing among the scattered mimosas in the open fields. The mode our settlers had adopted of attacking these huge animals was borrowed from the Kaffres.

Elephants are well known to be afraid of fire; and, when our people discovered a troop of them in the open fields, they set light to the long grass in several places, so as to enclose them in a circle of flame and smoke; and, after firing at them, in the event of their giving chase, they sought protection beyond the circle.

Our people were so little acquainted with the most vulnerable points of the animals to ensure the full effect of their fire, that killing an elephant was generally the work of several hours, when at last he would fall from loss of blood, or by some fortunate shot hitting him in a mortal place.

I was exceedingly delighted with these accounts, and impatient to take part in the exciting sport. I determined, however, to be cautious at first, until I learned something of the manners of this dangerous animal. An opportunity offered sooner than I could expect; for the very next day after my arrival at the village, we had hardly finished our breakfast, when we heard a succession of shots in the valley below the settlement, and all the people were instantly in motion, loading their firelocks

and rushing to the field of action. My brother and I soon followed, accompanied by my two Hottentots, who had never seen an elephant before.

We had scarcely taken our station on an eminence above the valley, when the huge animal, which was a female, was seen wading through the bushes, throwing up her trunk in the air and flapping her ears, which in the African species are much larger than the Asiatic, resembling immense fans. A general discharge was immediately opened on her from both sides of the valley, when, uttering a thrilling cry like the note of a trumpet, she plunged into the thickest part of the jungle, where for a time she was partially concealed by the trees.

Some of the party, stationed on the rocks on the opposite side of the jungle, succeeded in driving her to the open plain.

My two Hottentots, who were excellent marksmen, now managed to steal round a corner of the bushes unperceived by the harassed and enraged animal, and each taking a different aim, one of them shot her through

the eyes, while the other put his ball through her trunk. The poor beast, now thoroughly disabled, went on slowly over the plain, while the hunters poured whole volleys of balls into her body.

Not being aware of her being blinded at this moment, I was exceedingly alarmed for the safety of my brother, who, advancing within thirty paces of the elephant, fired into her head without any attempt on her part to chase him. He himself was not aware of the circumstance, but was encouraged by her apparent tameness to approach nearer than any of the other hunters. Shortly afterwards, a well-directed shot brought her to the ground, and we obtained a tolerably easy conquest over our enemy.

Several of our people immediately set to work to open the elephant with their axes and knives, for the sake of the fat, which we used for candles after mixing it with hard fat, for it was too soft by itself, being somewhat of the nature of hog's-lard. The teeth were of course also extracted, and, according to custom, awarded to the person who had given the animal the death-shot.

The only use we made of the skin was to form a kind of temporary tan-pit, by fixing a large square portion of it on four sticks driven into the ground, in which we prepared our sheepskins with mimosa bark for trousers. These tanned leather trousers are much used by the inhabitants of the colony for riding or working in, as they are very durable, and are not liable to be torn by the thorns and bushes. The Dutch generally sew them with the sinews taken from the neck and back-bone of their cattle, which are found to last much longer than thread.

Some parts of the elephant are very good eating, particularly the trunk, tongue, and feet. The other parts of the body are also eaten by the Hottentots; but the flesh is exceedingly coarse and stringy, though by no means unpleasant in the flavour, which resembles that of lean beef.

The first hunt I witnessed of this animal was attended with less danger to the assailants than is usual, from the circumstance of her being disabled as I have related; but the one which succeeded on the following day was at-

tended with much greater risk to all concerned in it, and ended in a tragical manner. An account of this adventure, furnished by myself, has already appeared in print: I shall nevertheless relate it in nearly similar terms.

One of our servants having come to inform us that a large troop of elephants had been discovered in the neighbourhood of the settlement, and that several of our people were already on their way to attack them, I instantly set off to join the hunters.

The beautiful stream called by the Kaffres the Gualana, after leaving the village, took its course through an extensive wood or jungle, and again made its appearance in an open meadow, running close under the high hills on one side of the valley for several hundred yards, when it again entered a long strip of jungle. In consequence of losing my way in the jungle, I could not overtake the hunters until they had driven the elephants from their first station.

On getting out of the wood, I was proceeding through the meadow to a distant kloof, or ravine, where I heard the firing, and had nearly

reached the carcass of the elephant which we had killed the day before, when I was suddenly warned of approaching danger by loud cries of "Pas op," (Look out,) coupled with my name in Dutch and English; and, at the same moment, heard the cracking of broken branches, produced by the elephants bursting through the wood, and their angry screams resounding among the precipitous banks of the river.

Immediately a large female, accompanied by three others of a smaller size, issued from the jungle which skirted the river margin. As they were not more than two hundred yards off, and were proceeding directly towards me, I had not much time to decide on my motions. Being alone and in the middle of a little open plain, I saw that I must inevitably be caught, should I fire in this position and my shot not take effect.

I therefore retreated hastily out of their direct path, thinking they would not observe me, until I should find a better opportunity to attack them. But in this I was mistaken; for, on looking back, I perceived, to my dismay,

that they had left their former course and were rapidly pursuing and gaining ground on me. Under these circumstances, I determined to reserve my fire as a last resource; and, turning off at right angles in the opposite direction, I made for the banks of the small river, with the view to take refuge among the rocks on the other side, where I should have been safe.

Before I got within fifty yards of the river, the elephants were within twenty paces of me,—the large female in the middle, and the other three on either side of her, apparently with the intention of making sure of me; all of them screaming so tremendously that I was almost stunned by the noise. I immediately turned round, cocked my gun, and aimed at the head of the largest—the female. But the gun, unfortunately, from the powder being damp, hung fire till I was in the act of taking it from my shoulder, when it went off, and the ball merely grazed the side of her head.

Halting only for an instant, the animal again rushed furiously forward. I fell—I cannot say whether struck down by her trunk or not. She then made a thrust at me with her tusk. For-

fortunately for me, she had only one, which still, more luckily, missed its mark. Seizing me with her trunk by the middle, she threw me beneath her fore-feet, and knocked me about between them for a little space: I was scarcely in a condition to compute the time very accurately, but, judging from my feelings, it appeared an intolerably long one, and I had great reason to complain of the "leaden-footed" minutes, which seemed to be hours in my uncomfortable situation.

Once she pressed her foot on my chest with such force, that I felt the bones bending under the weight: and then she trod on the middle of my arm, which fortunately lay flat on the ground at the time. During this rough handling, however, I never entirely lost my recollection, else I have little doubt she would have settled my accounts with this world: but, owing to the roundness of her foot, I generally managed, by twisting my body and limbs, to escape her direct tread.

While I was still undergoing this buffeting, Lieutenant Chisholm, of the Royal African Corps, and Diedrick, a Hottentot, fired several

shots at her from the side of a neighbouring hill, one of which hit her in the shoulder ; and at the same time her companions, or young ones, retiring and screaming to her from the edge of the forest, she reluctantly left me, giving me a cuff or two with her hind feet in passing.

I rose, picked up my gun, and staggered away as fast as my aching bones would allow me ; but, observing that she turned round, as if meditating a second attempt on my life, before entering the bush, I lay down in the long grass, by which means I escaped her observation.

On reaching the top of the steep hill on the opposite side of the valley, I met my brother, who had not been at this day's hunt, but had run out on being told by one of the men that he had seen one of the officers killed. The person who carried him this intelligence, going up to him very deliberately addressed him in the following manner, with the utmost *sang froid* : “ Sir, I saw somebody killed by the elephant just now ; I don't know whether it was your brother, or Mr. Chisholm ; but killed he was, for I saw his brains.”

He afterwards heard from others he met on the way that I was the unlucky person, and was of course not a little surprised at seeing me alone, and with whole bones, though plastered with mud from head to foot. My face was a little scratched, indeed, by the elephant's feet, which were none of the smoothest; my ribs ached, and my right arm was blackened with the squeeze it got; but these were trifling injuries considering the ordeal I had gone through.

While my brother, Mr. Knight of the Cape regiment, and I were yet talking of the adventure, an unlucky soldier of the Royal African Corps, of the name of M'Clare, attracted the attention of a large male elephant, which had been driven towards the village. The ferocious animal, which, like that I had just escaped from, had been infuriated by the numerous wounds he had received, instantly gave chase, and caught him under the height where we were standing, carried him some distance in his trunk — then threw him down, and, bringing his fore feet together, trod and stamped upon him for a considerable time,

till life was extinct. Leaving the body for a while, he again returned, as if to make quite sure of his destruction, and, kneeling down, crushed and kneaded the body with his fore-legs. Then, seizing it again with his trunk, he carried it to the edge of the jungle, and threw it upon the top of a high bush.

While this tragedy was going on, my brother and I scrambled down the rocky hill and fired at the furious animal : but we were at too great a distance to be of any service to the unfortunate man, who was almost crushed to pieces. Even in the act of chasing, a good shot from one of the hunters generally makes an elephant turn round and fly to the woods, where he remains until he is again attacked, when he will rush out in pursuit of any of the assailants who ventures too near him.

On the present occasion, the hunters derived some security from their numbers, for, as soon as the elephant gave them chase, they retreated as fast as their legs would carry them up the side of the hills, and the animal, seemingly puzzled which to wreak his vengeance on, after pursuing them for two or three hundred

yards, would stop short, and return to the wood for security.

Woe betide the luckless wight who lags too far behind the rest! for the elephant will instantly single him out, and sacrifice him to his rage. It happened thus to the poor fellow whose fate I have recorded. Getting tired of the sport, he gave his firelock to another of the party, with the intention of returning to the village, just at the moment when the male elephant was making a charge on his pursuers. Instead of following the others in their flight, he turned in the opposite direction, and, being without his coat and waistcoat, his white shirt immediately attracted the animal's attention, when he was about to retreat to the wood, and he caught him as I have related. Shortly after this catastrophe, a shot from one of the people broke this male elephant's left fore-leg, which completely disabled him from running.

On this occasion, we witnessed a touching instance of affection and sagacity in the elephant which deserves to be related, as it so well illustrates the character of this noble animal. Seeing the danger and distress of her

mate, the female from which I so narrowly escaped, regardless of her own danger, quitting her shelter in the wood, rushed out to his assistance, walked round and round him, chasing away the assailants, and still returning to his side and caressing him.

Whenever he attempted to walk, she placed her flank or her shoulder to his wounded side, and supported him. This scene continued nearly half an hour, until the female received a severe wound from Mr. C. Mackenzie, of the Royal African Corps, which drove her again to the bush, where she speedily sank exhausted from the loss of blood; and the male soon afterwards received a mortal wound from the same officer.

Thus ended our elephant hunt; and I need hardly say, that from what we witnessed on this occasion of the intrepidity and ferocity of these powerful creatures, we became more cautious in our dealings with them for the future.

We now went in search of the body of the unfortunate victim, and found it stretched on the thick bush where it had been thrown by

the elephant. The face and shoulders were turned towards the back, and the legs and arms were broken or distorted. All the clothes of the unfortunate man were torn to shreds and patches by the rough feet of the enraged animal, so that not a single piece remained of the size of a man's hand, except the tanned sheepskin trousers which he wore. After making a rude bier, we carried the mangled corpse to the village, where we interred it next day, and covered the grave with thorns to prevent the hyenas from scraping it up in the night-time.

It is a common idea that elephants move only at a very slow pace on account of the unwieldy size of their bodies. This is a very erroneous supposition; for though, on ordinary occasions, they go at a very sluggish rate, yet, when they are disturbed or enraged, they are very swift, and can easily overtake the best runner, and have even been known to be more than a match for a horseman when the ground is level or sloping.

The quickest pace of the elephant is a trot, and I observed that the legs of the large male

which caught the man, moved as fast as those of a horse at the same pace. I had afterwards the curiosity to measure the distance between the prints of the animal's feet, and found that it was about nine feet, where he ran with the greatest speed in pursuit of his victim. This elephant did not exceed ten feet in height. After ascertaining the number of steps a horse usually takes in any given time while trotting, and the length of each step, we may easily calculate the comparative speed of an elephant with tolerable accuracy.

Fortunately, however, unless they are able to seize their enemy at the first rush, they seldom continue the pursuit for any considerable distance.

The eye of the elephant is very small in proportion to the size of the body, and these animals are apparently incapable of seeing objects distinctly when more than two or three hundred yards off. But glaring colours, such as white or scarlet, readily attract their attention, and expose the hunters who wear them to great danger during the chase. For this reason, the Hottentots generally strip themselves naked

before proceeding to attack them, if any of their clothes happen to be of a light colour. It is also common for the hunters to anoint their bodies, to prevent the animals from detecting them by their keen scent.

The manner in which we hunted them at Fredericksburg was attended with greater danger than the mode commonly adopted by the Hottentots. The latter generally attack them in the woods or bushes, where they can get much nearer to them, by observing the direction of the wind, and when pursued, they can easily make their escape by dodging them and crossing their path. This, however, requires great presence of mind and long practice, as there is some danger, in making their escape from one elephant, of falling in with another.

Sometimes, when we were hard at work in our gardens, a large male elephant would be seen walking deliberately along the sloping sides of the valley, and through the midst of our cattle, which would open a lane for his passage. On these occasions, our axes and spades were immediately thrown aside, and we started in pursuit, some on horseback, others on foot.

Among the elephants we killed at the new settlement, one was found with a large fragment of a tusk deeply embedded in his head, which he had received in fighting with another of his species.

There were a considerable number of rhinoceroses and buffaloes in the bushes along the banks of the Fish river, and in the mouths of all the rivers along the coast we frequently observed hippopotami, or "sea-cows," as they are generally called in the colony. The sea-cows are rarely seen on dry land in the day-time, but, during the night, they come ashore to graze, and wander over the plains for several miles. In this manner, they cross the country from one river to another.

The ceded territory also swarmed with hyenas, which were much bolder than in other parts of the colony, from being little disturbed with fire-arms. We also occasionally met with leopards. All the different species of antelopes, which formerly abounded in this district, were exceedingly scarce, having been nearly extirpated by the Kaffres.

## CHAPTER VI.

Mode of erecting a Hut.—Clearing the Land.—Conflict between a Snake and three Rats.—Jealousies among the New Settlers.—Advantage taken of the absence of the Author's Brother.—Selfish Proceeding.—Vexatious Delay.—Injurious Prohibition.—No Market for the Sale of Agricultural Produce.—Encouragement to Servants.—Return of Lord Charles Somerset to the Colony.—First Acts of the Governor.—Situation of the Settlers.—Atrocious Conduct of the Soldiers hired as Servants.—Intentions of the Kaffres.—Eccentricities of Mackenzie, the Author's Friend.—He quits the Settlement.—The Author's Brother appointed Magistrate.—His Change of Residence.

My brother D—— had engaged three of the soldiers of the Royal African Corps in my name before I was able to join the settlement, and, after selecting a lot of ground for a garden, my first care was to employ them in erecting a hut. These cottages were of the simplest construction. After cutting a couple of wagon-loads of strong posts in the woods near the

village, we planted them in holes dug in the ground along the foundation already marked out. We then returned to the bush and cut a quantity of thin straight twigs, which we wove between the upright posts like basket-work, and afterwards plastered with successive layers of wrought clay mixed with sand and cowdung.

When the walls were dry, we washed them over with a size, made by boiling down an elephant's foot, and mixing the decoction with a kind of white clay, which we obtained from the banks of the river. We found also plenty of rushes to thatch our huts along the banks of the Gualana and the other streams. Many of the cottages were built of turf and thatched with long grass. In a few months two or three brick houses were commenced, but were never finished, in consequence of the settlement being relinquished. We also cleared the lots of ground in the village which were assigned to each of the officers for gardens, from the mimosas which encumbered the surface, and planted them with potatoes, Indian corn, pumpkins and other vegetables, or sowed them with wheat.

Soon after I got into my new house, I witnessed a combat between a snake and three rats. I was awakened one morning by hearing a sudden splash in a basin of water I had left on the floor near my bed, and observed a snake glide through it, followed by a large rat and two smaller ones. The reptile then coiled itself up and watched the motions of its assailants; whenever the large rat attempted to bite its tail it made a dart at him and drove him away. In the mean time, the two smaller rats, which were not bold enough to attack the common enemy, ran round him on all sides to divert his attention, grinding their teeth all the while.

This singular combat continued for about half-an-hour, and, anxious to see which side would gain the day, I lay quietly in bed for fear of disturbing them. It seemed to be a drawn battle, for the snake, after receiving several bites in his tail from his principal enemy, made his escape into a hole in the wall of the hut. I was surprised at the activity and address of the rats during the whole engagement, and they all seemed to have escaped unhurt.

Everything went on well for some time at

our new settlement. Some little jealousies, however, occurred to interrupt the harmony that prevailed among the new settlers. The late commanding-officer of the Royal African Corps could not reconcile himself to the preference given to my brother by the officers, as their civil magistrate; and, having a large share of low cunning, he spared no pains in fomenting discontent among them, in order to get himself placed in authority over them. He artfully represented to the officers of the regiment that they had injured themselves by admitting my brothers and me, and some half-pay officers from the settlement in Albany, into their association. Forgetting that they could not have employed the requisite number of servants without our assistance, and that we added strength and security to the settlement, the officers resolved, in a private meeting among themselves, to choose their farms without our knowledge.

Taking advantage, therefore, of the temporary absence of my brothers and myself, they proceeded to select their farms in such a manner as left us no ground worth holding, from

want of water. The country, though it abounded in grass, was exceedingly deficient in water; and, being entirely without springs, the only places which could be occupied were along the course of the rivers, many of which were merely periodical streams, drying up entirely in hot seasons, or standing in stagnant pools in the ravines. The Gualana was the strongest of these streams, and the site for the village of Fredericksburg was therefore chosen on its banks.

When my brother D—— returned to Fredericksburg, which was a few days before I joined him, he found that one of the officers of the Royal African Corps had modestly chosen for his farm a strip of land on each side of the Gualana, extending to the distance of six miles from the neighbourhood of the village to the sea-coast. Another had selected his land above the village in a similarly exclusive manner;— and the other officers had done the like on the Beeka river, and in every other situation where a constant supply of water could be found.

Disgusted with this mean and selfish proceeding, my brother and I immediately applied

to the landdrost, or chief magistrate of the district of Albany, who determined that we should all choose our farms by drawing lots, after a sufficient number should be surveyed and measured.

After we had counteracted this contemptible manœuvre, into which the officers had been led, matters went on very smoothly for a little time. But, from the confused and dilatory manner in which everything was at that time conducted on the frontier, and notwithstanding the express promise of the acting-governor that our farms should be measured without delay, many months elapsed without any steps being taken for this purpose. We were compelled to farm at a great disadvantage, as we could only employ our people on the building lots of the village, which were far too small to afford us any profit.

To add to our misfortunes, the wheat we had sown entirely failed from the disease called the "rust," to which I have already alluded. In forming this settlement, the acting-governor, in his anxiety to create a dense population, had fallen into a great error, which was discovered

when too late to be remedied. By one of the articles of agreement, we were directed to turn our attention exclusively to agriculture and the cultivation of the vine, and not to grazing, as he conceived that the possession of cattle would act as a temptation to the Kaffres to enter the new settlement for the purpose of plunder.

Now, as our hands were tied in this respect, it was necessary to our success that we should have a profitable market for our produce. The distance to Grahamstown was too great to carry our produce there with any profit. Had the acting-governor been better acquainted with the circumstances of the colony, he certainly would never have prohibited us from following the only profitable branch of farming in a remote settlement.

A dense population of agriculturists cannot, in the nature of things, ever exist among civilized men, without a corresponding facility of bringing their exchangeable produce to market. There is, however, every reason to think that had the acting-governor remained in the colony,

he would have seen his mistake, and have relaxed in this particular.

In this persuasion, we continued to make the best of circumstances, and our people, knowing that their getting discharged from the service entirely depended on their good conduct, continued to work hard, and were quite contented with their situation. As all the soldiers of the Royal African Corps who did not join our settlement were not entitled to their freedom, it is evident that our success entirely depended on the strict observance of this *sine quâ non*.

Some time, however, after the formation of the new colony, several of the soldiers who had not accepted the terms received their discharge from the service. The consequence of this was, that all our servants, who had hitherto behaved in a remarkably quiet and tractable manner, considering the materials of which the regiment was composed, became extremely unruly and discontented.

They naturally thought that they had been tricked into a disadvantageous agreement, and