

their mouths when they have any particular interest to serve by it.

Notwithstanding the Dutch are extremely ignorant, they are minute observers of natural objects, and exhibit much intelligence on subjects connected with their peculiar mode of life. Though far from being acute, they possess in a high degree a certain solidity of understanding, joined to a patient perseverance, which fits them well for conquering difficulties and improving their circumstances under disadvantages which would discourage people of a more lively and sanguine temperament. No profit is too trifling to be an object of their cupidity, and they spare no pains to obtain it.

The men are almost universally under a slavish subjection to their wives, and dare not make any arrangement with regard to their common property without the consent of the ladies. If a man makes a good bargain according to his wife's judgment, it is all well; but if otherwise, it is instantly annulled, her sanction being always considered indispensable to its completion. If the men are avaricious, the women are doubly so.

The early education of the children is well calculated to create covetous dispositions. As soon as a child is born, two or three breeding cows, or a certain number of sheep, are set apart to form his future stock when he quits the paternal roof. These cattle have a particular mark affixed to distinguish them; and as the child grows up, he is encouraged in making bargains with other boys, and is praised when he gains an advantage over any of them in his dealings. I have often heard a father boasting that his boy was so clever, that "he had cheated a grown-up man."

The children are allowed to play with the young slaves and Hottentots, and are never checked for tyrannizing over them: they are also encouraged in the accomplishment of lying, which seems to be considered necessary to their future success in life. So little do the Dutch think this a vice, that nothing is more common than to give each other the lie direct when they doubt any statement in the course of conversation: this is always taken in good part, the imputation being considered somewhat in the light of a compliment.

But here a considerable difficulty occurred, for the padded blanket which was to cover us was found to be too narrow for the purpose, and the night was very cold, it being the month of July. We were, therefore, obliged to turn our only covering the wrong way, so that we were unprotected below the knees. Though my bed-fellows insisted on my taking the middle place, my feet were so cold that I could not sleep for the greater part of the night, and I was forced to listen to a full chorus of snorers.

I was awakened an hour before daylight in the morning, by the sound of a huge churn wrought with a pump-handle, by two half-naked Hottentot women. As the Dutch only divest themselves of a part of their upper garments when they retire to rest, we felt no unnecessary reluctance to dressing ourselves before the females of the family, who were already seated preparing coffee, at a little table near a square opening in the wall of the hut which answered the purpose of a window, and was closed at night by a shutter on the outside.

This farmer's estate was situated in a similar valley to our land, from which it was divided by a steep ridge of high hills thickly covered with wood. We were, therefore, obliged to descend to the bottom of the valley near the sea, and, ascending a low ridge of what had originally been sandhills, but were now covered with rich soil and long grass, we pursued our journey round the corner of the wooded hills to Hoy. A parallel range of sandhills appeared on our right; on the side towards the land, these were covered with low jungle, brushwood, and creeping plants, which decaying in process of time, create a soil over the surface of the calcareous sand, and are succeeded by luxuriant herbage.

We had an extensive prospect from the road we were travelling, for more than sixty miles along the coast of Algoa Bay, which was defended from the ocean by an unbroken barrier of high sandhills, lashed by an unceasing surf that, with the exception of the landing-place at Port Elizabeth, near the western extremity, prevents all access to the sea. The eternal roar of the breakers occasions a feeling of melan-

choly in the mind, and, surrounded as we were on the land-side by the woods, it is some time before the beauty of the scenery compensates for an almost overwhelming sense of solitude and seclusion from the rest of mankind.

I was, however, delighted with the prospect of at last finding a fixed abode after my involuntary wanderings. There is also an excitement, combined with a feeling of usefulness, in occupying a portion of the surface of the earth for the first time that it has been rendered available to the wants of civilized men, which makes us think lightly of the temporary inconveniences attending a new settlement.

I was not long in selecting a site for my house. Where the little stream emerged from the deep woody ravine at the head of the valley, it took a turn and flowed round the base of a steep hill, crowned with a perpendicular crag of limestone; and here the banks being level, it diffused itself over several acres of rich alluvial ground covered with long rushes. At the base of the hill, there stood a tall yellow-wood tree with spreading branches, close to

which I drew up my waggon, and, turning the oxen loose to graze, I immediately set to work with my two servants, to cut a number of limber-poles in the neighbouring forest, which we planted in the ground in a circle, and bending the tops over, we tied them together with thongs cut from a raw bullock's hide which we had brought along with us for the purpose. We then tied a number of thin twigs in circles at equal distances across the poles to the top of the hut, which in form resembled a bee-hive.

Before night, we got the frame of our domicile finished, and waded into the water with our sickles to cut rushes to cover it in. This, however, took more time than I expected, and we were obliged to desist for the night, to procure firewood to cook our supper. It had rained hard the whole day, and our waggon having no covering, our only shelter was under the branches of the yellow-wood tree. Here we kindled a large fire, and, after we had finished our meal, rolled ourselves in our blankets and lay down to sleep, having previously loaded our guns and placed them in the inside of

the trunk, which had been hollowed out by age, in case of being disturbed by the elephants.

These animals generally shun the habitations of man, but this being the only spot where they can get water for several miles, they resort to it in great numbers in the night-time. We were two or three times aroused by the barking of our dogs, and heard the loud screams of these dangerous creatures, and the breaking of the branches as they descended through the woods to the stream ; but we shouted and fired our guns to scare them away.

## CHAPTER IX.

Arrival of the Author's Brother.—Excursion into the Forest.—Narrow Escape from a Troop of Elephants.—Accident to the Dwelling.—The damage repaired.—Hunting the Leopard.—Death of the Animal.—Overflow of the River.—A comfortless Night.—Marriage of the Author's Brother.—Trade to Port Frances.—Farming Occupations.—Difficulties for the Settler.—A Medical Lady.—Quarrels among the Hottentot and European Servants.—Field-Cornets, or Magistrates.—Robbery.—The Offender forgiven.—A Human Skull.—Three Kaffres killed.

DURING the following day, we got our hut thatched over with green rushes, and planted several strong posts in the ground, to which we tied our milch cows. My brother D—— now joined me, accompanied by a friend, who wished to see our new settlement.

One evening, while they were riding round the farm, I took one of my servants along with me and went into the woods, in hope of shoot-

ing a bush-buck, as our provisions were nearly exhausted. We ascended a steep grassy ridge near the sea, and proceeded through the forest for two or three miles, following a broad elephants' path, where we saw several of their fresh tracks, but without being able to get within shot of any of the game we were in search of.

As we were returning home, we missed our way by following the elephants' path too far, which led us past an open savanna on the top of the hill above the farm, where we should have emerged from the forest. While we were deliberating how we should proceed, we suddenly heard a thundering noise, and the branches of the trees breaking with reports like a running fire of musketry. Having only a light double-barreled gun in my hand, and my companion's firelock being only loaded with shot, we were in no condition for encountering a troop of elephants.

The sun had already set, at which period these animals are all on the move, and are much bolder than at other times. We had therefore nothing for it, but to make for the edge of the woods as fast as we could, where we hoped to

make our escape. We succeeded in reaching the grass, and, calling to my man to follow me, I turned off at right angles along the margin of the forest to get out of their scent, for the wind was blowing directly towards them. After we had run about a hundred yards, we stopped to draw breath, and to listen for our pursuers ; but hearing nothing, we concluded that on losing their scent, they had turned off in a different direction.

Thinking that the danger was past, Darby Lannigan, whose name is an index to his country, broke out into an extravagant fit of exultation, and paid himself and me a hundred compliments on our presence of mind, swearing by the "holy contingent"—a military oath—that "we had done them finely." Darby's eulogiums were soon interrupted, for as we were crossing the little plain, and had come opposite to the point where we had quitted the wood, five elephants issued from it, and gave chase to us.

I succeeded in gaining a round clump of bush in the middle of the plain, and concealing myself behind it, watched the motions of our

pursuers with both barrels of my gun cocked. Poor Darby, however, being short in the legs, was soon exhausted with his exertions, and fell down in the long grass, where he had the prudence to lie without motion.

The elephants passed within a few yards of him without perceiving him, and coming within thirty yards of the bush where I had taken shelter, stood still for several minutes, during which time my sensations were far from being enviable after the hair-breadth escape I had formerly had from them. I was afraid to fire, for, in the event of their not being scared away, my retreat would be discovered. Fortunately the wind had fallen, and they lost scent of me, and at last returned to the woods.

I now discerned Darby's curly head slowly rising above the long grass and looking round warily to see if the coast was clear. His face looked rather pale with his recent tribulation. At last he got sight of me, and knowing by the signal I made him that the danger was past, his round visage immediately brightened up, and sitting upright, he slapped his hands together and shouted to me, "By the Holy! sir,

we've done them fairly agin." As we were descending into the valley, he turned round to me with a knowing look and said—"We'll better say nothing about this business to the Dutchmen, or they'll say we were afraid."

We reached home as it was getting dark, when, before I had time to relate our adventure, my brother and his friend, who came to meet us, acquainted me with an awkward accident that had occurred in our absence. The cattle had taken into their heads to devour the green rushes that covered the walls of our hut, leaving nothing but the bare poles and the roof. My brother was eloquent on my want of foresight in neglecting to secure it by fencing it round with mimosas, of which there were plenty close at hand. He certainly had the advantage of experience to justify his censures; but I believe few people could have anticipated such an extraordinary occurrence as the walls of a house being eaten up by a herd of cattle who had plenty of grass to satisfy their hunger through the day. It was no doubt a piece of epicurism in the animals, something like that of the Chinese eating birds'-nests.

To make the best of circumstances, we patched up the hut with mats and rushes to keep out the wind, and kindling a large fire, passed the night as comfortably as we could. The following day, after repairing the damage done to our habitation, we cut down a number of thorn-bushes to form a "kraal" for our cattle at night. My brother having brought a tent with him, we pitched it on the opposite side of the valley, where we now determined to erect a more comfortable house, and I removed my quarters to it, leaving my hut to be occupied by our servants.

We had not been long here, before we began to be annoyed with nightly visits from a leopard, which carried off two of our calves. One morning, at the first dawn of day, taking advantage of the dew which still lay on the grass to discover his retreat, we took our guns and dogs, and went into the forest in pursuit of him. The dogs instantly got scent of the animal, and drove him up a tree, from which he soon descended and escaped our search for a long time; but at last the dogs again reco-

vered the track, and drove him to seek his safety in another tree.

We were all in such a hurry to have the first shot, that we ran on pell-mell through the wood; but, suspecting that my priming was damp from the late rains, I stopped a moment and replaced it with dry powder, without saying a word to my companions. In the mean time, they had got a little a-head of me, when the gun of one of our people went off by accident. We had now discovered the leopard lying along one of the branches of the tree, looking at us with a most ferocious expression of countenance.

My brother, without waiting for me, levelled his gun at him, but it missed fire. The animal still kept his place without motion, when, taking a deliberate aim over the shoulder of one of our people, I shot him through the body, just behind the fore legs. He fell to the ground with a savage growl, and my brother running up to him while he lay on his back, discharged a pistol through his head.

D—— was not a little mortified in losing

the honour of giving him the first shot, and though he had the joke against me when my cattle devoured the walls of my hut, he found that foresight will not guard against every contingency. After destroying our troublesome visiter, the dogs brought us to a tree where we found the mangled remains of one of our calves suspended among the highest branches, where he had carried them to be out of the reach of the hyenas.

While we were still living in our tent, we were visited by a dreadful storm of wind, accompanied by such a torrent of rain as had not been known in the colony for many years. It increased towards night to such a degree, that though we were sheltered under the edge of the woods, it was as much as three of our people could do to support the pole of our tent. We heard the aged trees rending in the depths of the forest with the violence of the blast; and between the gusts of wind our ears were saluted with the affrighted shrieks of the elephants.

At length the stream, which had been gradually swelling with the torrents which de-

scended from the deep ravines in the wood, broke over its level banks and laid the upper end of the valley under water. We now wished that we had chosen a higher situation for our tent; but it was too late to think of removing, for the night was pitchy dark, and we were surrounded by lower grounds, where the water was running in deep channels. The water continued to rise in our tent, bringing with it the straw, &c. from our cattle "kraal," which was close to us, until it nearly covered the bedstead on which I had been lying. As may be supposed, we passed a most uncomfortable and anxious night. But fortunately the rain abated and the torrent did not increase in height.

The first dawn of morning discovered to us that the lower part of the valley, where there was no outlet for the water, was covered by a lake a mile and a half in length, and several broad streams still continued running into the lake from the banks of the river. The dark clouds had passed on, and we could see them still hanging in black masses over the hills near Grahamstown. Had the torrent continued

much longer, we must all have been swept away. With great difficulty we managed to carry our effects to a higher situation, where we thought they would be secure for the future.

The effects of this flood were felt all over the frontiers of the colony. Several houses at Grahamstown were swept away by the swelling of the rivulet, and a few lives were lost in other places. Many of the British settlers in Albany, who had chosen low situations on the banks of the streams for their residence, had their houses and gardens utterly destroyed, and even the soil carried away where it had been broken by the spade or plough.

My brother and I continued to live very contentedly together for several weeks after our house was finished; but his visits to the district of Albany became gradually longer and more frequent, so that at last he never remained with me above a week at a time, always appearing fidgety and discontented. The mystery was at length removed by his getting married to an accomplished young lady, the daughter of

one of the principal British settlers. Much as I rejoiced in the happy change in his circumstances, the loss of his society was a severe privation to me, as I had no English neighbour within twenty miles, and the Dutch were far too ignorant to be agreeable companions.

My brother's talents and intelligence soon after attracted the attention of the Commissioners of Inquiry, who were still in the colony, and led to his being appointed resident magistrate at Port Frances, at the mouth of the Kowie River, where his knowledge of naval matters had been instrumental in opening that outlet for the produce of the district of Albany.

The coasting trade to Port Frances was carried on for some time by vessels belonging to Government ; but the shallowness of the water over the bar which obstructed the entrance to the river requiring vessels of very small tonnage, so many of them were lost in the gales of wind in this stormy latitude, that the establishment was at last broken up. D—— gave so much satisfaction while he held the situation

of resident at Port Frances, that he was afterwards promoted to be clerk of the peace at Grahamstown.

I was now left to find amusement in my farming occupations and the various field-sports of the country. The rude independence I enjoyed, and the proud consciousness of being able to overcome difficulties which at first appeared to be insurmountable, soon reconciled me to the solitary life I led.

I had procured a couple of Hottentots with considerable difficulty from the missionary station called Theopolis, in Albany. I was particularly unfortunate in these individuals; for one of them was the most unmanageable fellow I ever met with, and the other was in a most deplorable state of health, so much so as shortly to become incapable of work. The latter had been using some of the Hottentot remedies for his complaint; but not being able to procure the best kinds, he became worse and worse, until I was obliged to send him away to Grahams-town to get cured.

One day, on calling at the house of my Dutch neighbour, whom I have already men-

tioned, I happened to complain of the difficulty of procuring servants. My honest landlord immediately inquired, "Where is Klaas the Hottentot you had the other day?" I told him the cause of my sending him away. A married female relative who was present—a very modest-looking young woman—asked me if he had got the "sickness."

On replying in the affirmative, "Ach! Mynheer M——," said she, "if you had told me of that before, I would have cured him for you. Look now, my father had a slave, who was so ill that nobody would have believed that he could be cured in this world: but my father took two or three handfuls of "wilde dacha," (a kind of wild hemp which grows in rich ground near the coast,) and boiled it in a pan, and made the slave drink a cupful every day for two or three weeks; and he made him as well again as he ever was in his life. She detailed many minute particulars regarding the state of the patient during his sickness. I thanked her for her kind offer, and told her that should another of my servants fall ill, I should certainly avail myself of her medical skill.

My other Hottentot (Speulman) was an excellent servant as far as work went, but of such a ferocious and quarrelsome disposition, particularly when he got drunk, that few nights passed during which I had not to get up to quiet the disturbances he raised in the adjoining hut where he lived. Unfortunately, the woods abounded with honey through the greater part of the year, which furnished the material for making the kind of beer I have already described. Whenever Speulman could procure a supply of this intoxicating beverage, all was confusion and uproar from midnight till near the morning. On these occasions, he constantly quarrelled with every one in the hut, and generally beat his wife in the most cruel manner, so that frequently she had to keep her bed for a week at a time.

It seldom answers with the farmer to have European and Hottentot servants together, as the former expect to be treated in a different manner, and think they have a right to tyrannise over the latter, which I would never permit them to do. The worst of it was, that my white servants had no objection to share the

honey-beer of the Hottentots, and to be on the most familiar terms with them when it suited their purpose.

One Sunday, my two English servants had been enjoying themselves in the Hottentots' hut, and sharing their beer, when one of them took some improper liberty with Speulman's daughter. The Hottentot, who was a strong fellow and half-mad with drinking, instantly resented the breach of hospitality, and a desperate battle ensued between them, the other Englishman taking his comrade's part.

According to the custom of the Hottentots, Speulman immediately stripped himself stark naked to prevent his adversaries from getting hold of him, and, seizing a stick, he showed great dexterity in defending himself against his two assailants, who were exceedingly intoxicated. Seeing from my window how matters stood between the combatants, and that Speulman had the advantage, I would not interfere, in hopes of the aggressors receiving their merited punishment, until one of them seized a porcupine spear, and flung it at the Hottentot with such force that it would have run him

through the body, had he not fortunately evaded the stroke.

I now thought it high time to prevent more serious consequences, and running up to the Hottentot, who had got possession of the dangerous weapon and was about to return the compliment on his adversary, I wrested it from him, and ordered him to retire to his hut. I then told the two offenders that I was exceedingly sorry they had not been punished more severely by the Hottentot for their shameful conduct, and that if they attempted to molest him further I should not scruple to use the weapon in my hand against them.

They went off in high dudgeon, swearing they would not remain longer in my service after my taking a Hottentot's part against them. I was very glad to get rid of them, for I had now seen quite enough of the general conduct of European servants to give the preference to Hottentots, with all their faults.

Speulman's vengeance, however, was not yet half satisfied; for, as soon as I had retired into my house, he went after them, and quickly returned with a wound from a sharp-pointed

knife in one of his arms, which one of the men had given him.

I have related this disgraceful scene to show the condition of society in this part of the colony, and the evils resulting from a mixture of different complexions, where the laws cannot easily be executed on account of the scattered state of the population. It is particularly unfortunate for this colony, that while the masters have little control over their servants from the scarcity of labour, its limited resources will not admit of that increase in the number of the country magistrates which this peculiar state of society requires. Thus, when crimes are committed at any considerable distance from the seat of magistracy, they generally pass unpunished. This evil has been partially remedied in the district of Albany, by the appointment of justices of the peace; but, in the Dutch districts, no persons of sufficient intelligence and impartiality can be found to fill this useful office.

In the district of Uitenhage, where I resided at this time, there were only inferior magistrates, called field-cornets, who were formerly

empowered to inflict a certain degree of corporal punishment on refractory slaves or Hottentots at their own discretion, on complaint being made by the master. The nearest field-cornet to my place was at the distance of eight miles.

One day, on returning from a visit to Grahamstown, I found my Hottentots all in a state of intoxication, and when I entered my house I perceived that two small barrels, containing wine and brandy, had been tapped, and a considerable quantity of their contents abstracted. I at last discovered from some of the people that Speulman had forced his way through one of the windows, and committed the robbery.

I determined to have him punished, and set off on horseback next morning to bring the field-cornet. I was obliged to make a circuit of several miles to prevent suspicion; for, had the offender guessed the object of my journey, he would have been on his guard and made his escape in the forest. I found the field-cornet extremely unwilling to perform his duty, having a malady in one of his legs; but he promised to come in a day or two.

When I reached home, I found that my

house was broken open a second time. I, however, took no notice of the circumstance till the field-cornet made his appearance. Speulman was immediately summoned into his presence. The culprit approached in fear and trembling, his body bent almost double, and respectfully assisting the fat functionary to alight from his horse, he began rubbing the animal down with great zeal.

The field-cornet, after hearing my complaint and what Speulman had to say for himself, very deliberately stooped down, and pulling up the lower part of his trousers, showed his leg to the Hottentot, telling him to look at it, and asked him if he was not a great rascal to give him the trouble and pain of riding so far to give him a flogging? Speulman went down on all-fours to examine it, affecting an infinite deal of sympathy by drawing in his breath as if he felt the pain himself, and expressed the most sincere concern that the "baas"\* should have been put to so much trouble *on his account*.

The offender's hands were now secured by

\* Master.

tying leather thongs round his wrists and drawing the other ends between the spokes of the waggon-wheel. I now began to feel some misgivings of conscience as to the impartiality of the judge, who had evidently determined how to act before he heard the Hottentot's defence; and, partly influenced by the culprit's promises of better behaviour for the future, I begged the field-cornet to release him. The latter was not at all displeased at being spared the trouble, but told Speulman that if he gave him occasion for another journey, he would settle both accounts at once.

Matters being now arranged to the satisfaction of all parties, the field-cornet went into the house with me to take some refreshment after his ride. Observing a human skull lying in a corner of the apartment, he asked me, with an appearance of curiosity, whence I had obtained it. I told him I found it at the edge of the forest in a long ravine near the house. "Then," said he, "that must be the pate of one of the Kaffres we shot some years ago. I and five or six others were hunting the whole day after three Kaffres who had stolen some of our cattle.

When we came to that ravine we sat down to refresh and rest ourselves, when I saw the three Kaffres coming along the path towards us. We immediately lay down behind the bushes, and remained 'dead still' till they came within shot, when we fired all together and killed them on the spot, and that skull must have belonged to one of them."

After I heard this account, I discovered the two other skulls in the forest at some distance, where they had been carried by the hyenas or leopards.

## CHAPTER X.

Excursions into the Forest.—Mode of snaring the Wood-antelope.—Ingenious Trap for Leopards.—Many of these Animals killed.—Adventure with One.—Renewal of the Conflict.—An expert Hunter.—His Address and Dexterity.—Extraordinary Success.—An Elephant-Hunt.—Attempt to rear young Elephants.—Anecdote of the habits of the Animal.—Depredations committed by the Hyenas.—Singular Creature described.—Description of the Wood-rabbit.—The Puff-adder.—Number of Cattle.—Scarcity of Corn-mills.—Utility of Wax-berries.—Road through the Woods.—Story of a Blue Crane.—The Author removes to the Grootte Valley.

IN the course of my excursions into the forest, I found several long hedges, formed by the Kaffres by cutting down small bushes for the purpose of snaring the wood-antelopes or bush-bucks. Some of these extended for nearly half a mile through the woods. Small openings are left here and there, where the snares are placed.

The manner in which these snares are constructed is very ingenious. A long cord, formed of the bark of a particular shrub, is tied to the top of a straight sapling, and a noose is made at the other end of the cord. The sapling is then bent down to the ground, and the noose is pinned down in such a manner, that when the antelope treads within it the sapling flies up by its natural elasticity, suspending the animal in the air by the leg, where he hangs till the Kaffres come round in the morning to cut him down. Many of the snares were still remaining, with the shank of the antelope's leg fixed in them.

The contrivance for catching leopards is equally ingenious. They make a long cage, open at both ends, by driving short sticks into the ground in two rows, and tying other sticks across their tops. These cages are made low and narrow, so that the animal is obliged to crawl into them on its belly, and has not room to turn. He is thus obliged to go out at the other end, where a noose like the one I have already described seizes him by the neck, when

he is instantly suspended in the air and strangled. The trap is baited in the inside with a piece of flesh, and the end where the noose is fixed is covered with thorn-bushes.

We killed a great number of leopards, also, while I resided at this place, by setting spring-guns in the skirts of the forest baited with flesh. Shooting them in the usual way is often unsuccessful, and is sometimes attended with great danger to the hunters, particularly on going before the dogs, when the animal has been driven to seek shelter in a tree. On such occasions the leopard, neglecting the dogs, often springs upon the man nearest to him, and either kills him on the spot or tears him dreadfully with his teeth and claws.

To guard against an accident of this kind, I generally wrapped a thick piece of cloth round my left arm to thrust into the animal's mouth, and was always provided with a sharp-pointed knife to defend myself. They sometimes venture out of the woods at nightfall in search of water. One evening, after leaving off work, and taking a ride along the lake formed by the

rain at the bottom of the valley, I saw a leopard slaking his thirst in the water. I immediately dismounted, and sitting down on the grass to take a sure aim, fired, and shot him through the body. He gave a growl, and rolled over in the water. I attempted to give him a second shot with the other barrel, but it burnt priming.

The leopard now got on his legs, and came growling towards me, laying his ears back and writhing his tail. My first thought was to endeavour to make my escape; but my horse had taken fright, and ran away to a considerable distance. Not expecting to meet with this dangerous antagonist, I had left my knife at home, and was without any means of defence or escape. I therefore determined to try what impudence would do; and, waiting till the animal came within twenty paces of me, I ran furiously at him, shouting at the top of my voice, and brandishing my gun over my head.

This manœuvre was attended with complete success; for the leopard immediately altered

his course, and ascended the steep side of the valley, and taking his station on a rock at the summit, sat down and watched my motions for some time, while I backed off to regain my horse, still keeping my eye on him.

It was too dark to renew the attack that night; but, knowing that he was severely wounded and could not go far, I watched him till I saw him enter a thick clump of bush, where I hoped to find him again.

As soon as it was daylight on the following morning, taking one of my people with me and my dogs, I went to pay him a second visit. As soon as we came to the bush into which he had crawled, the dogs attacked him, and he clambered into a tree for protection. I at last got sight of his head among the thick foliage, his eyes glaring fiercely at me. Guessing at the position of his body, I fired at him, and he dropped to the ground. The dogs again closed with him; but he bit and tore them so dreadfully with his claws, that none of them could be encouraged to return to the conflict.

The bush was so thick that we could not get a sight of him without great danger; but at

last, losing all patience, I crawled into the thicket on my hands and feet, but had no sooner got a view of my enemy, than he crawled out at the opposite side, and fairly made his escape ; for the dogs could not be induced to engage in a second encounter. My only comfort under my disappointment was, that he could not live long with the wounds he had got.

Some months after forming my new settlement, I engaged a Hottentot to shoot elephants and buffaloes for me, on condition of receiving half of the profits. This man, who was called Jan Wildeman, was a most expert hunter, rarely failing to kill on the spot whatever he fired at. He was a complete wild man of the woods, and had as many wiles as a fox in escaping the dangers to which he was daily exposed. His activity was most extraordinary ; and I was often surprised with his nimbleness in climbing the highest trees to get at the wild vines growing over their tops. While I was considering how I could get up, he would take hold of one of the " baboon's ropes," as they are called, which hang in festoons from the branches, and in a few seconds he would be

perched like a crow on the top, enjoying my surprise, and flinging down whole bunches of the fruit.

Though naturally timid, he had acquired, by long practice, such entire confidence in the correctness of his aim, that he would go right up to an elephant in the woods and bring him down with the first shot. Sometimes, however, his gun would miss fire, when he had to betake himself to his heels, and, by his agility and address never failed to effect his escape. His adventures of this kind would fill a volume.

Wildeman came to inform me one evening that he had shot three elephants and a buffalo; and that there was a young elephant still remaining with the body of its dead mother, which he thought might be caught, and brought home alive. There happened to be two friends with me from the district of Albany, who had never seen an elephant, and whom, therefore, I persuaded to accompany me. One of these gentlemen has already given an account of this little adventure in an interesting little work entitled, "Scenes in Albany;" but as my readers may

not have seen it, they will excuse me for telling the story in my own way.

As soon as we had finished our breakfast, we set off, accompanied by Jan Wildeman, my Hottentot Speulman, and their wives, to assist in cutting up the buffalo and carrying the flesh home.

Entering the forest, Jan first brought us to the carcase of the buffalo; but the fellow was so lazy that he had not taken out the entrails, and the weather being warm, the flesh was unfit for use. He next led us to one of the elephants he had killed, and showed us the spot whence he had fired. The ball had entered the shoulder in a slanting direction, and passed through the heart. This was an exceedingly difficult shot, as he required to be very near to hit the right place, and for the ball to penetrate through such a mass of skin and flesh.

In shooting elephants, it is necessary to be provided with balls made of an equal mixture of tin and lead, as lead balls generally flatten on the skin or bones. Our ignorance of this circumstance at Fredericksburg, accounts for

the trouble we experienced in killing the elephants there.

After following several of the paths made by these animals, and struggling through the tangled mazes of the forest, we ascended a steep sandy ridge covered with low bushes near the shore; and on reaching the top, we came in sight of the carcase of another of the elephants, and the young one standing by it. At a few paces distance, we saw a large elephant browsing among the low bushes. He smelt us as soon as we appeared on the top of the hill, and throwing up his trunk and spreading out his huge ears, uttered a most discordant cry. "Gownatsi!" ejaculated Jan Wildeman, "that's the d—d rascal that gave me so much trouble yesterday; he's as cunning as the devil."

The dogs instantly assailed the animal, and after several ineffectual attempts to seize them with his trunk, he made off. The dogs now attacked the young elephant and chased him up the steep sandy hill where we were standing. My visitors who were unaccustomed to large game, were exceedingly agitated. They had brought a gun with them for form sake,

but had neglected to load it. One of them, who was a Scotchman, seized me by the coat and cried out in great agony, "Eh! man, whaar 'ill we rin?—whaar 'ill we rin?" It was no use telling him that there was not any danger, for he still kept fast hold of me saying, "What, nae danger, man, and the beest comin' right up amang us! I say, man, what 'ill we do?—whaar 'll we rin?" The women instinctively ran and squatted themselves down behind the bushes.

As soon as I could break loose from the grasp of my countryman, I ran to endeavour to seize the young elephant by the trunk, and Speulman took his stand on the oppoisite side for the same purpose. I was astonished at the nimbleness with which the animal ascended the steep hill. As he approached the spot where we stood, we found he was much older than we expected, being nearly as large as an ox; and after making an ineffectual attempt to get hold of his trunk, we were obliged to give him a free passage between us. I now picked up my gun and gave chase to him, but he ran so fast that I could not overtake him.

I was well pleased we had not succeeded in seeing him, as in all probability he would have done us some serious injury with his tusks which were just appearing at the root of the trunk. When they are only a few days old, there is no difficulty in catching them, and they become docile almost immediately. Several attempts have been made to rear them with cows' milk, but without success.

It is remarkable that the young of the elephant, when a few days old, are not much higher than a young calf; but their bodies are rounder and more bulky. It is also a curious circumstance, that the carcasses of elephants which have died a natural death are never found by the natives in the woods where they are most abundant.

It is commonly believed by the Dutch and Hottentots, that these animals drag the bodies away and bury them. I have, however, never seen anything to confirm this belief, and I should rather suppose that when sick, they retire farther into the interior of the country. The same story, however, is told by the Kaffres and by the natives of the west coast of Africa;

as I have been informed by several persons who have been at Sierra Leone and Senegal.

The hyenas, or Cape wolves, are very numerous in this part of the country ; but they are not so destructive to the cattle as in other parts of the colony, as they subsist in a great measure on antelopes and the carcasses of the elephants which have been shot in the forest. In driving home my cattle one evening, my Hottentot happened to leave a lame calf in the fields. It was scarcely dark, when I heard the howls of a couple of hyenas, and shortly afterwards the cries of the calf. I instantly took my gun, and accompanied by my Hottentot, ran to its assistance. We had not proceeded far when the cries ceased, and we saw two cows returning from the spot where we had first heard them. One of the cows was the mother of the calf, and the second, having lost its own calf a few days before, had formed an attachment to that of the other.

In the morning, we found the calf among the other cattle, but so dreadfully torn by the hyenas, that it died some time afterwards. It was evident that these two cows had fairly

defeated and put to flight the cowardly hyenas, affording a remarkable instance of the courage of animals in defence of their young.

It would be tedious to relate all the little adventures and incidents that occurred in hunting the different animals during my residence at this place; I shall therefore confine myself to such as possess some degree of novelty, or tend to illustrate their general habits. It will no doubt be interesting to naturalists to have an account of a small animal which I saw two or three times in this place and no where else, and which I believe has never been described before, for even my Dutch neighbours were totally ignorant of its existence. In riding out one evening, my dogs started one of the creatures, to which I have alluded above, in a marshy hollow. From its size, peculiar rattling cry, and general appearance, I at first thought it was a "ratel" which is now well known to naturalists.

As it approached the spot where I was standing in its way to the woods, I perceived that it was covered on the back with short thick quills, similar in colour to those of the porcupine,

though it did not resemble the latter animal in any other particular. Unfortunately I had not a gun with me, but I endeavoured to stop it by crossing its path to encourage the dogs to seize it. The creature immediately attacked my horse's legs, and looked up at me with a most malevolent expression of countenance, snarling and grinding its teeth, which afforded me an opportunity of observing it more minutely.

It was nearly five feet in length, but short in the legs, and flat in the body like the "ratel." The quills extended like an oval shield from the shoulder to the tail, which was short and flat, and also covered with short quills on the upper side. The lower parts of the body and legs were covered with short black hair; the feet resembled those of a cat, and were armed with strong claws. The neck was rather long and thin, and the head was round, resembling that of a cat, but flatter, and both covered with short black hair. Its ears were round and very short, and the eyes resembled those of a human being, and had a peculiar melancholy expression mixed with ferocity. The creature bit so furiously at the legs of my horse that he

nearly threw me, and it escaped into the forest, for the dogs were afraid to lay hold of it.

A few weeks afterwards, in returning home by moonlight, I saw between fifteen and twenty of these ferocious little animals in the same place where the first mentioned was started, and two or three of the nearest to me immediately attacked the legs of my horse, and I was obliged to quicken my pace to get rid of them. They do not run very fast, but on foot it would be difficult to escape them.

Judging from the situation in which I saw them, it is probable that they live upon frogs, rats, and mice, and perhaps snakes, as I have been told that these reptiles have been found in the stomach of the "ratel," to which these curious animals bear the greatest resemblance in their general form and character.

There is another curious animal found in this part of the country, called the "bosch dassie," or wood rabbit. It is very seldom seen, but its curious cry, beginning with a clucking noise, and ending in a long squall, is often heard in the woods of a morning. It inhabits hollow trees, and runs with great agility along the

branches. I had often been told about these creatures by the Hottentots, but always believed that the cry I heard proceeded from a bird.

One morning, however, while hunting in the woods, I had an opportunity of satisfying my curiosity. Hearing the cry near me, I cautiously stole towards the spot, and saw the little animal sitting on the branch of a tree. I shot him in the back, so that the ball came out below his head, breaking the lower jaw in its way.

To my astonishment, the creature set off, running with great nimbleness along the branch to a neighbouring tree, and dropped, like a shot, into the hollow trunk. I could just reach its hind legs, and by tying my handkerchief to one of them, I pulled it out and killed it.

It was somewhat smaller in size than a full grown rabbit, and was covered with soft grey fur. It had sharp canine teeth, and its head resembled that of a rat, the nose being long and pointed. The ears, to the best of my recollection, were small and angular. In its general

appearance, particularly when sitting, it partook of the forms of the rabbit and rat; but the feet were of the most singular construction, and admirably adapted to its mode of life. There were four toes on each, two on either side, and long and fleshy like the human fingers, to enable it to clasp the branches in running from tree to tree. I can venture no conjecture as to the food on which it subsists. The animal is well-known to the natives of the colony who live near the woods on the frontier, but I am not aware of its having been described by naturalists.

While I resided at Hoy, I was often annoyed with the visits of the snakes, which crawled into my house when the door happened to be open in the warm weather. A German naturalist, who was collecting birds and snakes, had been some time on a visit at my place. One day, on returning from my work, I found him busy at his usual employment of stuffing some birds he had shot in the woods. Observing a large puff-adder stretched at its whole length along the end of the room, I thought he had put it there to show his skill.

As soon as he saw it, without saying a word, he took the iron ramrod out of a gun standing near him, and very coolly thrust the end of it through the reptile's head, when it instantly disgorged a quantity of milk from its stomach. On further examination, I found that the creature had been regaling itself in a churn that stood in the room, and had fallen asleep where I saw it.

I shall now give some account of my farming operations. Being without any capital excepting my half-pay, a great part of which was consumed in furnishing my little establishment with agricultural implements and provisions, I necessarily commenced under some disadvantages. I managed, however, by my savings to purchase a few breeding cows and working-oxen, which by their increase in two or three years amounted to upwards of a hundred head. I also cultivated several acres of ground for my own use ; but, being more than fifty miles from Grahamstown, and having extreme difficulty in procuring labourers, I was obliged to confine my operations to grazing and making butter, for which latter article there is a ready sale at

Uitenhage, from which my place was about eighty miles distant.

The price of butter varies from  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. to  $6\frac{3}{4}$ d. per pound. My stock was too small to sell any cattle, as I required all I could spare for domestic consumption. The Dutch were in more prosperous circumstances from having slaves and large families, as well as large stocks of cattle. They also possess a great advantage, as I have formerly observed, in being able to make most of their agricultural implements and waggons.

This part of the colony was so ill supplied with corn-mills, that I was obliged to send my wheat, nearly seventy miles, to the Moravian Missionary station, called Enon, at "Wit Water," to be ground. Several of the farmers in my immediate neighbourhood had ample means, but they were so exceedingly unwilling to lay out any of their savings, that though they were well aware of the profits they would derive from the undertaking, not one of them could be persuaded to erect a windmill which would have repaid the capital expended in less than three years.

I occasionally employed my people at spare times in gathering wax-berries, that grow in great abundance upon small bushes in the sandhills near the sea, and yield a substance partaking of the nature of wax and tallow, which is mixed with common tallow, and used by the colonists for making candles. The berry is about the size of a pea, and covered with a bluish powder. They are gathered by spreading a skin on the sand, and beating the bush with a stick. When a sufficient quantity of the berries are collected, they are boiled with a large quantity of water, and the wax is skimmed off as it rises. The wax is then poured into flat vessels and allowed to cool, when it becomes hard and brittle, and has a metallic sound when struck. The cakes thus formed are of a deep green colour, and are sold for the same price as tallow. The wild pigs devour these berries when they come in their way, and seem to be very fond of them.

After I had resided for nearly three years in my present situation, finding that my health suffered from the sudden alternations of cold and heat in the deep valley, and from the

exhalations arising from the decay of vegetable matter, I determined to remove to our other place along the coast, which lay higher, and was consequently more equal in its temperature; but before we could get to it, we were obliged to cut a waggon-road for more than two miles through the woods which divided the two places.

I immediately commenced this laborious work, and with the assistance of two Hottentots, in ten days succeeded in opening a road with our axes of sufficient breadth to allow a waggon to pass. We were greatly assisted in our undertaking by following a wide path made by the elephants, which had broken down many of the branches of the trees on either side.

While I was engaged with my people in this necessary work, I generally received two or three visits in the course of the day from a blue crane I had tamed, and which was exceedingly attached to me. I was never long in the woods before I heard my favourite's well-known cry, and on looking up I generally saw him hovering above me, and in a few minutes he would

drop at my feet, pull my shoe-strings and play a hundred antics round me, flapping his wings, dancing, and leaping up in the most grotesque manner. Then he would pull the dogs' ears and tails, and when he had thoroughly provoked them, he would fly away home.

When I went out with my dogs he generally trotted after me in the midst of them for some distance, or soared above me high in the air. The poor creature was very fond of society, which at last cost him his life. He had for some time been in the habit of sleeping among my cattle in the "kraal," where he thought himself in perfect security. One night, however, after dark, he alighted too suddenly among them, and probably taking him for some wild animal, the cattle made a rush at him, and trod him to death before he could make his escape.

Some time before I removed to my new situation, I had purchased my brother's share of the place, which is called the "Groote Valley," or the great lake, from a large pond of rain-water it contains, which however was occasionally dried up after long droughts in the