

*Prospect of the Country at the Cape of Good Hope.*

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A  
V O Y A G E  
TO THE  
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,  
TOWARDS THE  
ANTARCTIC POLAR CIRCLE,  
AND  
ROUND THE WORLD:  
BUT CHIEFLY INTO THE  
COUNTRY OF THE HOTTENTOTS AND CAFFRES,  
FROM THE YEAR 1772, TO 1776.

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IN SWEDEN, AND INSPECTOR OF ITS CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY.

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## P R E F A C E.

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**R**ELATIONS of voyages and travels have at all times, and in all ages, since the invention of letters, been favourably received by the public: but, perhaps, in no age so well as in the present; writings of this kind being bought up with avidity and read with eagerness, more especially in this island, not only by the learned and polite, but also by the rude and illiterate. The reason is evident. The age in which we live, has not unfrequently been accused of frivolity and indolence. With what justice, it is not our business at present to determine. Its turn for experiment, however, and disposition to enquire into facts is universally acknowledged: and indeed, may, perhaps, be partly deduced from the principle above-mentioned. Now every authentic and well-written book of voyages and travels is, in fact, a treatise of experimen-



tal philosophy. From these sources natural history derives its most copious streams : and the observations which, in compositions of this kind, every where occur on winds and seasons, soils and climates, in short, on the whole of what may be called *still nature*, are undoubtedly of the greatest advantage to physical science. With respect to moral philosophy and metaphysics, it may be sufficient to mention the works of PAUW, RAYNAL, KAIMES, and ROBERTSON, to evince the utility of journals and descriptions of voyages in these and similar researches. It is also worthy of observation, that it is the modern philosophers chiefly, and the living instructors of our own times, who have mostly had recourse to these treasures, as containing the best materials for the purpose of building their systems, or at least, as being best adapted to the support and confirmation of their doctrines.

Few, indeed, are the travellers, whose writings may be relied on as the pure sources of truth, unadulterated with error, or undisguised by wilful misrepresentation. But is the number of writers answering to this description greater among those who have collected and reported facts, avowedly for the purpose of rendering them subservient to philosophy ? Have not, on the contrary, the major part of these collectors greatly distorted and misrepresented the facts they have laid before the public, in consequence of a previous attachment to favourite systems ? Doubtless they have ;

have; and it is therefore in the original writers of itineraries and journals, that the philosopher looks for genuine truth and real observation; as the authors of them for the most part have had neither philosophical abilities, nor any other motive sufficient to induce them to report these facts, otherwise than they have presented themselves to their notice.

The author of this journal, though a man of much *real* knowledge and genuine learning, discovers in every page of his book too little attachment to system and hypothesis, to allow us to suppose him likely to be guilty of a similar error. Fired with the love of science and of truth, he set out for the desert wilds of Africa, without money, and without friends or support of any kind; and was even obliged to labour for some time, before he could acquire wealth enough to enable him to put his favourite scheme in execution. In this respect, indeed, he may deserve to be compared to our illustrious countryman, the present president of the Royal Society, whose zeal for the promotion of useful knowledge induced him, at nearly the same age, though at a somewhat earlier period, to go on a much more dangerous and extensive expedition, than that which is the principal subject of the following sheets, and to sacrifice fortune, ease and health, in the cause of science.

Indeed, exclusively of the considerations above-mentioned, the work itself in every page bears evident marks of that

that passionate regard for truth, which first inspired the undertaking. In the descriptions of animals he is accurate to a degree; inasmuch that it is to be feared, that some of his readers, who are not sufficiently apprized of their general utility, may think him tedious: but in describing scenes and situations, whether partaking of the sublime, the beautiful, or the ridiculous, he is no longer an author, he is a painter: and, quitting his pen for the pencil, sets every object before us in colours equally vivid with those of nature herself. Physician, naturalist, and philosopher, neither human manners, nor civil institutions, rural œconomy, nor police, nothing, in fine, escapes the keenness of his observation. Never relying on the relations of others, except when it is impossible for him to do otherwise, he sees every thing with his own eyes, and trusts only to the report of his own senses: and at the same time knows perfectly well (which is never the case with the ignorant traveller) both how to see and what to look for. Hence we have so many accurate descriptions and drawings of animals never before seen, or else strangely misrepresented by his predecessors.

In fact, the account given by him of the whole face of the country, may be considered, in a great measure, as new: though (besides such navigators as have occasionally touched at the Cape, from whom, indeed, much information could not possibly be expected) several others, the

chief of whom are KOLBE and DE LA CAILLE, have either resided in this part of the world for several years, or made expeditions into the country previously to our author. It might appear invidious in us to expatiate on their demerits, or to enquire into the causes of their failure in their respective undertakings. We will therefore rather confine ourselves to that which is the subject of the following sheets.

Our author, together with a spirit of observation not seen in every traveller, had, as we are informed by his friend Mr. GEORGE FORSTER, admittance into the houses of the first families at the *Cape*. This advantage he seems to have been very solicitous to turn to the best account; and to it we, perhaps, in a great measure, owe the annexed map of the country, which is certainly no small acquisition to geographical science.—Before he had attained the state of manhood, he had prepared himself for an expedition of this nature, by a voyage which he made under his kinsman, the Chevalier EKEBERG; and the *Amœnitates Academicæ*, published under the inspection of the great LINNÆUS, exhibited divers proofs that he had not made the voyage in vain. On his return to *Upsal*, he applied to the study of physic; but his attention was principally engrossed by the science of botany, which he pursued with the greatest ardour under its celebrated restorer, and became one of his favourite disciples. With an education of this kind,

kind, which, it must be owned, was the most favourable that could well have been imagined to such a purpose, he set out for the *Cape*, at a time of life the best adapted to an enterprize of this nature, nominally to instruct the children of M. KERSTE, the resident at that place; but in reality, to search for the works of the Creator in a part of the world hitherto hardly known to naturalists. How he has succeeded, the reader must judge for himself.—But it was not this obscure corner of the globe only that he was destined to illustrate. By the arrival of the *RESOLUTION* and *ADVENTURE* at the Cape with Messrs. FORSTER, he had an opportunity offered him of extending his researches to an infinitely greater distance, and all nature now lay open to his view. It was, perhaps, not more to the advancement of natural knowledge than to that of these gentlemen's reputations, that chance threw so great a zoologist as Dr. SPARRMAN in their way at so critical a juncture; and it is to be hoped, that we shall one day be informed of the extent of our obligations to him on this score. In the mean while, we must content ourselves with the few specimens he has given us in the *Swedish Transactions*, where he has inserted, and still continues to insert, the various discoveries he has made on the continent of Africa.

Our author having, in December 1775, during his absence from his native country, been promoted to the degree of  
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of doctor of physic, was on his return home made a member of the Royal Academy at *Stockholm*, and of several other learned societies. After the death of the great entomologist Baron DE GEER, who had engaged Dr. SPARRMAN to live with him at his house, the Baron having bequeathed his magnificent collection of natural curiosities to the Academy, our author was made inspector of it. He was likewise invested by the Academy with the nominal dignity of professor: and, on resigning to his successor the charge of president of this society, after having held it for the space of three months, pronounced an oration "on the augmentation and advantages which science in general, and more particularly that of natural history, have acquired, and are farther likely to acquire, from exploring the Pacific Ocean." Published at Stockholm in 1778.

To this short account of the author it may be necessary to add, that we have taken the liberty of reforming the orthography of most of the places mentioned in the course of the work, both with respect to the map and to the work itself: the author, whose pursuit was things and not words, having been careless in his language, and more especially in his nomenclature, to a high degree: as likewise that we have adopted the divisions into chapters and sections made by the editor of the German translation, as rendering the following sheets more intelligible,



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and greatly relieving the attention of the reader. Having mentioned this, we will no longer trespass on the reader's time and patience, but leave this work, which, to use the words of Mr. GEORGE FORSTER, the author's friend and German editor, is *adapted to every class of readers*, in the hands of its best judge and protector, the Public.

## I N T R O D U C T I O N.

I N the month of September I had occasion to think of making a voyage to the southernmost promontory of Africa. What gave rise to this design, was the following circumstance.

The ingenious Captain EKEBERG, who never neglects any opportunity of promoting the interests of science, had, during a short visit he had made to the Cape of Good Hope, made it his business to obtain permission to send thither a natural historian.

But in order that this person, in the course of his researches after plants, insects, and other objects of his inquiry, might not run the risk of being considered as a spy on the country and its government, and at the same time that he might compass his intentions with as little expence as possible, it was agreed that he should instruct

the resident's children in *Falſe-bay* in geography, French, and mathematics.

M. EKEBERG was no ſtranger to the turn I had for natural hiſtory, having been acquainted with it in the courſe of a voyage to Canton in China, which I had the happineſs to make under his command, in the years 1765 and 1766. He therefore had me in view when he thought on this voyage to the Cape.

I accepted his offer with the greateſt pleaſure, as I had long wiſhed for an opportunity of ſeeing diſtant parts of the world. Still, however, it depended entirely on the ſpecial favour of the directors of the Royal Swedish Eaſt-India Company, whether I could be allowed a paſſage in ſome veſſel bound for the *Cape* and *Canton*.

M. EKEBERG, therefore, mentioned my intended voyage to the board, as likely to be of ſervice to ſcience. From the conſideration of ſo ſpecious an object, I was flattered by theſe gentlemen with the greateſt hopes of ſucceſs in my application, till ſuch time as, agreeably to their ſtatutes, a written petition ſhould be preſented to them on this ſubject.

The late Archiater LINNÆUS, as zealous for the advancement of his favourite ſcience as he was deeply ſkilled in it, heard of this with peculiar pleaſure; and, in his own name, drew up a petition for the voyage to be made.

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The directors \* well knowing, that a well-regulated commerce as well as navigation in general, has its foundation in science, and at the same time receives light from it, while this, in return, derives support from, and owes its extension to the two former, not only consented to what I requested, but likewise, in their great kindness, went beyond my desires.

Accordingly they ordered, that I should have my passage gratis from Gottenburg to the Cape, together with every convenience, in one of their ships, called the *Castle of Stockholm*, which, it was expected, would be ready to sail on the Christmas following. The last-mentioned place was pitched upon, for the first station to be resorted to for the purpose of taking in refreshments in our way to China.

Before I begin the journal of my travels, I must assure every gentleman of a hearty welcome, who intends doing me the honour to accompany me in them by means of this paper-conveyance, provided he will deign to be pleased with his entertainment.

BARON FABIAN LOEVEN.

Messieurs PETER THEODORE KOENIG.

———— MARTIN HOLTERMAN.

———— DAVID OF SANDEBERG.

———— JOHN ABRAHAM GRILL.

———— JOHN MALM ERICSSON.

———— CHARLES GODFREY KYSEL.

A man



A man who travels to a great distance from home, can never meet with the objects of his researches in the order and arrangement that he himself would wish for : how then should he be able to dispose and arrange his travels upon paper, agreeably to every one's peculiar taste and liking? With respect to my style, which, in consequence of my being unused to composition, is sometimes so unequal, as well as unhappy in point of expression, that I have frequently been displeased with it myself, I have need, more than most authors, to beg for the reader's kind indulgence. In fact, all my writing for these many years past, has consisted chiefly in short notes and memorandums, expressed sometimes in one language and sometimes in another, (just as my occupations and the part of the world I was in gave occasion to) and sometimes in many languages blended together in one. From this medley I have now translated and expressed in a more diffuse style, and in my native language, what I had formerly set down, in the manner above-mentioned, by way of memorandum only. And though I do this with pleasure, conceiving it to be a duty I owe to my curious and inquisitive countrymen, yet the performance of this task is by no means unattended with anxiety ; inasmuch as on account of the want of practice for many years, proceeding from my attention to affairs of greater importance, I do not find myself

## INTRODUCTION.

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self able to come up to the reader's wishes in this particular.

Nevertheless, though I can pledge myself for the principal article requisite in all compositions of this kind, viz. for the truth of the occurrences here related, it will be of no avail, if at the same time, I cannot avoid being considered as being rather unsuccessful in the choice of my materials, in the variety and uncommonness of them, and lastly, in the style and manner in which they are presented to the public. Indeed, it has been given me to understand, that from one, whom a restless inquisitive disposition has enticed from his native country, to follow the calls of destiny all round the globe, and more particularly through the land of the Hottentots and the wild and desert regions of Africa, from such a man accounts are expected of a most entertaining and wonderful import. Nor is this expectation absolutely ill-founded. Nature has presented herself to me in various shapes, always worthy of admiration, often enchanting, and sometimes terrible, and clothed with horror. But at the same time I must apprise the reader, that a great many prodigies and uncommon appearances, about which I have frequently been asked by many, who have been brought to entertain these conceits by perusing the descriptions of others, are not to be found in my journal. Men with one foot, indeed, Cyclops, Syrens, Troglodytes, and such like imaginary beings, have almost entirely disappeared

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peared in this enlightened age. At the same time, however, many have been hitherto induced to give credit to tales almost as marvellous; with which authors, who have before me visited and described the Hottentots, have seasoned their relations, in order to make them go down the better with the public. So that the reader must not be surprized to find my accounts frequently differ much from those of various of my predecessors; and at the same time, I shall now and then be obliged to take up my own and his time with some very narrow limitations of what they have advanced. Otherwise, in fact, the public would have reason to doubt of my own veracity.

I must here likewise previously inform the reader, that I do not undertake to give a full and complete history of the Cape of Good Hope, but merely such relations concerning every thing remarkable, as I have either been able to collect, or have myself observed with respect to this part of the world. A deficiency of this kind may, perhaps, even in matters of importance, meet with a ready excuse from many of my readers, when it is considered, that without being either rich myself, or in the least supported by others, I undertook an expedition, which, when considered with respect to these circumstances, will appear to be of no small extent. The whole of the sum that I took out with me to bear my travelling expences was about twenty-five rix-dollars, and what, by dint of œconomy, I had made myself

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self master of by the time I got home, was somewhat more than double that sum.

Thus so far was I from being able to purchase collections, or to obtain at my ease, or by dint of money, opportunities of enlarging the sphere of my knowledge, that I even could not possibly arrive at them without great trouble and danger. In this case, I have been obliged to content myself with what fortune has thrown in my way, as I may say, gratis.

The arranging by way of journal the occurrences and events which I have described, though in certain respects it be not the best method, is yet in general, the most natural. In order to acquire an adequate idea of a variety of objects out of the great number of those that have presented themselves, it conduces not a little to know on what days they were seen. In fact, the time, the manner, and the order, in which things occur, are accidental circumstances from which much light may be derived. But the greatest advantage accruing from this method is, that hereby it becomes easier both for the writer and reader to distinguish, what is the actual result of the author's own experience, from what he has, in defect of this, been obliged to advance on the strength of the information given him by others.

At the same time, in order to come to a more speedy and pleasing conclusion of the travels themselves, certain descriptions, critical strictures, and reflections are deferred

at present, which will be inserted at the end of the second volume \*, partly in the form of notes to this, and partly constituting distinct heads by themselves. Above two thousand of the productions of nature hitherto unknown, which, in consequence of a moderate degree of attention only, I have discovered in Africa, (a country in many respects very different from the rest of the globe) but have not been able as yet fully to arrange and put in order, cannot have place here, either described at full length, or in the more compressed form of sketches and definitions.

\* This second volume, if it should ever appear, must evidently be considered as a work of a very different nature from the present: the translator, therefore, did not think himself bound to take any notice of it in the title-page.

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C O N T E N T S.

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I N T R O D U C T I O N.

Occasion and design of the voyage. Some general reflections and strictures on writers of travels and voyages.

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very ungallantly neglects to requite the services of a female slave. A slave's revenge on his niggardly master. At a rich widow's house is in danger of being kicked out of doors, on his hat being discovered with the brim stuck full of insects. Floats naked over the river to an islet on a bundle of palmitis plants, in order to botanize there. Behaviour of a furly but hospitable miller. Makes a sexton and his wife happy, by prognosticating the death of the latter. Is hospitably received by a learned boor. The tower of Babel. Drunken soldiers. Obligated, together with his host, to bolt his chamber-door, for fear of being murdered by the slaves. A curious love-scale. Prices of slaves and cattle. Bad consequences of the slave-trade. His guide has not the least idea of a deity. Conclusion of the letter, p. 77.

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turn,

turn, when hunted, and hunt their pursuers. Tiger-wolf, or hyæna, eats up the carcases and bones of animals which are left untouched by other wild beasts, and would otherwise contaminate the atmosphere. Its cowardly but artful manner of attacking other animals. By imitating the cries of other creatures, it decoys them away from the rest of the herd, with a view to devour them. Is the most voracious as well as watchful of all animals. Betrays its approach by an involuntary barking, proceeding from an empty and constantly craving stomach. At night is suffered to enter the town at the Cape, being of great use in clearing the shambles. Adventure of a drunken trumpeter with a hyæna. This species never before accurately described. Eats up one of the traces belonging to the author's waggon. Pretended change of its sex accounted for; as likewise the stories of its imitating the human voice, and enchanting the shepherds, so that they cannot stir from the spot where they are. Seldom caught, and hardly ever shot. Use of this creature's long shaggy coat, p. 171.

## C H A P. V.

## JOURNEY FROM THE WARM BATH TO ZWELLENDAM.

The driver has not the least knowledge of the road. Not being able to get a Hottentot anywhere to lead their oxen, make a virtue of necessity, and turn ox-leaders themselves. Procures a Hottentot to drive his waggon, who gets at the brandy the author had taken with him, for the purpose of preserving animals in, and treats his companions with it. The author and his friend in danger of being murdered by these fellows in their liquor. The author puts a live serpent into the liquor. Hottentots used to swallow the poison of serpents, considering it as a preservative against the bite of these animals. Is cheated in the bargain he made for his oxen. One of them runs home. The farm and forest at Tiger-hoek described. Description of the persons, clothing, ornaments, and arms of the Hottentots. Besmeared with grease and soot, which alters their natural complexion. This ill described by authors. The males have no defect in the organs of generation, nor have the females any superfluity in those parts: what appears there being not natural but artificial. Hottentots perfume themselves with the powder of a plant called bucku. Do not wear the intestines of animals, but a number of leathern rings about their arms and legs. Their field shoes. Method of making them particularly described. Their craals or villages and huts. Their manners and disposition. Boshies-men, or wild Hottentots. Their

Their maxims and weapons. Live in deserts on berries, caterpillars, and other insects. Their amazing voracity. Are small and slender, but, after being caught, are fattened in the space of a few weeks. The colonists hunt them like wild beasts; and frequently make parties for the purpose of catching and enslaving them. Very much given to run away, but never carry any thing off with them. Almost always in a starving state, and numbers of them perish for want. Neither they nor the Hottentots have any conception, neither can any be infused into them, of a God. Consider rain at all times as an evil. Bully the thunder. Have great faith in sorcery. The sorcerers are their physicians, and cure them of their diseases by thrashing them. Instances of various cheats put on them by their sorcerers. Though superstitious, are not afraid of darkness: yet seem to have some notion of spirits and a future life. Respect, but do not worship insects of the mantis kind. Do not worship the moon. Kolbe's mistakes with respect to this point corrected. Christianity taught at Tygerhoek by a Moravian, who was accused of sinister practices. No remains of religion here at present. Two Hottentot girls pay them a visit. Their odd behaviour. The author endeavours in vain to hire a driver for the expedition. At last a lad agrees to go as far as Zwellendam with them. Sloth and idleness of the Hottentots. Hard fate and sensible reflections of a slave. Register of the weather for August. Hessaquas kloof. A singular disorder among the horses. The Landroft of Zwellendam offers him a better team of oxen. State of the weather at that place. Zebras and quaggas, both species of the wild horse. The former do not fear the hyæna, but guard the other cattle from its attacks. Both sorts eat less, and are more hardy than the common horse, and might be used for drawing. Misfortune of a man who harnessed some quaggas to his carriage, before they were properly tamed. Riet valley. Language of the Hottentots, compared with that of the Snes Hottentots. Their musical instruments and tobacco-pipes. Curious method of smoking. Their card-playing, improperly so called by the colonists, p. 231.

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### E R R A T A.

- Page 1, line 1, for A Voyage from Gottenburgh, &c. read Voyage from Gottenburgh to the CAPE.  
 — 18, l. 7, for quaae, read quaade.  
 — 40, l. 6 and 7, for figgar, read liggar.  
 — 64, l. 13, before the 'quire's half brother, read of.  
 — 179, l. 3, for Tigerhoek, read Tygerhoek.  
 — 236, l. 15, for wait, read stop.  
 — 283, l. 16, should be read thus: and was besides as well besmeared with soot and grease.

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A  
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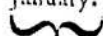
C H A P. I.

A VOYAGE FROM GOTTENBURGH, &c.

**O**N the 10th day of January, in the year 1772, I failed from Gottenburgh in the *Castle of Stockholm*; a ship belonging to the Swedish East-India Company. The wind was favourable, so that we soon dismissed our pilots, and even in a short time lost sight of the delightful pastures of Sweden. We found the weather, as it usually is at this cold season, something milder in the open sea, than it was upon the coast. The Swedish East-Indiaman, the *Louisa*, destined for Cadiz, to take in refreshments there, with money

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for both ships, kept us company till we passed the north of Scotland. The stormy weather however, usual in these parts, and at this time of the year, made us separate before we intended it. The wind blowing still stronger likewise, carried away our main-top-sail, though it was quite new, and made of a strong cloth. The damages were reckoned to amount to several hundred rix-dollars.

This ravage and destruction afforded in itself nevertheless a fine spectacle, which to me was entirely new. Sudden gusts of rain now combined with the night to shroud every thing in darkness. Let the reader represent to himself for a moment the foaming billows on all sides surrounding the ship, and swelling up sometimes even to our yard-arms; while the long shivers of the top-sail got loose, and being white, were distinctly discerned waving to and fro in a most alarming manner, and at length totally vanished through the darkened air. At the same time the violence of the wind caused those parts of the sails which yet remained on the mast, together with the ends of the broken cordage, to beat about, and crash with such force as for a time to drown every other noise.

This spectacle did not make the less impression, when by degrees we could better distinguish the roaring of the sea, the swell of the waves, the blustering of the wind, and the crackling noise made by the masts and the joints of the planks; particularly when to this we add, that the captain was continually roaring out, and was answered in the same strain by the men at the helm, *star-board and port*, as the stem of the ship heaved to right or left;

not

not to mention the usual noise and bustle from all quarters of the deck, the failors and tackling being in constant agitation and motion.

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On the 2d day of February in the afternoon, when we had got to 34 deg. 22 min. N. lat. 1 deg. 32 min. east of the meridian of Paris, a ship at a distance fired several guns, thereby giving us to understand that she was in distress, and desirous to speak with us. We accordingly waited for her coming up, and found her to be a Dutch East-Indiaman, called the Duivenbrock, bound homewards, and commanded by Capt. CONRAD LOUE. They had lost their rudder, and in consequence of the great swell of the sea, had not been able to lash on another; on which account likewise the ship had got so far out of her course. The crew were emaciated to a great degree, and in want both of water and provisions. Our commander made them a present of as much of both as their long-boats were able to carry; but at length, the night coming on, and the wind blowing up fresher, they were deprived of that farther degree of assistance, that every one of us very much wished to give them. Even our common failors not only shewed great compassion on their parts, but assisted them effectually out of their own stock with tobacco, and other refreshments.

On the 12th day of February, just under the tropic, or 24. 51. N. Lat. we saw a sea animal seven or eight feet long, known to sea-faring men by the name of the *sea devil*. It is reported by writers of voyages, to be very dangerous to the people engaged in the pearl-fishery. In a voyage to China I formerly made, I happened to see one

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of these animals, and on examining it, concluded it to be a species of RAY.

On the 21st day of February at six in the evening, 3 deg. 24. min. N. of the equator, we observed a beautiful meteor. It was like a red hot cannon-ball, which waved to and fro with a gentle whizzing noise, directly over our vessel, and between the mast-tops; but notwithstanding what the sailors prognosticated from it, it did not seem to bring with it any change of weather.

On the 4th day of March we passed the line, when a number of idle ceremonies were performed according to custom.

On the 5th, at about 37 deg. S. lat. and 21 deg. west of Paris, beside the usual lights that frequently appear sparkling, as it were, on the surface of the sea, there was seen in the night a strong gleam of light, called by the sailors *maarsken*, or sea-shine. It appeared chiefly in a round form of three feet diameter, and was like a glowing light throughout its whole extent. As the shape of it was sometimes changed to an oblong, it was conjectured, from this circumstance, to be occasioned by the dashing of the sea. With luminous bodies of this kind the whole extent of the ocean was now adorned, sometimes at the distance of several times the length of the ship from each other, and sometimes only a few feet asunder. We were not fortunate enough to examine them nearer.

The wind at times blew fresh, being sometimes accompanied with heavy showers of rain. The next day there was nothing uncommon to be observed on the surface of the



the sea, that might be considered as the cause of this luminous appearance. A night or two before this, we had ~~already begun~~ to perceive some of these lights. The weather at that time was only overcast. Some of the most experienced among the sailors informed me, that these lights were met with particularly in the north seas, as well as in the creeks on the coast of Mexico; and that from these appearances they used to prognosticate a speedy change in the weather. The lights that are usually seen in the sea are supposed to proceed partly from the constituent parts of the sea itself, and partly from the fish and other kinds of infinitely small animals which have their abode there. But with respect to the *maarsken*, I have not found any navigators speak of them. Are they not occasioned by some slimy or gelatinous animals (such as the *mollusca*), which only of nights, at certain places, and in consequence of certain changes of the atmosphere, rise to the surface of the sea? The same rising and sinking motion, which I now observed in these animals, I remember to have perceived in the *Medusæ*, particularly in the year 1775, in the bays about the Cape of Good Hope, after my return from my voyage round the world. At that time it had been stormy the whole preceding night, with a great part of the following morning; when, to my great amazement, after so long a voyage, I now, for the first time, saw these sea-animals in such quantities, as to form a thick mass of several fathoms depth, as if they had been pressed down together. Where they were collected into a thinner mass, one might discern that one part of them was blue, another of a flame-colour, and another again of a lighter hue.

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hue. They were mostly of the form of a necklace (*monili-formes*,) and at that time were probably driven together in so great numbers by the storm; so that the great quantities of *maarsken*, serve to give a still greater degree of credit to my conjecture. A small corner only of the sea, viz. *Table-bay*, at this time afforded nourishment to more animals at once, than perhaps are to be found on the whole face of the earth. This opened to me a door, if I may be allowed the expression, to nature's copious storehouse in the deep; so that at one hasty view I could get a glimpse of that amazing superfluity, which feeds millions of fishes, and at the same time lines the inside of the whale, that great Colossus of the deep, with that oily fatness, with which it abounds.

It may from hence be readily concluded, that it was these insects that the fat sea-lions and seals, diving and amphibious fowls, many kinds of albatrosses, (*diomedææ*) *procellariæ*, together with sea-gulls of all sorts, were in quest of, when I saw these latter so assiduously hunting about near the Cape, and in the South Sea.

On the 12th of April we got sight of the Cape, and came the same day to anchor in *Table-bay*.

## C H A P. II.

RESIDENCE AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TILL THE  
AUTHOR'S VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH SEA.

## S E C T. I.

*Residence at Cape Town.*

THE Cape is usually mentioned in too high terms by sea-faring men; particularly by such as have been there only for a short time. The reason probably is, that people, who are weary of a long and tedious voyage of several months duration, are usually enchanted with the first spot of earth they set foot upon, of which they afterwards make their reports according to the impression it first made upon them. This is so much more likely to happen with respect to the Cape, as sea-faring men are seldom used to stay there long enough to be weary of it. On the contrary, however, it is not unusual for sailors to pine and grow unhappy even here, after being some months on shore, and to long to go to sea again. I have been informed by

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by Captain COOK, that he, as well as Sir JOSEPH BANKS and Dr. SOLANDER, prejudiced by the relations of others, considered the Cape, the first time they saw it, as the most delightful and fertile place in the world. <sup>50</sup> that even the barren heaths to the north of the town, were at the same time very innocently mistaken for fine fields of corn.

For my part, not to lead my readers into any error concerning this point, the account I here give of the Cape has not been written without some consideration. I must, notwithstanding, previously remind them, that a view of the map inserted at the end of the book, will give the best and clearest idea of the position of the harbours and creeks of this part of the world, as well as of the names and situation of the different mountains. By this means the following description will be the more easily understood.

The town itself is the only one in the whole colony, and is properly called the *Cape*, though this name is often injudiciously given to the whole settlement. The above-mentioned town is situated between the shore and the north side of the mountain, which, in consideration of its apparent equality of surface, has obtained the name of the *Table*. According to the measurement of the Abbé de la Cailles, the shore of this bay is 550 toises above the surface of the sea, and 1344 toises in length, when taken from East to West; the middlemost part of it being situated South-east of the town, and 2000 toises from it.

*Duyvel's-Kop*, (the *Devil's-Head*;) called by the English, *Charles Mountain*, is in a great measure connected with the *Table Mountain*, but is full 31 toises lower, and

and at the same time is peaked and bare. *Leeuwen-Kop*, called by the English the *Lion's-Head*, and likewise the *Sugar-Loaf*, is a hill more separated, but less elevated, than the former: the same may be said of its neighbour, the *Leeuwen-Staart*, called by the English the *Lion's-Rump*, and likewise the *Lion's-Tail*.

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From one of these signals are given, by the firing of guns for every vessel that comes that way, and appears bound for the harbour. When they approach still nearer, a flag is hoisted on this mountain, which serves for a signal to the captains of the Dutch ships; but nobody but they and the governor of the Cape know, how the colour of the flag is to be varied for each respective month. The intention of this regulation is, that a Dutchman who is coming into the harbour, may immediately know, if the harbour is fallen into the hands of the enemy, and accordingly take care not to run into it.


The above-mentioned hills are in a great measure bare, and that part of Table Mountain that looks towards the town is pretty steep. The bushes and trees (if they may be so called) which here and there grow wild, are stunted partly by their own nature, and partly by the South-east and North-west winds. Hence they, most of them, look dried up, with pale blighted leaves, and, upon the whole, have a miserable appearance. Some of them, sheltered by the cliffs, and at the same time watered by the rills that run down the sides of the mountain, may perhaps be somewhat more healthy and vigorous; but they are universally deficient in that lively verdure which adorns the oaks, vines, myrtles, laurels, lemon-trees, &c. planted at the

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bottom near the town. Still farther on, the dry heathy lands and sandy plains on the strand, contribute to give the country an arid and barren look. It must be owned; indeed, that a considerable quantity of the most beautiful African flowers are scattered up and down in different parts during the fine season; but they cannot shew their splendid colours to any great advantage among the various kinds of grafs here, which are mostly perennial and of a pallid hue, among the dry bushes, and in the fields, which, at least near the Cape, are almost continually grazed off. These plains, therefore, cannot captivate the eye, nearly so much as the European Flora, with her green meadows replete with annual grafs. I am ready to allow, indeed, that the verdant plantations, together with a few acres of arable land round about the town, make a beautiful appearance, opposed to the African wilds and deserts with which they are surrounded, and which serve to set them off to a greater advantage; but then clipped and trimmed trees, with regular plantations of groves reared up by art, cannot so long keep their ground in our taste, as that lively verdure of nature which a European, at least after having resided for some time at the Cape, I think cannot help missing.

The town is small, about 2000 paces in length and breadth, including the gardens and orchards, by which one side of it is terminated. The streets are broad, but not paved; a great many of them are planted with oaks. The houses are handsome, two stories high at the most; the greatest part of them are stuccoed and white-washed on the outside, but some of them are painted green: this latter



latter colour, which is never seen upon our houses in Sweden, being the favourite colour with the Dutch for <sup>1772.  
April.</sup>  their clothes, boats, and ships.

A great part of their houses as well as churches are covered with a sort of dark-coloured reed (*Restio tectorum*) which grows in dry and sandy places. It is somewhat more firm than straw, but rather finer and more brittle.

How this thatching is performed, certainly deserves the consideration of our country gentlemen and men of landed property; and a description of it will be given by Captain *Ekeberg* on some other occasion. The rest of the houses in the Cape are covered with what is called Italian tiling, which resembles the flat tiles we use for floors.

The company's gardens, so differently spoken of by KOLBE, BYRON, and BOUGAINVILLE, are the largest in the town, being 400 paces broad and 1000 long, and consisting of various quarters planted with kale, and other kinds of garden stuff, for the governor's own table, as well as for the use of the Dutch ships and of the hospital. Fruit-trees are planted in some of the quarters, which, in order to shelter them from the violence of the South-east wind, are surrounded with hedges of myrtle and elm. Besides this, the greater walks are ornamented with oaks thirty feet high, which by their shade produce an agreeable coolness, and are much resorted to by the strangers that visit the port, and chuse to walk in the heat of the day.

The four quarters that lie nearest to the governor's residence, which is situated in the pleasure-garden towards the north, have indeed some beds of flowers in them; but this pleasure-garden is very far from deserving the com-



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mendations bestowed upon it by KOLBE, who cries it up as having no equal, and being stored with the most costly plants from all parts of the world. At the end of the pleasure-garden and to the east of it, is the menagerie, palisaded and railed off, in which are shewn *ostriches*, *casuaries*, *zebras*, and sometimes different sorts of *antilopes*, and other smaller quadrupeds, almost all of them natives of the country. In another partition are kept various foreign and domestic fowls.

The fortifications lie some hundred paces north of the town, being separated from it by a verdant mead, which is cut through with canals and roads. On both sides of the town towards the strand, batteries are placed; and to the south, where the land is higher, are seen the burial grounds of the Chinese and free Malays that live at the Cape; as well as one belonging to the Dutch, which has a wall round it. But what disgraces the town is a gallows, with racks and other horrid instruments of torture, which the governor has lately ordered to be erected in the place of honour, if I may so call it, or opposite to the fortification in the above-mentioned meadow. Besides this, the well-known hardness of heart of the Dutch settled in the Indies, has shewn itself here by two other gibbets erected within sight of the town, viz. one on each side of it.

On the 30th of April, being the morning after we came to anchor, I for the first time set foot upon African ground. The first thing I did was to wait upon the governor, Baron JOACHIM VON PLETTENBERG, to whom I paid my respects, and intimated my wish to live under his protection. As soon as he was informed of the nature of my

my appointment, he granted my request without the least difficulty; and soon offered me the privilege of practising physic, as I had given him to understand, that it had been my principal study. Upon the whole, I received great civilities from many members of the regency, particularly from the commander of the troops, Baron van PREHM, who was an African born; but, what is very rare with his countrymen, and to his honour must be mentioned, he had visited Europe, and was a lover of science. Neither must it be passed over in silence, that he had served in the capacity of a Prussian *aide de camp* in the last German war; and, as a proof of his having been in the wars, bore about him the scars of several wounds. As it may give pleasure to such as are fond of hearing that merit meets with its reward, I will add, that he returned invested with the place he now enjoys, and about the same time made his fortune, by marrying the finest woman in the whole colony.

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## S E C T. II.

*Residence at Bay Falso.*

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ALTHOUGH I had already been some days at the Cape, I had not yet had an opportunity to see the resident, (now *sub-governor*) whose children I was to instruct. The reason was, that he was gone to *Bay Falso*, about eighteen miles from the Cape, in order to receive and make provision for the ships which had just before run into the Bay. I therefore set out to pay him a visit there; but staid over night at a respectable yeoman's, to whom I was addressed, in order that he might be my guide. Here I for the first time found, what inconveniences a man is exposed to, who does not understand the language of the people among which he lives. I had made a shift to pick up a little German in my voyage from *Gottenburgh* to the Cape; but this was but of very little service, either towards my making myself understood in this place, or towards my understanding a Dutchman in his language. The necessity, however, that I was under of communicating my thoughts, contrary to what I had supposed, increased my power of comprehending others, as well as that of expressing my own meaning. My host, who was very inquisitive with regard to affairs

in Europe, as well as desirous to get some information on medical subjects, was incessantly propounding his questions to me, as well as he could, in the German tongue. I, on my side, repeated my answers again and again, expressing them, in I myself did not know what language. It should seem, that the German, Swedish, and Dutch languages have a great analogy to, and much in common with each other; but the great difference in the pronunciation of them, as well as in their dialects, seldom allows one to perceive the similitude. My phlegmatic hostess, who stood by with open mouth to overhear our conversation, without understanding one single word of it, relying upon my ignorance of the language, asked her husband, whether any thing else than absolute want of the necessaries of life in Europe could possibly induce me, and many other strangers, to come to reside in Africa? This remark shewed, that she had conceived very indifferent notions of strangers; and was the more difficult for me to digest, as they had given me a very moderate supper, consisting of stewed red cabbage, meat preserved with pepper, and gritty bread. I mention this, however, only as a proof, that the Africans, ignorant of every thing beyond the limits of their own habitation, universally entertain most advantageous and flattering ideas with respect to their own country.

The next morning I arrived at *Bay Falso*. The resident there promised to perform his engagement with Captain EKEBERG, and likewise conferred upon me immediately the post of interpreter between him and the French, who came to that harbour. The politeness of this nation in conjecturing what one is going to say, and  
at

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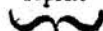
at the same time correcting one in the most insinuating manner when one makes use of an improper expression in their language, was at this juncture extremely agreeable to me; and the more so, as I had not the least knowledge of the dialect and terms in use among them in India. In this kind of civility, which proceeds from a good disposition as well as a good education, many of the inhabitants of the Cape, the fair sex in particular, were most lamentably deficient. On this account, the Europeans are apt to conceive rather unfavourable ideas of the politeness of the African colonists. However this be, these latter learn very little of any foreign language, though they are otherwise indefatigable in their application to trade, and every thing that tends to their emolument; and although the income of the whole colony, as well as the particular interest of most of the inhabitants, depends entirely on their trade with foreigners.

The next day I went back again to the Cape, to fetch my baggage from on board of ship, and take leave of my friends. I could not help being tenderly affected at parting from them, and indeed this was the last time that I saw many of them. It was not till I had lost sight of the Swedish colours, that I felt myself an absolute stranger on the African coast.

During the few days, however, that I yet had to stay in town, I enjoyed the greatest felicity in the company of an old *Upsal* chum, Dr. THUNBERG, now demonstrator in that university, whose taste for botany had induced him to undertake a voyage to this remotest point of Africa. He travelled at the expence of some gentlemen in Holland, and had come hither with a Dutch ship a few days after me.

me. Nothing could have happened more unexpected to him, than to see in person at the Cape, a man whom, agreeable to the latest advices, he now supposed to be at Upsal, engaged in courses of academical lectures; and nothing could be more pleasing to him, than to receive the letters which I brought him from his friends and relations.

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I was soon however obliged to return to *Falſe-bay*, by which means I loſt the company of my countryman, who alone could make the *Cape* for me a little Sweden; and render our favourite ſtudy, which we both applied to in common, ſtill more eaſy and delightful. In the meanwhile, perhaps none but a lover of natural hiſtory can imagine, what pleaſure we enjoyed together among the herbs and flowers. At firſt almoſt every day was a rich harveſt of the rareſt and moſt beautiful plants; and I had almoſt ſaid, that at every ſtep we made one or more new diſcoveries. And as I had many Swediſh friends, and particularly the great LINNÆUS, always preſent in my memory, every duplicate or triplicate of the plants that I gathered, gave me a ſenſible pleaſure; though my covetouſneſs for myſelf and my friends, frequently induced me to gather more than I was able to attend to, and dry in a proper manner. This, doubtleſs, happens more or leſs to every botaniſt who travels into foreign parts: but beſides this circumſtance, I was not a little taken off, by my buſineſs with the reſident, from the more agreeable application to my beloved ſcience.

By this means I was often deprived of opportunities of inveſtigating ſome of thoſe plants that I had collected: I therefore neglected no opportunity of ſending to Sir CHARLES



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LINNÆUS duplicates of every thing I found, together with my remarks upon them. Unfortunately this great man's illness, declining years, and intervening death, have prevented us long from seeing them in print, in a *Mantissa tertia*.

I was now to reside in *False-bay* till the end of the winter, which is called the bad season (in Dutch, *quaae mousson*;) and is reckoned from the 14th of May till the 14th of August. It is not distinguished by any particular degree of cold; for we had frequently at this time the finest summer days. Once or twice there fell some hail, but I never saw any snow. We had sometimes the most violent showers of rain, and that mostly for several days in continuation, by which means the air was very sensibly cooled. We were not unfrequently troubled with the north-west wind, and this is principally the reason why the Dutch ships, at the time of year before-mentioned, have been ordered to run into *Table-bay*, ever since the year 1722; when out of ten ships belonging to that nation lying there, eight were cast on shore and lost. This likewise has induced the Dutch company to have ready at hand every necessary for their ships, under the inspection of the Resident at *False-bay*. They have erected here an extensive magazine, which at the same time includes forges and baking-houses, with house-room for the workmen, who do the whole duty of the guard, and are commanded by a serjeant and two corporals. The slaughter-house makes a distinct building by itself, as do likewise the Resident's house and the hospital. About the time of my departure from Africa, they were building another large and handsome house for the accommodation of the Governor, when  
he



he chuses to retire thither for his pleasure. Good fresh water is conveyed from the neighbouring hill to a quay, where it is very convenient for use. A tradesman or two have got leave to build an inn here, in which, however, there is not always room and conveniencies sufficient to receive all such as, after a long sea-voyage, are desirous of refreshing themselves on shore; the ships that land here being chiefly such as contain not much above twenty passengers. Board and lodging are paid for here as at the *Cape*, from one rix-dollar to one and a half a day; a tolerable good table is likewise usually kept here, and the attendance is none of the worst. A person that wishes to go post from *False-bay* to the *Cape*, a distance of about sixteen miles, will find it comparatively dear enough. Three or four rix-dollars must be paid for a saddle-horse, and from twelve to sixteen for a waggon; which is, for the most part, inconvenient, and usually drawn by three or four pair of horses, or else by the same number of oxen.

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Excepting in the winter, *False-bay* is seldom or ever visited by any ships, as the south-east wind, which prevails at every other time of the year, makes this Bay in many respects inconvenient; blowing with such violence, as to cover two hills there with a thick layer of drift sand, all along from the strand up to their very tops. This ridge of sand is seen from afar from the mouth of the harbour, and serves as a beacon for ships; for *Simon's-bay*, which is the place where they are to anchor, lies directly from the east, or something more to the south. The breadth of *False-bay* is not so great, but that in clear fine weather, one may see from *Simon's-bay* the lands laying opposite in

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the east, or the *Schaapen-Bergen* (Sheep-Mountains) in *Hottentots Holland*; and with a perspective glass, one may even distinguish the houses in the last mentioned place.

From the point of land, called the Cape of Good Hope, straight on to the town itself, there is extended a chain of hills, which, following the course of the strand in *Simon's-bay*, is continued to the northernmost part or bottom of *False-bay*; and afterwards, striking off to the westward to *Constantia*, goes on to the north of it, to join *Table-Mountain*. This range of mountains, however, reckoning from *Simon's-bay*, is intercepted in two places, viz. first, by means of a dale near *Constantia*, through which the road goes to *Hout-bay*; and next, by a sandy vale a little to the north of *Simon's-bay*. Through this vale there is a short way between the western and eastern coasts; and in all probability it was formerly a small straight or sound, which has been gradually filled up by the winds and surge of the sea. The whole of the low lands, consisting of sandy plains and tracks of heathy country to the east of the town, was in all likelihood formed in the same manner; and the Cape of Good Hope was in the beginning an island, which was not connected with the *Tiger-Mountain* and shore of *Hottentots Holland*, but by degrees, and in the course of time. It is, in my opinion, particularly with sand, sea-shells, trunks of trees, and such like rubbish, that the sea has thus encroached upon the land, and set itself narrower limits. To this the violence of the south-east wind contributes not a little, as it sometimes tears up hedges, trees, and vegetables of all kinds by the roots,

roots, at the same time casting up high ridges of sand, as I mentioned before.

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Even *Table-bay* is by degrees grown shallower; so that the house that is built by the sea-shore is now farther from it, and time after time they have been obliged to lengthen the quay that has been made in the harbour. Farther, in respect to this circumstance, I can refer to the shells of different sizes that I found in the sandy parts of a meadow a little below Tiger-Mountain. A well-behaved and sensible yeoman, CORNELIUS VERVEY by name, who conducted me to this place, situated at the distance of about two leagues from the sea-shore, was of opinion, that the sea-shells were left in that place, after the sea had retired from it, but were by no means brought thither by the Hottentots, as they could not possibly live there on account of the want of water.

The road between the *Cape* and *False-bay* is very heavy, and even sometimes dangerous. At this latter place, at the time that the south-east wind prevails, there is wont to be so high a tide, that the sea, even at its lowest ebb, at some places rises up to the foot of the mountains, which partly encompass this extensive harbour; so that one is obliged to travel for a long way (as it were) below the shore, though the surf or surge of the sea often rises above the nave of the wheels, and even into the body of the waggon; nay, it sometimes seems as it would carry out to sea waggon, horses, and all. For which reason they have in general extremely strong and substantial waggons, and steady horses, that are accustomed to this kind of work, together with sober and skilful drivers, so that an accident

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accident of this kind cannot easily happen : relying upon these, people sometimes even drive a little below the sea-shore, as the sands are there pressed down and even ; whereas higher up they are loose, deep, and heavy. In a large plain, that closes up the north side of *False-bay*, there is a considerable field of sand, through which the road is carried. This the violent rains, that fall in the winter season, joined to a higher tide than usual, are wont sometimes to lay entirely under water ; so that travellers are in danger of getting up to the middle in holes and pits. Some accidents of this kind happened the winter I was there.

Ships of various nations, English, French, and particularly the Dutch East-Indiamen, anchored this season in *Simon's-bay*. The principal officers and passengers of this nation lodged chiefly with the resident ; so that at meal-times, various European dialects, together with the languages used in commerce with the Indians, viz. the Malay, and a very bad kind of Portuguese, were spoken all at one time ; so that the confusion was almost equal to that of the Tower of Babel. The dissimilitude likewise in manners and behaviour was sometimes equally great. A circumstance that occurred on this occasion, and that appeared to me rather singular, deserves to be mentioned. When the strangers of other nations began their desert, two Dutch captains put on their hats and lighted their pipes. Upon this I asked some Dutchmen that sat by me, whether this was not looked upon as unusual and impolite ? I was answered, that tobacco was a more delicious desert, and had more charms for an old sailor, than cakes and

sweet-meats; and that this custom is still more practised in other places in the East-Indies. Indeed I observed at the Cape, that the Dutch commonly wore their hats in the house, and that even in company, without its being looked upon as the least breach of politeness. At least the custom, which is constantly practised in Europe, of carrying one's hat under one's arm, is still more unnatural. This most undeniably absurd practice I never observed in the East-Indies.

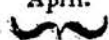
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We often enjoyed the company of English ladies, some of whom even staid out our elegant desert of pipes and tobacco. Some of these ladies came from the East-Indies, on their return from Europe, and some from England. The married ones, to see their husbands either at *Bombay*, *Madras*, or *Bengal*; the unmarried ones, to get husbands. Some of the former had not seen their husbands for several years, these not having being able to send for them before, for want of having acquired money enough to keep house in the expensive manner requisite in this part of the world. The latter seldom make the voyage in vain, being extremely welcome to such of the single men, as have had time to get a tolerable share of the treasures of India, but could not persuade themselves to wed the dark Indian beauties, (as many however are accustomed to do) and have not had leisure to go to Europe merely for the purpose of chusing themselves wives. It was therefore supposed, that some of these beautiful travellers were actually, in a manner, sent for by commission, though not inserted in the invoice.

Be



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Be that, however, as it may; they all in the mean while seemed highly deserving of rich and good husbands, as well for their courage and resolution in venturing upon the ocean, as for many other fine qualities they were possessed of. As they were always in the company and under the care of some respectable married lady, nobody seemed to harbour the least doubt of their good conduct. On this occasion, the following anecdote deserves to be mentioned.

One of the ladies, who had some time before passed by the Cape, had been sent for to be married to a certain governor. He, as soon as she arrived, was for performing his engagements immediately; but the lady positively refused, and finally gave as a reason for her conduct, that she did not chuse to deceive him; for during her voyage, she had betrothed herself to the captain of the ship, who however was base enough to retract his promise, although she feared that their connection had been productive of certain disagreeable consequences. The governor repaid her frankness by the most generous conduct; and was not at all surprized that she should rather give her hand to a young fellow, who had besides had the advantage of being on the spot, than wait in uncertainty for an elderly man, who was an absolute stranger to her, and was moreover at a distance from her. He therefore married her himself without hesitation, after having in vain endeavoured to persuade her false lover to take this step.

The little island of *Malagas* in *False-bay*, is particularly resorted to by *penguins* and seals; and although *Robben* (or Seal Island) otherwise called *Penguin Island* in *Table-bay*, bears the name of these latter animals, yet they are seldom found

found there now, since the island has been inhabited. But on *Dassen* Island they are found in much greater quantities, infomuch that sometimes a general shooting party is made with advantage to destroy the seals there, for the sake of their blubber. Their skins, though very good in their kind, are to be had very cheap; and are, as far as I know, in request only among the boors for tobacco-pouches, for which they are extremely well calculated, as they keep the tobacco from growing dry. I brought home with me the stuffed foetus of a *phoca* from the Cape. It is of the same species with those that I investigated together with Messrs. FORSTER, and eat at *New Zealand*, *Terra Del Fuego*, and the *Southern Thule*. When the train-oil was separated, the flesh was really good and eatable, especially as in those places we could get nothing better: we imagined indeed, that it tasted like beef, but it must be owned that it had a disagreeable black hue.

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I have opened the intestines of divers *phoca*, and always found them empty, excepting a little sand and small sea-shells, together with a few stones from the size of a nut to that of an egg. The reason of this emptiness of the bowels may have been, either that these creatures have very strong digestive powers, so as speedily to dissolve the sea animals on which they probably live, or else, that during their dwelling and copulating on shore, they abstain for a long time from all food whatever.

Various sorts of *sea-fish* are taken at the *Cape* and *Falsh-bay*. At the latter place they had just caught the electric *ray-fish*, (*raia torpedo*) but unluckily I chanced to be absent, while it was yet alive, and experiments were made



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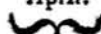


with it. Out of several that touched it, every one had felt (as it were) a strong electric shock, the resident only excepted, who could handle this fish without the least inconvenience. Whether he was in like manner insensible to ordinary electricity, he had never tried; but it was very likely that this was the case, particularly as we find an instance in MUSSCHENBROEK'S *Introduct. to Nat. Phil.* §. 832, No. 3, of three persons, who were found to be exempt from the operation of electricity, though the experiment was made on them more than once. I am besides acquainted with a certain man, who seems to possess a great antielectric power. From the result of many experiments made with the *torpedo*, and related in the Philosophical Transactions for the years 1773, 74, 75, and 76, there appears to exist an incontrovertible analogy between electricity and the above-mentioned fish.

The cancer norvegicus, a kind of lobster, is often eaten in the Bay. A sort of snail or cockle, *klipekous* (*Haliotis*, LINN.) from half a foot to a foot and a half diameter, is usually stewed, but ~~is~~ in my opinion a very unfavoury dish. The same may be said of the *sepia loligo*, and the *sepia octopodia*, which are made into soup, and are known to our sailors by the name of *black-fish*, and *sea-cats*, and to the English by the name of *cuttle-fish*. A small kind of oyster is likewise found in a particular spot in the Bay, and is kept by the governor for his own table. As to muscles I saw but few of them; but in *Table-bay*, below the Lion-Mountain, they are found in great abundance, and have a delicious taste. The *myxine glutinosa*, was not easy to be discovered among the *vermes*; it is like an eel or a snake

snake with a flat tail. Its mouth was formed by an oblong opening under its nose, not transverse, but longitudinal in the direction of its body, with double and moveable jaws well furnished with teeth. The bite of it is reported to occasion a disagreeable tumour, but not to be mortal.

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Among the vegetables that I found in Bay-Falso, the *cunonia capensis* was almost the largest tree there, though barely twice or three times the height of a man. It grows near the water, and contains in its peculiar *stipal. bivalv. sagittat.* a cream-like matter to appearance, but in fact a viscid or gummy substance. Various *sophora* bloomed here towards the spring, and required a good soil: but on the *sophora capensis*, there was found in particular a new sort of *viscum* in great abundance. The *antholyza æthiopica* grew from three to six feet in height, with beautiful red flowers, being always found at no great distance from the shore, and chiefly in the shade of other plants. I met with it afterwards in the woods near the Cape, particularly in the *Houtniqas*. The *antholyza maura* \*, remarkable for its flowers, half white and half black, I found on one spot only of the mountain near one of the rivulets, that trickle down just before the slaughter-house. A very small *triandrous* plant (*Staminibus monadelphis*) with comparatively large but beautiful yellow flowers, in the fine part of the day adorned a large plat of ground with its ~~own~~ blossoms, which however at other times were so entirely closed, as almost to disappear. The *calla æthiopica*

\* This composes now a new genus, and is called by Dr. Thunberg the *wittenia maura*.

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delighted chiefly in moist places near the sea-shore, and was in flower the whole winter. *Proteas, ericas, cornuses, gnaphaliums, gnidias, ccbias, phyllicas, brunias, and periplocas*, two varieties of the *myrica ccrifera*, together with *clifortias, thebias, polygalas, hermannias* and *asters*, were strewn promiscuously over the dry places on the declivity of the mountain. Among these some *restios* seemed quartered on the bare sand, together with divers *mesembryanthemums*. The *hyobanche sanguinea*, a parasitic plant, towards spring, began to throw out its blood-red tufts of flowers in the naked sand; an *osteospermum* or two, as well of the arboreous as herbaceous kind, were now and then likewise found in the bare sand. *Arctotides, calendulas, and otbonnas*, throve chiefly in sandy places. On the mountain besides *proteas, brunias, diosmas, ericas*, and the *stilbe*, we found *indigoferas, erinuses, selagos, manulias, chironias* of different kinds, together with many gynandrous plants. We likewise found greens and kitchen-garden plants in great plenty at this inauspicious time of the year. Towards spring, divers sorts of *ixias, gladioluses, moreas, oxalises, mesembryanthemums, antirrhinums*, and even various beautiful small *irises*, several inches high, with the corolla partly white and partly blue, began to push out of the ground.


Of the partly known and partly quite new plants which we met with at this spot, some were rather uncommon, others again was not to be found again in the other places I visited in Africa. Every district has always something peculiar to itself: no wonder then, if Dr. THUNBERG and I should have passed over various specimens of the vegetable

## CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

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table tribe unnoticed, and the common saying, *Semper aliquid novi ex Africa*, should still hold good for many years to come. Botanists, therefore, must not expect in this place a more accurate catalogue of plants, which would be too tedious a business; but content themselves with acquiring, *en passant*, as it were, and at a distance, by means of the preceding list, some idea of the country, just as it is, covered with the herbs and trees most commonly found in it on different spots, and at different times of the year.

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S E C T.

## S E C T. III.

*Residence at Alphen near Conflantia, till the Author's Trip to Paarl.*

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WHEN the winter was past, and the ships now preferred anchoring in *Table-bay*, I went with the resident to an estate of his called *Alphen*, situate in the neighbourhood of *Conflantia*, about three miles from it, and nearly half way between *Table* and *Simon's-bay*. Before we could get over the mountainous part of this road, we observed a troop of baboons very nimbly clambering up the steep rocks, and scouring away as fast as they could to save themselves from our hounds, which set after them in full cry. On the plain before us we saw a large flock of *flammingos* (*phœnicopt. ruber*) a species of bird of the crane kind (*grallæ*) seeking their food in pools and puddles that were beginning to dry up. As they were larger than our cranes, and of a snow-white colour, with their wings of a flaming rosy hue, it is easy to imagine, what an agreeable appearance they made on the green field, clad in so beautiful a livery. After this our road was over a sandy plain, a place that, during part of the winter, one is obliged to wade over, as it then lies under water. We then

then came to a field overgrown with a great many different sorts of heath and other shrubs and bushes, with some small trees of the *protea* kind. Part of the flowers and herbs that were scattered among these shrubs, I found later than in *False-bay*; probably by reason, that in this latter place they were brought forward partly by the vapours arising from the sea, and partly by the sun-beams reflected upon the mountains. On the other hand, divers *ixias*, *gladioluses*, *moreas*, *hyacinths*, *cyphias*, *melantbias*, *albucas*, *oxalises*, *asperugos*, *geraniums*, *monsonias*, *arctotises*, *calendulas*, *wachendorbias*, and the *arctopus*—some of them never, some of them rarely seen in the Bay, were now found every where by the road-side in their greatest beauty. The pleasure enjoyed by a botanist, who finds all at once so rich a collection of unknown, rare, and beautiful vernal flowers, in so unfrequented a part of the world, is easier to be conceived than described. I was now quite impatient to get to the end of my journey, however agreeable it was otherwise. At length we arrived at the resident's country-seat, and I did not delay a moment to procure myself a still more delightful recreation, viz. that of walking out to reconnoitre such plants as were yet unknown to me.

The premises are very well built, and contiguous to them is a pretty extensive garden, and a considerable vineyard, which increases yearly in size. But there is hardly an acre of arable land to be found in the whole neighbourhood; nor did the owners of the vineyards here think it worth their while to trouble themselves about the culture of it, but were then, viz. towards the end of the month of August, busied in digging about their vine-stocks,

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stocks, and planting new. They never destroy their vine-plants; that is, they do not let them run up to any height, but cut them down low, and generally surround their vineyards and fruit-trees with hedges, in order to shelter them the better from the wind. A small species of *curculio* in particular, did infinite damage to the vine-buds, and the tender leaves. They were therefore very busy in plucking this insect from the plant as soon as ever it appeared, and as soon as they could possibly get at it; the only means yet known of preventing the ravages of this creature.

As summer was now approaching, the *exacum* and the \* *gentiana exacoides* began to cover the ground with yellow patches; and many sorts of shrubs of the extensive genus of *aspalathus*, came out by degrees with their yellow blossoms. But the *protea argentea*, or the silver-tree, as it is called, exhibited the whole year throughout its glossy white, or silver gray leaves. This tree has at first a very uncommon, and indeed beautiful appearance. I am of opinion, however, that we should not chuse to change for it our delightful aspen-groves. The silver-tree scarcely ever grows higher than twenty feet; and if I remember right, I have been informed, that they arrive at this height in twelve to fifteen years. But in a rich soil this tree grows twice as quick, and is the largest of all the *protea* kind. One or two of them are found planted near some of the farms; but we seldom meet with any that have grown wild of themselves in these parts, though a little grove of them is seen

\* Now the *sebaea exacoides*.

near



near *Conflantia*. For this reason it has been supposed, that the silver-tree was transplanted hither from the beginning; yet no one has been able to inform me from what place it first came: probably it was brought from the borders of *Anamaqua*; for I now travelled over the whole north-east side of Hottentots Holland, without finding it either in its wild state or planted. In the mean while, as it is the largest of all the *proteas*, and indeed almost of all the trees *indigenous* at the *Cape*, it is remarkable, that together with some others it has not attracted the attention of government to the planting of it, especially as they cannot be ignorant that the consumption of wood stores, as well for the use of the ships as that of the town, daily increases faster than they can be supplied by their resources. It is chiefly from the level ground near the shore, that the company at present fetches its wood, which consists chiefly of two small and crooked sorts of *protea*. That wood is dear at the Cape, may be concluded, from the circumstance of private persons rather finding their account in getting it from the mountains by means of slaves; though it takes up one of these a whole day to get a moderate load of shrubs and dry branches of trees, the value of which is generally the fourth part of a rixdollar. And indeed it is so far fortunate for the Dutch in a place so bare of wood, that a fire is not wanted in this country, excepting for dressing of victuals, lighting their pipes, and the women's stoves.

*Alphen*, or the farm where I passed this summer, was on the southern side of Table-Mountain, about a mile and a half from the foot of it. This mountain seems here, as well as at Table-Bay, level at the top, though there it

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has considerable inequalities. In the rainy season large pools of water are found upon it, but by no means any lake, as some pretend. When a cloud covers this range of mountains, and the north-west wind blows, it should seem that this same wind must inevitably drive the cloud over the neighbouring plains on the other or south side of these mountains, at the same time causing it to rain there; but on the contrary, the fact is, that it never does rain there; a circumstance that, without doubt, like all other natural phenomena, has its real and certain foundations in nature. The most probable solution that occurs to me is this, that the vapours, which are driven up from the sea by the north-west wind, gather round the mountain in consequence of their being attracted by it, and there remain as long as they preserve any degree of rarefaction; but when at length they become more and more dense and pressed together, so as necessarily rather to yield to the greater force of the wind than to the attractive power of the mountain, they are carried away too quick to fall in rain directly at the foot of the mountain; a circumstance that does not happen before they reach the other side of *Zout Rivier*.

Having several times in my walks been, without any reason, apprehensive of being wetted through by the above-mentioned cloud, at length I resolved to ascend the mountain, in order to see how things were situated. The weather was at that time fine at the bottom of the mountain, and the wind pretty still; but at the upper edge of the mountain I met with several gusts of wind, which precipitated, as it were, down upon me, moist and cold, and with

with a sensible violence. The temperature of the air, with which I was surrounded for about three quarters of an hour, varied according as the weather changed from fine to hazy, and from that to drizzling or downright rain. The barrenness of the mountain and the coldness of its air, together with the small number of plants upon it, and those stunted by the climate; nay, the rainy weather itself, all combined to form around me a backward autumn. From this spot, however, I had an agreeable summer prospect towards the bottom of the mountain, viz. the verdant plains lying round about it, enlightened and warmed by the genial rays of the sun. At the bottom of this range of hills there seemed to shoot out many roundish oblong ridges, pretty nearly of the same form, and parallel to each other, and separated by a like number of dales, at the bottom of several of which ran the water previously collected by the mountain, and destined, as it were, to water the plains. A number of green trees and shrubs, which had planted themselves along the sides of these rills, formed a beautiful girdle on the declivity of the mountain, and on the hillocks projecting at the foot of it. Several neat compact farms scattered up and down, the houses belonging to which were white with black roofs, at the same time that the grounds were laid out in a regular and judicious manner with verdant orchards and vineyards, lay distinctly open to the eye in all their respective ground-plots, forming a most natural as well as beautiful picture. Next to these, a little further on, were seen pale and bleak tracts of heath, among which were strewed, as it were, various plots of sand, together with

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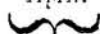
fandy roads winding about in a serpentine form, and wag-gons and timber-tugs creeping along them with a sluggish motion. These extensive plains were bounded by *Tyger-mountain* and the shores of *Hottentots Holland*. Next to these, but farther on, were seen other mountains, which, according to the distance at which they were placed, grew more and more indistinct, till they entirely disappeared in the clouds. From hence too, besides several pools of rain-water, a great part of the creek which forms *Falfe-bay*, was seen. This, from its calmness and distance, appeared at that juncture as smooth as a looking-glass; at the same time that it was terminated by the ocean, or rather, according to the appearance it made in my eyes, by the horizon itself.

From the mist, or fog, which surrounded me on the mountain, I perceived at times specks of clouds snatched off by the north-west wind, and driving along with violence through the air both above and below the spot I then stood upon, and directly followed by their shadows formed upon the same plains. In a word, this extensive and delightful spectacle was as enchanting as it was singular. Being not used to run any great risks, I did not venture so far out as I would have wished, in order to examine the top of *Table-mountain* on this side; for, as it grew towards dark, I might have easily lost my way, and fall a prey to leopards and hyænas, which frequent these parts in great numbers, and at night are very bold and daring. A little while before they had committed ravages in a farm yard just below the mountain; I likewise heard their howlings the same evening about dusk,

dusk, from the very place where, two hours before, I had been botanizing. That very day, ~~at~~ broad day-light, I narrowly escaped being plundered by a troop of slaves, that had some time before run away from their masters, and who were suspected at that time to have their haunts about *Table-mountain*. A fire that I found there newly extinguished, was probably some of their reliques. Still, however, the beautiful prospect that I have just been describing, would perhaps have kept me longer on the mountain, if I had not begun to feel a kind of stiffness and rheumatic pains in my limbs, owing to my having got into a cold air at the top of the mountain all in a sweat and too lightly clad. This probably would have had serious consequences, if I had not accidentally wrought myself into a most violent sweat; the fact was, that in my descent, wishing to examine some of the closest thickets on the sides of the rills, that trickle down the mountain, I went out of the right path, and got into a very thick over-grown coppice, so that I could not without the greatest difficulty extricate myself from it.

Some time before this, or in the beginning of September, I rode to town to take leave of Dr. THUNBERG, who was going to take a long journey up the country, at the expence of the Dutch East-India company. I staid at his house rather late in the evening, which occasioned me in my way home to be caught in the dark and to miss my way. I therefore rode up to a farm-house to enquire for the road, and from the information I got, thought to find my way home; but, it beginning to rain, and the darkness increasing, I took a bye-road, which led me

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me to an elegant house, the property of a private gentleman. After I had stood out the attacks of a number of dogs, there came out a heap of slaves, from sixteen to twenty. These fellows were so malicious as not to answer me, though certainly some of them understood me extremely well, and though, after having promised them something to drink, I asked them the way in tolerable good Dutch; on the contrary, they conferred with each other in broken Portuguese or Malay, in such a manner, as to make me suspect, that they had no better will towards me, than they have to others of a different nation from themselves, who are accustomed to sell them here, after having partly by robbery and open violence, and partly in the way of bargain or purchase, got them from their native country, and thus eventually brought them to the grievous evils they then sustained. Had the master of the house been at this time at home, of which however I much doubt, it would have made very little difference to me, as even in that case I could not have spoken with him; for every body in this country is obliged to bolt the door of his chamber at night, and keep loaded fire-arms by him, for fear of the revengeful disposition of his slaves. This being the case, it was still easier for them to murder me, and afterwards conceal the deed by burying my body, or drag it into a thicket to be devoured by wild beasts; I therefore took again to the road, in search of a better fate. To this end I gave my horse the bridle, in hopes that he would hit upon the right road better than myself. In consequence of this he made such use of his liberty, as to quit all the beaten tracks, perhaps with a view to find the shortest way home:

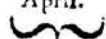


home: so that I soon found myself in a heavy marshy ground, overgrown with bushes, and full of brooks and rivulets, till at length he made a sudden leap, on which we both tumbled head over heels into a pit, and parted. My horse's sudden flight gave me reason to fear, that some wild beast being near us was the occasion of it; for which reason, not thinking myself over and above secure, I immediately prepared to defend myself with a large knife, which I generally carried about me for the purpose of digging up the roots of plants. The best step I could now take, was, like many more foot-passengers, to make up to some farm-yard, and run the risk of being torn to pieces by great dogs, which are let loose at night for the purpose of keeping off thieves. To pass the night in the open air, at a time when the weather seemed set in for rain, was as disagreeable as dangerous. In the mean time I took to walking about, to keep myself warm. In the space of a few minutes, after I had gone over a little hill, I found myself near a farm-house. It being dark, I was obliged to consider some time before I could know it again to be my own house. I found my horse already at the stable-door, standing quite still and quiet, and was lucky enough into the bargain, to be able to conceal the whole adventure from the family, as the particular footing on which I was at that time required.

Constantia is a district consisting of two farms, which produce the well-known wine so much prized in Europe, and known by the name of *Cape*, or *Constantia*-wine. This place is situated at the distance of a mile and a half from *Alphen*, in a bending formed by, and nearly under the



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ridge of hills, which comes from *Meuifsen-mountain*, and just where it strikes off towards *Hout-bay*. One of these farms is called *Little Constantia*. Here the white *Constantia* wine is made. The other produces the red. According to M. DE LA CAIL's account, not more than sixty *figgars* of red, and ninety of the white *Constantia* wine are made, each *figgar* being reckoned at six hundred French pints, or about one hundred and fifty Swedish cans; so that the whole produce amounts to twenty-two thousand five hundred cans. As the company are used to keep one third of this for themselves, the remainder is always bespoke by the Europeans long before it is made. At the Cape this wine is seldom seen at table, partly because it is dear, and partly because it is the produce of the country. The red *Constantia* wine sells for about sixty rixdollars the half awin; but the white is usually to be purchased at a more reasonable rate: otherwise the price of the common white wine at the Cape is from ten to seventy rixdollars the *figgar*, according to the year's growth and the demand that is for it. They make besides, in the environs of the Cape, *Burgundy, Madeira, Moselle, Muscadel wines*, so called from some analogy they bear to the European wines of the same name, as well as from the respective places in Europe whence the vine-stocks were first brought. These wines are at a proportionably higher price than the ordinary white. As the Cape wines, in consequence of the great demand from the ships, have all a quick sale, they are seldom to be found of any age; otherwise by longer keeping, together with better care, and a less liberal use of sulphur, they would doubtless be equally good with the best European wines.

wines. The genuine Constantia wine is undeniably a very racy and delicate desert wine, and has something peculiarly agreeable in the flavour of it. That its superiority is not owing to any thing peculiar in the manner of preparing it, I am fully convinced; for then, without doubt, a great deal more of it would be made. But the fact is, that the genuine wine can only be produced by certain particular soils. The districts that lie next to these yield merely the common Cape wine, notwithstanding that they have been planted with vine-stocks taken from this, as well as with some brought from the banks of the Rhine, whence it is supposed that the true Constantia fort originally comes; nay, even though all the vineyards about Constantia seem to have the same soil. We have instances at the Cape, as well as in Europe, that good grapes sometimes produce a bad wine; while, on the other hand, bad grapes will yield a good sort of wine: therefore, towards making wine of a certain quality, besides finer materials, there must be certain conditions and circumstances, which, by a diligent and rational investigation, might probably be explored to the great benefit of mankind.

Such as are apprized in what quantities Constantia wine is consumed in Europe, have perhaps already remarked, that my calculation of the produce of the above-mentioned wine is too limited. This, however, is by no means the case; the overplus being the produce of avarice, which, goaded on by the desire of gain, will always hit upon some method of satisfying the demands of luxury and sensuality. The votaries of these, accustomed to be put off with empty sounds, do not seldom drink with the

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highest relish, an imaginary *Constantia*, with which, however, this liquor has nothing in common besides the mere name. It is therefore adviseable, even at the Cape itself, to take care, that whilst one has a genuine sample given one to taste, one is not made to pay for a made-up red *Constantia*, which otherwise is in general sold for half the price. When a wine of this kind has been (as it usually is) meliorated by a voyage, and at the same time christened with the pompous name of genuine *Constantia*, of which it has indeed in some measure the flavour, it easily sells for such in Europe.

This summer likewise I visited *Hout-bay*. The direct road to it goes through a narrow vale, from which the harbour is supplied with fresh water, by means of a little river or stream covered with *palmites*, a kind of *acorus* with a thick stem and broad leaves; which grow out from the top, as they do in the palm-tree, a circumstance from which the plant takes its name. These *palmites* are found in great abundance in most rivers and streams, which they block up more or less by means of their stems and roots intertwining with each other. On the other hand, this same *Hout-bay* has very little title to the name it bears; as, in direct contradiction to the signification of it, there is and seems ever to have been, a great deficiency of timber and brushwood in that place. Considered as a harbour, this bay seemed to me to be extremely narrow, and at the same time too open to the south wind. The anchorage, however, was good; at least, I was so informed by two fishermen I met with there. A heap of sand is driven up by the sea to the farthest part of the bay, and there

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there appeared to form a shoal of a considerable extent, by which means the river above-mentioned is not a little blocked up. This sand was at that time very loose at many places, so that one could not walk upon it without danger of being drowned in the water that lay under it. In time, perhaps, the apertures will be entirely filled up, so as to become solid. A nook in a mountain on the west side of the bottom of the bay is entirely covered with sand, which probably has been carried up from the strand by the violence of the wind from the sea. The east side is composed of a steep mountain, which reaches to the brink of the water, while the western shore is very much covered with large loose granites. There are, nevertheless, very good landing-places here for boats. In other respects the harbour is inconvenient, as well in respect to the gusts of wind that come from the mountains, as from the want of a convenient watering-place, and a wind to carry the ships out to sea.

A farm with plantations of vines lay a few stones throw higher up in the vale. The owner, a European, was the only one in Africa who had sense enough to make use of asses; being of opinion, that as they were more serviceable in hilly countries as beasts of burden, and at the same time their food, consisting of shrubs and the coarser kinds of grass, was easier to be procured, they were better adapted to that part of the world than horses. I had here a hasty glimpse of a little black quadruped, in shape approaching nearest to the otter, which ran and hid itself in a heap of stones.

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The game here, and in the country about Constantia, consists chiefly of small *antilopes*, as in *Falſe-bay*, viz. of *ſteenbocks*, the *antilope grimmia* of PALLAS, and of *Klipſpringers*, which, however, I have not had an opportunity of examining near; likewise of *diving goats*, ſo called from a peculiar manner they have of leaping and diving, as it were, under the buſhes. The method of hunting theſe ſmall antilopes is to drive them from their cover among the buſhes, which is beſt done by hounds; at which time the ſportsman muſt take care to be ready with his gun. They are likewise caught with ſnares placed at the entrance into vineyards and kitchen-gardens. Theſe ſnares are faſtened to the top of an elastic branch or bough of a tree, one end of which is made quite faſt in the earth, and the other being bent downwards, is attached very ſlightly to a board, which is laid on the ground, and covered a little with earth. It is farther ſo contrived, that when the animal treads on the board, this gives a little ſwing, upon which the elastic bough flies looſe, and draws the ſnare over one or two of the animal's legs, at the ſame time lifting the creature up along with it into the air, ſo that it remains hanging there. Among other animals I ſaw here *ichneumons* (*viverra ichneumon*) and *civet cats* (*viverra genetta*) caught in traps near farm-houſes. They were ſomething bigger than a common cat, and have a bad name with houſewives for making great havock among the poultry and eggs; though, on the other hand, they do a great deal of ſervice by deſtroying the larger kind of rats. In the more general œconomy of nature, theſe animals are ſtill more ſerviceable; more ſo indeed than the people at  
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