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but, as in summer they have nothing else to sustain themselves with, they content themselves with browsing on the shrubs and bushes; and notwithstanding this, do not by any means fare ill. The larger kinds of cattle cannot make so good a shift with mere shrubs, but are obliged to seek for reeds and other green vegetables in the rivers; for which reason, where the inhabitants of the *Carrow* live in such low situations, they remove in the summer up to the ridges of mountains and hills, where they find the usual summer climate, with rain at intervals, plenty of grass, and cool refreshing breezes. In the winter, it is said both to hail and snow on divers of the mountains; on which account the colonists leave them at that time, in order to enjoy in the *Carrow*, or lower situations, the benefit of a mild winter, accompanied with rain and a delightful verdure, as I have described it above. Allured by the same advantages, the wild harts or *gazells* likewise come down into the plains, and are followed by the beasts of prey. To the different sorts of corn the *Carrow* climate is so far unfavourable, that in case they are sowed in the winter or the rainy season, they are (as I have been informed by the inhabitants, who have made many attempts of the kind) apt to be rotted by the too great abundance of water; and if put into the ground in summer, they cannot spring up on account of the great drought. Notwithstanding all these natural disadvantages, however, to the honour of the forecast and diligence of man in a state of civilization be it spoken, one very frequently sees, even in the parched and dry *Carrow* plains, fields of corn, kitchen-gardens, and vineyards, verdant and flourishing in the highest degree;

gree; while the wild plants around them die, or languish with drought. This remarkable appearance proceeds from the water being brought down at pleasure from the nearest mountains, and carried all over their fields and plantations.

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What are termed by the colonists the *Zuur-velden*, or *Sour-fields*, are such as lie somewhat higher and cooler than the shore, and thus are better supplied with rain than the other plains; which, however, abound more in grass. The different sorts of grass here are likewise perennial, and coarser than those of the former; at the same time that their blades have a hairy roughness in them, and are broader. The cattle in these tracts of country are somewhat given to chew unwholesome substances, such as thongs of leather, chalk, and bones; and are even accustomed, in failure of every thing else of the kind, to gnaw each others horns. This circumstance, which seems to denote an acid in the stomach of the cattle, may, probably, have given occasion to the appellation bestowed on these plains. Some of the Caffre plains are said likewise to possess this acid quality in so high a degree, as to occasion the cattle at night, when shut up in their stalls, to gnaw each other's horns, by which means their horns have the appearance of carved work; a circumstance which ought, therefore, by no means to be ascribed, as it has been, to the manual operations of the Caffre herdsmen, or to the effects of imagination only.

To conclude, with respect to the *Zuur-velden*, it is remarked by the colonists, that there is less milk in proportion, but more as well as better butter than in the *Zoet-*

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*velden*, though in these latter places the cattle get fatter. By the *Sweet-fields* (*Zoet-velden*) are meant such places as do not correspond to the descriptions given above of the *Zuur* and *Carrow-veld*. Such spots as are low, rather sandy, and lie near the shore, are given as instances of the *Zoet* plains; as the *Zuur* again are *Honing-klip*, *Houtni-quas-land*, and the greater part of *Lange-kloof* and *Caffre-land*.


For the purpose of feeding sheep, the *Carrow* is considered as the best land, and the *Zuur-velden* the least, if at all, fit. For cattle it has been found to answer better, when they could be removed off and on from one of these kinds of land to the other. The constant and unequivocal experience of the colonists, with regard to this point, agrees with the result of the practice of the Hottentots; though this, in fact, has its origin almost entirely in prejudice; for as soon as any of them, or of their cattle, fall sick and die, or any other misfortune happens to, or even only threatens them, they immediately remove their station. This, perhaps, is one of the principal causes that the cattle of the Hottentots, in some measure, keep up to their original standard; whilst, on the contrary, those of the christians degenerate to a smaller race; and that chiefly in those parts which lie nearer to the Cape, and therefore have been longer inhabited and cultivated.

It has likewise been remarked, beyond a shadow of doubt, that such places as before abounded in grass, and were very fertile in corn and the produce of the kitchen-garden, are now fallen off considerably; so that it is feared, that they must in a short time be given up. The rhinoceros-


*ceros*-bush (a species of *flœbe*) a dry shrub, which is otherwise used to thrive on barren tracts of land, now begins to encroach more and more on such places as have been thoroughly cleared and cultivated. When I asked the country people the reason of this, they would lay the blame on their sins. Their consciences, probably, informed them, that there was great reason for so doing. One of their sins which most merited this punishment, as having contributed most to the evil, might, in this case, be reckoned their want of knowing how to dress properly the soil they occupied, and to manage it to the best advantage. As the grounds that are newly broken up are, in every country, and in all parts of the world, more fertile than they can be expected to be after some time, it is no wonder, that the lands in Africa at present require more dressing and manuring than the colonists think proper to bestow on them; but which is absolutely necessary, in order to keep them up in that degree of heart and strength which they have before, during a period of many ages, had time to acquire.

In direct contradiction to the custom and example of the original inhabitants the Hottentots, the colonists turn their cattle out constantly into the same fields, and that too in a much greater quantity than used to graze there in the time of the Hottentots; as they keep not only a number sufficient for their own use, but likewise enough to supply the more plentiful tables of the numerous inhabitants of Cape Town, as well as for the victualling of the ships in their passage to and from the East-Indies with fresh, and even with salted provisions. In consequence of the fields be-



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ing thus continually grazed off, and the great increase of the cattle feeding on them, the grasses and herbs which these animals most covet are prevented continually more and more from thriving and taking root; while, on the contrary, the *rhinoceros*-bush, which the cattle always pass by and leave untouched, is suffered to take root free and unmolested, and encroach on the place of others: so that this ought to appear the less strange to the colonists, as this punishment for their sins (as they call the *rhinoceros*-bush,) together with several other dry barren shrubs and bushes, is found in greater abundance than any where else near their farms, the place where the cattle are chiefly used to feed. Notwithstanding these inconveniencies, the colonists remain immoveable in their stone houses; while, on the contrary, the Hottentots (and this was the case in former times) on the least panic remove their huts and cattle to another place, so that the grass is no where eaten off too close. Together with this diminution of pasturage, there is another circumstance which contributes not a little to the degeneracy of the breed; this is, that the calves, on account of the great quantity of butter made, (which never was the case with the Hottentots) are reared up with less milk than formerly. In the mean time, if they go on in this manner, the presage of the country people may chance to prove true, viz. that many spots that are now inhabited and cultivated, must be relinquished and suffered to lie waste. But it may likewise happen, that time and rest may at length restore to the soil the heat and strength, which the colonists have deprived it of; and that the grass and herbage may, in  
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their turn, have an opportunity of extruding the shrubs and bushes, after having received the protection of the shelter and shade of these latter; and after having, by undergoing a kind of putrefaction, made themselves a soil more fertile and better adapted to their nature. It is also not improbable, that the game, finding more security from the sportsmen here than formerly, may resort hither in great numbers: and it is well known, that in feeding they make a more equal division between the grass and bushes than the ordinary cattle do; nay, it may happen, that the gazell's dung and other accidental circumstances, which people here have neglected to make trial of, may come to extirpate the *rhinoceros*-bush in its turn. The animals which occur only in Africa are, in my opinion, as much designed for the plants peculiar to this climate, as the plants are for the animals. The *rein-deer*, for instance, an animal destined by nature for the climate of Lapland, and for the moss with which it is covered, by botanists called *lichen rangiferus*, is in that place domesticated with the greatest advantage; where, however, cattle would thrive very ill. The *elk*, another of nature's kind presents to our climate, was formerly considered as a fit subject for the chase only, (which, in fact, was the chief employment of most nations, and even of the most savage) till our more considerate countrymen and truly zealous patriots, the Barons ALSTROEMMER, by proposing premiums and by other methods, endeavoured to make this stately, strong, and swift-footed animal likewise domestic, and thereby more serviceable to the country it inhabits. Induced by these examples, the African colonists ought to take it into serious consideration,

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consideration, whether by extirpating the game, they are not in reality laying waste their country, and rendering it a desert.

It is said, that a farmer once attempted to destroy and extirpate all the rhinoceros-bushes on his lands by fire, but that they afterwards grew up again more vigorous than ever; so that, as well with respect to the effects of the industry of man as to the more immediate operations of nature, it is not at all unlikely, that future ages may see this part of Africa entirely changed and different from what it is at present.

*Gaurits-rivier* is likewise called *Goud's-rivier*, probably, from the resemblance in sound between these two words; or else from the latter word being more easy to pronounce, and not with any reference to *gold*, to which it might otherwise seem to allude. This river, which, farther to the northward, is likewise called *Olifant's-rivier*, is one of the most considerable in this part of Africa: and though it was at that time in a great measure dried up, there was yet a strong current, and it was dangerous to ford over, as it was not only very broad and pretty deep at the fording-place, but made a particular bend there; so that we should have been badly off, if we had not fortunately happened to have been told of it in good time.

The banks of the river were extremely high and quite perpendicular, excepting just at the place where the passage was. The water sometimes swells so suddenly and unexpectedly as to come unawares upon travellers, even while they are passing over it, and either drown them or carry them out to sea. A peasant, who some time before

fore made a halt at night near the ford of this river, had, by an unexpected flooding, been washed away and lost, with his wife and children, and the waggon in which they were sleeping.

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The reason of these sudden floods is partly the hasty melting of the snow on the various high mountains which lie to the northwards, and partly the falling of heavy rains in the extensive *Carrow-field*, lying to the north of this spot; in which plain *Oliphants* or *Gaurits-rivier*, by means of divers small branches, has its source, as is partly shewn in the map.

Going from *Gaurits-rivier*, and afterwards from *Honing-klip*, which is a narrow vale, we kept to the right, in order to get to *Moffel-bay*, and so over the *Brak* rivers to the *Hout-niquas* forests; we having been particularly advised not to go as yet to *Lange-kloof*, as, on account of a great drought and deficiency of rain then subsisting in those parts, our cattle would run the risk of being famished.

The *Brak* rivers have got this appellation from the quality of their waters, which are brackish or saltish, in consequence of the sea coming up into them, and occasioning in the cattle which are not used to them a troublesome diarrhoea. Of this circumstance I was ignorant, and consequently my oxen were attacked with this complaint; by which they were so much debilitated, that I was obliged to leave my waggon on a hill, till a peasant in *Houtniquas* drove thither with a team of his oxen to bring it off.

Just below the farm that lies to the westward of little *Brak-rivier*, and is called *Geelbeks-valley*, there is a tract of about two-thirds of an acre of land, which is always bare of plants,

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plants, and in part covered with a hoar frost. This was mistaken by the colonists for saltpetre, but was, in fact, nothing more than fine sea-salt. When this kind of hoar frost appeared in greater abundance than common, the neighbouring inhabitants looked on it as a certain sign of an impending fall of weather.

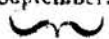
I visited *Moffel-bay* on horseback. This harbour, though it lies rather open to the easterly winds, and is not resorted to by ships, except in cases of extreme necessity, might, however, in many respects prove very useful, were it better known.

On a stone hereabouts is engraved an inscription as follows: Captain SWENFINGER, of the Danish ship the *Kron-Prinsefs*, 1752. The inhabitants informed us, that the ship here alluded to had been driven in there by a storm and run aground; and that some of the sailors having swam ashore and got a couple of lines, by means of them a stout rope had been stretched from the ship's mast to the shore; upon this, which thus had a sloping direction given to it, a large metal ring was hung, to which every one of the crew separately was tied fast, and slid on shore one after the other, when the ring was immediately brought back again to the ship by means of a line. When the storm was over, part of the lading was saved, and taken to the Cape in waggons. The country people who lived nearest the spot assured me, that ships would frequently manœuvre at the mouth of the harbour, as though they were in search of the port, but could not rightly tell where to look for it; one in particular, was said to have fired several guns as signals of distress, before she ventured in. The reason



reason of this was supposed to be, that the place is easily mistaken, as from the charts people are induced to look for an island here; which, however, is, in fact, nothing more than a low inconsiderable rock, which at flood lies for the greater part under water, and must necessarily appear to the ships that are running into it as if it was joined to the land; and indeed, it was partly this circumstance that was the occasion of Captain SWENFINGER's misfortune: and it is said, that on the whole coast between *Falset-bay* and *Moffel-bay* there is no anchorage to be found. In fact, it seems as if government wished to keep navigators in some degree in the dark with respect to *Moffel-bay*, as a store-house with a flag-staff, which the captain of a Danish vessel had erected there, was destroyed immediately after his departure from the place; and at the same time, all buildings prohibited within sight of the harbour. This conduct is certainly not founded on the soundest policy; for a more accurate knowledge of *Moffel-bay*, may be the future means of saving some vessel, which may by stress of weather be forced to run into it. Being convinced of this from divers considerations, and no one having given any description (at least in print) of this harbour, I think it my duty, till farther information is given on this subject, to communicate the result of my observations, however imperfect, upon it. There was not a boat to be found in the bay, therefore I cannot give the soundings. By means of the compass I had brought with me I marked out the shore here, having investigated it, partly on foot and partly on horseback, as far as is indicated by the dots in the map. The Danes who ran aground here assured the in-

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


habitants, that there was a good sandy bottom for anchorage; and that the small bend or inlet to the south-west, had depth of water sufficient to contain a ship.

For the purpose of getting acquainted with the harbour, supposing the reader to have acquired a previous knowledge of the latitude, and to have compared it with the small portion that I have pricked out on my map, it may likewise be of use to him to be informed, that the north, or north-west shore, is without any rocks or stones, being composed of verdant hills covered with shrubs and bushes, excepting just at each of the spots, where *Heerte* and *Kleine Brak* rivers empty themselves; the sand thereabouts having been raised up to some height by the sea-wind, so as to have encroached on the verdure of the prospect. The south-west shore, on the contrary, is very stony and mountainous; though just at the water-side it is low, one place excepted, which, at a very small distance from the water, appears with a rock-head, as it is called, or a rocky hill, flat on the top, which at the sea-side is perpendicular.

It is, probably, not difficult to land here with boats in fair weather; but at this time, the bay was greatly agitated by a wind from the sea; and the height of the water, which continued even in the afternoon, prevented us from catching oysters, which, we were informed, might otherwise have been met with at this place. Watering must be very a tedious and laborious business, as things are situated here at present; for there is only one very inconsiderable rill of fresh water here, which runs down into the above-mentioned inlet, where the anchoring-place is; but at the distance

distance of a few stones throw from the strand, is the well-spring itself, of such a width and depth, as to give one reason to suppose, that one might fill with ease a couple of hogheads at a time with fresh, clear, and well-tasted water. By properly purifying this water, and making a conduit for it, there might possibly be still an alteration made for the better. Indeed, I know many instances, where by digging a tolerably deep pit near a shore, particularly if it were sandy, fresh water has been absorbed into the pit and filled it. This likewise renders credible an account that I heard from some peasants in *Houtniquas*, that being on a hunting party near the mouth of *Brak-rivier*, and finding themselves extremely thirsty, it came into their heads to make an experiment, and stick a reed to the depth of a foot and a half into the sand near the level of the sea, when, contrary to their expectation, in a short time they were enabled to suck up through their reed a quantity of fresh and well-tasted water.

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## C H A P. VII.


*Journey through the Houtniquas.*

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**H**OUTNIQUAS Land, which is a woody tract of country, is supposed to commence to the eastward of *Groote Brak-rivier*, and to extend to *Keurebooms-rivier*, which empties itself into *Algoa-bay*. To the northward this district is entirely separated from *Lange Kloof*, by a long and very high range of mountains, extending from east to west. Along the side of these mountains runs a wood, to the trees, herbs, and general properties of which, the description I gave of *Groot Vaders Bosch* is equally applicable.

On the western side of *Keerom-rivier*, or the hither side of *Houtniquas*, between the wood just spoken of and the sea-shore, there are extensive plains of indifferent grass. There are likewise in the vales near the shore, some woody tracts of land and streams of fresh water; so that two farmers have lately made a new settlement here, who will find no difficulty in getting their livelihood, in the same manner as the other farmers do, who have set themselves down in the upper and more extensive side of the forest, by felling of timber, and at the same time they may sow  
corn

corn and rear cattle sufficient to answer the demands of their families. The tract of country lying between *Keerom* and *Keurebooms-riviers*, makes the internal part of Houtniquas, and is said to be almost entirely covered with woods. This part I had no opportunity to visit, and therefore was obliged to be contented with putting down on the map the farms and rivers as well as I could conceive them from an account, which, however, was not very accurate or distinct, given me by a farmer, who had travelled a good deal in that district.

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*Keerom-rivier* (or Turnabout-river) in which the smaller branches *Zwart-rivier* and *Trakudiku* meet, has obtained its name from the circumstance of the person who first travelled this way, having been obliged to turn back at this river, on account of the dense and almost impenetrable forests that grew every where by the side of it.

*Keurebooms-rivier* is perhaps so called, after a tree of the same name (the *sophora capensis*, LINN.) On this kind of tree there is found a great quantity of gum, resembling that of the cherry-tree, but not so adhesive. I have hardly ever seen a tree of this kind any where else, excepting a few at *Bay Faljo* and in *Constantia* district.

*Algoa-bay* is said not to have been once visited by the ships, since Houtniquas has been inhabited and cultivated. It was thought, however, that the harbour was very fit for use, and convenient both for wooding and watering, of both which articles there is a great abundance. It is pretty much exposed to the sea-winds; though, on the other hand, the winds do not blow with such violence here as at the Cape. I could get no farther oral information with  
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respect to this harbour; but a description of the coast that I have met with, says, that the western creek lies in lat. 33 deg. 55 min. and that from the outermost point a reef extends about a mile out; and that in the place, where the bay bends in two leagues to the west, ships may lie at anchor in good ground, well sheltered from the north-east, north-west, and south winds. There is, however, in this same description an erroneous observation, viz. that no other than brackish or salt-water is to be got at *Moffel-bay*.

*Algoa-bay*, which I have briefly mentioned above, I have been obliged to be content with laying down in my map, merely in consequence of some hints given by M. ADOLPHUS BURTZ, captain of a Swedish East-Indiaman, on the authority of some old chart. The description of the coast before referred to, moreover mentions, that Algoa-bay is a deep inlet, where there is abundance of wood and fresh water; and also that in sailing into it, one finds from twenty-four to ten fathom of water, with a reef extending a league into the sea; which, however, if there be occasion for it, may be avoided, by running round to the north of it.

Inasmuch as the bays above-mentioned (setting aside another in *Krakekamma*) seem very well adapted for use, at least for that of small craft, the shipping and navigation between them and the Cape ought to be very considerable.

However extensive the colony is, yet it cannot be considered at present in any other light than that of a proportionably large but weakly consumptive body, in which the circulation of trade is very slow and sluggish; as between the more distant members and the heart, or the internal

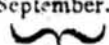
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provinces and the *Cape*, there is only once a year a circulation of commodities, by means of the ordinary waggons; but if this body, thus half stifled as it were, had air given to it, by opening all the harbours, trade, manufactures, and agriculture would doubtless have new life infused into them. A farmer, for instance, has a hundred hours \* hard driving to get his timber from *Mossel-bay* to the *Cape*, and a still longer and more laborious journey from *Houtniquas*. The seventy or eighty rixdollars he can get for a load of it, drawn by ten oxen, (including the felling of it and bringing it in) hardly pay him for his time and trouble; but at the same time his commodity comes to the townsmen at the *Cape* dear enough at that price; as a spar about twenty feet in length and one in diameter, comes to five rixdollars, and so in proportion for boards and planks. From hence it may easily be imagined, that building is extremely expensive at the *Cape*; and that consequently many people must set themselves down content without those conveniencies of life, for which, however, the country has sufficient materials. The farmer must, therefore, necessarily buy again, at so much a dearer rate, his own timber, wrought up into casks, waggons, and other necessary articles of joinery work; as he is obliged to carry them all the way by land to and from the *Cape*, merely to have the iron work put on them, supposing that in other respects he is able, or has proper tools for making them at home. The company itself, therefore, is likewise forced to allot several public buildings at the *Cape* for store-houses,

\* For an explanation of this word see page 132.

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and to have the greater part of their timber brought from *Batavia*, and some of it directly from Europe; in which latter place, as is well known, it must be paid for in specie; by which means the nation suffers a great loss, inasmuch as the colony actually has within itself at *Sitsicamma* a thick impervious forest, from whence the best kinds of trees, many of them indeed very rare in Europe, ought to be, and in fact might with ease, and to the great advantage of the company, be fetched for sale. By a navigation established between the above-mentioned ports, not only would the transportation of timber be facilitated, but likewise all other articles produced in the country. The farmers, who, for instance, might put their corn and butter on board of barges in *Krakekamma-bay*, would by that means avoid a journey of four hundred *uurs* over land (including both going and returning) which generally takes them up several weeks. Every peasant for such a journey as this has two or three Hottentots, one to lead the oxen, and either one or two to drive the spare team; besides which, his wife often goes with him, either for the purpose of having her children baptized at the Cape, or else for fear of being attacked by the Hottentots in her husband's absence. Thus, taking it at the lowest, and reckoning only three persons and twenty oxen for thirty days, it stands a great many farmers in ninety days work of themselves and men, and six hundred of their cattle, in order to make one turn with their butter to market, and so in proportion for such as are less distant. Hence it is evident, that many thousand days work are unnecessarily lost and thrown away every year in leading to the Cape, which, by means of the navigation

vigation I speak of, might be much more profitably bestowed on the orchards and the vineyards, the corn fields and the pastures. Industry, trade, and wealth, would in that case flow of themselves, as it were, into their now desert harbours, and convert them into marts, and, perhaps, staple towns.

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Flax is said not to thrive well in this climate; but hemp, which is cultivated both by the Hottentots and the colonists merely for the purpose of replenishing the pipes of the former with it instead of tobacco, I have seen succeed very well, and in a vigorous state; consequently, were there any industry in this part of the world, the people in the country, as well as those in the town, might work it up into sheeting, sacking, sail-cloth, cordage, and other articles, to their own evident advantage and that of the company; or, in one word, with a great saving to the whole nation.

Manufactories of every kind might likewise be established at these harbours and other suitable places: for instance, for the purpose of working up the wool of the country, (which is now quite thrown away,) at least into coarse cloth and stockings; these being at present bought at a very dear rate by the company, for the use of its slaves and the garriſon.

The towns-people, indeed, and farmers of the colony, get the woollen goods they want at a rather cheaper rate from the ships belonging to foreigners; but likewise by that means, pay in a manner a heavier tax to the foreigner than to the company; which, however, might get a sum equal and even superior to this, if it bought up the wool

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of the country's produce on its own account, and, after manufacturing it, sold the goods so manufactured at a reasonable price. I did not find more than one farmer who knew how to turn his wool to any account. This was a German, who taught his wife and female slaves to spin it, and make tolerable good stockings of it. On the other hand, I have seen many of the farmers, that lived at a great distance from the town, go without stockings and out at the elbows, though at the same time they were in possession of several hundred sheep. This proceeded as much from the dearth of wool, as from their distance from the town; and it is for the same reason, that the yeomen in some places here and there in *Roggeveld*, let their children run about just like the Hottentots, with nothing but a sheep-skin hanging over their shoulders, and without a rag of linen on their backs.

For want of artizans and mechanics, many of the more distant farmers are obliged to make and mend their own shoes and clothes, as well as they can, themselves; and make shift with a few cracked vessels of earthen-ware, which they have been so lucky as to bring all the way home from the Cape, without farther damage, for the use of their household.

There is not a shadow of doubt, but that the colony is able to maintain all the artizans and manufacturers it has occasion for. The tracts of country nearest to the Cape have, on account of the greater vent they have for their commodities, not only been able to cultivate wine and corn sufficient for their own use and that of the town, but likewise in such quantities, as to send a great deal to Europe  
and



and the Isle de France. In the same proportion might the culture of the lands be increased round about the harbours above-mentioned, or other marts properly situated for the purpose. Thousands of plots of land, which, on account of the long way it is from them to the Cape, are now left in their original state, would by this means produce as much corn and wine, as would be sufficient to exchange with the wares of the artificers and trades-people in the town. Besides this, the advantages arising from the grazing of cattle would rather increase than diminish, if the straw and pasturage were managed better for the advantage of the cattle, than they are at present.

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As, agreeable to the scheme proposed above, many of the journeys now made to the Cape might be avoided, a great many oxen might be dispensed with, which are now kept merely for this purpose; and in their stead milch cows might be kept to increase the quantity of milk, butter and cheese, in order to answer the consumption of an increased number of people.

With regard to the threshing of corn and manuring the land, operations which at present are either ill-performed, or else entirely neglected, there is much to be noticed, with a view to prevent that deterioration of the arable land and pasturage, which is observed to take place in such spots as have been cultivated for any length of time. The planting of olive and mulberry-trees, together with the importation and proper management of silk-worms, would probably, likewise, be useful acquisitions to the colonies, serving to augment its population, as it would indubitably be a peculiar advantage to the company to find the people,

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who bear the burden of all the taxes paid by the colonies, by means of these and other institutions, more flourishing and wealthy, and at the same time exceedingly multiplied for the defence of the country. By these methods the company would in time be able, in some measure, to collect from the Cape that force, both military and naval, which is so highly necessary for the defence of its more opulent settlements in the East-Indies; and which at present, in a manner utterly disgraceful to the Dutch East-India company and to human nature, is recruited by the mean low wiles and artifices of crimps and kidnappers in Holland, which I shall expatiate upon hereafter.

Divers private persons, against whose interests it will seem at first to militate, that the navigation from the bays which I have just been recommending, should take place, will, probably, find many specious reasons to urge against it; but these will be easily overthrown by such as know the nature of affairs in this country, and are patriotically inclined towards the company. It is to be feared, indeed, that many who have had the direction and government of the colony, have either not understood, or else have not troubled their heads with any thing that did not respect their own emolument; or else have thought that prudence required, that the colonists should be oppressed and kept in poverty, in order to prevent them from revolting. But it is necessary only to know the colony a little better than they do, in order to discover, in the most clear and evident manner, that their great foresight and caution would, in this case, be carried too far. Moreover, the best and soundest principles of policy teach us, that

that it is not their wealth and strength, but an invidious and oppressive government, that can induce the colonists to think of revolting, in hopes of a change for the better. Let the members composing a state be wealthy, and they will make use of all their strength and power to maintain the authority and consequence of a government on which their own entirely depends. By consequence, the strength and power of colonists is dangerous only for tyrants and external enemies; while, on the other hand, their weakness peculiarly tends to the advantage of the latter. But enough has been said upon this subject, and it is fit that I should return to my account of *Houtniquas* land.

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The animals to be found there are elephants, lions, tigers, tiger-cats, wolves or hyænas, black monkeys, a kind of badger, buffaloes, hart-beests, bosch-boks, gnometies, grysboks, and hares.

The *elephants* are now, by being shot at continually, in a great measure expelled from *Houtniquas*, and have taken refuge on the other side of *Keurebooms-rivier*, in the woody, and almost entirely unexplored country of *Sitsikamma*.

The *lions* are extirpated from *Houtniquas*, at least, they now make no constant abode there; and those that now and then go thither from *Sitsikamma*, or from the other side of *Lange Kloofs* mountains, are soon discovered and shot.

The *tigers*, or more properly *leopards*, (for they seem rather to belong to that species) are not so easily extirpated, as their lurking-places in the forests are hardly to be found. In these parts, indeed, one seldom hears of their having  
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the courage to attack mankind; though one cannot reckon one's self absolutely safe from their depredations.

Neither *wolves* nor *black monkies* are very common here. I have already told the reader what I know concerning these animals.

The sort of *badger* to which I allude, is called by the inhabitants *berg-varken*, or mountain-pig. These animals are said to be found likewise nearer the Cape, and have a long, extremely harsh, and somewhat blackish coat. I was told, that they are about a foot and a half high, and have their holes and hiding-places underneath stones, and particularly on the tops of mountains, from whence they never peep out but of nights. I had not the good fortune to see any of them. This animal must not be confounded with the *aard-varken*, or earth-pig, which, probably, is a species of *manis* (the *lézard écailleux* of BUFFON,) and which is said to be found in considerable numbers in the district of *Zwartland*.

There have been, in all likelihood here, formerly *hart-beests*, as *Hartbeest-drift*, a small stream in this part of the country, has its name from those animals.

The *bosch-bock* (or wood-goat) Plate VI. Vol. II. is a species of antelope or gazel, which has been hitherto unknown to all the cultivators of natural history, whether ancient or modern, till I described it in the Memoirs of the Swedish Academy for the year 1780, quarter 3d, by the name of *antilope sylvatica*. This animal has obtained the name it goes by, in consequence of its being the only one among the gazels in Africa, which may be properly said to live in the woods and groves; excepting, however, Mr. Pen-  
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nant's *antilope royal*; unless, indeed, this little animal be the same with the *gnometie* of the colonists, or belong to the gazel genus.

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*Groot Vader-bosch* and *Houtniquas-bosch*, were the only forests in which I saw and gave chase to the bosch-bok. In other places, whether nearer to or farther from the Cape, it is hardly to be found, if not somewhere in *Sitskamma*. It would, perhaps, be not disagreeable to zoologists, to find in this place a description of this rare species of *gazel*; and though I had no opportunity to make a drawing of it, otherwise than from a couple of these creatures skins, and from the observations I could make on it while it was running by me; yet I am apt to believe, that it may be pretty well depended on, and that, at least, it will be sufficient to assist the zoologists in their systematic researches.

With respect to its size, the bosch-bok is somewhat above two feet and a half high. From seeing it run, and from what I can conclude from the skins, it appears to me, that the body of this animal, when compared with the whole height of it, or with the length of its legs, is somewhat more bulky than that of the other kinds of gazel.

The measure of the dressed skin, from which both the description and drawing are chiefly taken, was as follows: The horns ten inches and a half long; their distance from each other at the base one inch; the distance between the tips as well as the middlemost parts of them three inches and a half; the ears were half the length of the horns, or five inches; the breadth of the forehead from eye to eye three inches; from the eyes to the horns one inch; from



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from the horns to the nose six inches and a half; from the horns to the rump four feet; from the top of the back to the hoofs thirty-three inches; from the bending of the knees to the hoofs one foot; the hoofs themselves about an inch. The dressed skin of a *fœtus*, of which I took the measure, was about two feet in length. A pair of bosch-bok's horns, which I brought home with me, are ten inches long, and the base of each five inches wide. But on the skull of an animal of this species, brought home by Professor THUNBERG, the horns were thirteen inches long. From the dimensions of these parts, a conclusion may be drawn with respect to those of the remainder, as well as with respect to the size of the animal in general.

This species of gazel is monogamous, or keeps in pairs. The female is, according to all accounts, distinguished from the other sex in having no horns, in the loins being of a lighter colour, and in not having in these parts the long hairs, and especially the white ones, which we are about to mention in the description of the male.

The horns of this are black, in some measure triangular, and at the same time wreathed, so that both the sides and angles have somewhat of a spiral turn. At bottom they are rather rough, in consequence of a set of almost innumerable wavy rings; which, however, are not elevated much above the surface. At top they are conical and sharp-pointed, and in that part as smooth as though they had been polished. In a pair I brought with me, the extreme points or tips are light-coloured and transparent. As to the position of the horns, they are almost in the
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same line or horizontal plane with the forehead, inclining a little forwards, and at the same time, by means of the twist they make, receding from each other towards the middle, and making with this part a little bend backwards, so that the tips point somewhat forwards. The three angles or ridges, that separate the three sides just mentioned, form a spiral in the following manner :

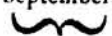
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The foremost is very much rounded and cylindrical, beginning inwards, and proceeding more and more forwards, till, coming sideways and a little outwards, it disappears in, and is confounded with the smooth conical tip. The second is a little raised, and mostly rounded off in the external part; but internally forms, as it were, a furrow, in conjunction with the foremost. This latter angle or ridge, moreover, goes off at first straight forwards from the forehead; and afterwards running sideways, outwards and backwards, at length joins the above-mentioned conical tip directly at the back part. The third angle has a sharper edge, which, beginning externally and at the back part, towards the middle of the horn, runs backwards and inwards, and afterwards terminates inwards and somewhat forwards, in the smooth tip like the others.

The teeth of this animal are like those of other gazels. It has no fore teeth or *incisores* except in the lower jaw, where it has eight. These are broader than the other teeth, being small at the roots, and broad and squared off at the top. Of the middle ones, which look towards each other, the interior sides are perpendicular; but the exterior ones oblique, and all the rest have a proportional inclination, at the same time decreasing in size; so that the outermost, both to the right and the left, are the smallest.

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There is no *porus cariferus* in this, as there is in other gazels. The hairs on the head are very short and fine; afterwards they become more rough and rugged, resembling goats hair more than that of gazels or harts. Forwards on the neck, breast, sides, and belly, they are an inch and a half or two inches long. On the ridge of the neck, and so on all along that of the back, they are three or four inches in length, so as to form a kind of mane there, terminating in a tail about a finger's breadth long. On the hind part of the thighs and buttocks likewise, the hairs are eight inches long; the legs and feet are slender, and covered with short hairs; the fetlock-joints are small; the nose and under-lip are decorated with black whiskers about an inch long.

The predominant colour in this animal is dark-brown, which occupies the principal part of the sides, the back, the upper part of the tail, the upper part of the chest and fore ribs, and the fore part of the belly. A still darker brown, bordering upon black, is discoverable on the outside of the shoulders, and some part of the fore ribs. The fore part of the nose, from the eyes to the muzzle, is of a foot-colour. The ears are likewise as black as foot on the outside, but on the inside grey; and both outwards and inwards, covered with hairs still shorter than those on the head; excepting half the fore part of the lower edge, where the hairs are white and half an inch long.

The edges of the upper lip are white, as well as the whole of the lower lip and mandible, behind which the white colour terminates in a point towards the top of the wind-pipe. On each cheek-bone there are two large round

round white spots, one an inch beneath and behind the eye, the other an inch below and somewhat forwarder than the former. A still larger round white spot, two inches broad, is discoverable on the fore part of the neck, somewhat below the top of the wind-pipe. Nine inches below this, just above the fore ribs, there is another white spot, measuring six inches across, and an inch and a half in height. This, in the skin of the foetus I spoke of, was somewhat hollowed out, and thus resembled a new moon; but in this skin, the upper round spot, just described as being on the fore part of the neck, was not to be seen. The fur of this creature is, moreover, white between its fore legs, and somewhat on the sides of the shoulders. The fore legs, from the knees to the pasterns, are likewise white on the inside; and where it borders upon the brown part, inclines to a dirty yellow. On the outside of the fore legs, near the knees, there is a long oval white spot; and on the same side, just above the pastern-joint, there is a little cinnamon-coloured spot.

The hind legs, on the inside, from the pasterns to a little way above the bending of the knees, are marked with a white streak narrower than those on the fore legs. The pasterns of the hind legs are spotted with white on the fore parts, exactly like those of the fore legs. The back part of the belly or the groin is white. Divers small white spots, from nine to twelve in all, are seen on each of the haunches and on the sides near them. A narrow line of long white hairs extends from the neck all along the back and tail, in the midst of the long brown hairs which I have described above. From the chine of the back to the

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fides run five white parallel streaks, which, though they are not discoverable but by a close inspection, it was certainly proper to mention, in case some individual should be met with, on which these marks might be more distinct, and in consequence of which some people might be induced to take it for a distinct species.

It is generally said, that goats are bad gardeners; and this in a certain degree is true of this *wood-goat*, or, as it is called, *bosch-bok*. At *Groot Vaders-bosch*, the people complained much of the mischief done by this creature in the vineyards and kitchen-gardens there. It likewise shewed a great deal of craft and artifice in avoiding the snares and traps set for it, as well as the ambuscades of the sportsmen. I myself sat up a whole night in a vineyard on the watch for this animal, without getting the least glimpse of it; though it had, according to all appearance, paid us a visit incog. and made off undiscovered.

As the *bosch-bok* runs but slowly, it sometimes happens, that he is caught with dogs. When he sees there is no other resource, he puts himself in a posture of defence; and when he is going to butt, kneels down. The colonists are not very fond of hunting him in this manner, as the beast, on this occasion, generally sells his life at a very dear rate, by goring and killing some of their best and most spirited hounds.

This creature's horns, which are its chief defence, sometimes also prove its bane, by being entangled in the bushes and small branches of trees, which thus stop the beast in its flight. In some measure to avoid this, it carries its nose horizontally and strait forward while it runs; so that  
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its horns lie, as it were, directly on its neck: notwithstanding which, their horns are generally worn away a little on the fore part, and thus acquire some degree of polish. In fine, this species of goat is swifter in woodlands than the dogs, which likewise sooner lose scent of him there.

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The female, which is without horns, and on that account runs about in the forests more free and unimpeded, does not suffer herself so easily to be hunted out of the woods, having there, as well as on the plains, a more certain defence against the dogs in her legs, than the male has in his horns, especially as she is not so bulky and heavy as the male. Her breast is said to be very plump and fleshy, but the flesh in general is not very tender; in that point resembling that of the *bunte-bok*, or *guib* of BUFFON, Tom. XII. tab. 40.

By the wreathing of their horns, the form of their bodies and white spots, it should seem moreover, that there was some distant affinity between these two sorts of gazels; but by no means great enough, for them to be merely varieties of the same species. Besides the difference in their colour and spots, which is too remarkable for them to be considered as one and the same animal, (not to mention the length of the *bosch-bok's* horns in proportion to its body,) I have never seen the *bunte-boks* live otherwise than in large herds on the plains, and these were at least half as high again as the *bosch-bok*, or of the same size with the *bartbeest*.

The cry of this animal, as I have several times, especially in the evenings, heard it in *Houtniqas*, somewhat resembled the interrupted, short, low, and rather hoarse growling

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growing of a dog. Yet, as I was informed by several people that the cries of the Cape *tigers*, or rather *leopards*, pretty much resembled this, I am uncertain whether the noise I heard always proceeded from the *bosch bok*. Without doubt, it appears something extraordinary, that the cries of the *tiger* and a *gazel* should be like each other; but, perhaps, the tiger may have the gift of being able to imitate *bosch-boks*, in order to lead them astray; just as the *hyæna* has the power to imitate, for a similar purpose, all kinds of animals. Nay, there is likewise some resemblance between the cries of a *lion* and that of an *ostrich*; though between these animals there is much less affinity: and, indeed, there is no foundation for any conjectures concerning the cause of this similitude.

The *gnometie*, called also the *erwetic*, is a little animal of the hart or gazel kind, of the size of a hare, and is, perhaps, the *cervus Guineensis* of LINNÆUS, the *antilope royal* of PENNANT, and the *chevrotain de Guinée* of BUFFON. I have frequently perceived the traces and other marks of this diminutive creature, but had not the good fortune actually to see more than one of them; and that only in a hasty manner, as it was bounding about in a grove at *Sitsicamma*.

Of *bares* there are at least two different sorts in *Houtni-quas*, and in the other parts of Africa. The one is almost the same with our common hare; but of the other I find it difficult to pronounce, whether it be absolutely the same with the *lepus Capensis*, *Syst. Nat: cauda longitudine capitis, pedibus rubris*, or not. The feet excepted, the characteristic marks are the same; for the feet and body of this

were of the same colour as our common hares are in summer\*, and the tail was almost of an equal length with the hare, as mentioned in the *Systema Naturæ*. I found it moreover broad at the base, and diminishing by degrees, so as to terminate in a point. Underneath and on the sides, the tail was as white as chalk, but above there was extended along it a stripe as black as a coal. This description I drew up from a young leveret of this species, which was brought to the Cape alive, and was the only one that I have ever seen.

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The *buffalos* (vide Plate II. Vol. II.) were of a sort entirely different from all hitherto known by this name, which is sufficiently manifest from the description I have already inserted in the Memoirs of the Swedish Academy for the year 1779. It is true, I had no opportunity in *Houtniquas*, either to see or shoot any of them; but I frequently met with the fresh traces of them. Such dangerous neighbours made it rather unsafe to botanize here; for though the buffalos do not absolutely go in search of mankind or the brute creation on purpose to do them mischief, except they are previously irritated, nevertheless, their perverse disposition and great strength of body render them extremely dangerous, when one meets them in the narrow paths, called buffalo-roads, where the wood on each side is frequently so thick set, as not to allow one to make way either to right or left. In a journey that Dr. THUNBERG, some years before, took into *Houtniquas*, one of his company had very imprudently tied two of his horses together, one behind the other, and drove them before

\* In the colder climates of Europe, the common hare is white in winter.

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him on a narrow path. The owner of them had just time (and that was all) to save himself, while a buffalo meeting them gored the horses to death, and trampled them into the dust. But it will be more apposite to our purpose, to give the history and description of this beast farther on in the order of the time, when I became better acquainted with it. I likewise once saw a *tiger-wood-cat* and a *grys-bok*, and shall, perhaps, find a better opportunity to make farther mention of these also.

Of the feathered tribe I found in *Houtniqwas* a new species of *tantalus*, called by the colonists *bagedasb*, and also *badelde*. This latter name has, in some measure, the same sound as the bird's note; the bird itself, which was said to be confined to this province, I have found likewise in great numbers about *Zwart-kops-rivier*. This same bird is called by the Hottentots *'ta 'kai 'kene*, a name which, if rightly pronounced with three smacks of the tongue against the roof of the mouth, a stranger will find more difficulty in uttering than the bird's own language. It lives chiefly on bulbs and roots, which with its crooked bill, it is said to dig up out of the plains with great ease and readiness. There it is shy and difficult to come at. In the evenings I always saw them upon some tree in the woods at roost, and in this situation, one morning at sun-rise, I had the good fortune to shoot one of them.

The bill of this bird was five inches long, black at the tip and lower nib, at the upper nib red. The neck was of an ash-colour: the back the same, and at the same time had a cast of green with a little yellow. The wings were dark beneath, and above of a blue colour inclining to black; the  
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leffer coverts of a violet-colour. The tail, which was wedge-shaped, was about twice the length of the bill, and the body was somewhat larger than that of a hen. The thighs were of an ash-colour. The feet and legs, as well as the membrane between the claws, was blackish; in other respects, this bird had all the characteristic marks which belong to the *tantalus*. The colonists assured me, that it was a sign of rain, when these birds assembled in great flocks, and flew against the wind.

The state of the weather in *Houtniquas* was said to be as follows. In March and April it rains here most; and, on the contrary, in the months of May, June, and July, (which about the Cape and elsewhere are the winter months, and are attended with copious rains) it is here quite dry, though frequently rather cool and bleak. The north-west wind at this time prevails here, as well as at the Cape; sometimes the wind veers about to the north, and brings with it the warmth of summer; a change which frequently occasions the milch-cows in *Houtniquas* to grow stiff in the joints. I was assured, that it never rained when this north wind prevailed, probably on account of the chain of mountains, which extends from east to west, proving a barrier to keep the clouds on the other side; or else by virtue of their attraction, detaining these condensed vapours on their summits. I went through the wood directly across it, with the intention of ascending the mountain, whence I might have a view of *Lange Kloof*; but found the foot of the mountain every where so thick over-run with high and stiff perennial grasses and bushes, as to be absolutely impenetrable.



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*Houtniquas* and *Lange Kloof*, however, communicate with each other in one place, by means of a very bad road over a mountain lower than the rest, near *Trakudiku*. I did not go quite on to this place, but saw from *Zwarte-rivier* the smoke of a chimney near *Trakudiku*, and from the information I thus acquired, gave this river in some measure its true situation in my map.

The badness of the road, and the want of a proper guide, together with the enfeebled state of my oxen, more particularly prevented me from going from this place to visit *Algoa-bay*, which, however, I wished much to do. Besides, we could not venture to quit our waggon and make the trip to that bay alone on horseback; as almost the whole province was involved in riot and drunkenness, by means of a hoghead of brandy that had been carried thither; and my Hottentots, likewise, by the same means, had been thrown into a state of licentiousness and confusion. There being no stills in those parts, a peasant there had wrote to the Cape for a quantity of the above-mentioned liquor, in order to turn a penny by retailing it out; but had in the mean while unfortunately drunk it himself by the wholesale, so as to be night and day in the highest degree intoxicated with it: and, indeed, in his fury, would have shot my companion dead on the spot, had I not been luckily near at hand to prevent him. In another place, where our landlord, in other respects a worthy man, and of a very gentle disposition, had made a purchase of some of this same brandy, he turned his wife, with a child in arms, and several other children somewhat older, out of doors in the middle of the night. The laws of hospitality, and perhaps an apprehension

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sion of meeting with some resistance, had, however, so much weight with him, that my companion and I were left in peace and quietness. In another place hereabouts, a peasant had been basking in the sun and drinking, in company with a parcel of Hottentots, who, when he had got his fill, was not only well flogged by this Pagan crew, but was upbraided by them for having been used to sleep with his housekeeper, a Hottentot's widow, who was supposed besides to be in another way nearly related to him. I myself saw this man with a terrible wound on his head, of which, however, he was ashamed to tell the cause. I likewise had the pleasure of seeing his mistress, dizen'd out with brass and leathern rings on her arms and legs, and with beads about her waist and neck. She was clad in the usual manner with a sheep-skin *pellisse*, and a well-greased raw leathern apron, was well besmeared with foot besides grease, and could boast of as broad and flat a nose as any Hottentot lady whatever. With all these perfections, however, she seem'd to me to be rather a cure for love, than an incentive to that passion: notwithstanding this, it is not uncommon for the white people here (particularly men who are more licentious in their manners than the other sex) to be criminal in this point. That the Hottentot women are complying in this particular, does not only contradict their general character of indifference in matters of love, but also that zeal, which I have attributed to them, in the performance of their duties towards their own nation.

Their diet, which, when they are in the service of the Christians, is more plentiful and of a more strengthening  
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quality, and, perhaps, the incitement of the example of these latter, may have its effect in making some alteration in the nature of these females. Add to this, that out of the society of their nation, they do not feel themselves bound to observe that rigid virtue and simplicity of manners, which they otherwise would, any more than the religion of the Christians; neither can it indeed be required, that such a one should always be proof against flattery, promises, presents, and, perhaps, the threats, which a master, of whom she stands in awe, may think fit to employ, in order to satisfy his unruly desires. The pledges of love, proceeding from such a union, have hair almost, if not quite, as woolly and frizzled as the genuine Hottentots; but their complexion and features, partake more or less of both the father and mother. They are likewise, as it appears to me, more bulky and lusty than the Hottentots are in general; they are better respected too, and at the same time more confided in, and more to be depended upon, but at the same time prouder and more conceited than the others. Neither these, nor any other illegitimate children, are ever baptized, or, indeed, enquired after by the Christian ministers at the Cape, except in case that any one should present himself as the father, and make a point of the child's being baptized, and thus give the infant the right of inheritance.

I saw two brothers in the vicinity of *Hottentots Holland's Bath*, the issue of a Christian man and of a bastard negress of the second or third generation. One of the sons, at this time about thirty years of age, seemed not to be slighted in
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the company of the Christian farmers, though, at that time, he had not been baptized. The other, who was the elder brother, in order to get married and settled in life, as he then was, had been obliged to use all his influence, and probably even bribes, to get admitted into the pale of the church by baptism. For my part, I cannot comprehend the reason why the divines of the reformed church at the Cape are so sparing of a sacrament, which others, particularly the Papists, have endeavoured to force, as it were, upon the heathens with fire and sword, and all manner of cruelties. The cloth does not, as far as I know, receive any benefit from the christening of children at the Cape, at least no particular benefit from the baptizing of illegitimate children; such conduct, therefore, cannot fairly be ascribed to any retrospect to self-interest, nor indeed to absolute remissness and neglect; a disposition which would but ill suit with that spirit of charity and universal benevolence, so peculiarly enforced by the doctrines of Christianity. Farther, if the clergy at the Cape think by this means to diminish the number of unlawful connections with the heathen women, they will find that this stroke of policy will not answer their purpose: indeed, the letting such numbers of infants born of Christian parents suffer in their spiritual interests, is a strangely cruel method of preventing sin. It is true, a great many of the whites have so much pride, as to hinder, as far as lies in their power, the blacks or their offspring from mixing with their blood: but it appears to me, that Christian humility ought to operate so far with the clergy, as to prevent them from being ashamed

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ashamed to see their black fellow-creature walking cheek by jowl with them on the road to heaven.

This puts me in mind of an event, which I had before seen mentioned somewhere (and, if I remember right, in the *Histoire Philosophique Politique*) as having happened not a long while ago in *Batavia*. I enquired, therefore, concerning the truth of it, of those that had lived at that place, and found several agreeing in the following account.

“ There was a citizen in *Batavia*, who had often importuned the ministers of his church to baptize his illegitimate child, but had always found them inflexible. “ Well and good ! says the man to them at last, it seems as if you alone wished to shut the door of heaven, the keys of which you imagine you have in your possession : but the Mahometan priests of the Malays, are not so churlish and niggardly of salvation as you are ; they having already promised me to incorporate my son this very day into their church, and make him a true Mussulman : for some kind of religion I am determined my child shall be of, as I hold that, in a well-regulated society, no man ought to be without a religion.” The Christian priests, however, no sooner saw that preparations were made for circumcision, than they hastened, by administering the sacrament of baptism, to deprive the Mahometan church of a soul, which they had just before rejected as illegitimate. And since that time, they are said to be less backward in opening the doors of heaven to bastards.”

Here follows another instance of the depravity of taste in the white people in this colony, with regard to love matters. I
paid

paid a visit to a European, who had settled in Houtniquas. He was a good lively handsome fellow, about the middle age, and, I believe, of good extraction. He had served under several different potentates in Europe, and had showed them all a fair pair of heels. He gave me the history of a great many singular adventures of his, but the most singular of them all, in my opinion, I was eye-witness to myself. This was, that he had married two years before an ugly sooty Mulatto, the daughter of a Negress. She had been the mistress of another farmer who was dead, and by whom she had a couple of bastards. These I saw at that time likewise in the house, grown up and unbaptized. But what seemed to me the most singular circumstance in the whole affair was, that this must have been absolutely a love-match; for though he had got a few cattle with his dingy spouse, yet the house, which he likewise had with her, was certainly not a palace. It was, in fact, a miserable cottage, though pleasantly enough situated in the skirts of a forest. The walls were made of reeds tied together, and supported by a few upright chumps of wood, interspersed with some rough boards, such as are generally used for fences. This structure was plaistered over with a thin and ragged covering of clay. There were but two rooms in it, and poverty seemed to have taken full possession of them both. In the inner room, the man's wife lay ill of a putrid fever. The outer apartment, which was the common bed-chamber for all the rest of the family that were in health, I can best describe. It was somewhat more than two yards in breadth,

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and about six long, with a peep-hole at one end of it, and a small broken window at the other; not to speak of several other apertures, which occasioned a draught of air that delivered my friend and me from all apprehensions of danger from the contagion of the putrid fever, but at the same time prevented us from keeping a candle alight for any length of time. The rain, which had wetted us to the skin when out of doors, now followed us into the house, dropping from the eaves; a sign that the roof could not boast of any great superiority over the walls. Our bed was on the damp loam-floor; a piece of sail-cloth, the relicks of an old waggon-tilt, served us and our landlord himself both for bed and bed-clothes; as for pillows, there were none but what we brought with us, which consisted merely of our dripping-wet saddles. We shall now drop the subject of the amorous intercourse of the white people with the blacks, in order to give, in a few words, a general idea of the houses in *Houtniquas*, that posterity may from hence be able to judge of the future increase of the colony.

There was only one wooden house on the borders of this forest, and this was long and spacious, with but one room in it, and built with logs cleft down the middle. Another was like that just described, composed of straw and clay, but not quite so transparent; this belonged to a young beginner. A third that we saw was likewise of clay, but well-built, roomy, and neatly furnished; being the property of a clever, industrious, well-behaved man, **DIK YVES** by name, who had likewise built himself a mill,

mill, and several other conveniencies. The rest were all of clay or mud, and were partitioned out into two rooms, in the same manner as I have in general described the colonists houses at the beginning of this journal. 1775.
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It was said to be at that time, not above twenty years since *Houtniquas* was first known, and twelve years since it began to be inhabited by the colonists, who did not repair thither in any considerable numbers till of late years.

I mentioned, that the confusion and disturbance occasioned by the introduction of the hoghead of brandy, had reached even to my Hottentots; and that on this account I was obliged, much against my will in other respects, to make haste with them from these parts. My companion had been imprudent enough, at their earnest request, to indulge them with a sup or two of this precious liquor; the consequence of which was, that they became furious, and broke out into the most abusive language, because they could not have any more of it. At length, we were forced to try what blows would operate upon them; which had this effect, that the next night, by way of revenge, they took to their heels and ran away. We, on our parts, rode to one of the two *Hottentot kraals* that were at the hither end of *Houtniquas*, in order to search for them. In the first they were not to be found, neither did the people chuse to give us any explicit information concerning them; but when we came to the other, and began to climb over the fence, or the place where they kept their cattle, they let all their dogs out at once upon us. We directly put ourselves in a posture of defence, as if we were going

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to shoot both the dogs and their masters. This occasioned the Hottentots to call their dogs off, which obeyed immediately. We then went into their houses without delay or molestation, some of which were built of straw in a square form, with shelving roofs, like the cottages of the slaves. In one of these cottages, on a little bench, we found our Hottentots fast asleep. We contented ourselves with gently reproaching them on the score of their misconduct; but at the same time, with an air of authority, commanded them to return to their duty. They, on their side, without answering us or offering to gainsay us in the least, followed us as quietly as if they had been our prisoners. They took leave of their countrymen and countrywomen by shaking hands with each other, in the Dutch fashion, though without bowing; at the same time with great cordiality, and a deal of talk on both sides. The women seemed as if they wanted to keep them, and I do not doubt but that the fellows would have been easily prevailed on, if our guns had been out of the way. Indeed, with respect to my Hottentots, I was as much afraid of the temptations of the women as of the intoxicating quality of the brandy; and therefore made so much the more haste to get away from this place, which otherwise might for many years have afforded employment to the attentive researches and observations of a botanist.

Our departure took place in the beginning of October; but before I go on any farther with my journal, I will set down the state of the weather for the month of September just elapsed.

The

The rainy days were the 8th, 9th, 16th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th, 29th; and the last of these days was remarkable for south-east winds and rain. The thermometer was for the most part early in the morning between 49 and 50, in the middle of the day between 76 and 80, and in the evening at sun-set between 50 and 60.

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C H A P. VIII.

Journey through Lange Dal.

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ON the 9th day of October we departed from Houtniquas, returning over the great and little *Brak* rivers to *Geelbek-rivier*, from whence to *Hagel-craal* and *Artaquas-kloof*, whither we went the next day: there were two roads. The one, which was better cleared and more beaten, though farther to the west of the last-mentioned river, we sent our waggon by; and took the other road, though it was hilly, ourselves, being advised so to do, as it was a nearer way on horseback. By a trifling neglect, one often loses a great deal; and we, by loitering a little on the road, were disappointed of our night's lodging, being overtaken by the darkness and rain; so that, although we were near the farm whither we were going, and heard the barking of their dogs, and the crowing of their cocks, we were not able to hit upon the spot. After many fruitless attempts, and getting into the roads that led to the pastures, and other by-ways that took us into thickets, and directly against the steep parts of mountains, we at last thought we had hit upon the right road, when we found in our way a river deeper than any we had hitherto, in
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our bewildered situation, ventured to cross. It is true, we were not afraid of being soufed a little by going through the water, as the rain had made us almost as wet as we well could be; but neither of us chose to be the first to venture over, for fear of there being some hole or oozy part in our way. I therefore drove before us over the river, on the *forlorn hope*, as it were, an old horse that I led in hand along with me. No sooner had he got over than he set off full gallop, and freed himself in an instant from the confinement in which we had kept him the whole day; while we, wet, cold, and hungry (having eaten nothing all day long but a slight breakfast) were obliged, after several more unsuccessful attempts, to pass the night in the open air, exposed to the wind and rain. That we might not so easily be attacked unawares by tigers, we got away from the river and vale, which was full of bushes, on to the mountain, and there took the saddles off our horses near a bush that stood quite separate and alone. Hard-by was a precipice, which we fortunately perceived time enough to be able to be upon our guard against it. Having tied our horses halters round their fore legs, a method very common in Africa, we then let them feed on the other side, with a view, that if any lion should come upon us, he might first find employment with them; and at the same time, that if a wolf should make its appearance, the horses should not run off. The reason of this precaution will appear by referring to page 160.

In the night, when we felt ourselves almost stiff with cold, we wandered up and down, and frequently fell down on the top of the mountain, which was greasy and slippery,

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pery, in consequence of the rain. With regard to our situation in other respects, it was difficult to say, whether it gave us more comfort or vexation to hear, as we frequently did, the farmer's cocks crow. As soon as ever the day began to dawn, at about five o'clock, we saddled our horses without delay, and easily found our way to the farm called *Hagel-craal*, which was only at the distance of a few gun-shots from us. DIRK MARCUS, the master of it, a hearty old fellow, as soon as we accosted him, began to praise us highly for industrious young men who were up before him; but afterwards, when he was made acquainted with the difficulties we had undergone, he heartily pitied us, though he could not help at the same time seriously chiding us for not being accustomed to smoke; as in that case we might, at a juncture when it was most wanted, have had about us the means of making a fire, as well as of appeasing our hunger, and passing away the tedious hours with a pipe. After this, he gave us an account of a great many adventures he had met with in his excursions into the interior part of the country, where he had acquired a tolerable competency by shooting elephants. The information and advice he gave us were both useful and agreeable.

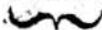
This worthy man sent his people after the led horse, which I mentioned as having run away from me; and when we took our departure, which was on the 13th, at ten o'clock in the morning, he lent us several stout oxen to help to draw our waggon over the very hilly dale called *Artaquas-kloof*. At six we arrived at *Paarde-craal*, a small river so called, where we rested till the next morning,

morning, or the 14th. By noon we reached *Zaffraan-craal*, at which place the long and tiresome vale of *Artaquas* ends. Here, according to previous agreement, we turned the oxen we had borrowed loose, which went home of themselves the same way we had brought them. The vale just mentioned, is reckoned among the districts which are cold and sour in the highest degree, and at the same time is considered as unfit to be inhabited. Here there is said to grow a herb, called by the colonists p— grass, and which, as far as one may trust to their description of it, is, probably, a species of *euphorbia*. This is said to be frequently eaten by young cattle brought from other countries, which thereby get a dysury, or stoppage of urine, that often proves mortal. In the urine as well as the urethra of these animals, a substance resembling little lumps of cheese has been observed. The only means by which they have sometimes been so fortunate as to save the life of an animal attacked with this disease, has been by hunting and driving it about for some time without intermission, in order to attenuate, concoct, and expel the coagulated matter.

In time of war or intestine commotion, a pass so narrow as *Artaquas-kloof*, must necessarily be of great importance, as a key to the whole tract of country lying to the eastward. In *Lange-kloof*, likewise, and *Kromme-rivier*, many impediments might be laid in the way of an army that was marching that way. The tract of land round about *Zaffraan-craal* ~~frail on to~~ *Lange-kloof*, is of the kind I have described above under the denomination of *Carroo*.

In the house at *Zaffraan-craal* we suffered an inconvenience, which is said to be very common in the *Carroos*.

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This was the common house-fly in such prodigious quantities, as almost entirely to cover the walls and ceiling. In fact, they did not cease for a moment to molest us, by swarming and buzzing about in our eyes, ears, noses, and mouths, so that it was not possible for us to keep in the house for any time together: notwithstanding which, an old slave, who at that time lived there quite alone, was obliged to sleep in the midst of this nest of flies every night. In other tracts of this country molested by flies, I saw these troublesome insects taken very dexterously in the following manner. All over the ceiling are hung up bunches of herbs, on which the flies are fond of settling; a person then takes a linen net or bag of some depth fixed to a long handle, and putting it round every bunch, shakes it about, so that the flies fall down to the bottom of the bag; where, after several applications of it in this manner, they are killed by the pint or quart at a time, by dipping the bag into scalding-hot water. In certain parts of the *Carrow*, where the flies abound most, it is said, that there is a bush which exudes a humour somewhat of the nature and consistence of tar. This, by its adhesive quality, detains the flies, which are very fond of settling on the plant, and by this means destroys them. There is another shrub frequently found in the *Carrow*, which grows here likewise, and is called *Canna-bosch*; whence the whole tract of country hereabouts bears the name of *Canna's*, and not *Canaan's Land*, as Mr. MASON has called it in the *Philosophical Transactions*. In fact, from the extreme drought that prevails here, instead of the Land of *Promise*, Mr. MASON would have done better to have called it

it the Land of *Affliction*. A road between *Artaquas* and *Lange-kloof*, inclining more to the southward than that by which we went, passes over a high and steep mountain, which, from the circumstance above-mentioned, is called *Canna's-boogte*, or Canna's-heights.

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Having examined this same Canna-shrub I found, that in strict propriety, it formed a new species of *salvola*; for which reason, in my manuscript descriptions of plants, I have called it *Salvola caffra*, *foliis minutis subrotundis, carnosis, concavis, imbricatis*. The leaves have a bitter salt taste, and burned together with the whole shrub, produce very strong ashes, excellently well adapted for the purpose of making soap; for which reason, particular attention is paid by the *Carrow* farmers to the culture of this plant. In the parts of the flower, the *Canna*-shrub so far differs from the generical character of the *salvola* in the sixth edition of the *Genera Plantarum*, inasmuch as this species has a little obsolete *style*, with two or three brown *stigmas*. The remaining parts of its character were, *Stam. fil. breviss.* *Antheræ cordatæ*, *Calyx perianth. persistens*, *Capsula 5 valvis, 1 locularis*, and *Semen 1 cochleatum*, as in the *salvola*, or rather resembling a watch-spring coiled up.


It was curious to see how the only slave that was then at *Zaffraan-craal*, and who had the absolute management of the farm, how skilfully, I say, with the assistance of two Hottentots who dwelt not far from the place, he had brought the water in rills and channels down to the fields of wheat (of which the ears at that time were peeping forth,) as well as to the garden; and had made dams at these places, so that they might be overflowed and water-

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ed whenever it was requisite, by which means they appeared clad with a delightful verdure. In every other part the earth was as much parched up, and as dry as the high road; on which account, having set out upon our journey at night, for the sake of taking the benefit of the coolness of the air, we were soon obliged to turn back and stay till morning, as we were not able to distinguish the road from the other parts of the fields and commons.

The next morning we continued our route, and after passing over *Morafs-rivier*, came to *Canna-river*, by others called *Kleindorn-rivier*, where we baited. All the verdure our oxen and horses could find here consisted only in a small quantity of a reed (*arundo phragmites*) still left in the above-mentioned river, the greater part of it having been previously consumed by the cattle belonging to former travellers. It happened, however, that we staid longer than we ought to have done in a place that was eaten so bare, in order to regale ourselves with a meal of our own cooking, composed of a kind of a partridge that I had just shot, as for the last three days we had had nothing to satisfy the cravings of our appetites but our Hottentot's coarse ammunition-bread and a little tea. It fell to my lot to pluck the bird, and Mr. IMMELMAN undertook to dress it; and, indeed, he shewed himself a perfect master in the art, stewing it in a *quantum sufficit* of water, and a little *sheep's-tail* fat, which our Hottentots had got at *Zaffraan-craal* for their own eating; so that it would be no easy matter to describe the highly agreeable sensations conveyed by this delicate dish to the organs both of taste and smell.

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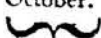
But, as ill-luck would have it, we had neither of us remembered to draw the fowl, till in order to divide it equally between us, we cut it in two; when the fauce, which we, just before had found delicious in the highest degree, became quite nauseous. The Hottentots laughed heartily at our omission, and still more at our delicacy, and at the same time licked it up every drop.

The delay occasioned by this meal caused us to be overtaken by darkness, before we could reach the next farm; in consequence of which, we got into a labyrinth of bushes and briars for want of being able to see the road. We were therefore obliged to stop, and prepare to suffer hunger and thirst, together with our beasts, till the next morning, and be almost frozen to death into the bargain; for though it had been reeking hot the preceding day, the night was nevertheless extremely cold. About midnight, however, the moon shone, and enabled us once more to find the road, when we soon came to a farm near *Kleine Dorn-rivier*, called *Zandplaat*.

It was not without the greatest astonishment, that we beheld the next morning the considerable number and unparalleled fatness of the sheep here, when we compared them with the horrid drought and aridity of the land. In this part of the country, when they are going to kill a sheep, they always look out for the leanest in the whole flock, as the rest are intolerably fat. The tail alone of one of these sheep (which is thick and of a triangular shape, being from a foot to a foot and a half in length, and sometimes above six inches thick near the rump) will weigh from eight to twelve pounds; and mostly consists of a delicate

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kind of fat, which by some people is eaten with bread instead of butter, and is used for dressing victuals with, and sometimes even for making candles.

Here, as being produced in the *Carrow* and in a warm district, the wine is said to be good; but I can form no judgment of it myself, as the farmer had already sold or consumed all he had made. On the other hand, in *Lange Kloof*, as being a *four* district, not a drop of wine can be made.

Some Hottentot wives had got their huts built near this farm; and a Hottentot lad, who was, in fact, in the service of the farmer, had at that time lain for several days in their quarters, afflicted with a bad disorder, which seemed to have a great affinity with the putrid fever epidemic here, and consequently would not bear bleeding. I was forced, however, to undertake this operation, in order to rescue the lad from the clutches of his master, who had an unlimited confidence in venesection, and had already whetted his knife on purpose to perform it. The patient, who either could not or else would not give any account of the state in which he found himself, had, previous to the operation, a small pulse; and during it was taken with a universal tremor, upon which, after his arm was bound up again, supervened convulsive twitchings. So that, in fact, we left our patient in a much weaker condition than we found him in, though I had been very sparing in taking blood from him. My host, nevertheless, was very well satisfied, and would not be persuaded but that the tremor was going off; at the same time he bade his wife give me for my trouble the best of every thing they had in the house.

house. In the space of about half an hour, however, they came and told us, that the poor lad was at the point of death. I cannot deny, but that I reproached myself internally, with having been in a manner the instrument of his death; I did not however omit, in order as it were to disburthen my conscience, to reproach my host bitterly, as having been the principal cause of sending the soul of a Hottentot into eternity. But the good man seemed so much troubled, and took it so to heart, that I was actually going to comfort him, when he at last broke silence with a deep sigh, and answered me with some warmth, saying, The devil a bit did he care for the Hottentot or his soul either, so that he could but get another ox-leader in his stead, as he must soon drive to the Cape to dispose of his butter.

In the mean time we went to see the ceremonies practised with the corpse. In fact, they consist in this; the Hottentots shake, jolt, pummel and cuff their dying countrymen, as well as such as are just dead; at the same time shrieking and hollowing in their ears, and casting a world of reproaches on them for dying. Neither do they forget besides to endeavour, by fair words and promises, to persuade them not to leave this world; as if it depended on a man in the agonies of death, to die or not, just as he pleased. I now saw this ceremony performed to a hair on the youth I had let blood, by two Hottentot old women. Indeed, I was afraid, that by their perseverance in this pious work, they would quite suffocate the small spark of life which, at least just after our arrival, was perceived in him; but, on the contrary, the patient came a little to himself, so that it appeared, as if by their shaking and jolting, they
had.

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had put the languid circulation, and consequently the vital powers into proper motion again. My host and I, however, on our sides, did not neglect to get some brandy as soon as possible, in order to moisten his lips and nose with it. I afterwards heard here, on my return from my tour, that this swoon came on the youth in consequence of their having let him run out of the house during the frenzy produced by the fever; as likewise, that low and fatigued as he was at that time, yet in the space of ten or twelve days he had grown quite stout and hearty, inasmuch, that he had run away from his master during the journey to the Cape, in which I mentioned that my host intended to make use of him as ox-leader.

There was an *otter* extremely well stuffed, which I now keep in the cabinet of curiosities belonging to the Academy of Sciences, but which being a rarity in those parts, my landlord intended as a present for the governor, and had kept it hid up in a private place for that purpose: he now, however, gave it to me by way of recompence for bleeding the lad, so thankful was the simple boor, and so much charmed with this operation. This otter seemed to be of the same species with our European otter, and to differ from it only in size, and in being of a lighter colour. The length of the body, measuring from the nose to the root of the tail, is two feet and a half, and the whole length of the tail rather more than eighteen inches. This animal, in all probability, lives chiefly on a kind of round crabfish and frogs; as in the fresh water of all the African rivers, that I have laid down in my map, two sorts of fish only, that I know of, are to be found, (and these too in a very

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trifling quantity) viz. a very small kind of *gilt-head*, the species of which I have forgot to describe, and the *cyprinus gonorynchus*, about the size of an ordinary herring.

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On the 17th we went from the arid Carrow district into *Lange Kloof*, (or the long dale) which commences at *Brak-rivier*. By way of reinforcing my team, I was obliged to buy another pair of oxen here, at eight rixdollars a head. The farmer's wife, who seemed to be the chief manager here, warranted them to be without fault or blemish. As one of them, however, when we drove from hence, was soon found to be rather lame in one of the hind legs, we began to harbour some suspicions of the fair vender's honesty. Her neighbours at least assured us, that with respect to the dependence that was to be placed on her word, the ox might have been lame of all four legs, without our having any reason to blame any thing but our own credulity. We were likewise over-reached with regard to a horse that we left here, by this same hostess of ours and her husband. Shortly after this they removed to the Cape, with a view to go into the commercial line there. They were nevertheless at this time, hospitable to the fullest extent of the word; at the same time, eating themselves with an appetite that astonished us. As hospitality is commonly practised, and, indeed, is a leading feature in the character of the country people here, so it appears to me from several circumstances, that deceit in their dealings is likewise very prevalent in the colony; and by no means considered in so low and despicable a light, as it is with us, or as it really deserves to be.

In

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In the neighbourhood of *Brak-rivier*, as well as in other places in *Lange Kloof*, they made great complaints concerning the p—grafs mentioned above, as growing in *Artaquas Kloof*; though nobody could, with any degree of certainty, point out any particular herb as coming under that denomination.

In this part of the country I was consulted by a married woman, who, through ignorance, as well as impatience, had pulled away piece-meal her uterus, which was in a prolapsed state, without any bad consequences ensuing.

Near the source of *Keurebooms-rivier* there was a farm, from which, by a troublesome foot-path, one might go in a day to *Algoa-bay* in *Houtniquas*. *Pott-rivier* is likewise called *Chamika*, a name, which, as there was no room for it in the map, I thought it was proper to mention here for the sake of future travellers. As Mr. IMMELMAN and I being on horseback, had rode to a good distance before the waggon, we lost our way, it being then very dark; we had the good luck, however, at length, to come up to a farm, not far from the last-mentioned river. We found the farm inhabited only by some Hottentots, who were left there by a colonist in order to look after it. They were so cross-grained, as not to answer either in Dutch or Portuguese Mr. IMMELMAN's enquiries about the road, although he promised to give them something to drink, and though, as we were afterwards assured, they perfectly understood both these languages; but, to make amends, they jabbered a great deal to us in their own, of which, however, we could not comprehend a syllable. I do not know whether

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whether this behaviour proceeded from a wicked disposition, the foundation of which is to be sought for in the general depravity, as it is called, of human nature; or whether it might not rather be considered, as a well-founded grudge harboured in the breasts of these people against the Christian colonists. We since heard of many instances, in which the same thing had happened elsewhere to other Christians, who, by way of putting a trick on these poor fellows, pretended to be ignorant of the Hottentot language; and by this means heard unsuspected the answers of the Hottentots, consisting in mere impertinence and scoffing jests, which they threw out against the Christians with the highest glee, and, as they thought, with impunity, till the latter pulled off the mask in order to avenge themselves.

As we could get no information from these Hottentots, we endeavoured to find the way again ourselves, as well as we could: but just as I imagined I had hit upon it, and as I was riding across the river just mentioned, my horse sank all at once in the ooze quite up to the saddle. I immediately threw myself off on the bank; but we found it a difficult matter to drag my horse out of this quagmire; and afterwards were obliged, together with our waggon, that came up afterwards, to wait for the dawn of the following day (the 22d) before we could find the right fording-place, when we proceeded to the river *Kukoi*, or, as it is pronounced, *i'Ku-i'koi*.

This name, which signifies head or master, has probably been bestowed upon this river, as being the first branch, or rather the source of the great river of *i'Cam-i'Nasi*, which again runs into that of *iC'amtour*. The farm at




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*Kukoi* river is called *Avanture*. From the mountains thereabouts we saw the sea, without being able to get the least glimpse of the forests of *Houtniquas*, on account of other mountains situated between. Neither had any one tried to go down from hence into *Houtniquas*.

We staid in *Lange Kloof* till the 31st, or last day of this month inclusively.

At *Apies-rivier* I saw an old *Bosbies-man* with his wife, who, I was informed by farmer *P. Verejra*, had, a few months before, reigned over above a hundred *Bosbies-men*; but they were now translated by the farmer from that princely, or rather patriarchal dignity, to that of being shepherds to a few hundreds of sheep. With regard to other matters, he gave them the highest commendations, as being quite different from the *Hottentots* in general, alert and exact in their business, and likewise as being well contented with their lot, and suiting their inclinations to their fortunes. It is possible, indeed, that this ancient couple, in consequence of their good sense and experience, might actually find a greater and more substantial bliss in being placed at the head of a flock of sheep, than when they were on their throne surrounded by their subjects. I will even admit the farmer's assertion, that his sheep thrive better under the care of these illustrious and consequently more enlightened personages; yet still it is a deed that cries to heaven for vengeance, to bereave a whole community of its head and governor, for the sake of some advantage and utility accruing thereby to a flock of sheep, the property of a vile peasant!—We saw, moreover, as we rode along, (especially in *Lange Kloof*) numbers of fugitive *Hottentots*

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tentots of both sexes, who were now no longer pursued, partly on account of their age and infirmities, and partly because it was not worth any colonist's while to lay hold on them, as they would be liable to be demanded back by their former masters. One of these that I passed on the road, a very old man, died (as I was told) the day after of weakness and fatigue. Most of these fugitives carried a thick stout staff, generally headed with a heavy gristone of two pounds weight or more, rounded off, and with a hole bored through the middle of it, in order to increase the force of the stick for the purpose of digging up roots and bulbs out of the ground; and at the same time for piercing the hard clay hillocks, which are formed to the height of three or four feet, by a kind of ants, (*termes*) a species of insect of which the Boshies-men's food in a great measure consists. It gave me no small pain, to see the poor old fugitives frequently wasting the remains of their strength on these hardened hillocks in vain, some other animal, that feeds on ants, having worked its way into them, and consumed all their provision before hand.

I was at a place in *Lange Kloof*, where several Hottentot fugitives came to beg tobacco of our hosts. They acknowledged, that they had come over the mountains from *Houtbiquas*, where they had, indeed, had a very good master; but said, that they chose to go home to their own country: and, indeed, since the death of one of their companions, were more particularly obliged to remove from thence.

At *Krakkeel-rivier* the ground was very stony, and there were a great many heaps of pebble-stones, three or four feet in height, that had lain there time out of mind; so that no conjectures

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could be formed, to what end or on what occasion they had been laid up together.

In a vale near this spot I saw several large pits, with a sharp stake placed in the middle, intended as snares to catch the larger sort of game. I and my horse were very near being caught in one of them ourselves.

In the mountains near *Klippen-drift* lives, it is said, a race of Hottentots, which, from the place of their abode, are called Mountain-Hottentots. These are, without doubt, the same kind of Boshies-men, that steal and make their prey of cattle, and, in other respects, live on game and the natural produce of the fields, as I have described above. The farmers hereabouts, on that account, did not dare to let their cattle feed at any distance from their farms.

At *Zwarte Kloof*, a farm between *Krakkeel* and *Wagenbooms-rivier*, they shewed me a Hottentot girl, about ten years old, who, though born and brought up in their service, had got, as they said, even at that tender age, the Hottentot way of eloping. She had run away for a fortnight together, and in all this time had lived on nothing but the wild produce of the fields and woods; and yet had kept up her flesh, and returned home plump and in good condition. On her return, she gave an account of herself to the following purport. That she had wandered to a great distance, and once at the sight of a huge beast, (which, on her giving a farther description of it, was supposed to have been a lion) she was so terribly frightened, that she immediately made the best of her way home.

About *Wagenbooms-rivier* there is found, according to all accounts, a lizard as black as a coal, about a foot in length,

length, which we supposed to be very venomous, as the Hottentots testified the greatest dread of them. This creature is said, however, to be very rare. The heaps of stones lying near this same river, are the peculiar abode of great numbers of those little animals which are described by M. PALLAS, by the name of *cavia Capensis* \*, and by the colonists are called *dasses*, or badgers. These creatures, which have some affinity with the ordinary marmots, and are about the same size, are eaten by many people, who look on them as a delicacy. They are likewise easily made extremely tame, and are found in many other places in the African mountains. The little *Dassen* islands on the western coast of Africa, take their name from them.

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On those places in the mountains, where these creatures dwell, there is found a substance called here *Dassen-piss*. It resembles petrolæum, or rock-oil, and by many, that have seen it, is actually considered as such. It is likewise used by some people for medical purposes, and by them is supposed to have greater powers than is consistent with any degree of probability. Finding that this substance did not stand the same proofs as petrolæum, and at the same time that it was found only in places frequented by the *dasses*, I had sufficient reason to conclude that it proceeded from this animal, and that it is most probably the menstrual excretion of the creature; as observations made on a tame female of this species, have given room for such a suspicion; and as besides the *dass*'s excrements are often found in this substance, and seldom any where else.

\* This animal is of the same genus with the Guinea-pig, or *cavia cobaya*.

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~~~~~ The river of *Tbree Fountains*, (*Drie Fonteins*) the last in Lange Kloof, is the origin of some great river in Sitficamma.

The temperature of the air for this month of October, approached as nearly as possible to that of the preceding month, or September. The rainy days were the 9th, 10th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 26th, 27th, and 28th.

C H A P.

C H A P. IX.

*Journey from Lange Dal to Sitsicamma, and from
thence to Sea-cow River.*

ON the 1st of November we set out for *Kromme-rivier*, or the Crooked-river, so called from the circumstance of its running with many turnings and windings through a very narrow dale. This river was very full of ooze, and in other respects was inconvenient to us, as we had to cross it eight times before we got to *Essenbosch*, which was the following day, or the 2d of November.

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The name of *Essenbosch* is given to a kind of woody tract along *Essen-rivier*, which, as well as the wood, has taken its name from the esse or ash-tree. This tree makes an entirely new genus, and is described by me in the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences, by the name of *Ekebergia Capensis*, in compliment to SIR CHARLES GUSTAVUS EKEBERG, Member of the Royal Academy of Sciences, and Knight of the Order of Vasa, who was the occasion of my making this voyage; and who, by his zeal for natural history, and the great pains he has been at in promoting it, is highly deserving of this distinction.

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The tract of country round about this place is considered as *four*. A farmer had lately chosen this spot to cultivate and live in. For the present, a hut composed of leaves and straw was all the house he had. Here I found and made a description of many trees and shrubs, which I had not seen before. Here were likewise, in greater numbers than elsewhere, insects of that peculiar genus first described by Professor THUNBERG, by the name of *pneumora*, in the Swedish Transactions, Vol. XXXVI. p. 254. This species, to which likewise must be referred the Gr. *papillos*. FABR. is composed of 1. pn. *immac.* (gryll. *unicol.* LINN :) 2. pn. *macul.* (gr. *variolos.* LINN. and FABR.) 3. pn. *sex gutt.* (gr. *inan.* FABR.) They are from two to three inches long, and their abdomen, one single small gut excepted, is found empty, and at the same time quite pellucid, and likewise blown up and distended; on which account they are called *blaazops* by the colonists, and are said to live on nothing but wind. In the day time they are mostly silent, but in the places haunted by them, one sometimes of an evening hears the noise of them from all sides, which is tremulous and tolerably loud. They are easily allured by any strong light in the dark, and then are easiest caught; but very rarely appear at that time. A person assured me, they might easily be brought out of their-hiding places by a noise, or by talking to them, as it were, and going to meet them; but when he made the experiment in my presence it failed.

On the 3d we baited at the next farm, which was on the other side of *Diep-rivier*. Several Hottentots of the Boshiesman race, who were in the farmer's service, had their huts

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near the farm. These huts were made of straw, but were now, for the greater part, covered besides with large slips of elephant's flesh, which was cut out zig-zag fashion in strings or slips of the thickness of two, three, and four fingers breadth, and hung together to the length of several fathoms. Some of these were wound round the huts, while others were stretched from one hut to the other for the sake of drying them. At this time the men, women, and children here had no other employment than that of sleeping, smoking, and eating elephant's flesh. And though I had eaten dog's flesh in the South-Sea, yet the looks and flavour of the present entertainment, were sufficient to take from me all curiosity and desire of tasting that of the elephant. Besides, at this time it was not fresh, but had been dried for some days in the sun; so that had I tasted of it, my opinion could not by any means have been depended on; and I should have drawn upon myself the contempt of the colonists into the bargain, who look upon it almost as horrible an action to eat the flesh of an elephant as that of a man; as the elephant, according to them, is a very intelligent animal, which, when it is wounded and finds that it cannot escape from its enemies, in a manner weeps; so that the tears run down its cheeks, just as with the human species when in sorrow and affliction. I was desirous of riding out upon the plains where the elephants had been shot, in order to see the skeletons of them; but I was assured, that all their bones had been already dragged off the premises by the wolves.

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This which they were now feasting upon they supposed to be a young male, as the tusks were rather of the smallest, being no more than three feet long, and its largest grinders not above four inches in breadth; while the grinder of an elephant which I got from some other elephant-hunters at the Cape, and now preserve in the cabinet of the Royal Academy of Sciences, is nine inches broad, and weighs four pounds and a half; though it bears evident marks of having been the farthest tooth in the jaw, and of not being grown to its full size, having been enclosed in the gum to about two-thirds of its breadth. The distance from the root to the top of the tooth, or its elevation above the socket, seems to have been three inches. The ears of the elephant shot at this place, were reported to have reached from the shoulders of a middle-sized Hottentot down to the ground. One of the fore legs, which had been brought to the farm, lay there as yet undissected. The hide was not near so compact and close as those of the rhinoceros and hippopotamus, but the texture of it seemed to be composed of larger tubes and blood-vessels; at the same time that the external surface of it was more uneven, wrinkled, and knotty, and therefore cannot be used for making whips, as are the hides of the animals just mentioned. The foot was almost round, measuring very little more across than the leg, which was hardly one foot in diameter. The toes should be always five in number, but the hoofs vary in that respect, according to the observation of M. BURTON, Tom. XI. p. 68. In this specimen I found only four, the largest of which seemed to have been on the outside of the foot, and the smallest

smallest were but one inch each in diameter. The skin under the foot, did not seem to be thicker or of a firmer texture than that of the other parts of the body.

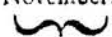
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It was supposed, that the elephant which was shot here, had been driven away from its herd by some other males stronger than itself out of *Sitficamma*, in the thick forests of which the elephants may find an asylum; or, to speak more properly, be fortified against the attacks of their enemies: for as to *Lange Kloof*, and other places which the Christians had begun to inhabit, these animals were obliged immediately to retire from them. The chase of the elephant here mentioned was, according to the account given by the hunters themselves, (a couple of farmers) carried on in the following manner.

On the very evening on which they saw this huge animal, they immediately resolved to pursue it on horseback; though they were so far from being skilful and practised elephant-hunters, that they never before set eyes upon one of these animals. This probably, however, according to their description, was not less than eleven or twelve feet high; while, on the other hand, the largest of this species are said to reach to the height of fifteen or sixteen feet\*. Their horses, though as much unused as their riders to the sight of this colossal animal, yet did not flinch in the least. The animal, likewise, did not seem to trouble him-

\* If this be the case, the Asiatic elephants are much inferior to the African in point of size: as Mr. Wolf, who was nineteen years in Ceylon, where these animals are largest, and who had opportunities of getting the best information concerning them, speaks of twelve feet, or six German ells, as being a great height, and mentions an elephant of twelve feet and an inch in height, as a great curiosity. Vide WOLF'S Voyage to Ceylon, just published.

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fell about them, till they came within sixty or seventy paces of him; when one of them at that instant, after the usual manner of the Cape huntsmen, jumped off his horse, and, securing the bridle, fell upon one knee, and with his left hand fixing his ramrod, upon which he rested his piece, into the ground, took his aim and fired on the elephant, which then had got about forty or fifty paces farther off: for in this country, when they hunt the larger kind of animals, they generally choose to take the opportunity of shooting at the distance of one hundred and fifty paces; partly because they load their pieces in such a manner, that the ball, in their opinion, has the greatest effect at that distance; and partly at this distance, they can get time to mount their horses again, and make off, before the wounded animal can come up to them to take his revenge. Our sportsman had scarcely got into the saddle, and turned his horse's head round, before he found that the elephant was at his heels. Just at that instant the creature had set up a sharp shrill cry, which he thought he felt pierce to the very marrow of his bones; and which caused his horse likewise to make several hasty leaps, and afterwards set off galloping with an incredible swiftness. In the mean while the huntsman had the presence of mind to ride his horse up an ascent, knowing that elephants and other large animals are slow and unwieldy going up hill, in proportion to their weight, but the contrary in going down hill. On this account he galloped off with the greatest security, and at the same time his companion had the more leisure to advance to one side of the elephant, where he thought he could easiest direct his shot at the heart and larger



larger arteries belonging to the lungs of the animal. This, however, did not hit any dangerous part, as the horse was untruly and pulled at the bridle, which the man had hung over his right arm, at the time that, in the same manner as the former, he had jumped off his horse and fired his piece. The elephant, which now turned upon this latter, was soon tired of pursuing him, as he had an opportunity of riding from it up a still steeper hill than his companion. Afterwards the two hunters found it answer better to hold each other's horses, so that they should not get away, while each of the sportsmen fired their pieces by turns. The elephant, even after the third ball, still threatened vengeance; but the fourth entirely cooled his courage: however, he did not absolutely drop till he had received the eighth. Several experienced hunters of elephants have nevertheless assured me, that one single ball is sufficient to bring an elephant to the ground, but for this purpose it is necessary,

1st, That the bore of the piece be large enough to admit of a ball weighing about three, or least above two ounces.

2dly, That the piece be well stocked, which will enable it to bear a higher charge; for it must be observed, that the farmers, for the purpose of hunting the elephant, sea-cow, rhinoceros, and even the buffalo, generally chuse and pay a good price for the old-fashioned Swedish and Danish muskets, which at present, on account of their great weight and clumsiness, are no longer in use; but they generally put a stronger stock to them than they had before, in order that they may bear a charge so much the higher.

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higher without recoiling. It is in consequence of the weight of the piece, that the sportsman hardly ever offers to fire off his gun, without resting on his ramrod in the manner before mentioned. Still less does any one venture to discharge his piece, while sitting on his horse, as both the horse and its master have usually a tremor upon them in consequence of hard riding.

3dly, It is requisite for the shooting of elephants, that the ball be composed of about one part of tin, and two parts of lead; for a ball made of lead alone is always quite, or, at least, in some measure flattened, against the thick and very tough hides of the larger kind of animals, and by this means misses its intended effect, as I have myself seen in the case of the rhinoceros. Again, if there be too great a mixture of tin in the ball, this will be too light and brittle into the bargain; so that, as I have likewise found by experience, it will fly asunder in the seam, when it hits against the boney parts of the body of any large beast. Several people have assured me, that with muskets of this kind highly charged, and tin balls, they could make a hole through a plough-share of a tolerable thickness. Indeed I never saw this done, but do not look upon it as incredible; as when I seemed to doubt of the fact, several people offered to lay me a wager of it. On the other hand, I was the more inclined to believe it, as I knew that with a mere leaden pistol bullet, a person has sometimes shot through a breast-plate. I have heard many sportsmen mention it, as a fact well known among their fraternity, that when they have got an opportunity of firing with the larger kind of fire-arms among a herd of zebras and quaggas that

that have stood close together, the ball, when it did not hit upon any of the boney parts of them, has passed through four or five of these animals at a time.

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4thly, It is necessary above all things to hit the elephant on the heart, or somewhere near it, where it is a great chance but that the ball meets with some large blood-vessel, by which means the animal soon bleeds to death. It is therefore the more requisite to have a large piece, as the wound made by a small ball, may easily happen to be closed up with fat or clots of blood; not to mention the elasticity of the hide and muscular fibres, which in the elephant, rhinoceros, and many other large animals, is proportionally greater than in the smaller kind of game; and in consequence of which, the wound made by the shot is the easier contracted and diminished.

A man famous for shooting of elephants, told me, indeed, that the best way to come at the heart of this animal, was to level the piece at that part of its side, which is generally in contact with the tips of its ears; but to judge from the beautiful drawing of this creature in M. BUFFON's work, the ears seem too short for the directions given me by my informer to be of any use; except, indeed, that the African elephants should have somewhat longer ears than that of M. BUFFON; or that the ears in the large and very old animals, are proportionably much more lengthened, than in the young one represented in the work above-mentioned.

It must have been from experience, that the hunters at the Cape have learned not to take aim at the elephant's head, as the brain is too small to be easily hit, and is

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moreover well defended by a thick and hard cranium. This likewise corresponds with what is previously known with regard to this animal; but from what has been said above, it is evident, that two or three hundred people could not possibly have any trouble in shooting one elephant, (a fact which however is related by M. BUFFON, page 11, from BOSMAN'S *Voyage to Guinea*, page 254,) unless the fire-arms, as well as the sportsmen, are miserable indeed: much less does it require a whole army, as the former author supposes it does, to attack a herd of elephants. In fact, this, in Africa, is often attempted by a single huntsman, when provided with a fleet horse used to hunting, and who at the same time finds the elephants on the plains before him. In so doing, he hardly runs any greater risk than when he has only one of these animals to attack. In this case, the youngest elephants are wont to fly first; but one or two of the old ones, who have the strongest teeth, and are the very identical animals the sportsmen wish to have to do with, sometimes, perhaps, will run after him; but as they are soon weary and turn back again, the sportsman turns upon them again, and always finds an opportunity of shooting some of them. When one of these beasts is hit only upon the hip, it is generally said, that he has received earnest of the huntsman, as he is rendered lame by it, and in consequence of this may expect from them a more dangerous wound before he can be able to get off. The larger the elephant's teeth are, and the older the animals are themselves, the heavier and slower likewise they are said to be, and find it more difficult to escape. When the sun has shone extremely hot, they have