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this latter is in a standing position, two feet and a half. It consisted of three larger perfectly distinct globes, almost equal in size, and of a small lobe besides, which projected to about a foot from the concave side of the liver, at the middle of its upper edge. No gall-bladder, or any traces of it, was to be observed. In this the rhinoceros resembles the horse.—Just before I finished the dissection of this animal, I opened its stomach, which was very much distended, in order to examine what it usually fed upon. The contents of the stomach were entirely without smell, and perfectly fresh and sweet, consisting of roots and small branches of trees masticated, some of which were found as big as the end of a man's finger. This creature, as it appeared, had likewise eaten a great quantity of succulent plants, among which I thought I recognized two or three that were harsh and prickly. The whole of this mass diffused around a very strong and not disagreeable aromatic odour, which in a great measure took off the stench which arose from the putrid viscera. Might it not be some peculiar herb, or, perhaps, the root only of an herb, with which I was entirely unacquainted, which produced the greatest part of the aromatic flavour? In the excrements of this animal, which were four inches in diameter, and in other respects resemble those of a horse, though they are of a much drier nature, there is usually seen a quantity of bark and fibres of trees, a circumstance that the hunters pay attention to; and by that means are able to distinguish it from the dung of the hippopotamus, an animal that feeds only on grass. I thrust my hand into this creature's mouth, which was half open, and found the tongue perfectly soft, which

which is in direct contradiction to the common notion, viz. *Quod lambendo trucidat*, (that he kills by licking with his tongue.) I was likewise not a little astonished to find no fore-teeth in any of the three carcases of the rhinoceros, although one of these beasts seemed to be old; and, in fact, this animal has little room for fore-teeth, as the mouth goes off so sharp at the fore part, that in that place it is only an inch and a half broad. Besides, it has no occasion for any teeth there, as the lips, like the skin, are of that extreme hardness, that it is able to clip off the tops of plants and shrubs with them; and that with so much the greater ease, as the under jaw goes within the upper; so that this species of rhinoceros is probably capable of laying hold of its food with its lips, and conveying it into its mouth, with the same ease and dexterity as Dr. PARSONS observed in the common rhinoceros on a similar occasion.

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At that time I could not possibly separate the flesh from the other bones, for the purpose of examining them. I was in hopes, however, that, by the time I returned, the eagles and wolves would save me that trouble. And this, indeed, was so far the case, that I had it in my power to carry home with me the cranium of the least rhinoceros, which I dissected, very nearly in a compleat state. It is from this skull that I had the annexed drawing made; and this part of the animal is of too much importance, for the description of it to be omitted here.

Both jaws being clapped together in their proper joint, give nineteen inches for the height of it in the back part; and, measured at the fore part from the tip of the nose,


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fifteen; the length, measured from the tip of the nose to the hindmost part of the cranium, is in a direct line twenty-three inches, or something less than two feet.

With a view to avoid being prolix in my description, I refer my readers to the figure annexed in Plate III. of this volume, whence they will be able readily to conceive the proportion, &c. of the other parts. It is on the fore part of the *os frontis* that the lesser horn is fixed; it will, therefore, probably, be easily perceived from the annexed drawing, that the *sagittal future* is obliterated, and that the *os occipitis* is terminated by a flat surface, along which it goes straight down in a perpendicular line to the condyloid processes, one of which is seen in the figure.

The cavity in which the brain is contained, does not extend much farther forward than the *ossa bregmatis*. The other bones by which it is encompassed are tolerably thick, so that this huge animal has but a small brain in proportion to its size; the cavity for containing this organ being barely six inches long, and four high, and being of an oval shape. In order to know the capacity of it with the greater certainty, we filled it with peas, which we afterwards measured, and found to amount barely to a quart. With a view to discover the proportion between the brain of the rhinoceros and that of a man, I likewise filled a middle sized human skull with peas, and found that nearly three pints were requisite for this purpose. On the other hand, the cavity of the nose in the rhinoceros is of a considerable size, which probably does not a little contribute to the quickness of this animal's scent. At least, physiologists use to explain the superiority of hounds in this particular,

cular, from the circumstance of the *tunica schneideriana*, or the nervous membrane appropriated to this sense, (when it is expanded and extricated from all the folds which it makes in the cavity of the nose, with the greatest art contrived for this purpose,) being so extensive as to cover the whole body of the animal; while on the other hand, this membrane, in the human species, is capable of covering only the head.

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Six *dentes molares* only, or grinders, were observed on either side of each jaw, belonging to the two oldest of the rhinoceroses shot by us, and five only in the least or youngest, as the annexed drawing of its cranium shews; yet quite back in the mouth we discerned the marks of two more on each side, the foremost of which had begun to make its appearance, but the hindmost was almost entirely included in its socket. Hence it follows, that an aged and full-grown rhinoceros has fourteen teeth in each jaw, in all twenty-eight.

In the anterior part of the *os palati*, this animal appears to have a tooth-like process, which in the skull that I brought home with me is lost. Considering the distance of it from the lower jaw, it should seem that it can hardly serve any purposes of a tooth. I have to thank M. PALLAS for this piece of intelligence; who, when I had transmitted to him this engraving, was so good as to send me the beautiful figures of the cranium of a rhinoceros, transmitted to him by M. CAMPER for the *Acta Petropolitana*.

The dotted lines drawn about the cranium, show pretty nearly the situation of the horns and lips.



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As I have mentioned above that the rhinoceros may be killed by a single shot, it follows that the hide of this animal is not so impenetrable as has been supposed. BONNIUS has long ago remarked, that this beast is usually killed with powder and ball. M. DE BUFFON probably did not pay attention to this passage, when he asserted, on the authority of GERVAISE, that its hide cannot be penetrated by any ball, excepting only about the ears. To these, however, M. DE BUFFON seems, of his own free will, to have added the eyes and the belly. It is true, indeed, that leaden balls will sooner be flattened against the skin than pierce it; but that balls or cylinders made of iron (*des lingots de fer*) should not be able to make the least impression on it, seems to be another addition of M. DE BUFFON's, equally absurd with the former. It frequently becomes necessary for me to correct in this manner, the voluminous works of this illustrious author; which, indeed, merit this correction so much the more, as the errors in them, being in other respects not unfrequently dressed up in an elegant style, have, in fact, imposed on many with charms which ought to be the attendants on pure genuine truth only, and unadulterated nature. It is therefore probable, that the sportive genius of M. DE BUFFON, must at times have operated in imposing likewise on its owner; but I am willing to hope, that this gentleman being *by profession* the interpreter of nature and truth, will on this account see with the greater pleasure, any strictures and remarks which are necessary to preserve the science of nature from falsehood and error.

For

For this reason I shall proceed, without any farther ceremony, to inform the reader, that the hide of the rhinoceros, as well as that of the elephant, is capable of being penetrated by javelins and darts. I ordered one of my Hottentots to make a trial of this with his *haffagai*, on one of the dead rhinoceroses. Though his weapon was far from being in good order, and had no other sharpness than that it had received from the forge, yet, by means of a certain manœuvre, it received such an impulsive force, as at the distance of five or six paces, to pierce through the thick hide of the animal half a foot deep into his body.

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The Hottentot or Caffre hunters are accustomed to steal both upon the elephant and the rhinoceros while they are asleep, and give them several wounds at once. After this they follow the traces of the animal for one or more days, till it drops down with weakness or dies of its wounds. Generally, however, according to their own account, they poison one or two of their darts immediately, before they attack an animal of this size; in which case, they have no occasion to wait so many days, as they otherwise would, before their prey falls into their hands. A farmer told me, he had seen an elephant in this manner wounded and dead within twenty-four hours.

As to what regards the one-horned rhinoceros, M. DE BUFFON, in Tom. XI. changes his opinion three times in the space of a few pages. In page 177, without quoting his authority for it, M. DE BUFFON considers the hide as being so tough, as not to be penetrable either by the fire-arms or side-arms of the hunter, (*ni du fer ni du feu du chasseur.*) In page 181 again in the notes he quotes, approves and much commends the account given by M. MOURS relative to this point, which

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which yet is in contradiction with the former. This, however, he seems again to have forgot, when, in page 195, (without producing any authority for it) he assures us, that javelins (*les javelots* & *les lances*) are not able to pierce this animal's hide.

M. DE BUFFON, not content with asserting that the hide of the rhinoceros is impenetrable, in page 176, will not even allow it the least portion whatever of sensibility, (*privé de toute sensibilité*) and this merely without quoting any authority, or having any other foundation for the assertion, than what his own imagination has furnished him with. And yet, had M. DE BUFFON but paid a moderate degree of attention to the clear and distinct account drawn up by Dr. PARSONS in the *Phil. Transf.* which he himself has quoted, it would seem that he must have been of a different opinion. In that paper it is mentioned, that the rhinoceros emitted his penis, when he was tickled under the belly with a wisp of straw. M. DE BUFFON too remarks himself, that the rhinoceros is fond of wallowing in the mire like the hog: but I will leave it to others to judge, how this accords with the absolute insensibility he attributes to the hide. And, indeed, when even the thick hide of the elephant is affected by the stinging of flies, how can we suppose that of the rhinoceros to be absolutely insensible? Again, the skin at the bottom of a man's foot, though thicker than it is in other parts of the body, is nevertheless by no means void of sensibility. Moreover, the skin of the rhinoceros, however tough and close in its texture, has, at least about the groin, vessels, blood, and juices, adapted for the nourishment of insects, which, indeed, actually do nourish them; this beast being infested with a  
kind

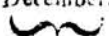
kind of *acari*, which I have discovered on its pubis and groin, and have drawn up an account of them, inserted in the VIIth Tome of *Memoires sur les Insectes*. Neither does the thickness of this animal's hide prevent it from perspiring.

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This creature, which at all other times appears to be of a grey colour, soon becomes black when it is hard hunted. This proceeds from the dust and dried mud sticking to the animal's skin, and moistened by sweat. Besides that I have been assured of this fact by others, I think I once myself saw a manifest instance of it, in the case of a rhinoceros, which was pursued by some other sportsmen, and very unexpectedly passed within the distance of forty or fifty paces of my waggon, fortunately for me, without perceiving it, or doing it any damage. This beast was much darker coloured than any I ever saw, the number of which, however, in all, did not exceed eight.

From the figure of the rhinoceros referred to above, and from the description I have already given, it follows, that M. DE BUFFON, in his notes to page 186, accuses KOLBE, without any foundation, of having described the lesser horn as being placed in a strait line behind the other, and upon the animal's forehead. *It is impossible*, says he, *that the two horns should be placed so far from each other; for in the horns which are preserved in SIR HANS SLOANE'S museum, there is only the distance of three inches between the larger horn and the smaller.* In fact, this eminent naturalist seems rather too hasty in the foregoing remark, and forgets that every animal's nose is placed near its forehead; so that while one horn is fixed on the rhinoceros's nose, the other may be very well fixed, and ac-

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tually is so, on the forehead. A figure so plain and simple as KOLBE'S (vide the French edition) might have sufficed to prevent mistakes on this subject.

In fine, it is necessary to inform my readers, that what M. DE BUFFON advances concerning the copulation of the one-horned rhinoceros, viz. that it is performed *croupe à croupe*, is not in the least applicable to the rhinoceros bicornis; but in all probability, this opinion is not true with regard to either species, as in the two-horned rhinoceros which I examined, the penis was placed as forward under the belly as it is in a horse; though, considered with relation to the different bulk of the two animals, it is much shorter. In the animal which I dissected it was no more than seven or eight inches in length, as may be seen in the specimen I brought home with me. In a rhinoceros, which had the appearance of being old, it was not much larger. M. DE BUFFON, after Dr. PARSONS, describes the penis in the one-horned species as being still shorter. Besides, he does not say a word concerning the situation of this member, but founds his conjecture on the subject of this animal's copulation, merely on the circumstance of its having been observed to bend its penis backwards when it staled, in which direction consequently the urine was emitted. But this, perhaps, was owing to an accidental and vicious conformation; or it might be done out of cleanliness, especially as we know that the *rhinoceros bicornis*, at least has a very acute smell, and seems to love cleanliness, from the circumstance of its choosing certain places near the bushes to stale upon. It is possible, indeed, that the animal may have a kind of *musculus erector*, for the purpose of occasionally altering

altering the direction of this member. But I am afraid of tiring my reader's patience, by dwelling so long on the subject of this quadruped; I shall therefore at present only make mention of it, just as it may happen to occur in the course of my journal. Mr. IMMELMAN likewise was at length tired of standing by and seeing me dissect this beast, and therefore set out before us on his road home, with a view to repose between whiles, and cool himself under some shady tree. In order to go, as it appeared to him, a nearer way, he rode over a hill overgrown with bushes. From this spot a rhinoceros rushed out upon him, and he would certainly have been trampled to death by this huge creature, or else have been taken up by it on its horns, and, together with his horse, thrown up into the air, had not this latter in his fright made a sudden start, and by several side leaps carried his rider through the bushes, out of the sight and scent of the animal.

Here it must be observed, that the rhinoceros's eyes are sunk into its head, and are but small when compared to the bulk of its body; on which account, it is reported to see but indistinctly, and that only strait forwards. But to make amends for this deficiency in sight, its organs of smelling and hearing are so much the more acute; at the least noise, therefore, more than usual, this creature, taking the alarm and pricking up its ears, stands clapping with them and listening. Above all things one must take care, even when one is at a great distance, not to get to the windward of it; for in that case, it seldom fails directly to follow the scent, and attack the object of its pursuit, as it was very near doing by Mr. IMMELMAN. This gentleman,



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having with great difficulty made his escape, struck into a by-path, in order, after passing through a little dale, to get into the strait and plain road. In this road he overtook me, on a spot whither I had retired to screen myself and my horse from the burning rays of the sun, and was overlooking my drawings and memorandums. He was still somewhat out of breath in consequence of his adventure, at the time he gave me an account of it; and I, for my part, could not help in some measure envying his good fortune, in having at so cheap a rate seen this huge unwieldy animal alive, together with the motions it made in the cumbersome hide in which it was incased: but, indeed, he himself had seen so little of it, that we soon came to an agreement to ride up together on the other side of the very hill, in which he had just been put to flight by the rhinoceros. From hence we thought we should be able to descry this creature on the plain; but that we might not be betrayed by the effluvia of our bodies, in case he should return again to the thicket, we threw some dust into the air, in order to determine more accurately which way the wind was, and thus be able to direct our course precisely in opposition to it. And indeed, we had not been long arrived at the spot before my horse began to be a little shy, and at length was quite restive, behaving just as he had done before when I first rode him up to the carcases of the two rhinoceroses. This circumstance I took notice of to my companion, considering it as a sign that, in all probability, there was a rhinoceros near the spot; but he went on, saying, it was impossible, as it did not strike him just then, that there might be more than one

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one in that vicinity. We therefore advanced still nearer, till being but fifteen paces off, I heard a rustling noise like that of an animal raising itself up leisurely on its legs. Immediately upon this appeared a rhinoceros, with its horn projecting over one of the bushes. I now thought it high time for us to turn back immediately, and made signs to my companion, that it might be done as silently as possible. He too had perceived the snout of this animal, and we rode away as softly as possible; our horses' feet, nevertheless, made a crackling noise among the dry branches which had fallen from the trees, and with which the narrow paths between the bushes were every where covered. On this account, we did not neglect during our retreat to look behind us, in order that we might make off as fast as possible, in case the rhinoceros should have been alarmed by the noise, and have been induced to pursue us. What I call paths were merely tracks made by the buffaloes and rhinoceroses forcing their way through the thickets; but among these likewise we found many blind paths, i. e. such as terminated on a sudden in some high and impenetrable bush. Into a place of this sort we might in our flight easily have strayed, and there have been caught by the rhinoceros, as it were, in a trap. This adventure made us afterwards suspect, that every bush harboured a rhinoceros; and induced us for some time to give up all thoughts of reconnoitring among the bushes with so much assurance, an animal that did not appear as if it was to be trifled with.

I think we may infer from the preceding relation, that this rhinoceros was different from that which put Mr. IMMEL-

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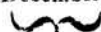
MAN to flight; as likewise, that this latter did not pursue us, by reason that, in consequence of our having rode up to it full in the face of the wind, it could not get scent of us; besides, this animal did not hear our talking nor the crackling of the branches, with a sufficient degree of certainty to engage it to make an attack upon us: and in fine, it appears, that it had with great forecast chosen a thick and high bush, by way of entrenchment, on that side of the bush, from whence the wind prevented it from getting scent of any thing. If I may form any conclusion from my horse's stopping, it would seem, that he had got scent of this beast as far off as the distance of forty or fifty paces, though the wind was very moderate from that quarter.

On our way homewards (for so we always called our waggon, or encampment in the desert) we came within pistol-shot of a herd of *elk-antilopes*, probably the same with those we had given chase to in the morning without success; but what was very singular, they at this time hardly shewed the least fear. The males, which were of the size of an ordinary galloway, appeared much more bulky and corpulent than their females, and seemed to run rather heavily.

In the evening we received an unexpected visit. This was from eight colonists, who were come hither from *Camdebo* with four waggons, and had brought with them two of their wives, and a couple of children. They were going to the salt-pit before-mentioned near *Zwartkops*-river, in order to fetch salt from thence; but having been told by us of the violent drought they would meet with in their way thither, part of them only went with two waggons, that being fewer of them, they might be less liable to suffer

fer for want of water. These people informed us, that that very day they had chanced to awake a rhinoceros just by the road side; but that the beast, probably scared by the noise and bustle it heard from different quarters at once, ran by them without doing them any hurt. They related to me, however, an instance, in which a rhinoceros had run up to a waggon, and carried it a good way along with him on his snout and horns. They likewise informed us, that the distemper among the horses had already begun to commit ravages in the district of *Camdebo*, where, however, it otherwise seldom used to make its appearance till the month of April. The reason of this, probably, was the universal drought that prevailed this year.

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## C H A P. XIII.

*Journey from Quammedacka to Agter Bruntjes-Hoogte.*

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ON the 21st at nine in the morning we left the pool at *Quammedacka*, which we had by this time drank dry, and arrived at noon at Little *Visch-rivier*, where we again pitched our tents. We here found a herd of spring-boks, a couple of which we shot. At five o'clock this morning the thermometer was at 52 degrees, at twelve at 82, and at half past three at 95 degrees. The evening was very much overcast. In this tract of country there was a great drought on both sides of the river, but still greater farther on towards the north, where the soil was more gravelly, and produced a greater quantity of succulent plants. In the spaces between these, besides shrubs and bushes, there was sometimes to be found a little dry grass; every where else, the ground was as dry and bare as a high road with a clayey bottom. Between ten and eleven o'clock at night, we heard the roaring of a lion; and though it only roared twice, the animals we had with us were very restless the whole night throughout.

On

On the 22d early in the morning, we crossed Little *Visch-rivier*, it being supposed, that where we then were, it would not be so well worth our while to look after the *bippotamus*, or sea-cow, an animal that is bigger than the rhinoceros, and lives both in the water and on dry ground, (vid. Plate IV. of this volume.) This, in fact, having seen the rhinoceros, was what I now chiefly laid out for.

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Between nine and ten o'clock, being on our march, we saw two large lions. They were about three hundred paces from us, in a little vale. The instant they perceived us, they betook themselves to flight. Being very desirous to have a nearer view of these animals, we rode in pursuit of them, all the while shouting and calling out after them. Upon this they mended their pace till they got down to the side of the river, which we had just crossed, and there hid themselves in the thickets. Urged by their curiosity, two of our Hottentots likewise followed behind us, one armed with a couple of hassagais, and the other with a gun. We ourselves were without any arms whatever, but I imagine we ran no risk in this chase, as we could easily have turned back and fetched our arms, in case the lions had thought proper to pursue us. In running they had a kind of sideling pace, like that of a dog, accompanied now and then with a slight bound. Their necks were all the while somewhat raised, and they seemed to look askance at us over their shoulders. One of them had a mane, and consequently was a male; but both of them were nearly of an equal size, and seemed to be considerably higher and longer than our saddle-horses, which were of the size of common galloways. Neither our horses, nor several gazels which  
were



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were on the spot, seemed in the least afraid of these lions, though they were as near them as we were. As the lion seldom or never attacks his prey openly, it seems that he does not strike the other animals with any high degree of terror, except when they take the scent of him, which nature has rendered highly disgusting to them.

This day likewise we scared a male ostrich away from its nest, which was in the middle of the plains. This nest, however, consisted of nothing but the ground itself, on which the eggs lay scattered and loose. Hence it follows, that the ostrich does not leave its eggs to be hatched by the sun, but likewise, at least in this part of Africa, sits upon them herself: we may also infer, that the male and the female sit upon them alternately. The Hottentots too assured me of this fact, which has hitherto been unknown to naturalists.

So that THEVENOT is in the right when he asserts, that the ostrich lives in monogamy, or with one female; though he is quite alone in this assertion: and the practice is contrary to the custom of the larger kind of birds.

I do not pretend by any means to determine the exact number of eggs laid by this bird; the number of those we at this time found was only eleven; they were all fresh, and probably were to have had several more added to them. Another time two of my Hottentots scared another ostrich away from its nest, out of which they took fourteen eggs, and brought them to me, having left some behind, which did not seem to them to be quite so fresh; so that perhaps sixteen, eighteen, or twenty, is the highest amount of the number of eggs laid by this bird: and yet it appears to me, that

that it must be very difficult for the ostrich to cover so many with its body. A brood of young ones, scarcely two feet high, which I saw in the district of *Roode-Zand*, seemed to me to amount to some such number; but the ostrich-chicks which I had taken on the 16th of this month at Kurekoi-ku, were about a foot in height. May we not likewise conclude from hence, that the ostriches in Africa have no set times for laying their eggs?

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Some of my more observing readers may, perhaps, wonder how I am able to assure them, that it was a male ostrich which I scared away from the nest. To this I answer, that in all this part of Africa it is looked upon as an indisputable fact, that such of these birds which are males, carry white feathers in their tails and wings, while their backs and bellies are covered with black. The females, on the contrary, carry black feathers only in their tails and wings, while those on their bodies are of an ash-colour. This likewise accords with the dissections made of this bird in Europe, (Vide BUFFON, p. 429.) What serves farther to convince me, that the cock ostrich assists the hen in hatching her eggs, is, that in the nest which I have been just speaking of, there were found several white feathers, as well as a number of black ones, both of which would naturally fall into it whilst the birds were sitting. Nature, perhaps, has found it the more necessary to order both sexes of the ostrich mutually to assist each other in hatching their eggs, as the frame of their bodies is large, and they are furnished with many stomachs, and at the same time are craving beyond many others of the feathered race; so that they could not bear the usual course of fasting during the whole time

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of sitting, nearly so well as the females of other birds. The authors who have described the young of the ostrich; as being covered with small grey feathers, are perfectly in the right. With a plumage of this colour, even their necks and thighs are clothed; parts, which in the full-grown birds, are destined to be naked, while the rest of their bodies are adorned with feathers. The most beautiful and curled of these compose the tail of the ostrich, and consequently it is chiefly for the purpose of adorning our heads with them, that we deprive this bird of its life or freedom.

In this colony, however, I did not see ostrich feathers made any other use of, than to brush away the flies; for which purpose, whisks were made of them of a considerable length as well as breadth, with which a slave or two were employed in driving away these animals from the table, while the family were at their meals. The Hottentots, who eat all sorts of flesh, eat likewise that of the ostrich; but the eggs I have seen used by the colonists, and that even at the Cape, for pancakes and aumelets. While we were travelling through the desert, we found it answer best to supple our throats with them just before we took our chocolate or tea; and likewise to clarify our coffee with them, or else to stew them, for want of pans, in our porridge-pot, having previously thrown into it a little fat; a dish I had learnt to prepare in Sweden by the name of *oeufs perdus*.

Ostriches eggs are eatable, indeed, in all these ways, but not equal to hen's eggs. They are, as it were, of a coarser nature and thicker consistence, and at the same time

time more filling and luscious. One of the largest shells of the ostriches eggs, kept in the cabinet of the Royal Academy, I found, on examination, to weigh eleven ounces, to be six inches and a half in depth, and to hold five pints and a quarter liquid measure. It is of the shape of a common egg. I never found the weight of the fresh eggs exceed this in any extraordinary proportion; so that when M. DE BUFFON (in page 426, 427) computes the weight of one of these eggs at fifteen pounds, this bold assertion of his seems to require to be mentioned, only in order to be confuted.— I have already, in Vol. I. page 130, related the method of hunting the ostriches in this country; but that this bird contents itself barely with hiding its head, when it finds it cannot make its escape, is a matter which I do not remember ever to have heard mentioned at the Cape; but even were it a fact, still PLINY's explication of it is not more absurd than M. DE BUFFON's manner of accounting for it, l. c. page 448. Children, indeed, who play at hide and seek, are apt to imagine that they are concealed, when they cover their heads, so that they themselves cannot see. I have likewise frequently observed turkey-poults merely hide their heads, so as not to be able to see any thing, when they were warned by their mother's cries of the hawk's approach. How then can one expect a greater degree of consideration in a bird, in other respects very stupid, and which is in danger of its life?

M. DE BUFFON, page 448, calls the skin of this creature very thick; but in this respect it is but equal at the best to goat's or calf's-skin; so that how far the Arabians can use

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it for harnesses and shields (l. c. page 443) does not seem to deserve a serious investigation.

The cry of the ostrich, according to the description I have had given me of it in Africa, in some respects resembles the roaring of the lion, but is shorter, or, in other words, not drawn out to so great a length. In this case, its cry must necessarily be hoarse and rough, as well as fill the breast of the hearer with anxiety and terror; and consequently the prophet MICAH, chap. i. ver. 8, has not unaptly compared it to the voice of a mourner; if in fact by the word *וַעֲכָה* in this and other places of holy writ, the ostrich is meant, and not a kind of owl.

The young of this bird have no cry at all; one, at least, a foot and a half high, which on my return homewards I brought with me alive to the *Cape* all the way from *Honing-klip*, did not, during the whole time, viz. twenty-four days, let us hear any thing of it. This was trampled to death by my horse, just before my departure from the *Cape*, otherwise it might have easily been brought to *Europe*. It ate a great deal, and was not nice in its food.


There were several large tame ostriches in the governor's menagerie at the *Cape*. Without seeming to be impeded by their weight, they would run along with any body whatsoever, and would moreover jump up and perch upon the shoulders of all such as would suffer it. In consequence of having made this observation, as well as of similar instances to be found in authors, I cannot doubt, but that ostriches might be brought to bear burdens and the like, so as to become useful to mankind.

The



The instance which is given us by ADANSON of a young ostrich, not properly trained up to this employ, is therefore not capable of raising in me the same doubts as are entertained by M. DE BUFFON on this subject. And yet we read in this illustrious author, l. c. that FIRMIUS, who reigned in Egypt in the third century, was drawn by ostriches; and that in *Joar*, in Africa, an Englishman was seen riding on an ostrich, on which he used to take journeys, &c. I have conversed with yeomen at the Cape, who had brought up ostriches so tame, that they went loose to and from the farm, and were obliged to seek their own food; but at the same time were so voracious as to swallow chickens whole, and trample hens to death, in order to tear them to pieces afterwards and eat them up. At a certain farm they were obliged to kill one of these ostriches, as he had taken to trampling sheep to death. Quere, Does not the ostrich eat snakes likewise?

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These large birds were, as it appeared to me, chiefly to be found in such tracts of country as partook of the properties of the *carrow*, and produced succulent plants. I saw but one of them in the *four* district, as it is called, of *Lange Kloof*; but this might very probably, like the elephant in the same district, of which I have already given an account, Vol. I. page 315, have got out of its latitude.

Another kind of large bird, which I have mentioned before, as being in the governor's menagerie, viz. the *casuary*, was not a native of Africa.

This had been a very warm day, and though it might seem that I ought by this time to have been inured to heat, yet in consequence of it, I was seized with a violent headache.



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ach. I found great relief, however, by washing my head in running water in great *Visch-rivier*. Two of my Hottentots likewise complained of being affected in the same manner, but were soon made easy by giving them a little hemp to smoke. I had forgot to look at the thermometer this day till ten o'clock in the evening. Even at that late hour it was at 78. At dark there fell a few drops of rain. This night we did not hear the lions roar in the least.

Very early on the 23d we proceeded again on our journey, to look out for the *sea-cows* near some other pit belonging to great *Visch-rivier*. There was now again a great scarcity of meat in the waggon; for which reason my Hottentots began to grumble, and reminded me, that we ought not to waste so much of our time in looking after insects and plants, but give a better look out after the game. At the same time they pointed to a neighbouring dale over-run with wood, at the upper edge of which, at the distance of a mile and a quarter from the spot where we then were, they had seen several buffaloes. Accordingly we went thither, but though our fatigue was lessened by our Hottentots carrying our guns for us up a hill, yet we were quite out of breath and overcome by the heat of the sun, before we got up to it. Yet, what even now appears to me a matter of wonder is, that as soon as we had got a glimpse of the game, all this languor left us in an instant. In fact, we each of us strove to fire before the other, so that we seemed entirely to have lost sight of all prudence and caution. When we advanced to within twenty or thirty paces of the beast, and consequently were, perhaps, likewise in some degree actuated by our fears, we discharged our

our

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our pieces pretty nearly at the same time; while the buffalo, which was upon rather lower ground than we were, behind a thin scrambling bush, seemed to turn his head round in order to make towards us. In the mean while, however, the moment we had discharged our guns, we had the pleasure to see him fall, and directly afterwards run down into the thickest part of the wood. This induced us to hope, that our shot had proved mortal: for which reason, we had the imprudence to follow him down into the close thickets, where, luckily for us, we could get no farther. We had, however, as we found afterwards, only hit the hindmost part of the chine, where the balls, which lay at the distance of three inches from each other, had been shivered to pieces against the bones. In the mean while our temerity, which chiefly proceeded from hurry and ignorance, was considered by the Hottentots as a proof of spirit and intrepidity hardly to be equalled; on which account, from that instant, they ever after appeared to entertain an infinitely higher opinion of our courage than they had ever done before. Several of our Hottentots now came to us, and threw stones down into the dale, though without success, in order to find out by the bellowings of the beast, whither he had retired: afterwards, however, he seemed to have plucked up his courage, for he came up at last out of the dale of his own accord to the skirts of the wood, and placed himself so as to have a full view of us on the spot, where we were resting ourselves somewhat higher up: his intention was, in all probability, and in the opinion of our old sportsmen, to revenge himself on us, if we had not happened to see him in time, and

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and fired at him directly. What, perhaps, in some measure put a stop to his boldness was, that we stood on higher ground than he did: for several veteran sportsmen have assured me of it as a fact, that they know from experience, that the buffaloes do not willingly venture to ascend any hill or eminence in order to attack any one. The third shot, which afterwards was observed to have entered at the belly, was fatal. This occasioned the buffalo to take himself down again into the vale, dying the ground and bushes all the way he went with his blood. Though still hot upon the chase, yet we advanced with the greatest caution, accompanied by two of our Hottentots, through the thin and more pervious part of the wood, where the buffalo had taken refuge. He was advancing again in order to attack some of us, when Mr. IMMELMAN, from the place where he was posted, shot him in the lungs. Notwithstanding this, he had still strength enough left to make a circuit of a hundred and fifty paces, before we heard him fall: during his fall, and before he died, he bellowed in a most stupendous manner; and this death-song of his inspired every one of us with joy, on account of the victory we had gained: and so thoroughly steeled is frequently the human heart against the sufferings of the brute creation, that we hastened forwards, in order to enjoy the pleasure of seeing the buffalo struggle with the pangs of death. I happened to be the foremost amongst them; but think it impossible for anguish, accompanied by a savage fierceness, to be painted in stronger colours than they were in the countenance of this buffalo. I was within ten steps of him when he perceived me, and, bellowing, raised himself suddenly again on his legs. I had  
reason

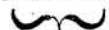
reason to believe since, that I was at the time very much frightened; for before I could well take my aim, I fired off my gun, and the shot missed the whole of his huge body, and only hit him in the hind legs, as we afterwards discovered by the size of the ball. Immediately upon this I flew away like lightning, in order to look out for some tree to climb up into.

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Notwithstanding the tedious prolixity it might occasion me to be guilty of, I thought the best and readiest method of giving my reader an idea of the nature of this animal, and of the method of hunting it, as well as of other contingent circumstances, would be to adduce an instance or two of what occurred during the chase.

My Hottentots cut up the buffalo with their usual alacrity and ardour; but as they had a great way to carry the flesh to the waggon, they took it thither in a rather unusual way. This was as follows: they cut out large slips of flesh whole and entire, with holes in the middle, wide enough for them to put their heads and arms through, and loaded themselves with it in this manner before, behind, and on every side of them; the meat all the while dangling about their bodies in a manner ludicrous enough, though not much adapted to create an appetite in the spectator. In this way, their hands being entirely disengaged, excepting that each man carried a stick, they clambered up the brow of the hill that overhung the vale, and thus walked on towards the waggon, whither one might trace them all the way by the blood.

In the mean while the Hottentot, who was our principal shot, had, at no great distance from this place, shot


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an *elk-antelope*, in consequence of which we repaired thither, in order to carry off the best and fattest part of the flesh. Before we got back to the waggon, darkness came on, with thunder and lightning; and, to add to the terror of the scene, we heard the lions roaring very loud. Indeed we had good reason to fear, that these wild beasts would throw themselves in our way, in order to share our prey with us. Neither should we, in fact, in the total darkness in which we were involved, have easily found our way back to the waggon, if the Hottentots whom we had left with it, had not been thoughtful and considerate enough to smack the large ox-whip from time to time by way of signal. At length, when we arrived at the plain where the waggon stood, we saw the fire they had made. We had hardly got home, however, before there came on a heavy shower of rain, which continued the greater part of the night, and put out our fire; while the tilt of our waggon was in great danger of being carried away by a violent south-east wind, with which the rain was accompanied; at the same time that the rain not only entered the waggon by the sides of the tilt, but likewise penetrated through the tilt-cloth, so that we were not a whit better sheltered there, than the Hottentots under their cloaks. During all this, we frequently heard the roaring of the lions, as well as the yelling of the hyænas; some of which latter stole away a strap belonging to the tackling of our waggon, together with a good quantity of the flesh which the Hottentots had hung up at the distance of a few paces from the spot where they lay.

This

This day the thermometer at five o'clock in the morning was at 74 degrees, precisely at noon at 99, and in the afternoon it rose to 100.

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On the 24th I was induced to stay a little longer on this spot, by the hopes of shooting a *gnu*, which had been seen ranging by itself about this part of the country.

*T'Gnu* is the Hottentot name for a singular animal, which, with respect to its form, is between the horse and the ox. The size of it is about that of a common galloper, the length of it being somewhat above five, and the height of it rather more than four feet. The proportion of the parts to each other may be best seen by the figure given in Plate II. of this Volume, which represents this animal in the attitude into which it puts itself when it is going to butt any one; in consequence of which, we have been able to give a proper idea of the position of the horns, and the manner in which they lay, as it were, flat upon the head: while, on the contrary, in a drawing which accompanies Professor ALLAMAND's fine description of this creature, and which has been copied in a compilation, entitled, "*Nouvelle Description du Cap de B. Esperance*, the horns appear almost as if they grew out of the mane itself.

This animal is of a dark-brown colour all over, excepting the tail and mane, which are of a light-grey; the shag on the chin, under the lower jaw, and on the breast is black, as likewise are the stiff hairs which stand up erect on the forehead and upper part of the face. It is somewhat singular that M. ALLAMAND, who was the first that described this species of animal from one which was brought from the Cape to Holland, found the colour of its mane and body



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extremely different from what I have described it to be above, and from what I have observed in Africa, and which may likewise be seen on the skin of this animal I brought home with me. This difference probably proceeds from a diversity of age, climate, or other accidental circumstances.


At first sight one would be apt to pronounce, that the *gnu* most resembles the ox kind; but with respect to the following particulars, this beast may likewise be referred to the *capræ* in general, or to the genus which the great zoologist, M. PALLAS, has separated from them under the denomination of *antilopes*.

1. The legs of the *gnu* are as small as those of the antilope, or the gazel kind; and, like them, have small fetlock-bones and hoofs.

2. The *gnu* resembles the antilopes and *capræ* in its hair, inasmuch as this is short, just as it is in the hart kind. In its shag, the *gnu* resembles the *capræ* more than oxen. With respect to its mane, it is manifestly distinct from these latter animals; but somewhat resembles another large *capræ*, or antilope (the *antilope oryx*) by the colonists called the *Cape-elk*, (vide Plate I. of this Volume.) With regard to the tail, it does not in the least resemble an ox's tail, but rather that of a horse; and in this point somewhat coincides with another large antilope, viz. the hartbeest, (vide Plate I. of this Volume.) This last-mentioned antilope, according to the accounts given me by several persons at the Cape, falls upon its knees when it is going to butt any one; and probably the *gnu* resembles it in this point likewise, as M. ALLAMAND remarked of the *gnu* which was brought to Holland,

Holland, that it sometimes fell on its knees, and butted against the ground.

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3. The gnu, like many of the hart and antelope kind, has a visible *finus*, or *porus sebaceus*, or *ceriferus*, below and just before each eye. This finus, which has not been remarked by M. ALLAMAND, is (just as in the hartbeest,) about one line in diameter, and encompassed with a little tuft of black hair. Pores of this kind, or apertures in the skin, which excrete a substance of the nature of ear-wax, are not to be found, as far as I have been able to learn, in any species of the ox kind.

4. The noise made by the tame calf of a gnu, which I have frequently heard cry, did not in the least resemble the bleating of the common fawn.

5. I did not find that the flesh of this animal had any thing of the flavour of beef or of buffalo's flesh, but was rather like that of the other antilopes or gazels about the Cape; it had, however, a finer grain, and was more juicy than the flesh of the hartbeest, and consequently was much more delicate than beef.

6. I find from the dissection I made of a fawn of a gnu, that its viscera resemble those of the other antilopes which I had examined, more than the viscera of the ox, but that they bear no resemblance whatever to those of a horse: so that this circumstance is sufficient entirely to overthrow the conjecture, of those who imagine, that the gnu is produced by the copulation of a horse with a cow.

What makes it still less credible, that the gnu should be the offspring of such an intermixture as I have mentioned, is, that these animals are almost always seen in large herds,  
and,

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and, as far as I can learn, are in Africa to be found only in *Camdebo* and *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*; from whence it is only a few years ago, that one of them was carried to the Cape, and from thence to Holland: consequently, the gnu then wandering in these parts was, probably, an old buck, which did not care to keep company any longer with the herd it belonged to, or had been accidentally separated from it.

As this that was seen here kept upon the open plains, and we could not steal upon it by creeping towards it from among the bushes, I endeavoured to overtake it on horse-back. And indeed, at first I got almost within gun-shot of the animal, when it shewed its vicious disposition in making various curvets and plunges, flinging out behind with one or both legs, and butting against the mole-hills with its horns; but immediately upon this, it fled with considerable velocity in a direct line over the plain as far as the eye could discern it: and I cannot help thinking, but that this was one that was become furious, as the other *gnus* I have chased since would frequently stop to look back at their pursuers, as soon as they had gained ground of them in any considerable degree. What contributed not a little to this gnu's having escaped from me was, that the ground was rocky, and that an ardent desire for dissecting this animal induced me to push my horse on too fast at first; so that in a very little time it was quite out of breath, and all over in a tremor.

A considerable number of eagles and birds of prey that feed upon carcases, were feasting on and fighting for the elk-antelope we had shot the day before, and had already consumed

consumed almost all the flesh we had left behind us. I likewise scared a jackal away from the carcase. I could not at this time pretend to chase it, as my horse was not recovered from the fatigue of pursuing the *gnu*. This day we likewise saw a numerous herd of *quaggas*, which not unfrequently made their appearance in these deserts. Scarcely a day passed without our seeing a great number of *bart-beests* between the two *Visch*-rivers, and *spring-boks* by the hundreds and thousands at a time.

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It was now the 24th of December, a period which the Christians all over the world usually spend in mirth and festivity. My friend and I, though in the midst of a desert, and separated from the rest of mankind, were desirous of partaking of this religious jubilee; we therefore overhauled our stock of biscuit, and found that on occasion of this great holiday, we could afford to give out two to each man. As to the rest of our fare, we treated ourselves with an ostrich-egg, part of which was stewed in our porridge-pot, the remainder being boiled up with some coffee, a small basin full of which was distributed to every one of our company. The third dish consisted of a piece of elk's flesh. This day at noon the thermometer had been at 84, but towards the evening fell to 76.—At night our Hottentots fastened a piece of meat to a long stout strap in such a manner, that if the wolf should come and attempt to swallow the meat, he would be caught fast by the strap till they could lay hold of him and kill him; but the beast was not at that time in this part of the country, and consequently we could not discover how far this new invention of theirs was practicable.

On

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On the 25th the thermometer rose to 100 degrees. We now repaired to a *sea-cow* hole, (*Zeeko-gat*) near *Visch-ri-vier*, to look for the *bippopotamus*.

On the 26th the wind blew agreeably cool, and the thermometer at noon was not above 79. This day we overtook several farmers from *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, who were come into this neighbourhood for the purpose of hunting. I could not help smiling, though at the same time I was covered with confusion, at these good rustics viewing us so narrowly as they did from head to foot; while, on the other hand, I could not but allow their as well as our surprise, at this unexpected visit to be extremely natural. In fact, they found me with a beard which had not been touched since the end of the preceding month, without a stock, and with my waistcoat open at the breast, my hat flapped, my hair braided into a twist, my side-curls hanging down strait and fluttering in the air; a fine thin linen coat, with a white ground variegated with blood, dabs of gunpowder, and spots of dirt and grease of all kinds; but at the same time decorated with fine gilt buttons, a third part of which were fallen off, and a great many of them dangled about loose and were ready to follow the others. As to the other part of my dress, my breeches, for the sake of coolness, were turned up at the knees, in the manner in which they are frequently worn by the boors of this country; and after the same guise, and for a similar reason, my stockings, which were woollen, were gartered below my knees, at the same time that they hung down loose about my ankles; while my feet were set off with Hottentot shoes, made to draw  
up

up with strings, of the same kind with those represented in Plate I. Vol. I. Fig. 4.

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Mr. IMMELMAN, who, in fact, was a handsome young fellow, with large dark eye-brows and a fine head of hair, at this time wore a beard five weeks old, which was now beginning to curl in a very conspicuous manner. As to the rest of his appearance, he figured on horseback in a long night-gown, with a white night-cap, large wide boots, and, if I remember right, was just at that time without stockings, in order to keep his legs the cooler. It may be necessary here, perhaps, to make some excuse both for our beards and our dress. As to our beards, we had both of us in a merry mood, formed a resolution not to touch a hair of them either with razors or scissors, till we should either get into company again with the Christian lasses, or should have an opportunity of dissecting a hippopotamus. Added to this, we wished to try how a long beard would become our juvenile years. "It is a present made to us by nature," said we to each other, let us keep it by way of experiment. Our beards, perhaps, prevent our catching cold, and getting defluxions and the tooth-ache in cold nights; at least it is probable, that in this climate they defend the face from the scorching rays of the sun; and who can tell, what respect and consideration it may acquire us from the beardless tribes we are likely to meet with in the course of our expedition." This resolution of ours, which we pertinaciously adhered to, gave rise in the mean while to many ludicrous conversations, but I must confess, that we felt ourselves delivered from a very heavy burden, when we got rid of our beards. Again, as to our clothing, it was entirely adapted to the



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warmth of the climate and our own convenience; neither was there any danger of its lessening us in the eyes of our own Hottentots, or of those we might expect to meet with in the desert. As for my woollen stockings, I wore them principally with a view to keep off the flies, as well as to preserve my legs from the bites of serpents, and from being torn by the branches of trees. Mr. IMMELMAN thought that boots were more convenient, and would answer this purpose better. Being an African by birth, he was not afraid of being sun-burned; on which account likewise, in order to keep his hair out of his eyes, he generally rode in his night-cap.

On the 27th at seven in the morning the thermometer stood at 60 degrees, the preceding night having appeared to us extremely cool. At noon the thermometer was at 95. At five in the afternoon it had fallen to 83, when there came a shower of rain with thunder and lightning. At nine in the evening the thermometer was at 79 degrees.

On the 29th I forded over Great *Visch-rivier*, and examined several sea-cows skulls that lay on the other side of it, and found them perfectly accord with the description and delineation given of these parts by M. DE BUFFON.

I now began to be incommoded by a slight pain and swelling in the fore part of the breast, just at the edge of the sternum, which gave me great uneasiness; but it went off in the space of a few days, and in all probability was only a fore-runner of the gout, the symptoms of which had already begun to appear in a slight pain and sensation of burning in the soles of my feet. This disorder, which fell particularly heavy on a botanist, and one who was traveling

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ling through extensive deserts, I had probably brought upon myself, by having undergone too great fatigue. At least one of our horses was afflicted from this very cause with a kind of gout or tenderness in the feet, together with a swelling in the pastern-joints, as soon as it got home to the Cape. The day before we had eaten our last biscuit, our patience, in consequence of waiting so long to see the *hippopotamus*, was almost as near being exhausted as our bread; we, therefore, the next day came to a resolution to go again into a land inhabited by Christians.

On the 29th we were conducted by our Boshies-men from Great to Little *Visch-rivier*. This tract of country was thinly covered with thorn-trees (*mimosa nilotica*), which shaded the ground and kept it cool; so that being in some measure covered with grass, it exhibited an agreeable verdure, and at the same time harboured a considerable number of *springers*, *quaggas*, and *hartbeests*, of which latter we shot a young female. The muscles and fibres of this creature retained a convulsive motion and twitching, even for several minutes after the animal had been cut in pieces. I must confess, that I never, either before or since, have observed any thing of the kind in the hartbeest, or any other animal.

## C H A P. XIV.

*Residence at Agter Bruntjes-Hoogte.*

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December

THE first place where we took up our lodging was at an old elephant hunters, of the name of PRINTSLO, who was the first that had migrated here, and at the bottom a high mountain had pitched upon the finest situation for a farm in the whole district, and, I had almost said, in all Africa. The thermometer in the morning as well as in the evening was about 60 degrees.

On the 30th the thermometer within doors was at 60 degrees at seven in the morning, and in the evening at 67.

The 31st, which was New Year's Eve, and fell upon a Sunday, was celebrated with a psalm or two, and after that with a game at cards. They assured me, that the winter-months of July and August were colder at that place than at the Cape; so that the snow lay on the ground for a couple of days together, about two inches deep; but that their sheep and cattle, then as well as at other times, were kept out of doors in the open air, and in the day-time were driven abroad to go in quest of their own food.

January,

January, 1776. *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, where we were now arrived, is rather a flat tract of country, which takes in the upper part of *Kleine Visch-rivier*, and is separated from *Camdebo* by *Bruntjes-boogtens*, or the Bruntjes-hills, and with respect to the latter place (*Camdebo*) are situated *agter*, or behind them. The *Snecuwbergen*, which lie to the north of *Camdebo*, are so called from the snow with which in the winter-time the highest of them are said to be covered, and even to remain so during part of the summer; so that they are, probably, of the same nature as the *Rogge-veld* and *Bokke-veld* mountains, and perhaps compose a part of the chain formed by them. The lower *Snecuwbergen*, or Snow-mountains, are inhabited the year throughout; but on the higher range of hills the winters are severe enough: this circumstance, is said to make the colonists remove into the plains below in *Camdebo*. The inhabitants, indeed, of the more distant *Snecuw*-mountains are sometimes obliged, according to report, entirely to relinquish their dwellings and habitations, on account of the savage plundering race of *Boshies-men*, of which I have made some mention above, in Vol. I. page 198; who from their hiding-places, shooting forth their poisoned arrows at the shepherd, kill him, and afterwards drive away the whole of his flock, which perhaps consists of several hundred sheep, and forms the chief, if not the whole, of the farmer's property. What they cannot drive away with them they kill and wound, as much as the time will allow them, while they are making their retreat. It is in vain to pursue them, they being very swift of foot, and taking refuge up in the steep mountains, which they are able to run up almost as nimbly

1776.  
January.



1776.  
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nimbly as baboons or monkies. From thence they roll down large stones, on any one that is imprudent enough to follow them. The approach of night gives them time to withdraw themselves entirely from those parts, by ways and places with which none but themselves are acquainted. These banditti collect together again in bodies to the amount of some hundreds, from their hiding-places and the clefts in the mountains, in order to commit fresh depredations and robberies. One of the colonists, who had been obliged to fly from these mountains, was at this time passing to *Agter Bruntjes-boogte* with his family, servants, and cattle, in order to look out for a new habitation. He informed us, that the *Boshies-men* grew bolder every day, and seemed to increase in numbers, since people had with greater earnestness set about extirpating them. It was this, doubtless, which has occasioned them to collect together into large bodies, in order to withstand the encroachments of the colonists, who had already taken from them their best dwelling and hunting-places. An instance was related of the *Boshies-men* having besieged a peasant with his wife and children in their cottage, till at length he drove them off by repeatedly firing among them. They had lately carried off from a farmer the greater part of his cattle. Not long before this, however, they had suffered a considerable defeat in the following manner. Several farmers, who perceived that they were not able to get at the *Boshies-men* by the usual methods, shot a sea-cow, and took only the prime part of it for themselves, leaving the rest by way of bait; they themselves, in the mean while, lying in ambush. The *Boshies-men* with their wives and children now came

down from their hiding-places, with an intention to feast sumptuously on the sea-cow that had been shot; but the farmers, who came back again very unexpectedly, turned the feast into a scene of blood and slaughter.—Pregnant women, and children in their tenderest years, were not at this time, neither indeed are they ever, exempt from the effects of the hatred and spirit of vengeance constantly harboured by the colonists with respect to the Boshies-man nation; excepting such, indeed, as are marked out to be carried away into bondage. Does a colonist at any time get sight of a Boshies-man, he takes fire immediately, and spirits up his horse and dogs, in order to hunt him with more ardour and fury than he would a wolf or any other wild beast. On an open plain, a few colonists on horseback are always sure to get the better of the greatest number of Boshies-men that can be brought together, as the former always keep at the distance of about a hundred or a hundred and fifty paces, (just as they find it convenient) and charging their heavy fire-arms with a very large kind of shot, jump off their horses, and rest their pieces in their usual manner on their ram-rods, in order that they may shoot with the greater certainty; so that the balls discharged by them will sometimes, as I have been assured, go through the bodies of six, seven, or eight of the enemy at a time, especially as these latter know no better than to keep close together in a body. It is true, that, on the other hand, the Boshies-men can shoot their arrows to the distance of two hundred paces, but with a very uncertain aim, as the arrow must necessarily first make a curve in the air; and should it even at that distance chance to hit any of the farmers,

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mers, it is not able to go through his hat, or his ordinary linen or coarse woollen coat.

In the district of *Sneeuwberg* the *land-droft* has appointed one of the farmers, with the title of *veld-corporal*, to command in these wars, and as occasion may require, to order out the country people alternately in separate parties, for the purpose of defending the country against its original inhabitants. Government, indeed, has no other part in the cruelties exercised by its subjects, than that of taking no cognizance of them; but in this point it has been certainly too remiss, in leaving a whole nation to the mercy of every individual peasant, or in fact, of every one that chuses to invade their land; as of such people one might naturally expect, that interested views, and an unbridled spirit of revenge, should prevail over the dictates of prudence and humanity. I am far from accusing all the colonists of having a hand in these and other cruelties, which are too frequently committed in this quarter of the globe. While some of them plumed themselves upon them, there were many who, on the contrary, held them in abomination, and feared lest the vengeance of heaven should, for all these crimes, fall upon their land and their posterity.

It is true, that no endeavours have as yet been made to polish the *Bosbies-man* natives, and make them better men, and more useful to the colonists; but if we may form any judgment from the disposition of those who have been hired into the colonists service, or have been made slaves of, and have not run away, this seems not impossible to be effected. Yet, perhaps, the sentiments that are commonly entertained to their disadvantage, as well as the cruelties which

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which have been hitherto practised upon them, cannot but lay many impediments in the way of an attempt of this nature. If what I have been assured by many be true, the Hottentots, who originally resided at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, lived peaceably with the Christians who first migrated thither. They used likewise to perform the kindest offices for the latter, and would frequently go unasked in search of a stray lamb, or the like, belonging to the Christians, and take it home to them; but at length they had withdrawn themselves, and now live concealed in holes and corners up and down this part of the country like other Boshies-men. Yet, being fewer in number, they are not altogether so bold and daring. Their complexions being rather of a yellow cast, they are considered as of a different nation, and have consequently been called *Chinese-* or *Snese-*Hottentots. The chief abode of these fugitives is on each side of the two *Visch-riviers*. Many of them that I saw had been good serviceable slaves. While we, like them, were strolling up and down between the two *Visch* rivers, we came occasionally to the very spots, where the traces of their extinguished fires were plainly to be seen, with other marks of their having been encamped there: and it would not, in my opinion, have been difficult for them to have harraressed us and done us much mischief; but whether it was their stupidity, the mildness of their dispositions, or their fears that withheld them I know not, but they certainly did not do it. If, indeed, the mildness of their dispositions alone influenced them in this matter, their conduct is by no means justifiable; for viewing it in this light, one may justly say, that they commit a crime against them-

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selves, in leaving the colonists at peace, to pursue them and make slaves of them at their own leisure.

Another and more considerable part of this yellow-skinned nation, is dispersed over a tract of country eleven days journey in breadth, and situated more to the north than to the north-east of the *Visch-riviers*, near a river called *Zomo*, where some of them are said to be occupied in the grazing and rearing of cattle. Small parties of Christians have, indeed, travelled through this country, and shot elephants there unmolested; yet they have thought it necessary for their greater security, to shut themselves up at night in their waggons, as in a castle.

The more considerable rivers which run through the country of the *Snese-Hottentots*, are said to be only the following. *t'Kamfi-t'kay*, *t'Nu-t'kay*, *Little Zomo*, *Great Zomo*, at which latter another country belonging to a different nation commences. These rivers are reported to flow from north to south and south-east, down towards the sea, whither they probably run all together through the country called *Caffer-land*. From *t'Kau-t'kay*, or the great fish river, to *t'Kamfi-t'kay*, or the white river, they reckon seven days journey; every day's journey being reckoned at above forty-five miles, or eight hours brisk driving of oxen without stopping. From thence to *t'Nu-t'kay*, or the black river, it is reckoned one day's journey. From hence to *Little Zomo*, or the little *Watery-eyed* river, it is two days journey; and from this to *Great Zomo*, or the great *Watery-eye*, it is half a day. In this river, which is one of the largest, there is said to be a great number of green stones, some of which the person who gave me this information, carried with


with him to the Cape, and sold them to a dealer there, who sold them again, and made presents of them to travellers. They were, in all probability, of very little value.

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On the other side of *Zomo* dwells another nation, who, by the *Snese-Hottentots*, are called *Tambukis*, and are said by them to resemble themselves in complexion and dress, but to be a powerful and warlike people. Adjoining to this nation, towards the north, there is, according to them, a still more warlike and intrepid people, whom they call *Mambukis*. Such colonists as have visited *Zomo*-river, have observed, about two days journey to the northward of it, a mountain that threw out a great quantity of smoke. The *Snese-Hottentots* informed me, that the *Tambukis* had furnaces there for the purpose of smelting a species of metal, which they forge and make into ornaments of various kinds, hiring the *Snese-Hottentots* to carry in the wood which they use in these smeltings. I have frequently seen the *Snese-Hottentots* at *Bruntjes-boogte* with ear-rings of this metal, and of the form exhibited in Plate I. Vol. I. fig. 8 and 9. In external appearance they resemble pistole gold; but from the assay made on one of these rings by M. Von ENGSTROEM, counsellor of the mines, they appear to be merely a mixture of copper and silver.

That singular animal, the *unicorn*, which is usually represented like a horse with a horn in its forehead, has been found delineated by the *Snese-Hottentots* on the plain surface of a rock somewhere in that country, though in as an uncouth and artless a style, as might naturally be expected from so rude and unpolished a people. JACOB KOK, that great traveller and attentive observer of nature, whom

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I have had occasion to mention before at page 351, Vol. I. is my only informer on this subject. The Snefe-Hottentots told him, that by this sketch they meant to represent an animal, which, in point of resemblance, came nearest to the horses on which he and his train rode, but which at the same time had a horn in its forehead. To this they added, that these creatures were rare, extremely swift of foot, furious and dangerous; so that, when they went out after them they did not dare to attack them at close quarters, nor appear before them on the open plains, but were obliged to clamber up some high cliff or rock, and there make a clattering noise; by which means they knew that the beast, being of a curious disposition, would be enticed towards the spot, when they might, without danger, destroy it by means of their poisoned arrows. It should seem, that a rude and barbarous people like the Chinese-Hottentots, could not easily invent, and, by the mere force of imagination, represent to themselves such beings, and at the same time so circumstantially relate the manner in which they hunted them. Still less credible is it, that these savages should have been able to preserve any remembrance of the records and traditions of former times concerning this animal. Neither is it any wonder, that a sketch of the unicorn should be seen here only at one place. For, generally speaking, a man sees little or nothing in passing through this country, which is only resorted to for the purpose of hunting elephants. Now I have happened to touch upon the subject of the elephant, it is worth while to remark, that even this, the largest of all animals on the face of the globe, which is so common and so much sought after

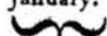
after in Africa, and so frequently tamed, and at the same time so much used, and consequently so well known in Asia, has been hitherto, as it were, unknown, and the subject of much dispute with respect to an essential point, I mean the manner of its copulation, as I have related above at page 326, Vol. I. It is therefore not so much to be wondered at, that we should know nothing of an animal less in bulk, and much less common. And though I should object to the testimony given me by my informer, as well as to that of the Chinese-Hottentots, in regard to the unicorn, yet the existence of it should not on that account be looked upon as a fable, notwithstanding it is not known to these more modern times.

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It is but a few years since the *camelopardalis*, the tallest of all quadrupeds, when measured at the fore part, has been made fresh mention of by naturalists; this too has been the case with the *gnu*. A representation of this remarkable animal, the *camelopardalis*, seems likewise to have been given us by the ancients; but who, till these our times, ever considered it in any other light than that of a fiction, a monster, or, at least, a monstrous medley, existing only in the imagination? When we consider, moreover, that the *bippopotamus*, which in all probability is a larger animal, though somewhat lower than the elephant, has been hitherto very little known; as likewise that, till the present moment, we have been almost utter strangers even to the *rhinoceros bicornis*, may we not expect that there will be a time, when the unicorn and all other beasts and insects, animated by the Creator of all things, but unknown to us at present, will be brought out of their holes and hiding-places into the light? The following extract of  
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a letter from M. PALLAS, dated the 14th of December, 1778, which, on account of the good sense and instruction with which it is replete, I shall take the liberty of inserting in this place, will serve to confirm us in the idea, that the unicorn is a real, and not an imaginary animal.

“ Quod monocerotem in interioribus Africæ partibus etiamnum latere suspicionem moves, id quidem mihi haud inexpectatum; certoque jamdudum persuasus sum, non ex nihilo apud veteres illam fuisse famam; sed vel casu unicornes antilopas, de quibus in XII. Fasciculo Spicilegiorum dixi, ansam dedisse, vel peculiarem fortè speciem unicornem, nobis hucusque ignotam, antiquitus innotuisse, quando interiora Africæ itineratoribus Europæis erant frequentiora. Si non incidisti forsan in locum relationis Ludovici Barthema, ubi Monocerotes duos Meccæ ad templum, in theriotrophæo visos, describit; vide illam, quæso, in Vol. I. collection. Ramusii, p. 151. Nescio quid hominem excitare potuisset ad fingenda, quæ ibi retulit, quæque non ita malè cohærent.

I have not as yet been able to procure a sight of the *Collections Ramusii* referred to by M. PALLAS \*.—With respect

\* The passage in VARTHEMA here referred to is as follows:

“ Da un'altra banda del dicto tempio è una murata, nella quale sta dentro dui unicorni vivi & li se mostrano per cosa grandissima come è certo. Li quali diro come sono fatti. El maggior facto como un polledro di trenta mesi & ha uno corno nella fronte, el quale corno sie circa tre braccia di longheza. L'altro unicornio sie como serio un polledro de uno anno, & ha un corno longo circa quatro palmi. El colore del dicto animale sie come un cavallo saginato scuro: & ha la testa come un cervo & ha el collo non molto longo con elschuna crina rara & curta che pendeno ad una banda: & ha la gamba sottile & asciuta come un capriolo: el pede suo è un poco fesso davanti & longia è caprina: & ha certi peli dalla banda di dietro veramenti questa mostra de essere un ferocissima & deserto animale. Et questi dui animali furono presentati allo Soldano della Mecha, per la pui bella cosa ch' hoggi se trovi al modi & per piu ricco thesoro liquali furono mandati da uno Re de Ethiopia:

spect to other particulars, I have been informed by the colonists at *Agter Bruntjes Hoogte*, that the tract of country lying between them and *Zomo*, or the *Tambukis*, consisted in a great measure of very extensive and barren plains; that the farther they went to the north, the less they knew of the vegetables produced by it; that there grew in these parts a kind of blood-tree, &c. that if one travelled from the upper part of *Visch-rivier* more to the south-east, or the *Caffre* side of the country, one would come to a river called *Konap*, which was supposed to run into *Visch-rivier*; but two days journey farther on, going from *Konap*-river towards the north-east, there was a river, called *Kajsi-kamma*, which derived its source from a mountain known to the

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Ethiopia: zoe da un Re Moro, el quale li fece questo presente per fare parentato con el dicto Soldano de la Mecha."

"On the other side of the temple there is a court-yard encompassed with high walls, where we saw two unicorns, which were shewn as great rarities, and indeed are fit subjects for admiration. The form of them is as follows. The larger one resembles a foal of two years and a half old, and has a horn in its forehead about three cubits in length. The other unicorn was less, being nearly as big as a foal of a year old, and had a horn about four palms long. The colour of this animal is that of a dark dun horse; its head is like that of a stag, its neck of a moderate length, furnished with some thinly scattered short hairs that hang down on one side: its legs are long and slender like those of a roe; the feet are somewhat cloven in the fore part, and the hoofs are like those of a goat. It has on the back part of its legs a great quantity of hair, a circumstance which gives this animal a fierce appearance; though, in fact, the beast is tame and gentle in its nature. Both the animals were presented to the Sultan of Mecca as very great rarities, and which are to be found in very few parts of the globe, by an Ethiopian King, who sought for the Sultan's friendship.

The preceding passage is extracted from the original, in the library of the President of the Royal Society. The book itself, the title of which is as follows, *Itinerario de Ludovico de Varthema, Bolognese, ne lo Egypto, ne lo Suria, ne la Arabia, &c. (Venezia, 1517, 8vo.)* is extremely scarce, and does not appear to have been seen either by M. PALLAS, Dr. SPARRMAN, or his German commentator Mr. FORSTER. The translation of this passage is made from RAMUSIO, who has modernized this author, or rather re-translated him from a Latin version, which is itself a translation only from the Spanish; so that the Italian original must have been lost for some time.

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colonists by the name of the *Bambus-berg*, or Bamboo-mountain, from the circumstance of a sort of reeds or bamboos growing upon it, which were very much prized by them for the purpose of making handles for their long whips.

*Groote-rivier*, or *Great river*, is said to be the largest river in Africa, and to be no otherwise known than from the accounts of the Hottentots. It is reported to contain a great number of sea-cows or river-horses, which were very bold and daring; so that it cannot, without danger, be navigated for the purpose of farther exploring the country. It is supposed to lie directly to the northward, at the distance of eight or ten days journey from the *Sneeuw-bergen*. It was said to rise in the east, and run strait on towards the north. It is probable that this river soon after turns off to the west and the south, and is the same *Groote-rivier* which I have inserted in my map, on the authority of M. HENRY HOP's *Journal of an Expedition made to the District of Anamaquas*, published in a compilation called *Nouvelle Description du Cap de bonne Esperance*, which I quoted above. This river, however, must not be confounded with another of the same name, which empties itself at the eastern shore of Africa and the Caffre coast.

The country of the Caffres lies to the east of *Great Visch-rivier*, next the coast. Its inhabitants, the Caffres, have no notion of the breeding of sheep, employing themselves only in rearing horned cattle, and, like the *Gonaquas* Hottentots, wearing cow-hides, which are well rubbed and dressed with grease, till they become soft and pliable. Their houses, or huts, are said to be small and square, composed

of rods, and covered with clay and cow-dung, which gives them the appearance of small stone houses.

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The weapons of the Caffres are merely shields made of sole-leather, and hassagais, or that kind of javelin consisting of a slender and light wooden shaft, headed with a broad and rather heavy iron plate, which I have delineated in Plate II. Vol. I. fig. 1 and 2, and have mentioned at page 9 of this volume, as being made use of by the Gonaquas Hottentots.

The nation is governed by many different chiefs, who probably have all the property of their subjects vested in themselves, and at the same time have an absolute unlimited authority over them. As far as I could understand, their state and power are hereditary. It is said that they are frequently at war with each other, and that they always kill the prisoners they have taken. But if a chief should chance to fall into the enemy's hands, he is not put to death, but is sent back again with admonitions to behave himself more peaceably for the future. The occasion of their wars is generally the same as in other parts of the globe, viz. either a want of the common sentiments of humanity in one of the contending powers, or their arrogant and rapacious disposition, or else some bone of contention which they cannot on either side persuade themselves to give up, without shedding their own blood and that of their fellow-creatures. It is even said, that a stolen or stray calf, or one grazing upon territories of a neighbouring country, and other matters equally trifling, will sometimes be sufficient to set two or more nations together by the ears. Neither of the parties, however, carries their

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revenge so far as to extirpate the other, but is satisfied when the adversary yields the day and vies for peace.

The Dutch colonists have, by means of the following incident, of which I do not remember exactly the year, inspired the Caffre nation with no small degree of terror. A man of the name of HEUPPENAER, made an expedition, at the head of a small party of farmers, into the Caffre country, in order to shoot elephants. The Caffres, who took a fancy to the iron-work of their waggons, and some other articles they had with them, came in a body, consisting of several hundred men, and threw on a sudden such a number of darts among the colonists, that the major part of them were killed; a dart likewise pierced through the tilt of a waggon and killed HEUPPENAER, who was sitting in it. The blame of this was in a great measure thrown upon HEUPPENAER, who was too high-spirited to shew any fear, and, agreeably to the advice of his companions, take to his weapons in time. One of them, who was said still to be living in the colony, had escaped, though half drowned, by hiding himself for the space of twenty-four hours under a large water-fall. Two others found an opportunity of riding away, and afterwards harraffing the Caffres a long time on the plain, by jumping, whenever they came near a party of these savages, off their horses at intervals, in order to take a better aim, by which means they killed several at one shot. This fracas, and the manner in which it was revenged, have taught the Caffres ever since, to lay a greater restraint on their desires for the iron-work of the colonists waggons.

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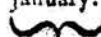
In *Lange-kloof* I met with a farmer who was just come back alone from this country, and had brought with him several elephants teeth. In return for some tobacco with which he had presented a Caffre prince, this latter had ordered his subjects to shew him the places where the elephants were to be found.

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In my map I have called a tract of country situated towards the mouth of *Groote Visch-rivier*, by the name of *King Ruyter's Craal*, in commemoration of a Hottentot king, or, as he was styled by the colonists, a Hottentot captain, called RUYTER. I have met with several Christians who had paid a visit to this remarkable man, and related to me his life and adventures, which in brief are as follows. While he was in service at a farmer's at *Rogge-veld*, he happened to have a quarrel with another Hottentot his companion, and murdered him; and as he was apprehensive of being, agreeably to the laws of the colony, hanged for this action, he ran away. After a variety of adventures, he arrived at length in that part of the country which lies near *Boshies-man's-rivier*, where by his intrepidity, he raised himself to be the chief of a party of Boshies-men, or Hottentot rangers. At the head of these he subdued several other tribes, and afterwards had the art to make them take arms against the Caffres, by exciting in them a mistrust of each other; and at the same time inspiring them with a high opinion of himself, as being of so great importance to them in the capacity of their chief or leader, that they could not possibly do without him; especially as he supplied them with plunder, and taught them a method



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of rearing their cattle, better in both cases than ever they had been accustomed to.

While by such conduct he rendered himself highly formidable to the Caffres, he took care, by inflicting the punishment of death on his subjects for the least fault, or even on the least suspicion of a fault, to exact (and for a long time to enjoy) the most servile submission and implicit obedience from the simple uncultivated mortals he had collected together in order to tyrannize over. He used frequently with his own hand to put to death one or more of these slavish vassals, and would immediately throw his javelin through the body of any of his attendants, that hesitated at his nod to dispatch the man whom he had marked out as the victim of his revengeful and cruel disposition.

Exclusively of the dictates of a false and ill-judged policy, perhaps the natural turn of the tyrant's mind induced him to be guilty of these cruelties; but when the Christians reproached him with the barbarity and blood-thirstiness of his disposition, he replied, "It was in a lucky hour that I conveyed myself out of the reach of your authority. You would have hanged me for having killed my antagonist as if I had committed a crime, when at the same time, to kill an enemy is reckoned a laudable and manly action." To the colonists he always behaved as a true and faithful ally; and in return for the tobacco and other articles they presented him with, used to help them to make slaves of such straggling Boshies-men as did not live under his jurisdiction. By keeping the Caffres at a proper distance, he not only served his own turn, but was likewise extremely useful

ful to the colonists. But however cautious he was to maintain peace with his more powerful neighbours the Christians, yet it is said, that when he was in the meridian of life, and at the zenith of his power, he received them with an uncommon degree of pride and arrogance; which, as my informer expressed himself, they could not easily digest from a vagabond *sheep-skin* prince. He succeeded, however, in keeping up his importance with them as well as with his own people. At present, old and infirm, and barely director of a more inconsiderable and freer society, consisting of about two hundred people, he is wont to receive his old Christian acquaintance in the most friendly manner, and, with tears in his eyes, to ask for tobacco, no longer by way of tribute, but as a present, which he is willing to receive from their bounty.

The despotic and tyrannical conduct by which this chief made himself so famous, and for some time so powerful and so much feared, is probably the occasion of his being reduced to the low state in which he is at present; and it is imagined, will bring him to a still more abject and lower condition. This great man may, perhaps, at last come to the miserable situation of the lion in the fable. Another cause of his present degradation is as follows. His subjects, weary of the ambition and severe discipline of their chief, took the opportunity of deserting him, at the time when he was gallantly marching at the head of them against the Caffres. Being no longer so swift of foot as he was in his youth, he was not able to make his escape, and was consequently taken prisoner; but being recognized as a chief, his life, according to the custom I have before mentioned,


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tioned, as being established among the Caffres, was spared, and he was sent back to his people; yet not without menaces of having his eyes put out, if ever he should rise against them in arms in future. This misfortune, and the salutary lesson given him by his enemies, were not efficacious, however, as soon as he had again collected together a number of his people, to divert his hostile intentions against the Caffres. It was said, that he had lately endeavoured to spirit up another petty Boshies-man chief against them, and had received from him promises of assistance, as soon as he could get iron to head his arrows with, and make the other necessary preparations. They were apprehensive, and not without reason, that the old tyrant in this intended expedition of his would meet with that death, which, tired of himself and his adverse fortune, he seemed to be in search of. He had, according to a custom prevalent among the Hottentots, appointed the youngest of his three sons to be heir to his possessions and throne. Neither of the three, however, was supposed to inherit the father's talents and abilities in a sufficient degree, to be able to establish himself on the throne.

The respective methods of fighting of the Caffres and Hottentots are very different. The Caffres, as we have mentioned above, make use of darts, which they cannot employ with any effect at a greater distance than twenty or thirty paces. Of these darts they do not carry with them into the field more than three or four; so that they are soon disarmed, in case their antagonists are bold and nimble enough to pick up these weapons as soon as the Caffres have thrown them out of their hands. The Caffres, moreover,

moreover, use a shield made of shoe-sole leather, and large enough to cover the whole of their bodies completely, on their shrinking themselves up into a rather smaller compass. I have seen a bastard Caffre go through his exercise with these weapons; from whence I conclude, that when they are in actual engagement, they shift their bodies continually from one side to the other, so that they cannot easily be hit, taking care all this time to keep their *bassagais* or darts in readiness, to throw at the unguarded part of their antagonists. The Boshies-men, on the other hand, who are without any shields, are more than a match for the Caffres, as long as they can keep them at a good distance from them by means of their bows and poisoned arrows, which, though they do not immediately make so painful a wound, as the *bassagais* of the Caffres, are yet more dangerous in the end.

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It was in consequence of this circumstance, that RUYTER'S Boshies-men beat the Caffres for so long a time. It has therefore been a matter of wonder, that the Caffres have not learned the use of the bow and arrow, in like manner as their enemies the Boshies-men. This manner of fighting does not seem to require great courage, nor indeed does it appear calculated to give either nation a disposition to it.

If I may be allowed to judge from two instances, the slaves of the Christians are of a much more warlike turn. These, consequently, when they elope from their masters' service, are sure to be well received and protected by the Caffres. At least, a Caffre prince, notwithstanding that he had a handsome consideration offered him, had just before our arrival in these parts, refused to deliver up two slaves

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belonging to the Christians; alledging, by way of giving a reason for his refusal, that they were his best warriors.

Before I proceed, agreeably to the order of my journal, to speak of *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, where I lived for some time, I must just mention the following particulars relative to a province immediately bordering upon it.

*Camdebo* is an arid, flat, *Carrow-like* tract of country, inhabited by Christians, who are chiefly employed in rearing cattle. This district is said to extend as far as the south side of the *Sneeuw* mountains. From the information and accounts that were given me, I have laid down in my map two different roads, by which people may go to the Cape through *Camdebo*, both from *Agter Bruntjes-boogte* and from the *Sneeuwbergen*. The north road is said to go to *Anthoon-veld*, *Kau-veld*, and *Bokke-veld*. The southern way goes downwards to *Olipbant's-rivier*, and so along that to the high road, by which I went myself, and which I have laid down in my map. You may likewise turn out of this southern road before, and go by *Platte-kloof*, *Hex-rivier*, and so on to the Cape. The inhabitants of *Camdebo* and *Sneeuwberg* have likewise, it is said, found out a by-road, though rough and intricate, down by the side of *Zondags-rivier* to *Zwartkops-rivier*, in order to provide themselves with salt at the salt-pits described above.

These two roads through *Camdebo*, &c. are, it is true, the nearest from *Bruntjes-boogte* to the *Cape*; and in fact, the only road that people take. But the tracts of country through which they are carried, are said to be but little inhabited, very arid, and deficient in respect to pasturage, and still more so in the article of water; particularly that  
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year, which was supposed to be the driest in the memory of man, so that some particular watering-places were entirely dried up. I was told of a traveller, the greater part of whose oxen had, on occasion of this circumstance, fainted and died upon the road. Consequently, our beasts, which were too few in number to be able to relieve each other much, by this time wearied out, and not used to put up with the dry bushes of the Carrow country, were the more likely to perish, had we not, on the score of these considerations, suffered ourselves to be entirely dissuaded from travelling by these roads. I was likewise obliged to give up all thoughts of visiting *Sneeuwberg* and *Camdebo*, on account of the disorder among the horses, which was said at this time to be very rife, and had already reached almost as far as to *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*. In this place, moreover, there were many birds, insects, and animals which I had not seen in other parts, and which gave me sufficient employment. Besides, my present host, who wished to keep me with him for the sake of two people who were sick in his house, was extremely civil to me, and assisted me greatly in my researches; and, together with one of his sons and his son-in-law, accompanied me afterwards on a hunting-party down *Visch-rivier*, which lasted for a fortnight, and of which I shall give an account hereafter.

Having so many subjects to employ myself upon, I was almost tempted to remain here during the winter, in order to make a trip the following spring to the *Tambuki mines*, and at the same time to go in quest of the unicorn. In fact, both Mr. IMMELMAN and myself endeavoured to persuade



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several farmers to equip themselves for this undertaking. This scheme they had no great objection to, but could not give me a positive answer on the subject; and indeed, after a more mature consideration of the matter I found, that I had neither money nor gunpowder sufficient for the purpose, not to mention many other good reasons which prevented me from putting it into execution. I was therefore obliged, though sore against my will, to give up all thoughts of this excursion; though afterwards I was not very sorry at having met with the disappointment, being pretty well convinced, that another year's fatigue would not have contributed much more to my future happiness.

In the mean while, after an absence of five years spent in travels and voyages to various parts of the globe, I imagine it will scarcely be necessary to make any excuse for turning my thoughts likewise towards home. Happy if my humble endeavours should excite other naturalists to pursue the same path with greater success, and make us acquainted with the remaining curious and remarkable objects, which are doubtless still to be found in the southern parts of Africa.

Consequently, *Agter Brunijes-boogte* is the northernmost part that I visited of the whole colony; and, in my opinion, it is likewise the most pleasant. There was still remaining on the ground, a more meadow-like verdure than is usually seen in this country; a verdure that owed its existence to the shelter that was afforded to the soil by the thorny branches of the *mimosa nilotica*, and was still further enlivened by the numerous yellow blossoms of that plant. The great quantity of beautiful vernal lilies, together with a  
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peculiar *parasitic* plant of a blood-red hue, (described by me in the Swedish Transact. for 1776, page 307) which were now springing out of their beds covered with a more verdant and luxuriant herbage than the other parts of this country, must doubtless in the season for their blooming, add still more to the splendour of this delightful scene. This, however, was not a little augmented by a purling stream, viz. Little *Visch-rivier*, which winds through this spot in sportive meanders. On its banks, besides corn-fields, were seen scattered up and down orchards and kitchen-gardens recently laid out, and some of them cut through with drains. Plantations, which though as yet inconsiderable, seemed, however, to promise every thing to time and industry. The houses, far from intimidating the traveller by their splendid appearance, with the constrained pomp of antichambers and drawing-rooms, were rather in the style of plain and simple cottages; but, on the other hand, were environed with the animated embellishments of sheep and cattle, and inhabited by people in easy circumstances; who, not with interested views, but with open arms received me and my companion, just arrived from the dreary and inhospitable desert, and charmed us with their kind and friendly behaviour.

The superior degree of fertility, and the more delightful verdure which I found here, ought, perhaps, to be ascribed to a ridge of mountains on the east side of Little *Visch-rivier*, which was intersected by beautiful green vales interspersed with woods. These mountains, by collecting the clouds together, caused them to fall in refreshing showers of rain on the banks of the river that ran at their feet: and

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the superior degree of fertility occasioned by these circumstances, invited not only the antilopes and other animals of the chase to this side of the country, but likewise induced various kinds of beautiful birds to resort to it, and build their nests in the trees that grew on the banks of the river.

What contributes not a little to this fertility is, that the land is fresh, that is to say, not yet worn out by being too frequently and too closely grazed off by the numerous flocks and herds of the Christians, vide Vol. p. 251, 252.

All the colonists who follow the grazing business, and particularly those at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, lead an easy and pleasant life. One of these boers usually puts to his plough eight or ten of his fat, or rather pampered oxen; and it is hardly to be conceived, with what little trouble he gets into order a field of a moderate size; and in consequence of his feeding so great a number of cattle, how easily he can render it in the highest degree fertile. So that, always sure of a rich harvest from a soil not yet worn out, and ever grateful to the culture bestowed upon it, he may be almost said merely to amuse himself with the cultivation of it, for the bread he wants for himself and his family; while many other husbandmen must sweat and toil themselves almost to death, both for what they use themselves, and for that which is consumed by others, who frequently live in ease and indolence. By his extensive pastures, and by throwing a sufficient quantity of land into tillage, he rears a considerable number of horses, which frequently are used only a few days in a year, for the purpose of treading out and threshing his corn. With pleasure, but without the least trouble to himself, he sees the herds and flocks, which constitute his riches,

riches, daily and considerably increasing. These are driven to pasture and home again by a few Hottentots or slaves, who likewise make the butter; so that it is almost only with the milking, that the farmer, together with his wife and children, concern themselves at all. To do this business, however, he has no occasion to rise before seven or eight o'clock in the morning; and notwithstanding his having enjoyed his bed so long in the morning, he can afford, without neglecting any thing of consequence, to allow himself an afternoon's nap, which the heat of the climate renders more agreeable than it is in our northern regions.

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That they might not put their arms and bodies out of the easy and commodious posture in which they had laid them on the couch, they have been known to receive travellers lying quite still and motionless, excepting that they have very civilly pointed out the road, by moving their foot to the right or left. Professor THUNBERG, who has had greater opportunities than I had of exploring the warmer *Carrow* districts, (vide Vol. I. page 246) where the inhabitants were still more indolent, has given me an account much to the same purpose.

The leaning of their arms on the table at meal times, is a custom very common with the colonists, and considered by them as a very laudable one, and in this particularly I followed my host's example; but I could not sufficiently admire the inventive spirit of idleness, exhibited in the voluptuous posture in which they universally indulge themselves when they smoke their pipes. Sitting on a bench or a chair without elbows, with their backs moderately bent, they lay their left leg over their right knee, and upon  
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the left knee again thus raised, they rest their left elbow, while with the hand on the same side they support their chin, or one of their cheeks, at the same time holding their pipes in their mouths. Their right hand is then at liberty to grasp the small of their left leg with, or else to convey now and then to their mouth a cooling draught of tea. Let the reader represent to himself several people sitting together in this posture, and he will readily conceive what an elegant figure they would make in a group. I never saw any of the fair sex, however, in a posture of this kind. Among a set of beings so entirely devoted to their ease, one might naturally expect to meet with a variety of the most commodious easy chairs and sofas; but the truth is, that they find it much more commodious to avoid the trouble of inventing and making them.

I remarked as a very singular circumstance, that a wealthy farmer at *Agter Brunjes-boogte*, who had plenty of timber to sell, had nevertheless only a rickety elbow-chair in his house, and a few scanty stools of the most simple construction, made of a single board, with four rough-hewn ill-shapen legs. What, however, was still more singular was, that notwithstanding that one of these stools had lost a leg, yet it was frequently made use of to the endangering of the person's limbs who sat upon it, without either the master of the house or any of his three sons, who were otherwise all alert enough at the chase, having ever once thought of mending it. Nor did the inhabitants of this place exhibit much less simplicity and moderation, or to speak more properly, slovenliness and penury in their dress than in their furniture; neither of which, therefore, were  
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in any wise correspondent to the large flocks and herds possessed by these graziers, and the plentiful tables they could afford to keep in consequence of these possessions. The distance at which they are from the Cape, may, indeed, be some excuse for their having no other earthenware or china in their houses, but what was cracked or broken; but this, methinks, should not prevent them from being in possession of more than one or two old pewter pots, and some few plates of the same metal; so that two people are frequently obliged to eat out of one dish, using it besides for every different article of food that comes upon table.

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Each guest must bring his knife with him, and they frequently make use of their fingers instead of forks. The most wealthy farmer here is considered as being well dressed in a jacket of home-made cloth, or something of the kind made of any other coarse cloth, breeches of undressed leather, woollen stockings, a striped waistcoat, a cotton handkerchief about his neck, a coarse callico shirt, Hottentot field-shoes, or else leathern shoes, with brass buckles, and a coarse hat. Indeed it is not in dress, but in the number and thriving condition of their cattle, and chiefly in the stoutness of their draught-oxen, that these peasants vie with each other. It is likewise by activity and manly actions, and by other qualities, that render a man fit for the married state, and the rearing of a family, that the youth chiefly obtain the esteem of the fair sex; none of whom likewise were ever known, for the sake of vying with each other in point of dress, to have endangered either their husband's property or their own virtue. A plain close cap, and a coarse cotton gown, virtue and good housewifery, are look-




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ed upon by the fair sex as sufficient ornaments for their persons; a flirting disposition, coquetry and paint, would have very little effect in making conquests of young men, brought up in so hardy a manner, and who have had so homely and artless an education, as the youth in this place. In short, one may here, if any where in the world, lead an innocent, virtuous, and happy life.

When in company with these plain artless husbandmen, I used frequently to start such questions and subjects of conversation, as tended to give them a proper sense of the happiness of their situation, and make them set a higher value upon it, than they perhaps had done before. Indeed, I thought I could not more properly or more agreeably employ the little Dutch I had learned, than in persuading the good people among whom I sojourned, to be content with their lot, and consequently to be happy. One day, when I was urging this point, I received the following pertinent, but kind reply, from a discreet sensible woman, who was daughter to an inferior magistrate at *Zwettendam*, and was married to a yeoman in this place.

“ My good friend, said she, you talk like a prudent sensible man; I am quite of your opinion, and wish you every happiness that can attend you: why need you wander any longer up and down the world in quest of happiness? You find it here, and are welcome to enjoy it among us. You have already a waggon, oxen, and saddle horses; these are the chief things requisite in order to set up a farmer; there are yet uncultivated places enough in this neighbourhood, proper either for pasturage or tillage, so that you may choose out of an extensive tract of land the spot that pleases

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pleases you best. Here are people enough, who will send you that part of their cattle to keep which they cannot conveniently look after themselves, on conditions that you shall have the young ones produced by them for your trouble. In this way, many young beginners have acquired a competency in a few years. With your knowledge of disorders and plants, you may render yourself serviceable to your neighbours, and now and then get a heifer or a calf. In short, I will venture to prophesy, that you will soon have cows and sheep in abundance. Yet there is still somewhat wanting, which is most essential to your happiness; this is, a prudent and discreet wife: take my advice and look about you, and I will take upon me to assure you, that you will not long be without one in this country."

This advice, so consonant to the voice of nature, and coming with such kind intention from the fair sex, could not but greatly affect me: it is remarkable, however, that the poor woman who gave it me, had herself a bad husband.

As a farther proof, that it is not so much to the different degrees in which nature has shed her bounty over the place a man lives in, as to himself and his fellow-creatures, that he ought to impute his felicity, I had the chagrin to see the peace of this happy spot interrupted by the jarring of two neighbours.

Having now for some time departed in my narration from the order of my journal, I will here resume it.—I staid at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte* till the 21st day of January. During this time my oxen, which before were very lean, had got

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into good condition; and we ourselves took care, by drinking plentifully of butter-milk, and by doing honour to the good fare set before us in great abundance by these worthy rustics, to make ourselves amends for the hunger, thirst, and other hardships we had suffered for a whole month in the desert. Among other delicacies, we were entertained on the 3d of January with a dish, as delicious as it was singular, taken from a couple of score of calves which had been castrated that day. The women too ate of this dish without blushing. I have already mentioned, that I had had on my way hither some little tendency to the gout; and at this place it increased so much, that on the 8th and 9th of this month I could scarcely stand on either foot. A stiffness with which the sinews and articulations of my feet were affected, and which was attended with an acute pain and dry heat diffused over the skin itself, occasioned me to think of the vapour bath, as being a powerfully emollient remedy. The quick relief I had seen afforded by artificial warm baths to two gouty patients in Africa, as well as the benefits arising in similar disorders from the use of natural warm baths in this country, added to my not being able to bear either the pain or loss of time occasioned by this disorder, induced me likewise soon to make the experiment on myself, and thereby entirely overcome both the complaint in my foot, and the common prejudice, that the gout will not bear water.

The apparatus was to the full as simple and easy as the remedy. My feet were placed twice a day for three or four hours at a time, on a stick laid across a tub of warm water, in which the steam and heat were confined by means of cloths,

cloths, and kept up by the addition of heated stones. At intervals I likewise put my foot down into the water, but this did not seem to produce such speedy and evident relief as the vapour did, but rather produced a swelling in the feet, with some degree of spasm. Within a few days I was entirely recovered, and about the same time had the pleasure of restoring, by means of this bath, a farmer's wife, who had besides a bad habit of body, in some degree to the use of her feet; though for several weeks before, by reason of the pain and swelling in them, she had not been able to set them on the ground.

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Since my return to my native country, I have not been able to persuade any gouty person in similar circumstances to make use of this remedy; though I can now likewise appeal to the universally as well as justly celebrated Dr. Tissot, who, in a case he has given to the public, endeavours to oppose the prejudices entertained against lukewarm pediluviums in the gout. (Vid. *Essai sur les Maladies des Gens du monde*, p. 142. Lausanne, 1772.)

The farmer's wife above-mentioned, was one of the two patients on whose account I was obliged to make a longer stay in this place, as I have already intimated. The other was a boy of ten years of age, who kept his bed upwards of six months with a fistulous ulcer in the thigh, accompanied with a hectic fever and great pain, all which were supposed to have proceeded merely from his having jumped from off a waggon three feet high. The part afflicted with pain, which afterwards began to ulcerate, had been dressed ever since, pursuant to a method as commonly practised in this country as it is prejudicial, with hot and irritat-

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ing cataplasms made of aromatic herbs. But after I had enlarged the wound, and had dressed it for a considerable time with a salve composed of honey mixed with a little oil and melted wax, the patient's diet all the while consisting only of wort, milk, and greens, with now and then a little bread, I was able to extract a splinter of a bone three inches long, and three fingers broad, after which the whole seemed disposed to heal very fast.

Notwithstanding that by simple and very easy remedies of this kind, the lives of the African rustics might be for the most part saved, and the calamities attendant on life be mitigated; yet in this simple and truly pastoral way of life, so universally celebrated for its felicity, and in the midst of their delightful parks and meadows, still they are so far unfortunate, that, when they are attacked by any disorder, they are either entirely ignorant of the remedies best adapted to the cure of it, or for the most part apply them very improperly; and at the same time are at the distance of many hundred, and, indeed, one may say, some thousands of miles from those, from whose advice alone and assistance they have reason to expect relief: and in so far at least is this much-vaunted pastoral way of life, with all its simplicity and concomitant ignorance, less to be prized than our more populous and better regulated societies in towns and cities, where, besides the advantages redounding to mankind from all the other sciences, that of medicine in particular remarkably contributes to the happiness enjoyed by mortals in this life.

It appeared to me very singular, that the colonists had very little, and, indeed, I may say, no knowledge at all of  
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one of the commonest and most troublesome disorders of any they were subject to, which was worms. Adults, and even elderly persons, seemed to be more universally troubled with this complaint than children; particularly with the tape worm, the symptoms of which were likewise often plainly to be discovered in men of the healthiest appearance. Besides a great number of the more usual symptoms, which ascertain the presence of these animals, most of the patients complained of an oppression at the breast, and an anxiety about the heart (*borst quaal en benaauwde borst*;) for which reason the greater part of them, some of their own heads, and others in pursuance of the advice of quacks at the Cape, kept themselves weak and low by a spare diet and remedies against the consumption of the lungs, and often kept on pertinaciously in this treatment of themselves; though the longer they continued it, the worse they grew. Nay, under an apprehension of their lungs being diseased, they had even given up their beloved brandy; though at the same time they owned they never had observed that it was in any ways prejudicial to them, in respect to the principal complaint. Having, therefore, during the oppression on the chest, the swoonings, or the difficulty of respiration with which they were seized, been persuaded by me to take a sup or two of it, especially when the virtues of it were heightened by *wilde alses* (a kind of worm-wood) being infused in it, and they having always found instant relief for the time, their joy can hardly be conceived, which was not less (as they sometimes jocosely confessed) on account of their being able to enjoy the sweets of this delicious remedy, than of the effect it had  
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in relieving their complaints; they likewise rejoiced in finding themselves able to stand this proof of their lungs not being affected, as in consequence of their fear on that account, they would hardly have ventured to follow my advice, had I not, on the first suspicion I had of their disorder, informed them of most of their complaints before hand, by reckoning up the symptoms usually attendant on worms. Garlick, the buds of the *wilde alfies* above-mentioned, salt, oil, ox-gall, and aloes, were, of all vermifuges, the easiest to be procured here; and were given them, together with some resin of jalap which I had brought with me; but two of VEREIRA's relations rashly attacked their worms with garlick, both taken alone and mixed with every thing they ate, and by this means soon voided a number of worms, and got rid of all their complaints. One of them said he had discharged part of a worm with legs and feet, which was grey at top, but yellow under the belly like *rups*, or caterpillars, which are changed into chrysalises, and afterwards become butterflies. He had likewise observed the *exuvie*, or skins, of this kind of worm in his ordinary evacuations.

Besides the satisfaction I found in being useful, and shewing my gratitude to these hospitable rustics, by giving them my advice on this, as well as on other occasions, as well as by the distribution of some medicines which I had brought with me, and always gave away gratis in the course of my journey, I by this means likewise got more into their good graces, and procured assistance more readily, and more authentic information, than I perhaps could have done with money: so that the slender stock of medical know-

knowledge I was possessed of, proved of greater service to me than I could have imagined; not to mention the astonishment and veneration which it excited in these good people, and which often reminded me of the proverb, *dans le pays des aveugles les borgnes sont rois.*

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The cause, why worms are so common a disorder in this colony, I dare not undertake to explain. It may be suspected that in many people they are hereditary, and are increased by a copious milk diet. Others, perhaps, were infested by these animals, by means of the foul and putrid water which they were for the most part obliged to put up with in their hunting expeditions, and in their journey to the Cape; the men in particular, appearing to be troubled with this complaint. With respect to these country people, there does not seem to be much room for attributing the disorder to fish, as in the fresh water and rivers of these regions there is hardly any to be found. When, however, these rustics get to the Cape, they generally take care not to want for fresh fish. The towns-people, on the contrary, who live a good deal upon fresh fish, are not in proportion so much troubled with worms; but then they have pure water to drink; milk is rather scarce with them; while, on the other hand, they do not use to stint themselves in the articles of wine and spirituous liquors.

On the 5th I rode out a hunting along with two farmers, being chiefly in quest of the *gnu*, the animal I have described at page 131 of this Volume. In these parts we found large herds of them, and shot a female *gnu* quite through the body; notwithstanding which, she ran, though tottering, to the distance of eighty or an hundred paces from us before she

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fell. Being mounted on fleet horses, we were able to ride by them all, and separate one of the herds from the rest, from whence we drove away a calf, which we took home with us alive. It was of this that I afterwards made the dissection, to which I have referred in page 133, for the proof of what I thereadvanced. The height of this animal was two feet, and the length from the ears to the tail measured nearly the same; the tail itself was six inches long, and very hairy, with white and bristly hairs at the tip. To conclude, the predominant colour in this animal is a very pale or light brown; the belly is white, the nose black; there is a black circle round the eyes; it is likewise black about the ears, and its forehead is of a dark brown colour; the mane is black, two inches long, and rather of a bristly nature, being set off on each side by hairs equal to its length, which cover the neck, and which are twice as long as they are in other parts of the body; the beard too inclines more to grey, or is of a lighter colour than the rest of the animal's body. I had likewise previously seen and examined another tame one of the same size, which was intended for a present for the governor: it was feared, however, that this, as well as the young hartbeests which they were endeavouring to bring up tame, would be subject to a kind of furor or madness. The cry of the young gnu was sometimes *onje*, and at other times *navond*, a good deal resembling the *nonje* of the colonists (meaning miss,) and their usual contraction of the words *goeden avond*, or good evening; so that in the dark, the sound might easily be mistaken for the voice or salutation of a child. The roasted flesh of this gnu-fawn, the animal being extremely young, was soft and flabby.

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On the day I have mentioned we likewise shot a *quagga*, which was almost entirely devoured within a few hours by birds of prey, after having, according to their usual custom, begun with the eyes.

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An animal of the height of eighteen inches was known to the farmers here by the name of the *grey jackal*, as it approaches pretty near the common jackal in size, as well as in the shape of its head and body; but to judge from the teeth alone, as far as I can recollect them at present, the *grey jackal* seems rather to bear the characteristic marks by which the *viverra*, or weasel kind is distinguished in the *System of Nature*, Edit. XII.

The hair with which the grey jackal was covered, was a mixture of light grey and black; so that this creature was of a dark ash colour all over, excepting towards the tip of the tail, which, for the length of three inches, was quite black; it was besides pretty bushy, and reached down to the animal's heels. The hairs, indeed, over the whole body were pretty long and soft, but on the back they were about twice as long as in other parts, so that they appeared to form a brush or comb: for which reason, this animal may for the present be called the *viverra cristata*. I say for the present, as well on the account that the stuffed skin of this creature was stolen out of my waggon by some hounds with which we had been out a hunting, before I had time to draw up a more accurate description of it, as likewise because it is very difficult as yet to define the genera belonging to the order of *feræ*. I made a drawing of the grey jackal's liver, and on going to examine it with this view, I found it divided in a singular manner. The right lung

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likewise had four lobes, and the left three. The stomach had nothing but ants in it, or, to speak more properly, the white *termites* before-mentioned; yet, that it may not be supposed from this circumstance, that the animal here spoken of belongs to the genus of the *myrmecophaga* of LINNÆUS, it may be proper to mention here, that the character of this genus is the total want of teeth; and that, exclusively of our Swedish bears, the Hottentots themselves are likewise very fond of this food.


This day we hunted another animal, which was called the *onkjes jackal*, and seemed with respect to shape and size, in some measure to resemble the *grey jackal*, but was of a deep brown colour. It now made its escape from us by a subterraneous passage. It has obtained the name of *onkjes*, in consequence of its digging up, and feeding upon, the bulbs and roots of flowers. The *onkjes jackal*, moreover, is supposed to be more common than the grey, and is, perhaps, a kind of badger. Neither this creature nor the former were, as far as I could find, known to any body but the farmers in this neighbourhood.

The common *jackal*, or the *jackal* properly so called, nearly resembles our European fox in its form, manners, and disposition; and here, at least, is not known to assemble in packs, for the purpose of hunting. Neither is what authors have advanced concerning the hideous cry and voracity of the *jackal* applicable to this quadruped, these qualities being probably peculiar to the hyæna and wild dog, with which animals it has been by some means confounded. A couple of skins which I brought home with me, three feet in length, with a tail somewhat above a foot long, entirely correspond,



correspond, with respect to hair and colour, with M. DAUBERTON's description of the *chacal*, (BUFFON, Tom. XIII. p. 268) excepting the spots on the fore legs; and likewise resemble M. SCHREBER's coloured plate of the *canis mesomel*, or *capische schakalt*, Tab. XCV. p. 370. This is likewise Mr. PENNANT's *jackal*, Vol. I. p. 242.

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The predominant colour in this animal is a reddish yellow, the legs in particular are of a pale gold colour; under the belly, and on the inside of the legs, the colour inclines to white; the nose and ears are of a reddish cast; the head grey; the back part of the neck, together with the whole back, are covered with a large dark grey spot of the shape of a lancet, with the point towards the tail; which spot, as M. DAUBENTON has well remarked, is composed of black and white circular streaks of hair intermixed; the tail is partly grey, and partly of an umber colour, but at the tip black. I remember that once I saw the fur of a foetus of a *jackal*, which was of a very fine yellow colour, and instead of a blackish grey had a dark brown spot upon its back.

The *ratel*, so called in Africa both by the colonists and Hottentots, I have given a drawing of in the Swedish Transactions for the year 1777, p. 147. Tab. IV. and at the same time described it by the name of the *viverra ratel*. (I have likewise annexed a figure of it at Plate V. of this Volume.) By the colour, it should seem to be the very same species of animal which M. DE LA CAILLE saw about *Picquet-berg*, and has mentioned at page 182, by the name of the *blereau puant*; though this author did not himself observe any disagreeable odour in the animal, and I, for my part, have never heard



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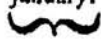
the least mention made of it; at the same time that M. DE LA CAILLE does not say a single syllable concerning the singular œconomy of the animal, and moreover describes the claws as being somewhat smaller than they really are, particularly on the hind feet. Les deux trous oblongs a l'ouverture de la gueule, dans lesquels la peau rentre, according to the observation made by M. DE LA CAILLE, appear to deserve a more accurate investigation and description.

In SCHREBER on the *mammalia*, p. 450, Tab. CXXV. there is a description and drawing of it under the denomination of the *stinkbinks*, or the *viverra Capensis*; though, in my opinion, the claws and tail in this figure are too short, and the head too thick and clumsy, and too black underneath. M. SCHREBER mentions his having heard, that this animal is fond of honey; a circumstance confirmed by the following account, which I have before inserted in the Swedish Transactions.

In this part of Africa there is to be seen a considerable number of holes and subterraneous passages, some of which are actually inhabited, while others have been previously formed, but since deserted by the *hystrix cristata*, a sort of *mus jaculus*, or the *jerboa Capensis*, the *jackal*, the *mole*, the *sus Æthiopicus*, with several species of *viverræ*. Just within the apertures of these cavities, and of the subterraneous passages which are blocked up in part by the ground having given way, the bees most commonly use to make their nests, especially as trees fit for their purpose are seldom to be found. The *ratel*, a sort of weasel or badger, by nature destined to be the adversary of the bees, and the unwelcome visitor of their habitations, is likewise endued with

with a particular faculty for discovering and attacking them within their entrenchments. His long claws, besides assisting him in digging the dark subterraneous passages which serve him for an asylum, are likewise of use to him in the occupation he is frequently employed in of undermining whole colonies of bees. As a man placed at the mast-head can easily descry a sail or land at a great distance about sun-set, so probably this time of the day is the most convenient for the ratel to look out for his supper; for he is said likewise to be particularly attentive to his business about sun-set, and will sit and hold one of his paws before his eyes, in order to modify the rays of the sun, so as to render them inoffensive to his organs of sight, and at the same time to have a distinct view of the object of his pursuit: and when, in consequence of peering in this manner on each side of his paw opposite to the sun, he sees any bees fly, he knows that they are at this time going strait forward to their own habitation, and consequently takes care to keep in the same direction as that in which they fly, in order to find them. He has besides, the sagacity as well as the Hottentots, the Caffres, and the peasants of the Cape, to follow a little bird, which flies on by degrees with the alluring note of *cherr, cherr, cherr*, and guides its followers to the bees' nest. This self-interested betrayer of the bees, to which I have many times been obliged for the honey I have eaten in the course of my travels through the desert, is the little *cuculus indicator*, which I have described and given a drawing of in the Phil. Transf. and propose to make mention of a little farther on.

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As the *ratel's* hairs are stiff and harsh, so its hide is tough, and the animal itself is difficult to kill. The colonists and the Hottentots both assert, that it is almost impossible to kill this creature, without giving it a great number of violent blows on the nose; on which account they destroy it by shooting it, or plunging a knife into its body. The shortness of the *ratel's* legs will not permit him to make his escape by flight, when pursued by the hounds; he is able, however, to extricate himself from their clutches by biting and scratching them in a violent degree; while, on the other hand, he is perfectly well defended from the assaults of their teeth by the toughness of his hide: for when a hound endeavours to bite him, it can lay hold only on the *ratel's* tough hide; which in this case instantly separates from the creature's body or flesh, as it is reported to lie loose from the skin, as though it were within a sack; so that when any body catches hold of him by the hind part of his neck, and that even pretty near his head, he is able to turn round, as it were, in his skin, and bite the arm of the person that seizes him. It is a remarkable circumstance, that a number of hounds, which collectively are able to tear a lion of a moderate size in pieces, are said sometimes to be forced to leave the *ratel* only dead to appearance. This report seems to be confirmed by the circumstance of M. DE LA CAILLE's *blereau puant's* still being alive, after the hounds had dragged it away to the waggon. Thus far, however, is certain, that on the fur of the *ratel* I have brought home with me, there is scarcely the mark of a bite to be seen, though it had been attacked and worried by a number of hounds. Is it not probable, that

that nature, which has destined the ratel for the destruction of bees, may have bestowed on it a hide so much tougher than those she has given to other animals of the viverra kind, merely for the purpose of defending it from the stings of these insects? Or may not this creature's food, which consists of wax and honey, make it so tough and difficult to kill?

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Those bees nests which are built up in trees, are in no danger whatever from the ratel. In the first transports of his rage at having sought after these bees in vain, he uses to gnaw or bite the trunk of these trees; and these bites are sure marks for the Hottentots, that a bees nest is to be found up in that tree. I should myself have harboured many doubts concerning all these circumstances attributed to the ratel, had I not obtained various accounts of this curious animal, entirely corresponding with each other, from many experienced farmers and Hottentots living in different parts of the country.

As I was not fortunate enough to catch a ratel myself, I must be contented with giving such a description of it here, as I have been able to make from this creature's skin.

The *fore teeth*, six in each jaw, mostly of the same size, flat at top, probably in consequence of being worn away; *canine teeth*, two in each jaw, very strong and large when compared with the size of the animal, but obtuse, (probably likewise in consequence of their being worn away;) the *grinders*, about six in number, had, as well as the others, a yellow cast, perhaps from the animal feeding upon honey. The *tongue* was sharp, and the *papillæ* sharp and turned back, as in cats.

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The *legs* are short; toes five on each of the fore feet, armed with projecting claws an inch and a half long, but those of the hind feet no more than half that length. These claws have a sharp edge, which half way up the fore part of it is double, or rather excavated with a deep furrow; a circumstance that apparently greatly assists the animal in digging. There is nothing like ear-laps to be seen on this creature, excepting a trifling rim round about a rather large aperture, in which is placed the organ of hearing.

*Colour*; the forehead, crown of the head, nape of the neck, shoulders, back, and tail are of an ash colour; the nose, and the part round the eyes, and on the cheek-bone, the ears, the lower part of the neck, the breast, belly, thighs, and legs, are of a black hue inclining to brown; as are likewise the extreme limits of the ash-coloured part just mentioned, which are moreover separated from the black colour by means of a light grey list an inch broad, running from the ear quite back to the tail.

*Size of the skin*: From the tip of the nose to the tail forty inches; length of the tail twelve inches; that of the claws, taken together with the whole phalanx, or all the toes of the fore feet, one inch and three quarters; of those of the hind feet one inch.

Two other small animals, which probably likewise belong to the *viverra* genus, I had only a hasty glimpse of in this colony. The one we saw and gave chase to between the two Fish rivers, made its escape from us, however, by running into a hole under ground, and seemed to be somewhat less than a cat, though longer in proportion. The colour of it was a bright red. Of the other  
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fort. I saw two at once in the vicinity of *Niez-bout-kloof*, when they instantly ran out of my sight, and hid themselves in a bush. They appeared to be of a coal-black colour, and above a foot high; yet I am not certain, whether they were not *onkjes jackals*, the animal I have already made mention of at page 176 of this Volume. The former of these likewise, I mean the light or rose-coloured animal, might be, for aught I know, the *zerda*, or *vulpes minimus sarenfis* of M. SKIOLDEBRAND, the Swedish consul at Algiers, (vide the *Swedish Transactions* for 1777, page 265) not being able during the chase, to attend to its ears so accurately as I could have wished; and at the same time having been informed, that there was a very small animal, with long ears, which lived under ground, and was not unfrequently seen on the plains in *Camdebo*, but was difficult to catch, especially as it never went far from its hole. In this point likewise, it answers to the description of the *zerda* quoted above; but this again seems inconsistent with the account given of it by Mr. BRUCE, who says it lives in palm-trees, (on the fruit of which it subsists,) in *Libya*, to the south of the *Palus Tritonidis*. (Vide BUFFON's *Animal Anonyme*, Supplement, Tom. III. page 148, Tab. XIX.) It is possible, indeed, that this creature is to be found in *Libya*; but I have been informed by M. SKIOLDEBRAND, that Mr. BRUCE had previously seen this animal in *Algiers*, (where both these gentlemen were consuls together) and had employed the same painter as M. SKIOLDEBRAND did, to make a drawing of it; and hence it is, that on comparing the two figures, viz. of the animal from *Libya*, and of that from *Algiers*, it plainly appears,

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that they are taken from each other, or else from one and the same original.

Many of M. SKIOLDEBRAND's friends, and among them M. NICANDER, one of the secretaries of the Royal Academy of Sciences in Sweden, have seen a figure of the *zerda* represented in its natural size and colour, many years ago, in M. SKIOLDEBRAND's superb collection; but could not persuade this gentleman to ornament the Swedish Transactions with it before, as, the animal having unfortunately escaped from him, before he could examine its teeth, and other particulars, he had waited a long time, though in vain, in hopes of procuring some better information from *Algiers* with respect to these points. M. SKIOLDEBRAND could not find at the bottom of this creature's large and beautiful ears, which were of a rosy hue, any traces of a perforation; indeed these perforations would easily be filled up, and would consequently become very inconvenient to an animal like this, which is obliged to burrow and live under the sand. He supposes that providence has made good this defect, by some membrane lying not very deep in the ear. Mr. PENNANT follows M. SKIOLDEBRAND in the account he gives of this animal in Vol. I. p. 248, at the same time referring it to the *dog* genus.

The *bee-cuckow*, (*cuculus indicator*) which I made mention of just above, in describing the *ratel* at p. 181, deserves to have more particular notice taken of it in this place. It has, however, nothing remarkable in it with regard to its size and colour, as, on a cursory view, it appears in these points not to differ from the common sparrow; excepting indeed,

that it is somewhat larger, and rather of a lighter colour, with a little yellow spot on each shoulder, and the feathers of its tail dashed with white.

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It is, indeed, merely with a view to its own interest, that this *cuckow* discovers the bees-nests to man and the *ratel* race, as it is extremely fond both of honey and bees-eggs; and it knows that when a bees-nest is plundered, some of it is shed, which consequently falls to its share, or else some part is left by the plunderers as a reward for its services. Nevertheless, the way in which this bird communicates to others the discovery it has made, is as surprising as it is well adapted to the purpose.

The morning and evening are probably its principal meal times; at least it is then that it shews the greatest inclination to come forth, and with the grating cry of *cherr, cherr, cherr*, to excite, as it were, the attention of the *ratel*, as well as of the Hottentots and colonists. Somebody then generally repairs to the place whence the sound proceeds, when the bird, all the while continually repeating its cry of *cherr, cherr*, flies on slowly and by degrees towards the quarter where the swarm of bees have taken up their abode. The persons thus invited accordingly follow, taking great care at the same time not to frighten their guide with any unusual noise, or by means of a large company, but rather, as I have seen done by one of the shrewdest of my *Bosbies-men*, to answer it now and then with a soft and very gentle whistle, by way of letting the bird know that its call is attended to. I have observed, that when the bees-nest was at a good distance, the bird, for the most part, made long stages, or

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flights, waiting for its sporting companion between each flight, and farther exciting him; but flew to shorter distances, and repeated its cry more frequently, and with greater earnestness, in proportion as they approached nearer to the bees-nest. I likewise saw, with astonishment, what I had been previously assured of by others, viz. that when this bird has, in consequence of its great impatience, got too far a-head of its followers, especially when, by reason of the roughness or unevenness of the ground, they have not been able to keep pace with it, it has flown back to meet them, and with redoubled cries, denoting still greater impatience, has upbraided them for being so tardy. Finally, when it has come to the bees-nest, whether this be built in the cleft of a rock, in a hollow tree, or in some cavity in the earth, it hovers over the spot for the space of a few seconds, a circumstance which I myself have been eye-witness to twice; after which it sits in silence, and for the most part concealed in some neighbouring tree or bush, in expectation of what may happen, and with a view of coming in for its share of the booty. It is probable, that this bird always hovers, more or less, in the manner just mentioned, over the bees-nest, before it hides itself, though people do not always pay attention to this circumstance: at all events, however, one may be assured that the bees-nest is very near, when, after the bird has taken one to some distance, it is on a sudden silent. In a place where we halted a couple of days, my Hottentots were conducted by a bee-cuckow, that was rather shy and obscure in its expressions, backwards and forwards several times to one and the same spot, till one of them, who was more attentive to the bird than