

than the rest, thought of looking out there for the nest itself.

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Having, in consequence of the bird's directions, dug up the bees-nest, or otherwise come at it, and plundered it, they usually, by way of acknowledgment, leave it a considerable portion of the worst part, or that part of the comb in which the young bees are hatching; and which, however, is probably for the bird the most delicate morsel, and indeed, is by no means looked upon as the worst, even by the Hottentots. I was informed by my Boshies-men, as well as by the colonists, that a man who makes it his constant business to go after the bees, should not at first be too grateful and generous to this officious bird, but leave for it only just as much as will serve to stimulate its appetite; by which means it will be induced, in hopes of obtaining a more liberal reward, to discover another swarm of bees, if there be any such in the neighbourhood. Though there are plenty of wild bees round about Cape Town, yet both the bird itself and the peculiar property it has of discovering honey to others, were entirely unknown there; neither could I, when I first heard it spoken of at *Groot-Vaders-bosch*, consider it in any other light than that of a fable; especially as at the same time I saw a lad who was out after one of these birds, fail in the object of his pursuit. In this case, however, there was great reason to lay the blame on the closeness and compactness of the wood, and the greater than usual shyness of the bird. My Hottentots from *Buffel-jaagts-rivier* and *Zwellendam* assured me since, that they had likewise been acquainted with this bird at the places just mentioned, where they were born,

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but owned at the same time, that it was there uncommon as well as shy; nor did it direct them to the honey so readily and distinctly, as in the tract of country where we then were in the desert, and near the river *t'Kau-t'kai*, or *Great Viscb-river*.

By collating this last remark with my account of the *cucullus indicator*, or honey-guide, inserted in the *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. LXVII. page 38 and 43, it will appear, that a geographical error has been suffered to take place there; probably in consequence of their being obliged, as my account was written in English, to alter this passage, so as to make it approach nearer to the idiom of the English language.

Though I had frequently in the desert, and once at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, seen this bird, which, on account of the singular property it is endued with, is called by the colonists *boning-wyzer*, or the honey-guide, and, indeed, had not unfrequently reaped the fruits of its services, yet I had not an opportunity of shooting it till I was on the road to return home, when I one day pursued it, the little creature all the while flying before me with its cheering note of *cherr, cherr*. This, however, offended my Boshiesmen not a little: and though I had previously promised an ample reward, consisting of glass beads and tobacco, to my *Zwellendam* Hottentots, on condition that they would assist me in catching and shooting a *boning-wyzer*, yet I found them too much the bird's friends to betray it; a circumstance that gave me great pleasure, as it shewed that these people were in general possessed of good and grateful hearts; though

though ingratitude, I am very sorry to say it, is a crime, by no means rarely to be met with among men.

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While I resided in the interior part of Africa, I was shewn a bird's-nest, which several farmers assured me was that of the bee-cuckow. It resembled the nests of certain finches, which are found in those parts, and was formed of fine shreds of bark, interwoven and plaited together in the shape of a bottle. The neck or aperture of it hung downwards, and a plaited cord, made of the same kind of bark as the nest, hung, as it were, in a swing, cross-wise, over and below the opening, being fastened by both ends to the brim of this same aperture, and was certainly intended for the bird to rest itself and roost upon.

The following description of this bird was drawn up from the two which I shot, and which were supposed to be hens; for the cock is said to have its neck (*capistrum*) encircled with a black ring:

*Rostrum crassiusculum, versus basin fuscum, apice luteum. Angulus oris usque infra oculos extensus. Nares. postremæ ad basin Rostri, supremæ vicinæ, ut carinula dorsali saltem separarentur, oblongæ, margine prominulo. Pili aliquot ad basin Rostri, præcipue in mandibula inferiore; Lingua plana subsagittata. Oculorum Irides ferrugineo-griseæ; Palpebræ nudæ, nigrae. Pedes nigri scanforii; Tibiæ brevis, Ungues tenues, nigri. Pileus lætè griseus è pennis brevibus latiusculis. Gula, Jugulum, Pectus, sordide alba, cum aliquo vivere vix notabili in pectore. Dorsum & Uropygium ferrugineo-grisea. Abdomen Crissumque alba. Femora tecta pennis albis, macula longitudinali nigra notatis. Alarum Tectrices Superiores, omnes griseo-fuscae exceptis summis aliquot,*

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*aliquot, quæ flavis apicibus formant, maculum flavam in humeris exiguum & à plumis scapularibus sæpe tectam: Tectrices infra alam albidæ, harum Supremæ ex albido nigroque maculatæ. Remiges Primarii 8, R. Secundarii 6, R. Omnes supra fusci, subtus cinereo fusci. Alulæ griseo-fuscae; Cauda cuneiformis, reëtricibus 12: harum duæ intermediæ longiores angustiores, supra & infra ærugino-fuscae; proximæ duæ fuliginosæ, margine interiore albicantes; Duæ utrinque his proximæ albæ apice fuscae, & exterius ad basin macula nigra notatæ: extima utrinque reliquis brevior, Alba apice fusca, macula nigra vix ulla ad basin. Alæ complicatæ caudæ partem quartam attingunt. Longitudo ab apice Rostri, ad extremam Caudæ circiter septem uncias pedis Anglicani explet. Rostrum à basi superiore ad apicem semi-unciale.*

Since my description of the *cuculus indicator* was printed in the *Phil. Transf.* I have seen in LOBO's Travels to Abyssinia, published by LE GRAND in 1728, (a book to which I was referred by M. B. BERGIUS, one of the directors of the bank,) and a gentleman of extensive reading, the following account, which deserves to be quoted here verbatim.

“ The *moroc*, or honey-bird, is furnished with a peculiar instinct, or faculty of discovering honey. They have here multitudes of various kinds, some are tame like ours, and form their combs in hives: of the wild ones some place their honey in hollow trees, others hide it in holes in the ground, which they keep extremely clean, and at the same time cover so carefully, that though they are commonly in the highway, they are seldom found, unless  
by



by the *moroc's* assistance. The honey thus prepared under ground, is to the full as good as that which is made in hives: I have only found it a little blacker; and cannot help imagining it to be the same, with that which St. JOHN lived on in the wilderness. When the *moroc* has discovered any honey, he repairs immediately to the road-side, and when he sees a traveller, sings and claps his wings, making many motions to invite him to follow him; and when he perceives him coming, flies before him from tree to tree, till he comes to the place where the bees have stored their treasure, and then begins to sing melodiously. The Abyssin takes the honey, without failing to leave part of it for the bird, to reward him for his information."

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There is good reason to suppose from this passage, that the *moroc* of Abyssinia and the *bee-cuckoo*, which I have described above, are one and the same bird; but if this be the case, it should seem, that Father Lobo himself had not been an eye-witness of this singular kind of chase, or else that he has not given an accurate description of it. Neither, indeed, have I ever found the honey which has been made under-ground, blacker than that which comes out of the hives; but on the contrary, full as good as any other honey whatever, that in the desert particularly having a finer flavour than any I ever tasted. Though as delicacies did not greatly abound here, and I was obliged to live chiefly on animal food, I cannot place any great dependence upon the niceness of my taste at that time. My Hottentots, and even two of the colonists, ate likewise the young bees and the honey-comb itself, or the nest, looking upon it as the most delicate part of the whole. The honey

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here was fine and mellow, and appeared, without having undergone any purification whatever, to be tolerably free from wax.—I neither saw nor heard of any one in all Africa that kept tame bees, excepting in the country about Constantia, where a young lad, the son of a colonist, used sometimes to set out empty chests and boxes, into which a wild swarm would enter without fail in the space of a few days and settle; but the hive was generally taken almost immediately by this greedy *amateur*, and was likewise partly stolen by liquorish slaves, among whom those who were natives of Madagascar had a particular knack at finding wild bees and honey. As in the tracts of country last-mentioned, besides other flowers, there grow in particular many different sorts of heaths, the culture of bees might in these places be carried to a very great height. Near the *Cape* I found the wild honey of an inferior quality. Whether this proceeded from the great abundance of heath in the above-mentioned districts, or from my being more fastidious and nice when I was at the latter place, I am not able to determine.

The *jerbua Capensis*, which I enumerated a little above at page 180 among the animals in the ruins of whose subterraneous dwellings the bees, in default of trees fit for their purpose, build their nests, is described by Dr. J. R. FORSTER in the Swedish Transactions for 1778, page 108, with some remarks of mine annexed, l. c. page 119. On this head likewise, the reader may consult the compilation referred to above, called *Nouv. Descript. &c.* together with M. PALLAS's *de Murium Genere*, page 87, in which book it was afterwards referred to under the denomination of the *mus Caffer*.

*Caffer.* By the colonists it is called *berg-baas*, or *spring-baas*, (the mountain or bounding hare) and lives upon roots and other vegetables, his principal haunts being in the vicinity of *Stellen-bosch* and *Camdebo*. It is nearly of the size and colour of a common hare, but its hind legs, by means of which it is said to be able to take a leap twenty feet in length, are much longer and flenderer; its fore legs, on the other hand, are extremely short, the animal seldom supporting itself upon them, being generally in a fitting posture, and using them as hands to convey the food to its mouth. It is likewise able, with great expedition, by means of its fore paws, and with the assistance of its long projecting teeth, to dig holes for itself and passages under ground; though it does not by any means experience the greatest degree of security in this asylum, on account of the dykes and cuts made by the colonists to their corn-fields and plantations, which likewise find their way into these subterraneous passages; so that the *jervuas*, which are thus in danger of being drowned in their own habitations, are obliged to evacuate them with the greatest precipitation, in consequence of which they are frequently pursued and taken.

Where the inhabitants of this country have an opportunity (that of a neighbouring mountain, for instance) of making the dykes and sluices here alluded to, they do not omit by means of them to drown the moles likewise, as they are called, which infest this colony, and which are, in fact, a kind of rat with short tails. The one sort is less than the other, but is most common round about the *Cape*; and from the white spots on its head is called *bleesmole*, and

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is the *mus Capensis* of Messrs. PENNANT, SCHREBER, and PALLAS, and the long-toothed *marmot* of Mr. BROWN, page 112, Plate XLVI. which plate exhibits a coloured representation of this animal; but the figure, which is the same with that in the compilation we have frequently referred to, as well as with that in BUFFON's Supplement, Tom. III. is not remarkably good.

The other species, which is called the *zand-mol*, is the *mus Africanus* of Mr. PENNANT. This is in every part shaped like the former, but is without any spots; and though of a mouse colour, is of a lighter hue, its tail being in proportion equally short with that of the other, but flattened both at top and underneath, though furnished with hairs standing out in the same manner. It bears a great resemblance to the figure of the *mus talpinus* in PALLAS and SCHREBER, but differs from that animal in having a compressed tail, as I have just before mentioned; as likewise with respect to its body, which I have found to measure a foot at the highest, though even then it was twice or thrice as big as the *mus Capensis*, or the *mus talpinus*. These two different species, the *mus Caffer* and the *mus Capensis*, are very troublesome vermin, particularly in orchards and vineyards; and are caught with snares, which fall upon them at the apertures of their holes, and are likewise frequently killed with pistols, which shoot them through the body, on their touching in the slightest manner a thread tied to the trigger. The *mus Caffer* is particularly unwieldy and clumsy in its make, and is consequently slow in running, making its escape with difficulty when it is found near its nest; though, on the other hand, when it is laid hold on, it throws the  
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anterior part of its body about to the right and left with great activity and alertness, in order to fasten upon its enemy with its teeth. In this particular I have, as well as many of the colonists, discovered a great resemblance between the rhinoceros and the sand-mole; which, indeed, proceeds merely from the smallness of the eyes and obscurity of vision in both these animals.

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The *talpa Asiatica*, LINN. the *talpa Siberica* of PENNANT, SEBA, and KLEIN; the *talpa aurea* of BRISSON, PALLAS, and SCHREBER; and the *variable mole* of BROWN, are one and the same animal, which comes from the Cape; and which not only has been erroneously attributed to Siberia, but likewise, on account of the number and shape of its teeth being unknown, has been hitherto improperly referred to the *mole* genus; though, in fact, it belongs to that of the *shrew* or *sorex*, as plainly appears from the following description of the teeth, which I made after a specimen I brought home from the Cape preserved in spirits. *Dentes superiores anteriores* 2 cuneati, approximati. *D. inferiores anteriores* 4 subulati, horum intermediis brevioribus. *D. laterales* in utraque maxilla utrinque 7, horum duobus seu 3; bus prioribus simpliciusculis, acutis, interioribus seu poster. 2 seu 3; bus furcatis, cuspidate extremo majore. This animal may therefore for the future be called *Sorex aureus*, *cauda nulla*, *rostro nudo brevi*, *palms sub 4 dactylis*, *plantis 5 dactylis*. I say *sub-tetra-dactylis*, as this creature has, on the outside of its three crooked claws which stand behind each other, a very small spur, or shorter kind of claw projecting, which the naturalists above-mentioned did not observe, and which might easily induce them



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them very improperly to augment the catalogue of the animal creation with one animal more than really exists in it.

This creature is five or six inches in length, its snout is short and without any hair upon it, notwithstanding which the upper lip is hairy. The colour, which in other respects is exceedingly beautiful, is continually varying, as SCHREBER has remarked, page 563, between green, brown, and gold. In PETER BROWN'S Illustrations of Zoology, page 110. Plate XLV. there is a tolerable coloured drawing of this animal; the cast, however, of this colour bordering upon gold, is not expressed with a sufficient degree of accuracy and beauty; neither is the least notice taken of the fourth small or external claw.

To the query which M. PALLAS (*de Murium Genere*) proposes at page 154, in the notes, I answer, that this creature, in fact, has eyes, but they are so small that they were not easily to be discerned in the animal just after it was shot; and in the specimen I have preserved in spirits, could not be seen at all till I had stripped the skin from off the head. They are placed in the center of a straight line, conceived to be drawn from the nostrils to the ears. Again, these latter are in the same horizontal line with the fauces, the apertures of them being pretty wide externally, but internally almost imperceptible. This creature has no laps to its ears.

It will be most suitable in this place to enumerate and give a farther description of the African *gazels* all together, partly as I have just been describing several other animals, and partly as by following the order of my journal



nal in this particular, I should be liable to make frequent repetitions.

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The *bartbeest*, of which I have already made frequent mention in the course of this work, (viz. page 129, 131, 270, 345, Vol. I. and page 4, 12, 13, 18, Vol. II.) is the most common of all the larger gazels which are to be met with at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, or indeed in the whole colony, and in all probability in any part of Africa. These animals mostly keep together in herds of different magnitudes, though one does not unfrequently see them wandering about in a solitary state. I have often had occasion to hunt and shoot them, and made the drawing annexed (vide Plate I. of this Vol.) from one that I had just shot. Without wishing in the least to depreciate the labours of others, I find myself necessitated to refer my readers to this, as being the only figure hitherto published, which exhibits the least resemblance of this animal.

The greatest height of this animal, which is from the fore feet to the withers, somewhat exceeds four feet. The horns, (which are common to both sexes,) measured along the exterior curvature, are from six to nine inches long, and of a black colour all over, being of the same nature in general as those of the gazel kind. The colonists make handsome spoons of them, though the gnu's horns are reckoned to have the finest grain, as well as the blackest hue, and likewise to take the best polish. With respect to other particulars, the horns of this animal stand upon a small protuberance of the cranium, with their bases almost quite close together, diverging as they go upwards continually more and more from each other, as far as to one third of their

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their whole length; when proceeding farther on to two thirds of their whole length, they lean a little inwards or towards each other, at the same time making a bend backwards; so that the uppermost or last division, which is smooth and even, goes backwards very nearly in a horizontal direction, yet so that the tips turn a little downwards. These horns from their bases upwards, as far as to two thirds of their length, are embossed in the form of rings, which are about eighteen in number, and near the bases of the horns are not elevated more than half a line or a line above the surface beneath; but higher up, or near and upon the curvatures of the horns, these rings are not only much larger, viz. from a quarter to half an inch, but likewise seem to be more irregular, some of them forming knobs, while others take a spiral turn. All these rings or elevations are smooth in other respects, but between them there is a number of longitudinal furrows.

The predominant colour in the hartbeest is cinnamon colour, but the forehead is covered with black hairs, which, with a small admixture of brown, lie in a whirl. Two inches below this begins an oblong black spot, which extends quite down to the nostrils; the lower lip also, and the fore part of the shoulders are covered with black hairs, as are likewise the anterior part of the fore legs quite down to the hoofs, these black hairs being at the same time carried round them, and rising behind up to the fetlock-joints. This black colour is dispersed nearly in the same manner on the fore parts of the hind legs, and between the fetlock-joints and the hoofs behind. A good deal of the hindmost part of the haunch is covered with a wide black streak,

streak, which reaches down to the knee, as may be seen in the figure annexed. There are two narrow stripes, which take their rise one behind each ear and afterwards run together all along the ridge of the neck. From hence a dark brown oval spot extends over the whole ridge of the back, terminating with its broader and obtuser end just above the tail, which is slender, and, at the first glance, has the appearance of an ass's tail. The hairs of this begin high up, being black, and nearly of the nature of bristles, and rather pointing outwards than hanging down; the outermost, which are the longest, being scarcely six inches long. The upper and hind parts of the haunches are of a pale yellow colour, as well as the anterior and upper edge of them, the inside of them, and the belly. The posterior parts of the fore legs are likewise of a somewhat lighter hue than the cinnamon colour above-mentioned, which covers every other part of the animal.

There is a pore one line in diameter, an inch or an inch and a half below and before the internal angle of the eye. From this pore, which is the aperture of a caruncle that lies below, there is secreted a matter almost like ear-wax, which I observed my Hottentots kept in a piece of skin, as a rare and excellent medicine; on the dried skin of the animal, this pore is scarcely to be discerned. This, perhaps, is the reason, that so great and accurate a zoologist as M. PALLAS makes no mention of this pore, as he made his descriptions chiefly from the dried skins of this animal; and as to the live hartbeest which he saw, he could not so easily come at it, so as to take notice of its pore. The rudiments of a beard or whiskers, mentioned by M. PALLAS as being

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on each side of the black spot on the under lip, may likewise be seen on the skin of the hartbeest which I brought home with me. This animal is described by M. PALLAS, in Fasc. I. p. 12, No. XVI. and Fasc. XII. No. XIII. p. 16 of his *Spicilegia Zoologica*, under the denomination of the *antilope bubalis*; but in the *Système Naturel*, it has been previously taken notice of by the name of *capra dorcas*: wherefore I choose to keep this specific name, for the sake of avoiding confusion; at the same time in conformity to the well-founded opinion of M. PALLAS, referring the *dorcas* to the *antilope* or *gazel* genus. The *bubalis* of the ancients was probably the same animal with our hartbeests, and so is the *vache de Barbarie*, described in the *Mem. pour servir à l'Hist. des Animaux*, Part II. p. 24. The figure given there, Tab. XXXIX. is, it is true, not a perfect likeness of the *antilope dorcas*; but being very indifferent likewise in other respects, may, with some degree of probability, be supposed to represent this animal. The description, however, contained in the following passage, l. c. does not correspond quite so well with the hartbeest's hair, viz. *Poils roux, plus pâle vers la poitrine, que vers la racine, presque de même grosseur vers le point que vers la racine.* It seems to be merely this passage that has occasioned M. BUFFON, Tom. XII. p. 296, under the article *bubal*, to confound the hartbeest with the animal which KOLBE called the elk; though at the same time he evidently gives a different description of the latter, viz. that it is of an ash colour, &c. &c.

The hair of the hartbeest is particularly fine, and about an inch in length, and in other respects resembling that of harts and gazels. The ears are covered with white hair on the inside;

inside. This animal has no teeth, excepting in the lower jaw. These are eight in number; those in the middle are the broadest, and they are likewise broader at the top than they are near the base; thus in number, as well as other properties, entirely resembling the teeth of the *gnu*. The legs are rather slender, with small fetlocks and hoofs. M. PENNANT, in his *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, p. 37, and in his *History of Quadrupeds*, p. 90, calls this beast the *cervine antelope*; and supposes that M. FORSKAL, by the *baker uafsch* of the Arabians, which he places among the animals of a genus hitherto undetermined, means this creature. Mr. HOUTTUYN likewise, by the description and miserable drawing he has given us in Vol. III. p. 213, Plate XXIV. probably means the *hartbeest*. One may easily see that this figure has some affinity with the *temamaçama* of SEBA, Vol. I. Tab. XLIII. which is likewise very properly referred to by M. PALLAS for the hartbeest; but I now find that Mr. PENNANT looks upon this to be his Senegal antelope: the description, however, does not seem to agree so well with the figure of *Seba* there referred to, as with M. DE BUFFON's of the *thoba*, Tab. XXXII. fig. 2, to which he refers likewise. The skeleton and cranium given by M. DE BUFFON in Vol. XII. Tab. XXXVII and XXXVIII. under the denomination of those of the *bubal*, belong to the hartbeest; and from hence it appears, that the horns are apt to vary in this animal. May not, therefore, the Senegal and cervine antelopes of Mr. PENNANT be, in fact, one and the same animal? Indeed, though I have found the horns of the hartbeest differ from each other pretty much in their external surface, yet it appeared to me that the position of

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them was very constant in the very considerable number of them that I have seen in Africa. The head of the figure here annexed, is rather too small in proportion to the body; a mistake which happened, in the reduction of the drawing from a larger to a lesser scale\*.

The large head and high fore-hand, together with the asinine ears and tail of the hartbeest, render it one of the least handsome of the whole tribe of antilopes. Its pace, when at full speed, appears like a heavy gallop; notwithstanding which, it runs as fast as any of the other large antilopes. When it has in the least got a-head of its pursuers, it is more apt than almost any other gazel to turn round frequently while it is flying, and, making a stand, stare them full in the face. I have already made mention, at page 132 of this Volume, of its falling on its knees, like the *gnu*, when it goes to butt any one. The flesh of it is of a fine grain, and rather dry, but yet of a rather agreeable high flavour. It is at least not so coarse and dry as that of the *bunte-bok*. M. DE BUFFON, who, at page 298, seems desirous of separating the hartbeest from the gazel, goat, and all other genera, will, perhaps, now be induced, by what has been just mentioned, to allow that it ought rather to be referred to the gazel or antilope kind.

*Eland*, or *Kaapse Eland*, (the *Cape elk*) vide Plate I. Vol. II. is a name given by the colonists to a species of gazel which is somewhat larger and clumsier, though, upon the whole, handsomer than the *hartbeest*. I have already had occasion in Vol. I. page 131, and Vol. II. page 70, 96, 116, 130, to make

\* This defect is remedied in the present edition.

mention



mention of this animal, and have given a description and drawing of it in the Swedish Transactions for 1779. In one of the places above referred to, I have mentioned, that it is called by the Caffres *empofos*; I have since found in my manuscript notes, that it is likewise called by the same nation *posfo*, and by the Hottentots *t'gann*. There has not been hitherto given any satisfactory description or drawing of this rare animal, as before this it had never been seen by any naturalist.

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Mr. PENNANT, in the new edition of his excellent History of Quadrupeds, Vol. 1. page 70, has perfectly well comprehended my meaning in the Swedish Transactions; but, as well as M. PALLAS, in his *Spicil. Zool. Fascic. XII.* p. 11, has been led by KOLBE into the error of fixing the habitation of the Cape elk in mountainous tracts; (vide Fasc. I. Plate XVI.) an error, which has occasioned that great zoologist, M. PALLAS, who had before in Fasc. I. l. c. made mention of this animal by the name of *oryx*, to change it for that of *orcas*, (vide Fasc. XII. page 5, 11, 17,) and afterwards gave the name of *oryx* to another animal; a circumstance which it were to be wished could be avoided, on account of the confusion in which the multitude of names, and more especially the alterations of them, must necessarily involve the science of natural history. After all, however, the fact is this, that the elk antelope, like the other large species of the gazel kind, lives on the plains and in vallies, instead of the high mountains, whither KOLBE has sent it, and up which this animal in particular would in all probability be too heavy and unwieldy to climb. The Comte de BUFFON, Tom. XII. Tab.

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LXVI. p. 378, has delineated the horns extremely well, but has very improperly ascribed them to the *coudou* (Belgis *kocdoe*) which is quite a different animal, and of which we shall say more hereafter.

The figure annexed at Plate I. Vol. II. I had an opportunity, in my journey homewards, of drawing from a live elk, which had been caught while it was yet a fawn; but though it was not quite grown up, and though it was permitted to go loose day and night without the least restraint or confinement, yet it never went away, but kept very near to mankind, and about the farm: whence it appears, how easy it would be to domesticate this species of gazel, which, in its tame state, might be more serviceable than either horses or oxen, and, in a great measure, perform the offices for which both these animals are used; especially as this beast is said to keep up its flesh without taking much food, for the most part contenting itself with shrubs and bushes, which the land is more inclined to produce than grass. It appeared to me, that the hair in the fore-top and on the forehead was longer in this than in the three old ones which I saw shot; on the other hand, this wanted the small elevation, or knob, which the others, and particularly one of them, had between and behind their horns.

This beast is of an ash-colour, inclining a little towards blue, excepting the following parts, which are quite black, viz. the tuft at the end of the tail, the skin between the fetlocks and the hoofs, and the thin erect mane, which extends from the nape of the animal's neck along the spine of its back.

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The horns of this creature, when it is full grown, are two feet long, and of a dark brown colour, being twisted, or forming a very conspicuous wreath half way up from the base, in which they have three sides and three ridges or ribs, separated by the sides from each other; the horns afterwards become round and straight, excepting that the tips of them are gradually turned a little forwards and inwards. The hindmost ridge near the base becomes, in the middle of the writhen part of the horn, the middlemost ridge, and the most raised; but at its termination again becoming the hindmost, gradually decreases, and vanishes at the back of the upper half of the horn. The interior and anterior edge is the most obtuse of any, and in some is quite rounded off; the exterior and anterior likewise terminates at top, outwards and forwards, somewhat higher than the others. At the bottom of all, near the bases of the horn, there appears several irregular scabrous and oblique rings, which are tolerably well expressed in the figure of the tobacco horn given in Plate I. Vol. I. fig. 3; but after this, the fibres of the horn take a spiral form, running over and parallel with the above-described twisted angles and sides of the horn, though in several places a half ring or scabrous inequality going across them is discoverable. The forehead of this animal is flat, and tolerably broad at top, in proportion to what it is lower down about the eyes, where it becomes very narrow. It has a foretop standing erect, the length of its whole forehead. Its nose is sharp and pointed. Its breast is covered with a *paleare*, or loose skin, with long hair.

This animal has a great deal of fat, especially about the heart: from an old male which we gave chase to and shot,

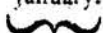
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we got such a quantity of fine and tender fat, as we could with difficulty get into a box that would hold about ten pounds of butter. As at the commencement of our journey homewards through the desert, the hounds we had with us had unluckily devoured our stock of butter, a farmer, who still accompanied us, shewed us how to prepare the fat from about the heart of the elk, and to use it for dressing victuals with, and for eating on bread in the same manner as is generally practised with goose-grease and hogs-lard. The taste of it also was very similar to these, and to the full as good; and, indeed, if I may be supposed to have been able to form any judgment of the matter at a time when we were so sharp set, and in absolute want of any thing else of the kind, it was rather better. The breast is likewise extremely fat, and is always looked upon as a great delicacy. The flesh is universally of a finer grain, more juicy and better tasted than that of the *hart-beest*. When the elk-antilopes are hunted, they always run, if possible, against the wind, even though the hunter himself should come from that side, and attempt to drive them back. I have myself seen a most evident instance of this, when on a hunting party with three others. In fact, it is supposed, that being very fat and purfy, they find it easier to fetch their breath when they run against the wind. They mostly keep together in large herds, and were supposed to migrate now and then to the southward, like the springboks, when any great drought, or failure with respect to rain and water, happens in the interior or northern parts of Africa. Just before our departure from *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, some Hottentots arrived there with the news, that they

they had seen, between the two *Visch-riviers*, an infinite number of elks, which just at that place turned back again and made towards the north. This piece of intelligence was in probability very true; for on our return homewards, we found several spots, which before were green and covered with herbage, grazed off quite bare, and almost as much beaten and trampled under foot, as a place of encampment for cavalry. It was imagined, that such large herds as these, either would not deign to make way for any huntsmen on horseback, or else that the foremost of them could not avoid making some resistance, on account of those in the rear pressing upon them. If this were the case, it would have been a great misfortune for our small party to have met with this army of quadrupeds, as they would, in all probability, have jumped over our heads and trod us under foot, in case we had not had time or room enough to have got on one side out of their way. The male elks, which are rather aged, and consequently slow and tardy, keep apart from the rest of the herd; and are generally so fat and heavy, as, in case of being chased, to tire immediately on the first onset. And indeed; of the elk species, the males are always the fattest and largest in the herd, and have evidently a fuller neck than the others; it is likewise these, that the hunter singles out and is sure to come up with first. I have been assured by several people, that some of the younger and fleetest, but at the same time fatter sort of bucks, will sometimes, when they are hard run, drop down dead during the chase; and that melted fat, as it were, together with the blood, would at that time gush out of their nostrils.

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Being on a hunting-party on our way home, and observing a young buck of the elk-antelope species, a farmer who was along with us, sent off his son, a lad about twenty years old, as being the lightest, as well as the best mounted of us all, to give chase to it; and by so doing, procured me likewise no small degree of pleasure, as long as I could get to view the chase, which was for the space of more than a quarter of an hour. In consequence of their distance from me, and the great rate at which they went, the legs of the horse, as well as those of the elk, being scarcely perceptible, both the sportsman and his game seemed to swim, or sail, as it were, over the hills and plains, while they were mutually endeavouring to get to the windward of each other. In fact, the young huntsman had more than once the advantage in this point; but in order to prolong the pleasure of the chase, and buoyed up by the ambitious hopes of being able to tire out his game, and afterwards drive it back to us, he purposely neglected several opportunities that offered of jumping off his horse, (as the sportsmen here are used to do) and shooting the flying foe. Besides, the air was now tolerably calm; and in this case, the animal in general does not strive so pertinaciously to get to the windward of its pursuers, as at other times; so that there have been instances known of spirited and expert sportsmen who, to their singular satisfaction, as well as for the sake of greater convenience, have hunted elks and other gazels, and driven them back, for many miles together, from the open plains, on to their own doors, before they have thought it worth while to fire their pieces at them. But to return to our sportsman; in the space of about two hours he comes back,



wearied and confused, and pleading in his<sup>l</sup>excuse that, having fired at the beast and wounded it, though not mortally, it had escaped into a close thicket, while he was occupied in adjusting his saddle, which had got loose; together with other excuses of that nature. He likewise added, that while he was chasing the animal, he could plainly perceive a bloody froth exuding from its neck, along with the white foam which appears on most animals on their being hard run. This exudation, or sweating of blood, does not appear to me in the least improbable; however, I will not by any means pledge myself for the truth of it; as, being so very unusual a circumstance, it must have been seen at a smaller distance, and confirmed by the testimony of several, before it could be thought credible. Every body, however, in this country was firmly of opinion, (and, as it appears to me, not without reason) that although game of this kind, and hunted almost as hard as this, might escape for the present, they would however soon after grow stiff in their joints and die; or at least be so disabled, that the next time they were chased either by sportsmen or wild beasts, they would the easier become a prey to them. The case is quite otherwise with horses, which are prevented by their masters from drinking, or from being otherwise cooled too soon, when they are warm. Nevertheless, almost all horses which have been much used in hunting, are pretty much spavined, and sometimes are very stiff in their joints, and slow in their paces, till, previously to their being taken out a hunting again, they have been rode out a little, and their limbs, by this means, rendered pliable. One of our company had a large horse, but as thin as a grey-hound, which

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was very much foundered. This horse, however, when it had got warm, was one of the swiftest I ever set eyes on.

Neither are these hunting-parties without their difficulties, and even danger for the hunters themselves; as besides that they cannot help sometimes being carried by their horses through coppices and thickets, (in which case their legs are scratched, and the skirts of their coats torn by the bushes) and are obliged to leap over pits and rivulets, neither can they entirely avoid sinking now and then into the holes and subterraneous passages, which are dug in the earth by the various kinds of animals I have described above. In chasing the elk-antelope near little *Fish* river in our way home on the first of February, I had the misfortune to have my horse, which was galloping full speed, sink into the ground with his fore feet; in consequence of which he, as it appeared to me and my companions in the chase, tumbled over head and heel, (*gat over de kop*.) I myself was thrown, with my gun in my hand, to a great distance from him, and was particularly hurt in both my wrists, of which I had not the perfect use for a long time. The gun, though it was cocked, did not go off in the fall. As soon as my horse came up, he galloped home again to our waggons, which were in sight, so that I had the additional mortification of being obliged to return on foot; a circumstance, which, in the case of hunting the buffalo or the lion, might have been attended with still worse consequences. My companions were so eager and intent on the chase, that they all rode on without giving themselves the trouble to see whether I wanted any help or no.

The

The *elk-antilopes*, however, are none of them so fleet as the *hartbeests*; the hide likewise of the neck, particularly of that of the male, is thicker and tougher than either the hide of this latter or that of the common ox; and is looked upon, next to the buffalo's hide, to be the fittest for halters for oxen, traces for waggons, field-shoes, and such like uses. The female has horns, like the male, but smaller; though they, as well as those of the male, are used by the Hottentots, both men and women, for tobacco-pipes, in the manner I have before mentioned at page 230, Vol. I. (see likewise Plate I. fig. 3. of the same volume.) There is no *porus sebaceus*, or *ceriferus*, at the corner of the eye of this animal, as there is in the eye of the *gnu* and of the *hartbeest*. I observed a very singular circumstance in the last elk we shot, which was, that on each side of its eight front teeth, there was a cartilaginous process exactly resembling a tusk. These processes were somewhat flexible and elastic; in fact, they did not seem at all adapted to mastication, so that it was difficult to conjecture for what purpose they were intended by nature. In the live young elk that I made a drawing of, it did not once enter into my thoughts to examine how things were situated with respect to this process.

*Koedoe* is the name given by the colonists to a beautiful tall *gazel* with long and slender shanks, which is larger, though much less clumsy and heavy, than the *elk-antilope*. The horns too of the *koedoe*, besides that the spiral twist on them is more deeply embossed, and is embellished with a singularly prominent edge, or rib, are twice as long as the horns of the elk. M. DE BUFFON, who has seen the horns only

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only of both these animals, has, as I have already mentioned, miscalled the *Cape-elk* by the name of *coudou*; which however properly belongs to the animal I am now describing, whose name he has, instead of this, distorted to *condoma*; a circumstance which probably proceeded from the letter to which M. BUFFON refers, having been ill written, or else from his having made a mistake in reading it; so that either in one case or the other, they turned the letter *u* in *coudou* topsy turvy, and made an *n* of it. He was obliged to alter the termination also, otherwise we should have had two very different animals with the same name. By this means, likewise, the *elk-antelope* ran the risk of wearing the long stately horns of the *koedoe*.

Neither has M. HOUTTUYN been more fortunate in his *Natuurlyke Historie*, Vol. III. p. 267, in which he classes them with the sheep. Excepting the horns, the whole of the figure he has given in Tab. XXVI. l. c. is good for nothing. Our great countryman LINNÆUS has been so far misled, as to refer to it in his *System of Nature* for the figure of the *ovis strepsiceros*; though the body they have put to the horns (which, however, never belonged to it) is certainly not like that of a sheep. A better figure is given in the *Nouv. Descrip. du Cap de B. Esperance*, page 41, 42, the author of which assures us, that it was taken from the life. In the mean time I must confess, that I had no cognizance whatever of the beard: I will not venture, however, to dispute the point very tenaciously, as I saw these animals alive but twice in the course of my hunting expeditions, though, indeed, that was at no great distance. M. PALLAS, who had examined the head of a *koedoe*, re-

marks

marks in Spic. I. p. 1—17, that the *koedoe* has no beard, and therefore cannot be the *capra anonyma* of KOLBE. Mr. PENNANT, who in his *History of Quadrupeds*, Vol. I. p. 77, has accurately described the *koedoe* under the name of the *striped antelope* from several skins of this animal, and who refers to the above-mentioned figure in the *Nouv. Descript. du Cap*, as being a good one, is quite silent with respect to the beard. I have some time before asserted in the *Swedish Transactions* for 1779, p. 157, that the male of the *koedoe* had no horns; a circumstance which had not been remarked before by any zoologist, and which I would wish to confirm in this place; with the additional remark, that the *porus ceriferus*, which in a number of *gazels* is placed below the eye, is wanting in the *koedoe*. Concerning this point I assured myself, by inspecting the body of a fawn of one of the animals immediately after it was shot.

The predominant colour in this fawn's skin, which I brought home with me, is a rusty brown; the ridge of the back is likewise partly inclined to brown and partly to white; but the stripes which go from it downwards, to the number of eight or nine, are white; the hind part of the belly is of a white colour, which extends straight downwards on the fore part of the hind legs in the form of a white list, terminating a hand's breadth above the hoofs; but directly above them on all the four feet there is a white spot, composed, as it were, of two; the fetlock-joints are extremely small, and the part below each of them is of a brown colour. On the breast again, there are likewise some dark brown marks. The forehead and the fore part of the nose are brown,  
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the lower lip is white, and there is some white on the upper lip, on the knees, and on each side of the fore legs; a white stripe half an inch long runs forward from the internal angle of each eye, and these stripes almost meet together just above the nose; upon each of the cheek-bones there are two small white spots; the inner edges of the ears are covered with white hairs, and the upper part of the neck is adorned with a brown mane an inch long.

From the tall and slender form of the *koedoe*, I had conceived it to be a very swift-footed animal; but I have been assured by two colonists, that in this respect it is not only very moderate, but likewise soon tires; so that it is more easily overtaken by the hounds than any other *gazel*: on the other hand, the males with their long horns defend themselves with great spirit against their foe, when he comes to close quarters with them. I cannot by any means suppose, that the large horns of the male are the cause of its running so slowly; for the female, which is free from this burthen, is not looked upon to be swifter of foot than the male: so that I cannot conceive the reason, why nature has denied her the power of extricating herself from danger, both by means of her head and of her feet.

On the 29th of January, being on our way homewards, we came very close upon seven or eight *koedoes*, one of which, not placing any dependence on its legs, fled for refuge into the river, where it got entangled in the weeds and grass that floated on the surface, and was seized and worried to death by our hounds. Afterwards two of our Hottentots swam to it, and cut off several slices from it. I found the flesh much of the same nature with that of the *bartbeest*,

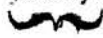


*hartbeest*, but the marrow was, at least in my opinion, extremely delicious. The *koedoe* is said to live more on shrubs and bushes, than any of the other gazels I have before mentioned. A sportsman, in whose presence I was making mention of the cartilages of the elk-antelope which resemble tusks, informed me, that the *koedoe* had processes exactly of the same kind.

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Another of the larger kind of *gazel* at the Cape, is known by the name of *gemse-bok*, or *chamois*. How improper an appellation this is in many respects Dr. FORSTER has already taken notice, in his *Voyage round the World*, Vol. I. page 84. The horns are very well delineated in BUFFON, Tom. XII. Tab. XXXIII. Fig. 3. and there is a beautiful figure of the whole animal in the *Nouv. Descript.* page 56, where the name of *pasan*, which had been given it by M. DE BUFFON, is retained. M. PALLAS, who, in his *Spic. Zool. Fasc. I. pag. 14.* hath called it the *antelope bezoartica*, has thought proper to alter the name in his *Fasc. XII. page 16 and 17*, to that of *antelope oryx*. Mr. PENNANT has described this *gazel* under the denomination of *Egyptian*, vide his *Synopsis of Quadrupeds*, page 25; and his *Hist. of Quadrupeds*, p. 67. M. HOUTTUYN likewise by his Fig. 1. Tab. XXIV. which LINNÆUS refers to for his *capra gazella*, probably meant the *Cape chamois*. In all probability, this animal is peculiar to the north-western part of the colony; for in the tracts of country I travelled through, I neither saw nor heard any thing of it. At Cape Town, however, the horns are not very scarce. I have one under my care in the cabinet of the Royal Academy, which is of a blackish colour, about three feet long, and almost

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perfectly strait, the lower half of it at the same time being distinguished by twenty or more craggy wavy rings projecting above the surface. The upper half is smooth, and goes off tapering by degrees to a sharp point, the diameter of the base being about an inch and a half. In other respects, this creature is described both by Mr. PENNANT, and in the above-mentioned compilation, as being of an ash colour somewhat inclining to red; the belly, legs, and face are white; but the spaces just before and round about the horn, together with the fore part of the upper extremity of the nose, and the lower part of the forehead, are black, or black bordering upon brown; there also goes from the eyes to the chin a brownish black stripe, which is connected by another of the same kind with the above-mentioned spot on the nose and forehead. This animal is likewise said to be of a dark colour on the shoulders, a little on the fore part of the legs, on those parts where the belly terminates in the sides, on the tail itself, and all along the back and the neck. The tail seems to reach to the hocks, and the hoofs appear to be of an uncommon length; so, at least, they are represented in the figures alluded to above.

KOLBE's description of his elk (called the *elend-thier* in the German edition, p. 145,) answers better in some sort to this *gazel* than to that which is actually known at the Cape by this name, and of which I have given a description; but whichever of these two it is that KOLBE means, his description is faulty at all events, and the weight he mentions, viz. 400 lb. is under the real weight of the animal. But be that as it will, there is the most manifest

manifest absurdity in KOLBE's assertion, that an animal of such a weight as this should be caught in a springe with a small cord, and drawn up into the air.

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The *blaauw-bok* is also one of the large species of *gazel*, which, probably, are only to be found in the same district with the *gazel* just described; excepting, perhaps, a single one, which may happen now and then by great chance to stray from these parts: for at *Krakeel-rivier*, I found they had preserved a skin of this animal. The colour of this creature when alive is said to resemble that of blue velvet, but when it is dead it is of a lead colour. There is a beautiful figure of it by the name of the *Tzeiran*, to be seen at p. 58 of the compilation I have frequently referred to. On this subject the reader may likewise turn to Mr. PENNANT's *blue antelope*, and M. PALLAS's *antelope leucophæa*; being thus called by the latter gentleman, from the circumstance of its being marked with a large white spot just before and beneath each eye. The hairs on the belly are long and white; the tail is short; the horns go backwards with a curve, being decorated with about twenty-four rings to three-fourths of their height; but the uppermost quarter is smooth, and goes off tapering by degrees to a point.

The *bunte-bok*, (the painted or pied goat) called by Mr. PENNANT the *harnessed antelope*, and by M. PALLAS *antelope scripta*, I have already mentioned in Vol. I. page 129, as being somewhat less than the *bartbeest*; and again at page 277, as being larger than the *bosch-bok*. The *bunte-bok* is not to be found any farther to the eastward of the Cape than *Zwellendam*; but a farmer who had been in the country of *Tambuki* informed me, that he had there again

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seen *bunte-boks*, though somewhat different from the above-mentioned.

The *gnu*, which I have described above at pages 132, 152, and 175, and have given the figure of in Plate II. of this volume, I reckon, with still greater confidence than I did before, among the large gazels of Africa; since induced by the arguments I have made use of to this purpose in the Swedish Transactions, the great English PLINY, whose admirable History of Quadrupeds I have so often quoted in these sheets, has likewise thought proper to refer the *gnu* to the *gazel* kind.

To the smaller African *gazels*, (which, indeed, has been already treated of) having no porus ceriferus underneath the eye, belong the following:

The *bosch-bok*, or *antilope sylvatica*, *cornibus erectis subtri-quetris spiralibus*, *corpore fusco*, *albo maculato*, *cauda brevissima*. This animal I have already spoken of at page 270, Vol. I. and have given the figure of it in Plate VI. of this volume. As the specific difference of the other *gazels* which are better known than this in the respective descriptions of each of them, or may be found in some of the authors there quoted, I choose to omit the insertion of them here, in order to avoid prolixity; particularly as it would be of no service, excepting with respect to the making out of the nomenclature of the whole genus.

The *spring-bok*, or the bounding goat, (vide page 83 to page 90, and Plate V. of this volume) is called by M. PALLAS, in his Fasc. XII. page 15, the *antilope pygargus*.

Besides the *gazels* above-mentioned, there are several others of which I am not able to give the zoologists so good

an account as they may require of me. I conceive, nevertheless, that the enumerating of them here will not be wholly useless, as by this means the attention of naturalists and travellers may be turned to them in a particular manner, so that some light may at length be thrown on this principal branch of zoology, which has been hitherto so much involved in darkness. These animals are the following:

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The *ree-bok* is a gregarious animal, two feet in height. The predominant colour of it is an ash-colour, somewhat resembling that of a hare, but a little inclining to red; the belly and anus are white, as well as the under part of the tail, which is very short; the horns are black, quite straight, and in position, form and substance, very like those of the *gemse bok*, but are barely a foot long, and proportionally very small, consequently very taper at the end and sharp-pointed; for which reason the Hottentots frequently keep them by them, and use them as awls or bodkins for the purpose of boring holes, when they make or repair their shoes or cloaks. The hair likewise of this creature seems to be softer and finer than common. The flesh of it is dry, and is accounted worse than that of any other gazel.

This animal was not uncommon in *Hottentots Holland*, *Artaquas-kloof*, and *Lange-kloof*. I must own, however, that I have drawn up the account I have just given of this animal, from memory only, as I had the misfortune to lose the original description, together with the drawing. In a journey like mine, losses of this kind are not to be wondered at. At times, when I was wet through with heavy showers of rain, or in consequence of having forded a river,

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ver, a paper or two that I had about me, must necessarily have been in the same predicament. The overturning of our waggon likewise, especially at night, which happened at two different times, was of no great service to my collections, particularly to my insects.

The *riet*, or reed *ree-bok*, I saw but once, and then I had but a hasty glimpse of it, as it ran by me. This was during my residence at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, and it was there only that I heard any mention of this creature. It generally keeps concealed among the reeds and marshy places, and is thought to resemble a little the animal last described, from which two circumstances it has obtained the name it bears. It is, however, twice as big as the *ree-bok*; they are monogamous, or keep only in pairs, and, if I remember right, the females are said to be without horns.

Notwithstanding all the presents and offers I have made to my correspondents at the Cape, they have not yet fulfilled their promises of sending me the skins of these two animals, which are probably a species of the *capra* or GAZEL genus, hitherto entirely unknown.

The *vlaksteen-bok* was the name given at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte* to animals (probably of the gazel kind) two feet in height, which used, in some sort, to herd together on the *vlaktens*, or plains, though for the most part dispersed and at a distance from each other. I likewise saw this creature twice on my journey homeward through the desert. Though, when at a certain distance, it did not appear in the least shy, it always took care, however, not to let any of us come within gun-shot of it. It must consequently be



be hunted down on horseback, except the ground is too stoney and rough. The colour of it was a very pale-red or a mouse-colour, (*colore murino*) on which account it was likewise said to be called by some the *bleek-bok*, or *vaal ree-bok*. It is more clumsy and unwieldy than the *ree-bok*, and in its form more resembles the animal commonly called the *steen-bok* at the Cape.

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The animals called by the colonists *steen-bok*, *grys-bok*, *duyker-bok*, and *klipspringer*, are about two feet high, being probably of the *gazel* kind, and are not uncommon near the Cape. But for this very reason, and in consequence of my having been frequently impeded by my botanical researches, I deferred the investigation of these animals till it was too late, as my departure for Europe took place much sooner than I expected. It is some consolation to me, however, to reflect, that this loss may easily be repaired; and, indeed, more than repaired, by somebody else: perhaps we may expect that favour from Messrs. FORSTERS, who, when at the Cape, were engaged in making drawings, together with accurate descriptions of these quadrupeds; for which reason likewise, I even then considered my researches into this matter as being the more superfluous. In the mean time, however, I must observe, that I am perfectly convinced that these animals are of species distinct from each other, the females of which have no horns; and, if I remember right, they have all a *porus ceriferus* below the eye, except, according to what I was told, the *duyker-bok*. The flesh too of this last animal was also said to be very dry and tough, when compared with that of the others, which I tasted of, and which appeared to me, with respect

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to the high flavour and dryness of the meat, to bear some resemblance to the flesh of the hare.

The *steen-bok* is of a reddish colour, with a white spot over its eyes, and is probably a variety of Mr. PENNANT's red antelope. Hist. of Quadrupeds, page 76.

The *grys-bok* is of a greyish colour, with black ears, and a large black spot round the eyes, being probably the *A. Grinnia*. Spicil. Zool. I. p. 8. Tab. III.

The *klippranger* is of a light red colour, inclining to yellow, and intermixed with black streaks; the tips and edges of its ears are black. The tails of these animals were very short; the horns of all the males, if I remember right, are rather shorter than their ears, being in some measure straight, and at the same time round, smooth, sharp-pointed, black, and standing at a great distance from each other, though probably they vary in their position. The *klippranger* has obtained the name it bears, from the circumstance of its running with the greatest volocity, and making large bounds even on the steepest precipices and in the most rocky places; so that, like the other two, it cannot be easily caught with hounds. In this respect it resembles Mr. PENNANT's *swift antelope*, l. c. As for the *duyker-bok*, or diving goat, I have only had a single glimpse of it. The colour of it seemed to be dark brown, and its manner of running in the highest degree singular; as the animal would make a bound at intervals, rising in its leap with its neck erect, and in its descent bringing it down between its legs, and then continuing its course on the ground. This, perhaps, among the bushes, had the appearance of diving, and gave rise to its name.

*Apes,*

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*Apes*, or *baboons*, reside in considerable numbers in the woody part of the mountain, at the foot of which runs little *Visch-rivier*. They are said to have long canine teeth or tusks, and to be very swift of foot, nimble, strong, and difficult to kill, so that they will sometimes even force the tigers to quit their hold, and part with their lives to the hounds at a dear rate. On this account the colonists are not very fond of hunting them. One day, however, when several baboons made their appearance very near the farm where we were lodged, I persuaded my host to set his dogs upon them. One of these baboons, which seemed rather in years and inactive, and perhaps was not able to reach the mountains so soon as the rest, took refuge in a low tree down in the plain. My piece was at this time loaded with what they call *steen-bok* shot, or shot about the size of a common pea; and with these, at the distance of fifteen paces only, I hit the animal in the left breast; notwithstanding which, the creature, though mortally wounded, was able to stay in the tree several minutes, and during that time did not utter the least cry or groan. At last, when it was obliged to quit its hold on the tree, the dogs fell upon it before it came to the ground. I now found that there was very good foundation for what I had been formerly told, viz. that there was no species of hunting in which the dogs shew so much fury and malice as in the chase of monkeys or baboons; ours having wounded the animal in a most terrible manner, before they could be made to quit it. The head of this creature very much resembled that of a dog, and its tusks were about half an inch long; the colour of the hair was a yellowish brown;

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the tail was nearly as long as the body, and was terminated by a tuft of hair, so that in this respect it resembled the tail of the lion. The whole length of the animal from head to foot was five feet; its colour was the common baboon colour, or a mixture of yellow and brown. It is probable, that this baboon is the *simia cynocephalus* of the *Systema Naturæ*; though the *cauda floccosa* of this animal is not taken notice of in the *differentia specifica*, as the tails of such monkeys as are kept in a state of confinement are usually cut short by their keepers. In the course of my journey I accidentally saw a young baboon or two with cropped tails, which were kept chained up, and were said to be natives of the Cape colonies; but they had not a dog's nose and large tusks like this, so that they probably formed a distinct species; neither had they such a dark colour as Mr. PENNANT describes in his *ursine baboon*, which he supposes came from the Cape. The skin of the monkey I had shot, had been too ill used by the dogs to be worth preserving; but curious to know, what this animal, in so many respects resembling the human race, fed upon in his wild state, I opened his stomach, and found it filled with a substance like spinach, cut small and stewed: this animal, in all probability, eats likewise certain bulbs and roots, like the *Bosbies-men*; though at that time at least, its diet did not appear to consist of a mixture of different substances, neither fruit nor berries of any sort being to be found in these parts, at least not in that quantity as to deserve to be ranked among the articles on which these animals subsisted. They were not in the least suspected of living upon animal food; besides, it is well known, that many sorts of mon-

kies, when in a state of confinement, are fed only with vegetables, and upon such food are brisk and lively; for which reason, as one can scarcely entertain so ill an opinion of M. DE BUFFON, considering him as a naturalist and author of a considerable number of large volumes on the subject of zoology, as to suppose him ignorant of the circumstance of most of the monkey tribe observing in general a vegetable diet, or of the great resemblance between the viscera of these creatures and those of man; for this reason I say, it is difficult to conceive, what could induce this celebrated author to assert, that animals which have only one stomach and short intestines, are obliged, like man, to feed upon flesh? *Les animaux qui n'ont qu'un estomac, et les intestins courts, sont forcés, comme l'homme, à se nourrir de chair.* (BUFFON, Tom. VII. p. 36.)

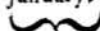
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In fact, must it not likewise inevitably follow from this position, that the rhinoceros and horse, which, in like manner, have one stomach, with intestines very short in proportion, should be obliged, like man, to live upon flesh? M. DE BUFFON, indeed, in order farther to enforce his opinion, advises us, l. c. to compare the bowels of animals with each other: but to say the truth, it is, very unfortunately for him, precisely this comparison, which when made between man, the ape, the rhinoceros, and the horse; or again, between the diminutive fructivorous ape, *saimiri*, Tom. XV. and those carnivorous animals the *couguas* and *lynx*, Tom. IX. or the wolf, Tom. VII. militates against him. We likewise find this learned author, who is himself, perhaps, fonder of animal than of vegetable food, at page 32. and the following pages of Tom. VII. urging in



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the strongest manner the indispensable necessity that mankind is under of taking animal food; and in one place he breaks out in this manner, "*Were man reduced to the necessity of living on bread and vegetables alone, he would scarcely be able to support life in a weak and languishing condition.*" From assertions like these one is almost induced to suspect, that this ample and voluminous historian of the animal kingdom, has acquired but a slight and superficial knowledge of the human race; and that, preferring eloquence and paradox to solid argument, he is at any time more likely to adopt falsehood and error, than to arrive at truth: for, allowing that the *Bramins*, who live without animal food, are rather, as M. DE BUFFON will have it, a particular sect than a peculiar race of people, still, however, they are men, who live and propagate their species, and are certainly by no means in a weakly and debilitated state. I have been told, that a great part of the poor in China subsist, and that tolerably well, upon rice alone. The lower class of inhabitants in the South-Sea, (the *Tataús*) and even those of the higher classes, used to beg meat of us, as it was a great rarity with them; and though many of these could very seldom get at any fish, and even that but in small quantities, they nevertheless throve very well on this chiefly vegetable diet, and were so stout and robust as, not to mention other proofs of their strength, for the sake of a glass bead or a nail, frequently to dispute with each other which of them should carry some of us carnivorous Europeans on their backs over places, which we could not have otherwise passed without being wet-shod. This office they performed so well, as never once to stumble in pretty rapid streams

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streams with rough gravelly bottoms, though at the same time the water reached up to their middles, and we sat astride upon their shoulders with our guns in our hands. The wretched island, called *Easter Island*, is a very convincing proof, that human nature can accustom itself to be content with very little nourishment; for though we walked quite across the island, and explored a considerable part of it, we could see no more than one little boat, which, by the by too, was very much patched up and cobbled; neither could we find timber enough to make another like it; so that I do not know what could induce Capt. Cook to affirm that they had three or four boats. Neither did we observe any kind of fishing-tackle in the least, nor any signs, that the inhabitants were used to get their food from the sea or its shore. They had, indeed, some cocks and hens, but as these were but small and very tame, and at the same time so far from being numerous, that we scarcely saw fifty of them in a place containing seven or eight hundred people, we may with great propriety assert, that there were many persons in this island who subsisted almost, if not quite, without animal food of any kind whatsoever. There were some roots there, it is true; but as these were not extremely plentiful, and are held in abhorrence in the other islands, I do not know, whether the reasons given by Capt. Cook are sufficient to induce one to suppose, that the inhabitants of this island used them as food; and in case they did, they would seldom be able to make a good meal of them. It is true, that these people were almost all of them lank and lean; but then it must be considered likewise, that there was also a very great scarcity of vegetables;

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tables; as the vegetable produce of the whole country hardly consisted of twenty plants, among which the pifang, yams, sweet potatoes, and the sugar cane, were the chief articles which it appeared to me they could make use of. On the other hand, these people were agile, and as swift as goats, and seemed to be very healthy. Their strength was not put to the trial; but that their vegetable food did not make them tardy in the performance of the Cyprian rites, an effect which M. DE BUFFON, at page 33, seems willing to attribute to it, the reader may be easily convinced by perusing Dr. FORSTER's description of the Messalina-like temperament of the women. One of these, who had swam to our ship, when it was at a great distance from the shore, was said, within the space of a few hours, to have suffered the embraces of seventeen of our sailors and marines, before she swam again to land.

By way of farther refuting M. DE BUFFON's assertion with respect to the indispensable necessity of an animal diet, that in the Society Islands the inhabitants had no great superfluity of meat for themselves, much less had they any fish or flesh to bestow on their dogs; so that these creatures, which, according to M. DE BUFFON, particularly came under the denomination of carnivorous animals, might very properly be said to be fed almost, if not entirely, on vegetable food alone. I had no reason, however, to look upon them as being feeble and weak; though, on the other hand, the roasted ones which now and then appeared at our table, as well as at those of the principal inhabitants, were convincing proofs of their being fat and in good condition. Moreover, since our hounds in Europe, which  
certainly

certainly belong more properly than man to the class of carnivorous animals, are often nourished for a long time together extremely well with nothing else but flour and water, why should not several sorts of vegetables suffice for mankind? The slaves and the Boshies-men at the Cape, who are engaged in the service of such farmers as do nothing but graze sheep, and consequently have little or no butter-milk, and at the same time live in parts where the game has been previously destroyed, are yet kept by their masters in good condition, almost entirely with bread and other preparations of meal and flour; for they are very careful not to lavish their sheep on their slaves, these sheep being very frequently the only articles by which they can get a little ready cash and pay their taxes. In THOMAS GAGE's voyage to New Spain we find, that the poor lived on *maiz* and a sort of *phaseolus*, or kidney-bean; though those which live nearer the town, now and then, at least on Sundays, got a little meat.

{ In ULLOA's Voyage, Tom. I. p. 248, 249, we read as follows: "The poor people here have nothing to live upon but *papas*; these roots stand them in the stead of all other nourishment. The Creoles prefer them to fowls and the finest flesh meats." Who is there that does not know, how great a part cacao beans make of the food of the inhabitants in the country where they grow; and how soon people of wasted and reduced constitutions, by means of them, recover their flesh and strength? Nay, we have an instance of a ship's crew, which for two months had nothing but chocolate for their food, and were very hearty and well with it.

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Now, notwithstanding that there are many families in Upper Egypt which live entirely upon dates, (vide HASSELIQUIST, p. 501) not to mention several other similar instances, yet I will not look upon them as absolutely conclusive with respect to M. DE BUFFON himself; as this author, at page 33, l. c. advances, that abstinence from animal food would destroy the human race; or, at least in our climate, would render it unfit for the propagation of its species, farther says, "It is possible, indeed, that a vegetable diet may be practicable in the southern countries, where the fruits are riper, the herbs have more substance in them, the roots are more succulent, and the seeds contain more nourishment." Setting aside this gentleman's *may be*, I rather choose, by instances brought from Europe and our own climate, fully to refute his delusive doctrines with respect to the absolute necessity of an animal diet. I cannot, however, help remarking, *en passant*, in contradiction to this author, that he has the less reason to consider a vegetable diet as making a man unfit for propagation, as the vegetable kingdom produces the greatest quantity of substances which promote venery. Besides a great many plants belonging to the class *gynandria*, together with several others which might be enumerated, we have chocolate and salep, which are known even by the more ignorant part of mankind to be possessed of *aphrodisiac* qualities: peas likewise, turnips, cabbage, and other flatulent vegetables, are looked upon as possessing these virtues in some degree, and that not without foundation nor unwarranted by experience. This *philosopher*, indeed, who is so much prejudiced against vegetable diet, might have learned even



even from the most illiterate, that certain vegetables exalted by fermentation, as in the case of good wine and ale, in proper doses, augment, in this particular, the inclination as well as the faculty. As to the greater degree of perfection ascribed by M. DE BUFFON to the plants of the southern countries, in comparison with those which grow in Europe, it is repugnant to all probability, as well as to what we know for certain of the œconomy of nature, which brings to as great perfection the root, stem, leaves, and seed of a plant she had intended for the Alps, as of one which she has planted under the line itself.

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One cannot in particular help wondering the more, that M. DE BUFFON should take it into his head, that the plants which grow in the southern climates, have more substance in them than those of France; as, according to the testimony of OLAFSON and several others, a bushel of the *lichen Islandicus*, or Iceland moss, a plant produced in the most northern part of Europe, is adequate to two bushels of wheat; and, as M. DE BUFFON likewise supposes, that the roots in the southern countries are more succulent than they are in the north, are we to take it for granted that he did not find the turnips in Burgundy sufficiently juicy?

But the fact is, that as far as a knowledge of physiology and botany, and above all mature reflection, joined with a habit of method and arrangement, are requisite in order to enable a man to form a right judgment concerning the food of animals, this great naturalist has in this place, as well as in many others, happened to enter upon a subject, of which he is entirely ignorant: of this we have sufficient proofs, in the detracting aspersions he has thrown

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out against LINNÆUS, and his system of botany, although this system has been received by all good naturalists. M. DE BUFFON, therefore, would have done better, had he kept to his usual admeasurements and prolix descriptions of animals, their skins, skeletons, and horns; taking care, however, for the future, to make his observations in a more accurate manner than he has done with respect to the horns of oxen; on the subject of which he has happened very unfortunately to make a capital blunder, as I shall be obliged to shew more at large a little farther on, when I come to treat of the *camelopardalis*.

In the mean while, let us finish the discussion of the question, in how far a man, at least in France or Europe, (*au moins dans ces pays*, vide BUFFON, l. c.) may be supposed to linger on through life in a weak and debilitated state, or to be incapacitated for the propagation of his species, by living on vegetable food, such as is likely to be found in these countries, e. g. potatoes, turnips, turnip-rooted cabbage, carrots, onions, asparagus, scorzonera, skirrets, the lathyrus tuberosus, fallads, and cabbages of all kinds, artichokes, peas, beans, bread, puddings, and all the other various preparations of meal or corn, chestnuts, almonds, apples, pears, and plums of all sorts, melons, pumpkins, cucumbers, olives, oil, figs, grapes, berries of all sorts, wine, beer, &c.

The very mention of these seems to be a sufficient proof of the absurdity of M. DE BUFFON's opinion; but as he possibly will not give up the point without good authority being produced to the contrary, I will first of all refer him to his justly celebrated countryman TOURNEFORT's excellent

Next observations in the Levant, viz. that the food of the inhabitants of certain districts in that part of the world consisted almost entirely of bread, figs, and grapes, with sometimes raw cucumbers. Farther, M. DE BUFFON might have learned from LINNÆUS's *Amœnitates Academicæ*, Tom. I. p. 137, that the *athletæ* of former times, whose principal occupation was wrestling and fighting, for which purpose a strengthening diet was doubtless requisite, lived chiefly upon figs before it was the practice to eat flesh. We are likewise told, l. c. that the poor, who were set to watch the fig-trees and vineyards, grew plump and fat in the space of two months by feeding on these fruits, joined to a very small quantity of bread; and that the foxes, which had an opportunity of creeping into places of this kind, usually got so fat upon this diet, as to be used by some people as food.

I have seen a great number of *Dalecarlians*, who wrought for a long time together at a hard and laborious business, subsist almost entirely upon hasty-pudding and beer, without even a morsel of bread; neither was this in the least considered by them as hard fare. I have also met with many poor cottagers in *Up-landia*, who for a long time together even wanted bread, particularly for their children, so that they were obliged to bring them up upon pancakes and frumenty made without milk.

Those who in the above-mentioned province or elsewhere have an opportunity of adding a little milk to their vegetable food, may nevertheless be considered as living nearly on a vegetable diet; as, according to M. GEOFFROY, the constituent parts of milk are almost entirely the same

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with those of vegetables. According to the accounts given me by the English, many of the poor people in Ireland live on potatoes only, with now and then a little milk; and a person who several years ago resided for a long time in Russia assured me, that the common people in some places there lived entirely upon four-crust and groats; and likewise upon four bread, raw cucumbers, onions, salt, *quas*, and *tradakna*, a dish consisting of oatmeal dried in the oven, and mixed up with water: so that out of thirty thousand peasants belonging to a certain nobleman who lived on the borders of Muscovy, there were very few who had the opportunity of tasting either flesh or fish four times a year. M. DE BUFFON may see, moreover, in HALLER, Tom. VI. Lib. XIX. a long list of such authors as have produced proofs and instances that mankind in Europe must necessarily be able, and actually are able to go without animal food: and indeed, why should it not be so, as the same glutinous matter which is so peculiarly nourishing in the animal creation, is likewise found in vegetables? especially as, to omit mentioning many other instances, it is well known, that the people who are condemned to work in the galleys, as well as many others, can make shift with a certain portion of bread and water only; and likewise, that the inhabitants of the Apennine Mountains live almost entirely upon chestnuts.

The utility of a diet consisting entirely of vegetables in the hypochondriasis, obstinate gout, and other stubborn and pertinacious disorders, has, moreover, of late been placed in a very clear light by Dr. W. GRANT, in his *Essay on the Atrabilious Constitution*, p. 399, and seq. in which instances

instances are given of its having not only greatly improved the patients' health, and given them fresh strength and vigour, but likewise made them younger than before. In the same book too we are informed, that this diet may be safely had recourse to by persons far advanced in years; and that it needs to be continued for the space of six weeks only, or two years at the farthest.

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The *camelopardalis* is, as I have said above at p. 149 of this volume, the tallest of all quadrupeds when measured in front; and though it is only found in those parts of the Cape colonies that lie farthest towards the north-west, merits, however, an accurate description, especially in this place, along with the other animals of Africa. The latest and best accounts concerning the real form and other properties of this beast have been given to the public by the present Commandant at the Cape, Major GORDON, who shot one of these creatures in the district of *Anamaquas*; in consequence of which, the public has been gratified with a very good drawing and description of it by M. ALLAMAND, in his edition of M. DE BUFFON's History of Animals, Suppl. DE LA GIRAFFE, p. 46. Of this description I shall here present my reader with an abstract.

The height of this animal, when it holds its neck strait and erect, is, from the crown of the head to the ground, fifteen feet two inches; the length of it, from the chest to the anus, five feet seven inches; from the top of the shoulders to the ground about ten feet; but from the loins only eight feet two inches; a difference which proceeds partly from the length of the shoulder-blades, which are two feet long, and partly from a sharp process of the first

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vertebra of the back, which projects above a foot beyond the rest. From the breast to the ground it measures five feet and a half; the neck, which is decorated with a mane like that of the zebra, is six feet long, and consequently twice the length of the camel's; the head is above two feet in length, and somewhat resembles the head of a sheep; the upper lip is rather larger and thicker than the under, but both of them are covered with stiff hairs; the eyes of this creature are large and beautiful; its fore teeth small, and eight in number, and are only to be found in the lower jaw, though the animal has six grinders on both sides of each jaw. Directly before the horns there is a knob, which proceeds from an elevation of part of the cranium, and projects two inches above the surface; and behind them, or in the crag of the neck, there are two smaller ones, which are formed by the subjacent glands; the horns are seven inches long, i. e. a little shorter than the ears; they rather incline backwards, and are a little broader and rounded off at the ends, where they are encircled with long hairs, which reach beyond the horny part, forming a tuft. In fine, the horns are covered, like those of other animals, with a cutaneous and hairy substance; but the interior substance of them is said to resemble the heart or boney part of the horns of gazels and oxen, and to be processes of the skull itself. On the horns of this beast, when aged, there have been observed small irregular elevations, which M. ALLAMAND supposes to be the shoots of future branches.

The colour of this beast is a white ground, with large reddish spots standing pretty close to each other; which spots,

spots, in the more aged animals, incline to a dark-brown or black, but in the others border upon the yellow. The tail is small and slender, and is terminated by a large tuft of very coarse and mostly black setaceous hairs; the fore parts of the hoofs are much higher than the back parts. This creature has no fetlocks, as all other hoofed animals have.

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This animal when it goes fast does not limp, as some have imagined, but sometimes paces, and sometimes gallops. Every time it lifts up its fore feet it throws its neck back, which on other occasions it holds erect; notwithstanding this, it is by no means slow when pursued, as M. DE BUFFON supposes it to be, but, on the contrary, it requires a fleet horse to hunt it.

In eating the grafs from off the ground, it sometimes bends one of its knees, as horses do; and in plucking leaves and small branches from high trees, it brings its fore feet about a foot and a half nearer than common to the hind feet. A camelopardalis which Major Gordon wounded in the leg, so that it could not raise itself from the ground, nevertheless did not shew the least signs of anger or resentment; but when its throat was cut, spurned against the ground with a force far beyond that of any other animal. The viscera resembled those of gazels, but this animal had no porus ceriferus. The flesh of the young ones is very good eating, but sometimes has a strong flavour of a certain shrub, which is supposed to be a species of *mimos*a. The Hottentots are particularly fond of the marrow, and chiefly for the sake of this hunt the beast, and kill.

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kill it with their poisoned arrows. Of the skin they make vessels, in which they keep water and other liquors.

M. DE BUFFON, who has very unadvisedly taken it into his head to declare war not only against LINNÆUS, but likewise against his disciples, has, in a prolix introduction to his Dissertation upon the camelopardalis, (*Giraffe*, Tom. XHI.) in a peculiar manner insulted the memory of Dr. HASSELQUIST, a man whose merit has shone conspicuous in several different sciences. *School-boy, pedant, blunderer*, &c. are the terms, as reproachful as unmerited, in which M. DE BUFFON speaks of a man, who at too early a period, alas! for the interests of science, yet crowned with the applauses of the literati of Europe, fell a victim to his zeal for natural history. I could sincerely have wished to have avoided this display of M. DE BUFFON's ungenerous conduct, that it might not reach to the knowledge of any others (besides those who are already acquainted with the fact) in how far, on occasion of the description of the above-mentioned animal, he has forgot the language of a gentleman; but my respect for truth in general, and a wish to throw a light on my present subject, the history of animals, forbid me to be silent on this head.

The respect likewise which I justly bear to M. HASSELQUIST, on account of his merit, and a full conviction of his innocence, call upon me to defend him; and that more particularly from the reproaches he has sustained for not having mentioned in his description of his camelopardalis, whether the horns of this animal fall off or not. If it be a fault in Dr. HASSELQUIST not to have mentioned what he could not possibly see, and not to have described,

described, like M. DE BUFFON, in the compleatest manner, what he could not possibly know, I must then confess myself faulty on the same grounds; as, though in fact I was allowed to draw up a description of the dried head of a camelopardalis at the Cape, yet I could not obtain permission to saw in pieces or dissect the horns, as they were promised by the governor to a particular friend of his in Europe. It is much to be wished, indeed, that M. DE BUFFON had followed Dr. HASSELQUIST's example in this respect, in which case his *Natural History* would have been much shorter, much more useful and authentic; and, what would have been still better, our oxen and cows would have kept their horns on their heads in the way in which nature has ordained they should, viz. without their falling off every third year, in conformity to the ignorant assertion of M. DE BUFFON, Tom. IV. p. 459, and of the edition revised by Mr. ALLAMAND, p. 176. He there says, "Ainsi la castration ni le sexe ne changent rien à la crue & à la chute des dents : cela ne change rien non plus à la chute des cornes, car elles tombent également à trois ans au taureau, au bœuf & à la vache, & elles sont remplacées par d'autres cornes qui, comme les secondes dents, ne tombent plus; celles du bœuf & de la vache deviennent seulement plus grosses & plus longues que celles du taureau. L'accroissement de ces secondes cornes ne se fait pas d'une manière uniforme, & par un développement égal; la première année, c'est à dire, la quatrième année de l'âge de bœuf, il lui pousse deux petites cornes pointues, nettes, unies, & terminées vers la tête par une espèce de bourrelet, l'année suivante ce bourrelet s'éloigne de la tête, poussé par

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un cylindre de corne qui se forme, & qui se termine auffi par un autre bourrelet & ainfi de fuite, car tant que l'animal vit les cornes croiffent." For the fake of fuch perfons as have not had an opportunity of being better acquainted with M. DE BUFFON and his works, I will juft take occafion to obferve, that this is the celebrated man, who, after a minute investigation of every concomitant circumftance (in confequence of which he has likewise favoured us with a particular description of the whole procefs) thought himfelf authorifed to advance, that a comet, having ftruck againft the fun in its courfe, beat feveral pieces out of it, of which the planets were formed, and has befides calculated the precise time which each of thefe celeftial bodies refpectively took to cool. But quite enough has been faid of a blunder, which the moft illiterate cottager is able to rectify, in cafe it fhould happen to miflead any raw fchool-boy, totally unacquainted with natural hiftory. But as we are upon the fubject of horns at prefent, I cannot help requesting M. DE BUFFON to inform me, how the finalleft elk's horns, Tom. XII. Tab. XLVI. could grow from the fize which, at page 326, under the article *maxames*, they are faid to be of, (viz. not quite fix inches long;) how thefe, I fay, could grow fo quickly, at page 357, 358, in the article *coudou*, to the length of two feet? if, indeed, the nice admeafurements of M. DAUBENTON, page 377, 378, MCXCIX. M. C. C. are in every refpect to be depended upon. Neither can I better comprehend, why Meffrs. DE BUFFON and DAUBENTON make ufe of the fame horns for two quite different animals; by doing which, they have induced two other zoologifts, certainly in other re-  
fpects

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spects the greatest and most accurate in Europe, in like manner to refer to horns of one and the same species, for two different animals; though this, indeed, is not so much to be wondered at, these gentlemen being too complaisant to harbour such a degree of mistrust with respect to the *Histoire Naturelle*, as, in fact, was in this case necessary; neither could they easily suspect so palpable a mistake in this great work of Messrs. DE BUFFON and DAUBENTON, concerning which, however, I fear, that many people will pass the same judgment, as M. DE BUFFON has done on SEBA's *thesaurus*. But I must write a treatise consisting of many volumes, were I to continue to dissect M. DE BUFFON's work; I shall therefore content myself at present with making, as briefly as possible, a few remarks on the *camelopardalis* and the *viverra ichneumon*, (the *giraffe* and *mangoust* of BUFFON,) on account of the descriptions of which M. HASSELQUIST has been so ill used.

M. DE BUFFON has not been able to point out, much less to demonstrate, any blunder committed by HASSELQUIST; but why does he then blame this learned and highly deserving *academician*? It is, indeed, astonishing, that he should consider HASSELQUIST's descriptions as prolix, when, in fact, the same animals are treated of in one and the same Tome of M. DE BUFFON's own writings; one of them in at least twice, and the other twelve times as diffuse a manner; notwithstanding which, this same volume is still farther swelled out with admeasurements of the *vagina* and *urethra* of the rat. Is it possible here to refrain from enquiring, what is the use of all this? since the animal alluded to has nothing extraordinary in the proportion of this part,



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and stands in no need of any assistance with respect to its copulation, and never has any occasion either for the *catheter* to be applied, or to be cut for the stone. The very cat itself, an animal which every old woman has it in her power to measure and examine in her chimney corner, has likewise been obliged to undergo the most minute and tedious admeasurements in the *Histoire Naturelle*, though at the same time, on account of the beautiful engravings, which, more than any thing else, threw a light on this work, the learned world, according to M. DE BUFFON's own confession, l. c. page 9, might have been very well spared these trifles.

M. HASSELQUIST's Latin, which M. DE BUFFON says is no Latin at all, is nevertheless perfectly good, and exactly such as is required for the purposes of science, concise, expressive, and easily comprehended by any one who has studied the language, and may even be understood by any school-boy that has made the least progress in this department of learning. It is not HASSELQUIST's fault, that his description as it is quoted by M. DE BUFFON, l. c. page 7 and 8, from negligence, ignorance, or malice, has been so badly copied from the original edition, so that e. g. from it may be concluded, that the animal's teeth and tongue are round, and are placed on its head together with its horns, &c. How was it possible for this circumstance to escape the critical eyes of the great BUFFON, supposing indeed that he understands Latin; and, as he expresses it at page 15, l. c. is capable of seizing the genuine knowledge of nature by means of *la vue immediate de l'esprit & coup d'oeil du genie*?

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In short, I am sorry that Dr. HASSELQUIST's description should appear dry to M. DE BUFFON; but I cannot help thinking, that if it had been stuffed and seasoned with unjust and ill-natured criticisms, with conjectures and mistakes, even though it had been composed in the French language, and in the most tumid and high-flown style, most lovers of truth and natural knowledge would have found it in the highest degree disgusting. The reader needs only compare Major GORDON's description with that of Messrs. DE BUFFON and DAUBENTON, in order to be convinced of the insignificance and futility of all their tedious deductions and calculations.

Had M. DE BUFFON taken the pains to understand, and made use of HASSELQUIST's Latin description, instead of quoting it, merely for the purpose of criticising it right or wrong, he would have known, that the head belonging to the skin described by M. HASSELQUIST, was four spans, or at least two feet long; and consequently, that the descriptions of OPPIAN, HELIODORUS, and STRABO, are by no means adapted, as M. DE BUFFON affirms they are, to give a tolerably just idea of the *camelopardalis*, or *giraffe*; for, according to these, a *giraffe*, of the size of a camel, has a head not above twice as large as that of an ostrich: a creature which would certainly make a figure in Prince P\*\*\*\*'s collection of monsters. (Vide BRYDONE'S Tour, Vol. I. page 93.) We are, however, too well acquainted with, and have too great an esteem for, the extensive genius and learning of the Count DE BUFFON, in the least to suspect him to be of the same taste; although, besides the circumstance above alluded to concerning the head,

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head, he terms the *camelopardalis* at one and the same time the handsomest, and, with respect to its legs, the most enormously disproportionate animal in the whole creation; though other people are apt to consider that only as beautiful which is proportionable. M. DE BUFFON might likewise have learnt from Dr. HASSELQUIST's accurate description of this quadruped, that neither the head nor legs are so disproportionate, as he imagines them to be. In fine, Major GORDON did not find this animal so tottering, slothful, and unwieldy, as it has pleased M. DE BUFFON, without any authority, but that of his own prolific imagination, to represent it in the description he has given of it.

With regard to the *viverra ichneumon*, or the *mangouss*, I shall only say, that at the Cape I had an opportunity of comparing M. HASSELQUIST's description of it with the creature itself, and found it remarkably accurate. This same gentleman having observed in a note, that the French, when in Egypt, are accustomed to bestow French names on the natural objects of which they have no knowledge, and consequently have in all probability given the name of *rat de pharaon* to this animal; M. DE BUFFON considers this remark as an attack upon the French nation. But if M. DE BUFFON means by this, to excite his countrymen against Dr. HASSELQUIST, he must pardon me when I tell him, that I am too well acquainted with the generosity and discernment of the French nation in general, to suppose that his desires would be gratified. For my part, I can have no inducement on the score of any national predilection to take Dr. HASSELQUIST's part against M. DE BUFFON, as all those who are occupied in enlightening themselves and mankind

by the promotion of science, are, as being fellow-labourers, to be considered likewise as brethren and fellows of a community, in which it is necessary for each to assist the other in promoting the object of their common pursuit; in a word, they are countrymen and fellow-citizens of the commonwealth of literature. After all, whether there is any foundation for this observation of Dr. HASSELQUIST or no, in neither case can it in the least affect the reputation of the French merchants who are used to visit Egypt, whether they are said to give French or Latin names to the subjects they see, or whether they take the pains to learn the Arabic, Turkish, or Coptic names of them; still less could it have been M. HASSELQUIST's intention by any remarks of his, to cast a reflection upon a whole nation.

To conclude, if M. DE BUFFON had read and taken the pains to understand M. HASSELQUIST's book, with any other view than that of criticising LINNÆUS and his disciples, he might have easily found by it, that HASSELQUIST's manuscripts were seized in Egypt after his death, being afterwards redeemed by the munificence of a great queen, and through the conspicuous love and zeal for science of the same exalted personage, were ordered to be printed in the manner mentioned in the preface; and that consequently, the author himself could not put the last hand to his work; in which case, indeed, he possibly, either from memory or from his notes, which were lost by his untimely death, might have added the description of the interior part of the *giraffe's* horn, which M. DE BUFFON seems to have so very much at heart. Perhaps, likewise, M. HASSELQUIST, in order to please M. DE BUFFON, would have somewhat curtailed

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tailed his description of the *mangouft*; though, as I have said before, it is much shorter than it is in the *Histoire Naturelle*.

I have doubtless said sufficient at present, to convince a man of M. DE BUFFON's great genius, that even he, with his superior talents, is capable of committing blunders, and at the same time has in particular done great wrong to *academicians* of the highest merit: and that if, on the contrary, he should rather shew that he is touched with compassion for their sufferings, and is at the same time happy on every occasion to vindicate their reputation when attacked, he would give manifest proofs of that magnanimity and candor which, in a great man, ought always to go hand in hand with his talents, and which would most assuredly add to the esteem which every lover of literature entertains for them.

Of the *tiger-bosch-kat* I have made mention above, and had an intention of describing it in this place, (together with the rest of the African animals) from the skin of this creature which I brought home with me; but find that it has since been so accurately described and delineated from the live subject by Dr. FORSTER in the *Philosoph. Transact.* Vol. LXXI. for the year 1781, that I can refer the reader to it with the greatest pleasure.

On the 21st of January, as I have mentioned above at page 169, we took our departure from *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*. In the afternoon we arrived at Great *Visch-rivier*, where we again resolved to try our luck in the pursuit of *sea-cows*; for I was determined not to depart out of the country, before I had made as accurate an investigation of this

this large, though not unknown animal, as I had of the *Two-horned rhinoceros*. On our arrival at a certain spot upon *Visch-rivier*, we found several farmers from the province we had just left, who had arrived there before us. In their company, likewise, came to this place a husbandman, or, as they are usually called here, a *corn-boor*, from the country near Cape Town. When we first saw him he was sleeping under a shady tree, by the side of a perfect beauty, who was clad in a light summer dress: no wonder then, that so uncommon and romantic a scene appearing on a sudden in a desert, should immediately chase away all those images of desolation and wild horror, which the savage and dreary aspect of these plains had begun once more to excite in mine and my friend's imagination: and I would not answer for him, that he would not soon have forgot all his botany, had he suffered himself any longer to be carried away, by the first delightful and charming impressions made on him by the contemplation of so perfect a production in the chief of the three kingdoms of nature. On our entering into conversation with them, our voluptuous corn-boor and his beautiful spouse informed us, that they had just been to pay a visit to their relations at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, where having experienced for the space of six months the sweets of the ease and convenience attending a pastoral life, when compared with the drudgery of that of the husbandman and wine-dresser, they had given up all thoughts of their former business, so that they intended to sell their vineyard and corn-farm near the Cape, and to look out for some spot in these parts, proper to carry on the grazing business. Our conversation on this subject was now in-

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interrupted by the arrival of another farmer and a little boy of their party, who informed us, that some wild beast, probably a tiger, had just before come upon one of the hounds by stealth, and torn it to pieces, while it was drinking out of the river, on the very spot where our informer told us he had just been laying down for an afternoon's nap, having risen from it only half a minute before. They, as well as we, had only heard the dog give one single squeak; after which it was found quite dead. So that in all probability the wild beast had, previously to this, lain in wait for the little boy, in order (as they said) pursuant to its usual custom, to kill him in a sly insidious manner, and then, after a short interval, to return and carry him off.

In the mean while, this incident put us all instantly into an alarm, and occasioned us to take to our arms in order to revenge ourselves. Accordingly, several couple of hounds were put upon the scent in a thicket close by the river side, where the wild beast still lay concealed, while we posted ourselves round about. The hounds, which followed the scent with great eagerness, soon drove the tiger out, and that only forty or fifty paces from our best shot, a little old farmer, who shot him flying, as it were, while he was springing from the ground. The ball was found afterwards to have entered at the upper edge of the *anus*, and to have made its way through the whole length of the body, till at last it came out at the animal's mouth; as a great part of the palate was missing, and the remainder of it, close by the fore teeth, was bloody, without these latter, however, being damaged in the least. I do not know whether this can be explained from

from any particular position of the animal, or rather from the circumstance of the ball, in consequence of the resistance it met with, having gone out of the right line. On the body of this wild beast we found a little *bippobosca*, totally unknown to naturalists, which they told me was usually met with on the carcasses of tigers. They likewise informed me, that a peculiar sort of fly, much larger than this, in all probability likewise of the *bippobosca* kind, subsisted on the body of the lion.

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The animals which I and the colonists in this part of Africa call tigers, are of that kind which are represented in Tab. XI. XII. and XIV. Tom. IX. of M. DE BUFFON'S work, under the denomination of *panthers* and *leopards*. At the Cape I have likewise seen several skins of the *ounoe* of M. DE BUFFON, which, by some of the colonists, was distinguished from the former by the name of *leopard*, and was said to live chiefly in the mountains, and to be less common, bold and daring, though more treacherous and deceitful, than the animal usually called tiger at the Cape, or the *panther* of M. DE BUFFON: to which, however, it is equal in point of size, though the skin is not so beautiful, nor so much coveted, as it is more shaggy, and covered with longer hairs, neither is it so much spotted nor so glossy.

Both these sorts, when they happen to come in the way of six or eight hounds of the common sort, which, in fact, are used by the colonists for this purpose, are easily caught, or else torn in pieces by them. I saw at one farmer's only at *Gantze-craal*, about fourteen or fifteen furs of tigers, as they are called, which were said to have been taken and

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~~~~~ killed within the space of three years, by the common dogs belonging to the farm; now and then, however, a dog of two had lost their lives in the conflict, or else had been very much wounded.


I was told, that a slave who looked after his master's cattle, had been attacked unawares and by stealth on the plains between *Tiger-mountain* and the *Cape*, by a tiger, with which he had long struggled and rolled about upon the ground: at length, however, the tiger was overpowered by the slave, who, notwithstanding the dangerous wounds he had received, recovered. This, though bordering on the marvellous, is not absolutely incredible; for when revenge, or the dread of instant death, is added to a man's natural strength and vigour, he is almost capable of performing supernatural things. I recollect, moreover, to have read, in JONSTON'S *Thaumatrographia Naturalis*, that a man of the name of POLYDAMAS, was able, unarmed, to kill a lion. The tiger, however, that we shot at this place, seemed to me to be rather dangerous to grapple with. It was thought to be old and about the usual size. I cannot find in my note-book, whether I had taken any notes of the measure; but I think I remember that the beast was two feet high, but much longer in proportion than a dog of the same height.

Very early in the afternoon, the hunting party above-mentioned went away, and about an hour before dark there arrived a hord of *Caffres*. They had got within three hundred paces of us, before we discovered them, being to the number of about one hundred, all men, and each of them armed with a few *hassagais*, or a couple of *kirries*. They marched,

marched, moreover, directly on towards our waggon, not with the careless gait of ordinary travellers, but with measured steps, as it were; and, in short, with an almost affected pride and stateliness in their deportment, as they approached nearer to us. Upon the whole, we could not well have received a visit on this spot more unexpected, nor of a more alarming nature; indeed, it occasioned a visible consternation in several of my Hottentots, at the same time that it puzzled my friend and me, to think in what manner we should receive this nation so on a sudden, so as to avoid sharing the unhappy fate which, as I have already mentioned before, at page 154 of this volume, attended HEUPPENAER and his suit. In case of an attack, my Hottentots were too few in number, and too cowardly to be depended upon; such of them as were of the Boshies-man's race, and had come with us from *Zondags-rivier*, would probably have assisted in plundering our waggon, had they found a convenient opportunity; and who knows, whether they were not in secret intelligence with the Boshies-men, who were at this time in the service of the Caffres, and belonged to their party. They had long pressed me to leave *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*. At least I had hints given me afterwards, that this visit of the Caffres was not accidental, but was paid me in consequence of some intelligence given them by certain Hottentots at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*. However, I had not then time to go into such deep speculations on the subject, being entirely occupied by the apprehension, lest the party under my command, by the smallest appearance of cowardice or a disposition to mutiny, should call forth the usual enterprising spirit of the Caffres. I was very sensible that my friend

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friend and I, mounted on our horses, would have been a match for them, in like manner as the two men were who revenged HEUPPENAER'S death; but in this case, we had not a moment to lose, much less had we any spare time to fetch our horses from pasture. I therefore resolved instantly to carry matters with as high a hand as it was possible for me to assume in the situation we were in, especially as I knew from experience, that by this means the Indians might sometimes be kept in awe just like children. Accordingly, I began with my own *Hottentots*, threatening with the most terrible Dutch oaths my memory furnished me with, to shoot the first man through the head, who should stir a foot without leave, or once open his mouth to the Caffres; or, in fine, should not, at the smallest nod, perform what I might think fit to command. My companion, on his part, taking a handful of bullets, put them into a loaded gun of an uncommon length which he had brought with him; in the mean time frequently addressing himself to me, and making it out to be a very easy matter (and of the feasibility of which there could be no doubt) to kill with it the whole body of Caffres at a single shot, in case they should offer to behave in a hostile manner; and at the same time, in order to give some probability to this gasconade, did not omit to practise a few manœuvres in the true *legendemain* style. While Mr. IMMELMAN was thus with his long gun, beyond all doubt, making a tremendous figure in the eyes of the Caffres, and I was likewise armed with my gun, and the fiercest mien I could possibly muster up, they came towards us wedged up, as it were, into a close body, with three leaders in their



their front. A Hottentot interpreter in one of the wings, seemed just going to open with a long harangue; when I put a sudden stop to his sublime oratory, by accosting him with a few rough compliments in the Swedish language, and turning my back upon him.

This haughty and uncivil reception, which would only have served to irritate any other than Hottentots and Caffres, on the contrary, from the very beginning, abased their pride, so that they stood like a parcel of orderly, or rather intimidated, school-boys, and waited for my questioning them; upon which we, in quality of the principal sons of the company, ordered our interpreter to ask them what nation they were of? Whence they came? and whither they were going? For the purpose of making this examination, I called out JAN SKEPER, the most alert and intelligent of all my Hottentots, and had the satisfaction to see him fly to me like a flash of lightning; a proof of his obedience, which, indeed, was at this time very agreeable to me; as it was requisite in order to excite in the Caffres a high opinion of our authority and power: but the still higher ideas, and even dread which he had conceived of this nation, put his whole body into a tremor, so that even his teeth chattered in such a manner, that he could not utter a word. This unlooked for cowardly behaviour, threatened to spoil my whole plan; for which reason, both from indignation, and in order to disguise the reason of his trembling, I threatened him very hard, and accosted him in the roughest manner. I am not certain, however, whether the Caffres were not more sharp-sighted than I wished them to be;



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however that be, some of them fixed their eyes upon him and laughed.

Whenever the interpreter of the Caffres offered, which he did several times, to enter into a private conversation with my Hottentot, I constantly took care to prevent it. In fine, the account they gave of themselves was, "that they were Caffres from *Konaps-rivier*, and were come hither merely with a view of meeting with us, and to see whether we had brought with us a great deal of iron and copper to exchange for their cattle; for they knew from report, that we were come from a great distance, and had long resided in these plains."

In the mean while, this proposition of theirs with respect to the traffic and cattle, appeared to me extremely suspicious, inasmuch as I could not at that time perceive that they had brought any live stock along with them; and those which their herdsmen and boys brought to this place afterwards, consisted merely in a few milch cows and young steers, upon which they set an amazing high price, and in all probability, intended them for their own support during their march.

In order to prevent their sitting down without being previously asked, I told them without delay by means of the interpreters, that they had my leave to sit down, whilst I gave my answer on the subject of their proposed commerce. Accordingly they sat themselves down in the same order as they came, viz. the three Chiefs in front of the rest. I asked, nevertheless, how many of them were captains or commanders: and the three foremost being mentioned

tioned by name as such, I gave each of them a good piece of tobacco; telling them, at the same time, that this was the way the company's sons chose to receive their friends the *Caffre* captains; but that we had already exchanged our iron and copper in these very plains with some other *Caffre* friends; that, however, I imagined that they had not taken their journey in vain, in case they called at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, where they would get enough of these commodities from the farmers settled there.

When they saw that, in order to get tobacco, nothing more was necessary than to be a captain, they presented to me several others of the party, as being likewise *Ku-r'kois*, or captains, and asked for tobacco for them; but the scheme not succeeding, they themselves laughed heartily at the captains of their own creation. Neither did they shew the least inclination to distribute to these pretended chiefs, any part of the presents that had been made them. However, in order to keep the real chiefs in good humour, I likewise gave them afterwards a handful of dry hemp, which they accepted as a valuable present; and mixing it with some tobacco, smoked it with a high relish, while we were talking together. The pipes out of which they smoked, were circulated merely among the chiefs, had stems above four feet long, from 3-4ths of which the pith had been taken out, but by what means I am entirely ignorant. Where this hollow part of the pipe seemed to terminate, a bowl three inches long but very narrow, appeared to be fixed at the bottom of the stem, being kept firm and steady with a band or collar, in the same way as the stays of a mast are in a ship. From the small bore and size of this bowl, one

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may venture to conclude, that these Caffres were but indifferent smokers compared to the Hottentots.

When they heard that we intended to hunt the *sea-cow*, and that these animals were rather uncommon as well as shy in these parts, they told us, that about *Konap-river*, these creatures were seen to come up out of the river in the very middle of the day, and both to sleep and graze in the fields there; where, in fact, for the sake of defending themselves from the attacks of their enemies, they were collected in as great numbers as the pebble-stones I actually saw scattered by the side of *Vifch-rivier*, on the spot on which we then stood. Though this comparison was, it must be owned, in the true Oriental style, yet it is probable that these animals were really to be found in great numbers about the river above-mentioned; and that they were far from being shy, but grazed and slept on land in open day, as the Caffres informed us; for, in consequence of the uncultivated state in which they were, and particularly as they had not the use of fire-arms, these people must necessarily be obliged to give way to animals of such strength and magnitude.

When it grew dark, the Caffres stood up, and without any kind of order, or taking leave, went towards a large bush, at the distance of a musket-shot from us, where they made a great fire, near which they took up their repose for the night. Shortly after we heard a hideous roaring near that spot, and we conjectured that it proceeded from some beast they were killing. Accordingly Mr. IMMELMAN and I hastened thither, to see it, and found the beast, which had been felled to the ground, lying on

its right side, with its left fore leg bound over its head; neither was any other binding or fastening necessary, as the animal lay tolerably still, though not yet dead; while five or six people stood by, and made several incisions with their haffagais into its stomach, which they afterwards took out through an opening they made for that purpose in the chest. I do not know whether this way of slaughtering beasts is practised by any other nation; it certainly appeared to be a very cruel one, though while this business was dispatching, a good deal of mirth and laughter seemed to pass between those who had the management of it. The whole of this operation, however, did not take up a long time, the animal's pain terminating with its life in about two minutes after the first incision had been made. Immediately after this they set about flaying the beast piece-meal, with the assistance of their haffagais, and cutting the hide into slices of different forms and sizes. These were likewise intended to be eaten, as I afterwards learned from one of my Hottentots, who the next day got a broiled piece of it, in exchange for a little tobacco; and assured me, that when an ox or cow's hide was well dressed, viz. first boiled in water and then in milk, it is by no means a contemptible dish.

While we were standing to see the beast slaughtered, we took notice that all the spears and haffagais, exclusive of those that were used in killing the animal, were piled up together in the middle just before one of the chiefs, who was now observed to be very busy in issuing out his orders; these orders being obeyed without delay by those who looked after the fire. Indeed, they did not seem to pay the

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least regard to our being present : however, as it was grown very dark, we thought it most adviseable not to make a long stay. We had scarcely got home, before their interpreter came along with two Caffres to borrow our porridge pot. This message our Hottentots interpreted to us in a sorrowful tone, adding, that the Caffres usually kept what they borrowed, else we must have a (*rusje*) or dispute with them. As our porridge pot was absolutely a treasure to us, and was particularly useful to our Hottentots, for the purpose of boiling and melting their fat, &c. and the Caffres probably could not have withstood the temptation of keeping it, I thought it was as well to have a *rusje* with them at first as at last. I endeavoured to pacify them however, by a civil answer ; and sent them word, that if the company's sons had two porridge pots, they would certainly lend one of them to their friends the Caffres ; but that we were then hungry, and were going to dress our victuals that very night : to which I added, that some skill was requisite in order to dress victuals in our pot, so that they might not be spoiled ; for which reason, I would myself take care to have their meat dressed for them the next morning, as soon as ever they should send it to my Hottentots. It is true, they suffered themselves to be put off with this compliment ; but we could not tell for all that, whether they might not take it in their heads to send a shower of darts in the night, before we were aware of it, through the tilt of our waggon, in the same manner as happened to HEUPPENAER, whose story I have related at page 154 of this volume ; on which account we fortified that part of our waggon with our saddles, and the skins of  
beasts,



beasts, and defended ourselves on the sides with bundles of paper, clothes, and pieces of dried rhinoceros's hides. Two guns, with their muzzles pointed in a proper position, were placed at each end of the waggon, so that we could directly, on the first rupture, discharge four pieces; moreover, in order to increase the alarm and terror of the enemy, we were then, as well as at the first arrival of the Caffres on the preceding day, prepared to throw, if necessary, powder-horns and large cartouches into the fire, which was about eight or nine paces distant from us: we were likewise on this occasion to have filled our pockets without delay with loose gunpowder, in order to keep up from our fire-arms, a brisker, though less effectual fire, and a continual report, with a view to frighten the enemy at a distance. We considered our horses and oxen too, which, according to our constant custom, were tied to the waggon all around it, as a kind of intrenchment, having particular reason to expect, from the shyness of our horses, previous notice of any attack; so that upon the whole we slept tolerably secure: and though, even after such ample preparations for our defence, we thought ourselves happy to escape being attacked by the enemy, yet still we could not help wishing that we had been able to gratify our friends with an account of an assault on the part of the Caffres.

I cannot help thinking, however, that the instances we have of the deceitful dispositions of the barbarians in general, and of the sudden transitions which are sometimes made by them from a state of peace and tranquillity to that of rapine and slaughter, are sufficient to justify all our suspicions, and the precautions we took with respect to them;

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them; and I am inclined to consider the being massacred by these fellows, as one species of the sudden death, against which we are taught to pray in the Litany. I have lately been informed by a letter from Mr. IMMELMAN, dated from the Cape, 25th of March, 1781, that the *Caffres* at that time were laying waste every thing they could meet with in the districts belonging to the Christians: among others PRINTSLO, my old worthy host, and the first I had at *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, had had the mortification to see his new house burnt to the ground by these barbarians, after having lost his numerous herds of cattle, out of all which he had been able to save no more than six oxen. A woman, of the name of KOETSJE, had with great difficulty escaped the pursuit of these barbarians, having been obliged to leave one of her children behind her, which had been pierced through the body with seven *hassagais*. The loss of the Christians in the article of cattle, is said to amount to twenty-one thousand; while, on the other hand, they could not meet with the third part of that number of cattle belonging to the *Caffres*, who, Mr. IMMELMAN tells me, were led on by the Captains MOSAN and KOBAN. I cannot say whether it was either of these that paid us a visit, as I forgot to take down their names, and therefore cannot remember them so as to be certain of them. Just after midnight it rained, with thunder and lightning.

The next morning (being the 22d) at ten o'clock, the whole party of *Caffres* went away without taking leave, after having, under pretence of selling a milch cow, tried to get a sight of all the iron and copper which they supposed I had brought with me: however, that I might not lead

lead them into temptation, I shewed them nothing but plants and insects, which I told them were the only commodities I had of any moderate value; these, however, I supposed they would hardly take in exchange for their cow, which we otherwise, on account of the store we set by the milk, would have been glad to have bargained with them for.


After this they bent their course towards *Agter Bruntjes-boogte*, and were met on the road by three farmers, viz. JACOB POTGIETER, with his son FLIP, and his son-in-law FRANS LABESKANJE, who were coming with three Hottentots, according to agreement, to strengthen our party, and to enable us the better to block up and shoot the sea-cows.

As the colonists are strictly prohibited from carrying on any kind of commerce with the Hottentots and Caffres, and as besides these peasants, not without reason, suspected the Caffre's designs, apprehending at the same time, that they would at least strike a terror by their arrival, in those whom they left at home behind them, they at first endeavoured to dissuade them in a friendly manner from going to the town; and afterwards had recourse to threats, which succeeded better; assuring them, that in case they would not go their way peaceably, they would make a great havock among them with their fire-arms; which, in fact, as they were on horseback, they might do without danger, by successively dispatching them in small parties, in the same manner as I mentioned at page 143 and 154 of this volume, and of which the Caffres were not ignorant.

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As to the external appearance of these *Caffres*, I found them not so tall in general as the *Gonaquas Hottentots*, and the *Caffres* I saw with that people; neither were they nearly so much adorned with copper and beads: they were, however, full as robust and manly.

While I was waiting for the arrival of the three farmers, and there was no particular natural subject about this spot that required peculiar attention, I set about digging in the earth after antiquities. I had before this, during my first residence near *Groote Visch-rivier*, observed heaps of stones larger than those few I had seen near *Krakeel-rivier*, and composed of stones equal to them in bulk. They were from three to four and four feet and a half high, and the bases of them measured six, eight, and ten feet in diameter. They likewise lay ten, twenty, fifty, two hundred paces, and even farther asunder, but constantly between two particular points of the compass, and consequently in right lines, and those always running parallel to each other.

I likewise found these heaps of stones in a considerable number, and knew from the account I had on this subject from the colonists, that they extended in this manner several days journey from this spot, in a northern direction, through uncultivated plains, into the *Sneeſe Vlakten*, as they are called, where they are said to be met with in a still greater number of parallel lines. These monuments are therefore considered as irrefragable proofs, that this tract of country was formerly inhabited by a race of people, who were more powerful and numerous than either the *Hottentots* or *Caffres*, whose sepulchral rites, as well

well as other customs, and above all their inconceivable sloth and idleness, are too well known for them to be suspected of such large, and, to all appearance, useless undertakings.

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In the mean while, in order to discover the intention of these heaps of stones being collected together, many conjectures were formed with various degrees of probability: thus much, however, is certain, that they could not have been collected together by any other than slaves. But whether this was done by a people bending beneath the yoke of superstition, or else under that of monarchy or of an oligarchy, I shall not pretend to determine. In the first case it is probable, that they conceived themselves bound to make offerings like these, of useless toil and trouble, to their tyrannical gods; or in the latter case, were compelled to pay this tribute to the pride and vanity of some tyrant, who even after death, for the sake of immortalizing and procuring vain and imaginary honours for his dust, contrived in this manner to waste the strength, and exhaust the forces of his surviving subjects. Under the influence of which soever of these causes the stones have been accumulated, they are certainly the relicks of some early period, in which, whether smarting under the scourge of superstition or that of a tyrant, some populous nation has dwindled away to a few scattered herdsmen, or else has been degraded to the present race of Caffres, Hottentots, Boshies-men, and savages.

In some few heaps of stones, I observed that the foundations only had been laid, or perhaps the stones had been carried off, till the remainder was level with the surface of

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the earth. As these seemed most convenient for the purpose of exploring the ground, Mr. IMMELMAN and I rode nearly three miles to one of them, which was in the vicinity of *Koks-craal*, in order, as I said before, to search after antiquities, or any relicks whatever of antient times, concerning which I was in hopes of getting information.

A bar of iron, two feet long, which we had taken with us in order to dig up bulbs and roots with it in the course of our journey, was the only instrument we had fit for our purpose; and we had not an opportunity of taking any more hands with us by way of assisting us, than the youngest of our *Bohies-men*, a stout, willing, and alert young fellow. We met, however, with impediments not to be overcome, in large stones piled up close together, so that with our united strength we could not get more than two feet deep into the centre of the heap, and that not without great labour and trouble; and at last found nothing more than some rotten bits of trees, and something that appeared to be a piece of a bone quite mouldered away. The Hottentot who before this, induced by the tobacco which we promised him, had assisted us, though not without sneering us a good deal, and ridiculing us in his own language, which we did not understand, at last fairly burst out a laughing, and began likewise, with an air of great indignation, and moralizing on the matter, to turn his back upon the work. To this may be added, that this district was very much noted for harbouring lions; and that our horses, which we had turned out upon the pastures, with their heads and legs tied together, had strayed away, and were missing a long time before

before we could find them again among the bushes on this dangerous spot.

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In the dusk we got home to our waggon, and were not a little pleased with the punctuality of the three farmers before spoken of, who were now come, agreeably to their promise, to assist us in hunting the sea-cow: though at the same time I was, and am still exceedingly vexed at having missed the opportunity of exploring, in a proper manner, and with a sufficient degree of accuracy, the heaps of stones occurring in these parts; an investigation which would probably throw much light on the nature of mankind in general, and more particularly on its pristine condition in this part of the world. There was a vague report propagated here, that a farmer had found on a spot near the district of Camdebo, some antient stone ruins. This story I shall make no comment upon; yet, together with the heaps of stones so often mentioned, it forms a subject worthy of a particular and close investigation: and this could not be done by any one better than Major GORDON, who, being a member of the regency at the Cape, and a man of great genius and an inquisitive turn of mind, would certainly have as great a claim to the gratitude of the public by his successful labours on this subject, as he has already by clearing up the remarkable history of the *camelopardalis*.

*Jacob Koks-craal*, which I have mentioned before, and put down in my map, is a place which is in general passable with waggons; and from the situation of the mountains near it, and other circumstances, is said to be the key, as it were, to the northern part of Africa. It is reported



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to have obtained the name it now bears from the circumstance of JACOB KOK, my friend at *Zeekoe-rivier*, who, with several others, had intended to make a long journey a great way up the country, having been detained for several months by an unusual flooding of the water; which indeed was so great, that the force of the stream even prevented them in their attempts to cross it on a float of wood. On this, as well as on the preceding night, we had thunder and rain.

On the next morning, being the 23d, we set off from hence, in order to go to another part of the river. This day I for the first time perceived that my lazy Boshies-men run faster and hold it out longer, than I should otherwise ever have supposed. The farmers, who had lately joined our party, and who were better apprised of this circumstance than we, as well as of what was to be expected from these gentry, obliged some of them to carry our arms, and at the same time follow as fast as we rode; our pace in general being an ordinary trot, which we now and then changed to a gallop, for several hours together, over different kinds of ground. Once or twice, indeed, we made a little stop; but twice at other times, having taken our arms from them and carried them ourselves, we went the faster, by which means we soon got somewhat a-head of them, but did not wait long before they came up to us. In short, I found then, as well as afterwards, that even the oldest of these fellows would run about twenty miles in the space of three or four hours, without appearing to be extremely fatigued by it. The farmers moreover assured me, that they knew of Boshies-men, who could hold out  
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in this manner all day long ; and had, by this means, ran down, and with their own hands destroyed, many elks or hart-beests, especially when these creatures had been previously wounded. Indeed, most of the people belonging to this nation are obliged, for their support, to acquire this swiftness of foot ; to which, besides their manner of life, and their education from their infancy, cannot but dispose them.

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Towards evening, after having lost our way several times, we came by a number of by-roads to a pit in the river, which our new guides, the farmers, knew used to be frequented by sea-cows. For this reason, all the different ways, by which these animals might come up from the river, were beset by us separately, our hunting-party consisting in the whole of seven persons ; viz. five of us Christians, together with my Hottentot and another belonging to the farmers. Besides this, the rest of the Hottentots were ordered to go to the windward and to the more open places, and by smacking their whips and making other noises, to frighten and drive the animal towards us, as soon as it should make its appearance : in consequence of which measures it appeared to us, that, when at length obliged to go on shore in quest of its food, it must necessarily come to the hiding-place of some one of the hunters. Every one of these places were just at the edge of the river, between the reeds which grew on the dry parts of the river, or on those spots which the water had left, and at the same time close to the very narrow paths which the animal had made for itself at each place : in consequence of which disposition, it would inevitably pass not above six inches, or a foot at most, from the mouth of the sportsman's piece. Consequently our whole dependence

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was upon two circumstances, viz. that our guns should not miss fire, and that the shot should not fail to prove mortal. In the former case, the sportsman must have inevitably paid for his temerity with his life; though in the latter he had reason to hope, from instances of what had happened to others, that the fire, together with the report from the piece, as well as the ball itself, would confuse the animal, so as to prevent it from immediately making towards its enemy.

The banks of the pit, which we then beset, were in most places steep and perpendicular, and the pit itself was almost three quarters of a mile long: but my post, and that of my fellow-traveller, happened to be at the distance of not above thirty or forty paces from each other. To these very places too, after we had waited at them an hour and a half, in the most profound silence, the enormous animals did not fail to resort. They had already, while on the other side of the river, got scent of the Hottentots, and now shewed by their swimming up and down and blowing themselves, as well as by a short but acute and piercing grunt, or neighing noise, that they had a great suspicion of these passes. I believe Mr. IMMELMAN was not less eager and anxious than myself, each of us expecting every moment to have a bout with a huge enormous beast, which we knew had given certain proofs of its being able to bite a man asunder. Yet were we each of us at times no less fearful, lest the other should have the honour of killing game of such consequence. The *bippopotamus*, however, left us, and had made its appearance in the same manner, where the farmers were stationed; notwithstanding which,

at that very instant we heard it shot at by one of the Hottentots.

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The fable darkness of the night, and the glittering of the Hottentot's piece, together with the loudness of the report from it, occasioned by the weight of the charge, and the vibrations of the echo prolonging the sound along the neighbouring chain of mountains, all conspired to compose a most awful and superb spectacle, which was still heightened by the expectation of seeing an animal fall superior in bulk to the elephant. This sublime spectacle was immediately followed by a ridiculous kind of farce performed by a troop of baboons, which, from their calling and answering each other along a strait line, we could discover to be encamped on a steep rocky mountain in the neighbourhood, with regular out-posts in the trees on each side of it. After an interval of a couple of minutes, silence again took place till two o'clock, when the other Hottentot fired his piece, and another alarm, though of shorter duration, went through the baboons out-posts and head-quarters.

The next morning, for the arrival of which we ardently longed, in order to satisfy our curiosity, our Hottentot sportsmen related to us the following particulars concerning the adventures of the night. Involved in darkness, covered up to the eyes in reeds, and overshadowed with branches of trees, they could only get a glimpse of the animal, and consequently could not answer for their shots having taken place: and one of them acknowledged, that he was a little confused, as he could not well see what he was about; and for the same reason fired his piece too soon, before the animal had well risen out of the water;

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water; the other, indeed, had had an opportunity, both with the ball and shot that made up the charge, of wounding the animal, which went on its road and passed directly by him; but he could not see which part of the animal presented itself before the muzzle of his piece. As soon as he had fired, he flunk away, and directly afterwards heard the beast take to the water. The rest of the Hottentots had observed one of these animals, probably a different one from this, run up on a shallow along the river side, and thus make its escape, without their having been able to prevent it. After this we staid here till the afternoon, in hopes that the wounded animals would die and rise to the top of the water, but we staid in vain; and to as little purpose would it probably have been, had we waited still longer, as there grew by the side of the river a great number of trees, to the roots of which these creatures, it is said, in the agonies of death, make themselves fast, by means of their long and crooked tusks. On the other hand, supposing these two sea-cows to be but slightly wounded, they would be cautious how they made their appearance; and, indeed, in all probability, it would have been a dangerous service to the sportsmen who should have ventured to have followed them any farther. Besides, the water had now, in the space of a few hours, risen considerably, and had overflowed many spots fit for lying in ambush; for which reason we departed to another hippopotamus-pit, less than this. Here too we laid, by way of snare, a large blunderbuss, which the farmers had brought with them for that purpose; the Hottentots occupied one post, Mr. IMMELMAN and LABESCANJE guarded another;

another; the oldest of the farmers, POTGIETER, with his son FLIP, stationed themselves at the third, and placed me in the middle of them. Just in this part, the banks of the river were of a considerable height, and the river itself was dried up, near an extensive shallow, where it was spread out into a little plain covered with pebble-stones and gravel. We three then set ourselves down close by the side of each other, in a path made by the sea-cows, making ourselves pretty certain, as the place was flat, and consequently it was light here, of being able, if any hippopotamus should chance to come upon the shallow and look about it, to see it plain enough to kill it, with a volley of three shot. But, to the great endangering of our lives, we, on a sudden, found the animal much quicker in its motions, as well as bolder than we had thought it: for while I was sitting half asleep and moralizing on the subject, struck with the consideration, that we, with our guns, had at that present moment the dominion over Job's *Leviathan* or *Behemoth*, while on the other hand, the flies, or small musquitos, had the dominion over us, (so much, indeed, that I was obliged to wrap my face up in a handkerchief,) a sea-cow came rushing upon us out of the river, with a hideous cry, as swift as an arrow out of a bow; at the same time, I heard the farmer call out, "*Heer Jesus!*" but fortunately at the very instant he discharged his piece, which flashing full in the animal's face, contributed, perhaps, more than the ball, to make it start back; when setting up another cry, it threw itself into the water again with as great precipitation as it came out.

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