

menacing tone, others whose co-operation was doubtful, to assemble in arms without delay. Their first movement was to station themselves near the ford of the Sunday River, just at the entrance of the village; and to send from thence to the Landrost a threatening message, that, unless he would comply with all the demands they were about to make, they should, in the first place seize upon his person, and either hang him before his own door, or deliver him over to some of the boors against whom he had, on a former occasion, been the instrument of obtaining a decree of outlawry, and who were now living with the Kaffers. The Landrost, by means of a few dragoons who luckily happened at this time to be stationed at the drosdy, for the purpose of forwarding dispatches through the country, was not only enabled to hold this undisciplined rabble, though ten times the number of his forces, at defiance, but also secretly to convey to the government at the Cape speedy intelligence of the rebellious conduct of the farmers of his district.

Lord Macartney had been authorized by his Majesty's instructions to grant a free pardon for their misdemeanors, and to remit the arrears of ground-rent due to the Treasury, amounting to two hundred thousand rix-dollars. These gracious indulgencies, that appeared to make some impression for the moment, were however soon forgotten, and it now became obvious that nothing short of a military force could keep them in any sort of order. And as, at this time, the Cape was perfectly secure from any attack of a foreign enemy, General Dundas thought it expedient to direct that a detachment, composed of a squadron of dragoons, a few com-

panies of infantry, and the greater part of the Hottentot corps, should march into the district under the command of Brigadier General Vandeleur. The rebellious boors, now collected in very considerable numbers, had stationed themselves between the drosy and Algoa Bay, where they had formed a kind of camp, and, to a certain degree, according to the new term which their Cape friends had taught them to adopt, had *organized* their forces.

But as the courage of these people displays itself only on particular occasions, such as in acting against defenceless Hottentots, the moment they heard that troops were advancing, they thought proper to disperse, leaving, in the hands of a neutral person, a most humble petition, in which they acknowledged their error, and supplicated forgiveness. To this address the General very properly returned a verbal answer, stating, that he could hold no communication with rebels, until they had voluntarily surrendered themselves to his discretion, and laid their arms at his feet ; that, for this purpose, he should name a certain place and day ; and that all such as should not appear at the time and place appointed, would be considered in the light of rebels and traitors to his Majesty's government, and would be pursued accordingly.

On the day fixed, the majority of the rebels obeyed the summons ; and never surely was exhibited such a motley group of armed cavalry so whimsically equipped. The greater part were such uncouth beings, so very

“ ————Huge of bulk,

“ Wallowing unyieldy, enormous in their gait,”

that it was morally impossible for the by-standers to observe the gravity of countenance which the occasion required ; and the awkward manner in which they dismounted, with the difficulty that some of them experienced on account of the protuberance of their bellies, in grounding their arms, were sufficient to throw the most serious off their guard. The General selected nine of the ringleaders, and sent them under an escort on board of his Majesty's ship the Rattlesnake, then at anchor in Algoa Bay ; on the rest he levied a certain fine towards defraying the expences of the expedition, which their absurd and rebellious conduct had occasioned.

Before this termination of disturbances, which, if suffered to extend to the other districts of the colony, might have been attended with more serious consequences, General Dundas accepted my offer to proceed through the district of Zwellendam, for the purpose of cutting off any communication with Graaff Reynet, and particularly with a view of preventing any supplies of gunpowder from reaching the rebels ; at the same time to send up to the Cape certain persons, who had shewn themselves active in promoting discontent in Zwellendam, and who were known to be disaffected, not only to the British government, but to every other that laid them under the restraint of laws. This journey, the extent of which was intended to be confined to the borders of the Camtoos river, dividing the two districts of Graaff Reynet and Zwellendam, was prolonged, by unforeseen circumstances, into the country inhabited by the **Kaffers** : and it thus afforded the principal part of the remarks and observations which are contained in the present chapter.

On the 8th of March 1799, I joined Lieutenant (now Captain) Smyth, of the corps of engineers and Aid-du-Camp of General Dundas, with a serjeant's party of dragoons at the foot of Hottentot Holland's Kloof, which is the only pass leading to the eastern parts of the colony, over the high chain of mountains that terminates the Cape isthmus ; which chain, at a few miles to the southward of the Kloof, forms the eastern boundary of the extensive bay *Falco*.

The first river we had occasion to cross, beyond the mountains, is called by the Dutch the Palmiet, the name they give to a strong boggy plant that grows abundantly in this and some other rivers of the colony, probably from its resemblance to some of the palm tribe. If I mistake not, it is a species of *Acorus*. For eight months in the year this river scarcely contains a drop of water, but is mostly impassable the other four ; which is also the case with the Bott river about ten miles beyond the Palmiet. Both of these periodical streams are unsafe in the winter season, and fatal accidents have happened to persons attempting to cross them when full. Among these may be mentioned that of Mr. Patrick, assistant-surgeon to the 8th Light Dragoons, whose horse being unable to stem the stream, was carried down the river, and the rider perished.

The country affords tolerably good pasturage, and will yield one moderate crop of grain in the season without manure. It is thinly inhabited, consisting principally of grazing farms which belong to persons who hold estates upon the Cape side of the mountains. The first house that occurred in our route was near ten miles beyond the kloof, which, by losing our way

in the dark across the wide heath, we did not reach before midnight.

The 9th of March was the hottest and most oppressive day I ever experienced in Southern Africa. I had no thermometer with me, but I afterwards learnt that, during the whole day nearly, the temperature in Cape Town was 104° of Fahrenheit's scale. In the whole of this day's march, of about twenty miles, we were not able to procure a drop of water for the horses, except once just after starting, nor even any shade from the scorching rays of the sun; for trees in this part of the country are as rare as Doctor Johnson found them to be, of as great an age as himself, in Scotland. The horse on which I was mounted was so much overcome by the heat, that it literally dropped down under me, and was unable to carry me any farther.

Wearied and exhausted we reached, at length, the hovel of a shoemaker, near which we found a few puddles of muddy water, stagnating in the clayey bed of a rivulet, but it was so much impregnated with earth and salts that the horses, thirsty as they were, would scarcely touch it. At this place we contrived to pass the night, but we experienced a most uncomfortable lodging. Unluckily for us it happened to be Sunday, and, the shoemaker being known to all his neighbours, living within the circuit of twenty miles, and particularly to his *nearest* neighbours of three or four miles, to be a jolly good fellow, who always kept a glass of wine, and a strong *sopie* to regale his friends, the house was crowded with people. There were but two apartments, one of which was filled with the

company ; the other we occupied. This, it seemed, was made to answer the four-fold purpose of bed-chamber, work-shop, cellar, and storehouse. The heat of the weather, the closeness of the room, which had only one small aperture to admit the light, added to the mingled odours arising from stinking leather, bunches of onions, butchers' meat swarming with flies, fumes of tobacco, dregs of wine and gin and Cape brandy, standing in pools on the clayed floor ; in a word, such "a congregation of foul and pestilential vapours," was sufficient to nauseate stomachs much less squeamish than ours. Nor was the sense of feeling less annoyed by an innumerable quantity of bugs, fleas, and musquitoes. Perhaps, indeed, it might be considered as an advantage in having two or three senses tormented at once ; as the pain affecting one might, in a certain degree, be deadened by the acuteness of feeling in another. How often, in the course of this night, did I bless my good fortune, in having used my waggon for my lodging house in all my former long journeys through this miserable country ; inhabited by a still more miserable race of mortals ! How many sleepless nights, and nauseous scenes, have I not avoided by adopting such a plan !

To add to our present uncomfortable situation, the guests were perpetually interrupting us in their application to the wine cask, or the brandy bottle. Our patience, at length, being quite exhausted, we resolved to barricade the door. This, however, failed of success. The votaries of Bacchus were not so easily to be disappointed of their weekly libations. After several fruitless attempts to force the door, they thought of trying the window ; but this small pigeon-hole, being much

too narrow in its dimensions to admit the huge carcase of an African boor, obliged them to have recourse to the expedient of sending in a thin Hottentot girl ; but, on account of the peculiar shape of the women of this nation, the lower part of the body refused to follow where the head had passed, and she stuck fast in the window. This produced a prodigious burst of boisterous mirth ; the girl, however, after a great deal of squeezing and pushing, effected the purpose, and procured for the tumultuous boors a supply of their favorite liquors. To prevent a return, we barred in the window, and having thus completely made ourselves masters of the cellar, the boors, after several volleys of imprecations, accompanied with thundering assaults, sometimes at the door, and then at the window, thought fit about midnight to leave the house, in search of another jovial neighbour at the distance, perhaps, of eight or ten miles. This scene would have afforded an excellent subject for the pencil of Ostade, who, if we may form a conclusion from his pictures, must have been witness to many of the same kind.

The noise of the Bacchanalians was accompanied by a storm of thunder ; and the rain, that fell in the course of the night, had rendered the air the next morning cool and refreshing. It was the first shower that had fallen in this part of the country for near four months, and the effects of it on the ground were very sensibly perceived in the course of four days.

At this season of the year, when the earth is thoroughly heated, the rapidity with which vegetation bursts forth, after

rain, is almost incredible. Among the earliest of such plants, as by the brilliancy of their flowers captivate the sight, are the various species of the *oxalis*, the yellow star-flower, and the three-colored *Lachenalia*, with two or three other species of the same genus. But one of the most singular among the small plants, that blossom in the beginning of winter, is the *septas*, whose name is derived from the regular septenary division of all the different parts of fructification, and is remarkable for being the only plant, yet discovered, in the seventh class and seventh order of the Linnæan System.

The refreshing coolness, occasioned by the rain, permitted us to extend our march to the river *Zonder End*, or Endless River, near the banks of which the Dutch East India Company had reserved, for its own use, an extensive tract of land called the *Sweet Milk's Valley*. It is bounded on the north side by a range of hills that were once well covered with forest trees, but these have long been cut down, few of any magnitude now remaining, except in the deep chasms where they are scarcely accessible. The country, on each side of the river, is extremely pleasant, and tolerably well inhabited, in comparison at least with other parts; the dwellings being seldom removed from one another beyond the regulated distance of three miles. A few of the small kind of antelopes still remain, as *reeboks*, *springboks*, *griesboks*, and *duykers*, and plenty of hares and partridges; but the large *bonteboks* are almost totally destroyed, or driven to some other part of the settlement. I observed, on a former journey, that in the neighbourhood of this river was once to be found the *Leucophæa* or blue antelope; but that, for many years past, it had been lost to the

colony. I understood, however, that a few months before we evacuated the Cape, a small herd of this beautiful animal had again made its appearance among the wooded hills behind Sweet Milk's Valley, where, instead of suffering them to remain unmolested, at least for some time, that their numbers might increase, the farmers were lying in wait for their destruction.

Close to this river is the establishment of the HERNHÜTERS or Moravian missionaries, which I had occasion to notice on a former journey. These worthy men, by the protection afforded them under the British government, and by its liberality, through General Dundas, in enabling them to enlarge their territory, had considerably extended their society of Hottentots; whom they not only instructed in the principles of the Christian religion, but by example, as well as precept, taught to feel, that their value in society was proportioned to the benefits they were able to render to the community by useful labor and the example of good conduct.

These men have clearly shewn to the world, by the effects of this institution, that there is not among savages, in general, that invincible aversion to labor which some have been inclined to suppose. Those, indeed, whose daily subsistence depends on the chase, may contract a disposition to rambling and to a frequent change of place, but the precarious supply of food obtained by hunting is not the reward of sluggish indolence, but of toil, of lassitude, and anxiety. The fewer the wants that man has to gratify, the less inclination will he feel to exert his corporeal powers. In a mere savage state, if these

wants could be supplied without any effort, the predominant pleasures of life would consist in eating and sleeping. The propensity to inaction can only be overcome by giving the laborer an interest in the product of his labor; by making him feel the weight and value of property. The colonists of the Cape pursued no such plan with regard to their conduct towards the Hottentots. Having first held out the irresistible charm that spirituous liquors and tobacco are found to possess among all people in a rude state of society, they took the advantage of exchanging those pernicious poisons for the only means the natives enjoyed of subsisting themselves and their families; and, however extraordinary it may appear, instead of instructing and encouraging a race of men, of willing and intelligent minds, to renew the means of subsistence, of which they had deprived them, they imported, at a vast expence, a number of Malay slaves, not more expert, and much less to be depended on, than the Hottentots; to whom, indeed, they even preferred the stupid negroes of Mosambique and Madagascar.

Whether it happened from real ignorance of the character of these natives, or from strong prejudices imbibed against them, or from an adherence to a narrow policy, I cannot pretend to determine; but, from the inquiries I have made, it does not appear they have at any period experienced a treatment equally favorable to that of the meanest slaves. Not many years ago it was thought expedient, for some purpose or other, to assemble a considerable number in or near the town, but the business for which they were collected, dwindling into a job for the emolument of the persons who

had the management of it; and as the Hottentots were neither paid, clothed, nor fed, they exhibited a scene of filth, misery, and wretchedness; they became a nuisance to the town, and were in consequence disbanded.

The colonists were ready to predict a similar fate to the attempt of Sir James Craig; of forming them into a corps; but their predictions ended in their disappointment. "Never," observes Sir James, "were people more contented or more grateful for the treatment they now receive. We have upwards of three hundred who have been with us nine months. It is, therefore, with the opportunity of knowing them well, that I venture to pronounce them an intelligent race of men. All who bear arms exercise well, and understand immediately, and perfectly, whatever they are taught to perform. Many of them speak English tolerably well. We were told that so great was their propensity to drunkenness, we should never be able to reduce them to order or discipline, and that the habit of roving was so rooted in their disposition, we must expect the whole corps would desert, the moment they had received their clothing. With respect to the first, I do not find they are more given to the vice of drinking than our own people; and, as to their pretended propensity to roving, that charge is fully confuted by the circumstance of only one man having left us since I first adopted the measure of assembling them, and he was urged to this step from having accidentally lost his firelock."—"Of all the qualities," he further observes, "that can be ascribed to a Hottentot, it will little be expected I should expatiate upon their cleanliness; and yet

“ it is certain that, at this moment, our Hottentot parade
“ would not suffer in a comparison with that of some of our
“ regular regiments. Their clothing may, perhaps, have suf-
“ fered more than it ought to have done, in the time since
“ it was issued to them, from their ignorance of the means of
“ preserving it; but those articles, which are capable of
“ being kept clean by washing, together with their arms and
“ accoutrements, which they have been taught to keep
“ bright, are always in good order. They are now, likewise,
“ cleanly in their persons; the practice of smearing them-
“ selves with grease being entirely left off. I have fre-
“ quently observed them washing themselves in a rivulet,
“ where they could have in view no other object but clean-
“ liness.” It will be no less satisfactory to the reader, than
it is gratifying to myself, in thus having an opportunity of
adding, in support of my former description of the moral
character of this people, the opinion of such high and respect-
able authority.

None felt more sincere regret and uneasiness at that article
in the treaty of peace, which ceded the Cape to its former
owners, than these worthy missionaries. From the malignant
spirit of the boors, they had every thing to apprehend. The
friends of humanity, however, will rejoice to learn, that this
asylum for an innocent and oppressed race of men continues
to receive the countenance and protection of the present
government; the two leading members of which appear to be
actuated by views and sentiments very different from those
of the majority of the people, over which they are appointed
to rule. It is obvious, indeed, to every man of common un-

derstanding, that an institution so encouraged cannot fail to prove of infinite advantage to a colony where useful labor is so much wanted. If any example were capable of rousing the sluggish settlers, that of six hundred people being subsisted on the same space of ground, which every individual family among them occupies, for they had nothing more till very lately than a common loan farm of three miles in diameter, would be sufficient to stimulate them to habits of industry.

Other missionaries, but of different societies, have lately proceeded to very distant parts of the colony, and some even much beyond it, both among the Kaffers to the eastward, and the Bosjesman Hottentots to the northward. The latter they represent as a docile and tractable people, of innocent manners, and grateful to their benefactors beyond expression ; but the Kaffers, they say, are a volatile race, extremely good humoured, but turn into ridicule all their attempts to convert them to Christianity. Mr. Kicherer, a regular bred minister of the reformed church, and a gentleman of mild and persuasive manners, proceeded, alone and totally unprotected, into the midst of the Bosjesman hordes on the skirts of the Orange River. He considered, that a solitary being without arms, or any visible means of doing injury to his fellow mortals, would be received without suspicion, and might enter into the society of the most savage hordes without danger. The event proved his conjectures to be right. He lived in the midst of a tribe, the most needy and wretched that he could discover, for many years ; shared with them every inconvenience ; and suffered a total privation of all the com-

forts, and very frequently even of the necessities, of life ; with a weak constitution, he braved the vicissitudes of an unsteady climate in scanty clothing, in temporary huts and hovels that were neither proof against wind nor water, and oftentimes in the open air ; on deserts wild and naked as those of Arabia ; he learned their language ; instructed them in the benevolent doctrines of Christianity ; and endeavoured, with enthusiastic zeal, to assuage their miserable lot in this life, by assuring them that there was " Another and a better " world : " in a word, he became so much attached to this most indigent and deplorable race of human beings, who possess nothing they can call their own, but live from day to day on the precarious spoils of the chase, and commonly on the spontaneous products of a barren soil, that it was not without difficulty, and great distress to his feelings, he mustered resolution to tear himself from his little flock : lingering under a disease that threatened to terminate in a consumption, he could not be prevailed upon to desert them, when urged by his friends to accept of a vacant living of one of the colonial churches, which was offered to him by the government.

When one reflects for a moment on the toils and hardships, the dangers and the difficulties, that these religious enthusiasts voluntarily undergo, without any prospect of reward, or even reputation, in this world, it is impossible to withhold admiration at a conduct so seemingly disinterested, and whose motives appear to be under an influence so different from that by which most human actions are governed. Whatever degree of merit may be due to this class of missionaries, the

practical philosopher will, unquestionably, give the preference to the plan of the Moravians, which unites with precepts of religion and morality a spirit of useful labor; and whose grand aim is to make their disciples comfortable in this world, as a token or earnest of that happiness which they are taught to expect in the world to come. But after all the toil and anxiety which the worthy character above mentioned cheerfully underwent in the cause of suffering humanity, what must his feelings be, if he still be living, and happens to peruse the following letter, to find that his only reward is that of being considered by the vile people of the Cape as the abettor of murder, and that he has been with others the innocent cause of fifteen of his inoffensive disciples being inhumanly butchered in cold blood by those remorseless colonists who dare to call themselves by the sacred name of Christians. This letter, which just reached me as the present work was going to press, will serve to shew, among other facts I shall have occasion to state, of what deliberate and blood-thirsty ruffians the peasantry of the Cape are composed.

It states that, “ on the 6th of December 1802, about the
“ evening, three Bosjesmans came to the house of the Burger
“ Cornelis Jansen; having with them three pack-oxen (*draag-*
“ *ossen*); the said Jansen immediately reported it to the com-
“ mandant (*Veld-Cornet*), who instantly sent an armed party
“ (*commando*) to his house. On the following day, being the
“ 7th, there came twelve more to them, having three guns
“ and three pack-oxen; all the rest were well armed with
“ bows, arrows, and hassagays. The commandant Berger
“ went himself to Jansen’s in the morning to ask the reason

“ of their coming there, when he discovered that eight of
 “ them were *Koranas* and seven *Bosjesmans*. Being asked
 “ by the party what they came to do, they said that they
 “ were come to beg a little *dacha* (*hemp*) and tobacco. The
 “ commandant had the same answer, but *he understood the*
 “ *way to question them so closely, that he brought them to open*
 “ *confession* (by horrid tortures no doubt), that they came to
 “ examine how their farms (*plaatzen*) were to be attacked;
 “ and also to see if there was water enough to come with a
 “ *great troop*. Being asked who had sent them, they an-
 “ swered *Trüter* and the English missionary *Kicherer*, in order
 “ to spy the places, and return to the *kraal* where *Kicherer*
 “ and *Trüter* would wait their return, to furnish them with
 “ musquets, powder, and ball. On being asked how they
 “ were to execute it? they answered, by attacking the farm-
 “ houses by two and two at the same time, so that they
 “ could not assist one another. ALL THE FIFTEEN WE
 “ HAVE SHOT DEAD (*doodgeschooten*), HAVING FIRST EX-
 “ TORTED THIS CONFESSION FROM THEM. The hat which
 “ *Trüter* gave to the captain we have got; it is a black one
 “ with a silver band, and a cane with a brass head, on which
 “ is engraved “Captain *Kauwinnoub*.” Mark now with
 “ what murderous intentions is this *Trüter* inspired against
 “ us! To have us all massacred in our houses!”

The account of this transaction is thus given by Baron
 Van P——, the private secretary to Governor Jansens.

“ A Hottentot captain, of the name of *Kouwinnoub*, bear-
 “ ing the distinguishing mark of his rank (a stick, on the

“ brass head of which were engraven the arms of his Ma-
“ jesty), and furnished, moreover, with a passport signed by
“ one of the members of Government, went, accompanied
“ by fifteen Hottentots, to procure a few leaves of tobacco
“ in the plains of Sneeuwberg. The boors, recollecting, per-
“ haps, that three years ago these faithful soldiers had served
“ the Government by keeping them in order, thought it a
“ favorable opportunity to revenge themselves on these un-
“ happy creatures. Led on by a *Veld cornet*, of the name of
“ *Burgers*, they seized the whole company, who suspected no
“ ill; and, notwithstanding all the proofs in their favor, it
“ was agreed that they were criminals, and that they must
“ be treated accordingly. The *Boorish Court of Justice* re-
“ solved, therefore, to bind them to a tree, and to draw from
“ them by torture a confession of crimes, of which a thought
“ had never entered into their heads; to reiterated blows
“ and inhuman tortures they held out promises of forgive-
“ ness, if they would confess all that was required of them;
“ and by these means they forced from them the unfortunate
“ declaration that they came with an intention to plunder
“ the neighbourhood. The only concern of *the Court* was to
“ write down a confession, which the application of the tor-
“ ture and the hope of being set at liberty had wrung from
“ these innocent victims. The boors put their names to this
“ declaration, as an attestation of the truth, and made an
“ end of the business by voting for their death. The sen-
“ tence was instantly put in execution, and the poor Hot-
“ tentots were shot.—A whole half year has passed away
“ since this event, and justice hitherto has not interfered, I
“ should not dare to say wherefore.”

As this chapter is meant to exemplify the character of the Dutch boors of the Cape settlement, I shall extract another instance of their savage brutality, recorded in a pamphlet, written by the above-mentioned gentleman, which, if possible, equals, if not exceeds, in its atrocity, any thing of the kind which history has handed down. “ Des que les Anglois
 “ avoient quittés le fort, un colon nommée Ferreira, de fa-
 “ mille Portugaise, s’en rendit le maître, et en prit possession
 “ pour lors, ce qui durá jusqu’au l’arrivée du detachement
 “ que le Gouvernement y a envoyé sous les ordres du Major
 “ Von Gilten, et qui y commande en ce moment. Les
 “ Caffres, croiant que la derniere paix avoit finie tout démêlé
 “ entre eux, envoyèrent une bête à tuer au nouveau command-
 “ ant du fort, comme une marque d’amitié et de reconcilia-
 “ tion ; le Caffre le fit conduire par un Hottentot ; et Ferreira
 “ par reconnoissance se saisit du Caffre, *le brula tout vif ;*
 “ attacha le pauvre Hottentot à un arbre, *lui coupa un mor-
 “ ceau de la chair de sa cuisse, le lui fit manger tout crue,* et le
 “ relacha ensuite.”

“ As soon as the English had abandoned the fort (at Algoa
 “ Bay) a boor named Ferreira, of a Portuguese family, made
 “ himself master of it, and kept possession till the arrival of a
 “ detachment of troops which Government sent thither, un-
 “ der the command of Major Von Gilten, who is still there.
 “ The Kaffers, fully persuaded that the late peace had put
 “ an end to all disturbances between them, sent to the new
 “ commander of the fort a bullock to be slain, as the test
 “ of reconciliation and friendship. The Kaffer sent on the
 “ occasion put himself under the guide of a Hottentot ; and

“ Ferreira, by way of returning the kind intention, laid hold
“ of the Kaffer and *broiled him alive*; bound the poor Hot-
“ tentot to a tree, *cut a piece of flesh out of his thigh, made*
“ *him eat it raw*, and then released him !”

The first day's march beyond the Sweet Milk's Valley was across a tame flat country, the road winding along the right bank of the Endless River; a name whose fallacy was detected by crossing it the next day, just where it forms a confluence with, and of course ends in, the Broad River. The latter, in the winter months, is a vast volume of water sufficient to float a ship of the line, but, in summer, not more than ankle deep. The distance from this river to Zwelldendam, the seat of the Landrost and capital of the district so called, is only about nine miles, over a country that is capable of an extensive cultivation, but which is suffered to remain almost entirely an unproductive desert.

As we knew this to be the only village that would occur in the course of our long journey, we thought it prudent to halt a day, in order to refresh the horses, to have their shoes removed or renewed, and the saddles repaired; after which we continued our march, for three easy days, to a tolerably good farm-house called the *Hagel Kraal*, situated at the foot of the *Attaquas Kloof*. The country we had passed was little calculated to excite any degree of interest: the dwellings, as usual, were thinly scattered; the land under no regular system of tillage, exhibiting a barren waste, without a single tree, or even a shrub, that by its size or beauty would arrest the attention of the traveller; yet the soil of the greater part

of the country appeared to be superior to most of the corn-lands in the vicinity of the Cape. Here too a scarcity is observable of the most ordinary game of the country, such as small antelopes, hares, partridges, and the several species of bustards.

From this place it was our intention to cross the first chain of mountains which runs parallel, or nearly so, with the sea-coast. Previous, however, to this undertaking, it was found necessary, in conformity to the instructions I had received, to take into custody, and to send up to the Cape, a certain boor who was known to have held communication with the rebels of Graaff Reynet; and strongly suspected of having assisted them with gunpowder. By escorting this person to the Landrost of the district, two fine young men of the 8th Light Dragoons unfortunately lost their lives. On their return towards the drossy a violent thunder-storm arose, during which the rain descended in such torrents as to fill, to the brim, a small rivulet that we had passed the day before without observing a single drop of water in its channel. The Hottentot, who led the foremost pair of oxen in the team, finding himself unable to withstand the rapidity of the current, let go the rope and effected his escape as well as he could. The oxen, being thus left without a guide, turned their heads in the direction of the stream. The waggon was upset; two of the young men, who unfortunately could not swim, were seen no more; and Captain Smyth, with the rest, had a very narrow escape.

We crossed the mountains, over the Attaquas Pass, on the 18th of March, and entered the *Lange Kloof* or Long Valley. Here we met with, at almost every farm, an excellent vineyard of the Muscatel and Persian grape, both at this time fully ripe; we observed also extensive plantations of tobacco, and a variety of fruit trees. The oranges were large and remarkably good. Notwithstanding the great plenty, and the good quality of the grapes, the inhabitants made little wine, and that little was execrably bad. The distance, indeed, from a market, and the badness of the roads, hold out little encouragement to the farmer, either for extending the quantity or improving the quality of this article. Raisins, being a more transportable commodity, are more the object of their attention than wine. The making of these requires a very simple process. The bunch of grapes is first immersed in a strong solution of wood ashes, and afterwards laid upon a stage covered with rush matting, until it be thoroughly dried. The bruised grapes, the undergrowings, the stalks and expressed husks, with the lees or dregs of new wine, are thrown together into large vessels until they ferment, and are then distilled into a sort of brandy. From trash like this is most of the ardent spirit manufactured which is sold in the Cape under the name of *Brandewyn*, and which, from its cheapness and bad quality, not only poisons the bodies, but also corrupts the morals of the lower orders of the town, and the country farmers.

Our march along the *Lange Kloof* was delightfully pleasant. The road was extremely good, the country cheerful, being

mostly covered with grass or shrubby plants, exhibiting from a distance a continuance of verdant lawns, which are not frequent in this colony, by much the greater portion of the surface being either extensive wastes of karroo almost without a vestige of vegetation, or naked ranges of mountains. Here too there was a sufficiency of water to admit of farm-houses being placed at the regulated distance of three miles. The sloping sides of the valley were covered with a great variety of splendid heaths, in the height of their blossom, of the shrub called *gnidia*, of the showy and everlasting *Xeranthemum*, and a profusion of other plants that the eye of a botanist would have feasted upon with avidity. But the nature of our expedition would only admit of a glance in passing.

Having proceeded along the Kloof to that part which is nearly opposite to Plettenberg's Bay, we found it necessary to halt a few days in order to refresh the horses. In the mean time I crossed the mountains, agreeably to my instructions, and assembled the wood-cutters in the vicinity of the bay, to enter into a contract with them for a supply of timber for the public service at the Cape. Independent of the wants of the government, it was considered advisable, at this juncture, to furnish these people with employment, in order to keep them at home ; for, such is the nature of an African boor, that, having nothing particular to engage his attention, he is glad of an excuse to ride to the distance of eight or ten days, whether it be to a church or to a vendue, to hunt elephants or to plunder the Kaffers.

In justice, however, to the farmers of Plettenberg Bay district, it ought to be stated that they are the only class of people, in the whole colony, which deserves the name of being industrious. To fell the large trees, that are now only to be procured in deep glens, and then to drag them out, is a work of labor and toil; and their profits are so trifling, that few of them are enabled to purchase slaves, and of course are reduced to the necessity of working themselves.

The extent of the forests, beginning at Mossel Bay, and running eastward parallel to the sea-coast, is at least two hundred and fifty English miles, and the breadth from the feet of the mountains to the sea is ten, fifteen, and in some places twenty, miles. A great part of this tract is composed of large and beautiful plains, intersected by numerous rivers, and abounding in lakes full of excellent fish. The ground is well calculated either for pasturage or tillage, and capable of complete irrigation. Was this long tract of country, together with that which is comprehended between the north range of mountains and the west coast, and from Saint Helena Bay to the Cape, inhabited by industrious families, a much greater mass of people than is at present contained within the widely extended limits of the colony might be subsisted with infinitely more comfort than they now are, and an abundance of corn and cattle, wine, and other necessities, might be supplied, over and above, for a garrison of five thousand men, and for a fleet containing an equal number of souls. But, in order to make the country produce such a supply, it would be necessary to introduce a new race of inhabitants, or to change the nature of the old ones.

I have frequently had occasion to notice the abundance of iron ore that occurs in almost every part of Southern Africa, some of which is so rich in metal as to contain from seventy to eighty per cent., and to observe that the total want of fuel rendered it useless. Here, however, in the vicinity of the forests, that objection is removed; and the ores might, in all probability, be melted to advantage, as all kinds of iron work are prodigiously dear at the Cape. We were told that, in the neighbourhood of the Knysna, another large mass of native iron had been discovered, similar to that which I mentioned to have seen in the plains of the Zuur Veldt, and which I then supposed the Kaffers to have carried thither from the sea shore. I paid little attention to the report at that time, nor did we go out of our way to look at it; but since my return to the Cape, the discovery of a third mass, in an extraordinary situation, the very summit of Table Mountain, excited a stronger degree of curiosity. I imagined the first to have been the flat part of an anchor, although it was destitute of any particular shape; but in this of Table Mountain, which might weigh from one hundred and fifty to one hundred and sixty pounds, there appeared some faint traces of the shape of the flook, or the broad part of the arm which takes hold of the ground. It was found half buried in sand and quartz pebbles, every part, as well under as above ground, much corroded, and the cavities filled with pebbles, which, however, did not appear to be component parts of the mass, not being angular, but evidently rounded by attrition. As, in the first instance, I suppose the Kaffers to have carried the mass into the situation where it was discovered; so also,

with regard to the latter, I am inclined to think it must have been brought upon the summit of the mountain by the native Hottentots, as to a place of safety, when Bartholomew Diaz, or some of the early Portuguese navigators, landed first in this country. Others, however, who have seen and examined the mass, are of opinion that it must have been placed in its present situation at a period long antecedent to the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope by Europeans. Be that as it may, the resemblance it bears to part of an anchor, with the Neptunian appearances of various parts of Southern Africa, which are particularly striking in the formation of the Table Mountain, press strongly on the recollection the beautiful observation of the Latin poet :

“ Vidi ego, quòd fuerat quondam solidissima tellus
 “ Esse fretum. Vidi factas ex æquore terras,
 “ Et procul a pelago conchæ jacuere marinæ
 “ Et vetus inventa est in montibus anchora summis.”

“ The face of places, and their forms, decay ;
 “ And that is solid earth that once was sea :
 “ Seas in their turn, retreating from the shore,
 “ Make solid land what ocean was before ;
 “ Far from the shore are shells of fishes found,
 “ And rusty anchors fix’d on mountain-ground.”

It may be observed, by the way, that Mr. Dryden has reversed the idea of the poet in the first couplet of his translation, and continued the same in his second, making only the land to gain on the sea, instead of contrasting it with the opposite effect of the sea encroaching on the land. Observing this to a son of my ingenious and learned friend

Doctor Tytler, a boy of twelve years of age, he requested to have the Latin lines, and immediately produced the following stanzas :

- " Turn'd into sea I've seen the earth
- " Dissolved in the wave,
- " And from the sea new hills spring forth,
- " And their broad backs upheave.

- " And far from ocean's utmost bounds,
- " Shells have discover'd been,
- " And on the tops of rising grounds
- " Old rusty anchors seen."

In our return over the mountains from Plettenberg's Bay little occurred to attract attention. The *Sparmannia* in the woods, with its large leaves of light green, contrasted with the dark and slender foliage of the yellow wood tree, and the still darker *Eckbergia*, with the lofty summits of the naked mountains rising far above them, afforded scenery for the pencil extremely picturesque and beautiful. The fibres of the bark of the *Sparmannia* make an excellent kind of hemp, superior in strength to that of the *Hibiscus*, which I noticed on a former visit to this bay. Saplings of this tree the second year rise in a clear stem to the height of six feet, so that in the event of any future establishment being made at Plettenberg's Bay, the *Sparmannia* may become a very useful plant. The *Gardenia Thunbergia*, or the wild Cape Jessamine, being in the height of its blossom, gave out so powerful a scent, that, in the evening, it could be perceived at the distance of several miles. The *Nymphaea cerulea*, and another species of a smaller size with spear-shaped leaves-

(*foliis hastatis*), and rose-colored petals, ornamented the margins of the *Keurboom* River; and the *Wachendorfia* with the *Aletris Uvaria* were common in all the boggy grounds. The stately white *Strelitzias*, which are found only on the banks of the Pisang River, were also now in flower. The *Protea Grandiflora*, on the summit of the mountains, resembled, in their size and appearance, old stunted oaks. Heaths also were very large, and bulbous rooted plants in great abundance. We found, likewise, growing among the rocks, numbers of that singular plant the *Tamus Elephantipes*, so called from the resemblance of its large tuberous root, rising above the surface of the ground, to the foot of the elephant. This district affords, in fact, a rich field for the naturalist. Let his favorite pursuit be what it may, botany, ornithology, or zoology, he may here indulge his inclination. The greater part of the forest trees still remain unexamined. The birds are numerous, and have not *seriously* been attacked by any other collector than Mr. Le Vaillant, of whom Mr. Meeding, for many years the postholder at the bay, speaks as being an excellent shot at small birds, and a most indefatigable pursuer of them. Of animals, from the little tailless *das* or Cavy, and the pigmy Antelope, to the huge Elephant, the woods of Sitsikamma furnish great variety. The Plain of *Hartebeests* abounds with that noble species of the antelope tribe from which it takes its name; and every thicket is filled with the beautiful *Bosbok*, or Bush deer, remarkable for its spotted haunches, and still more so from the near resemblance of its cry to the barking of a dog.

On reaching our quarters in Langé Kloof we were agreeably surprized to find that the shoes of all our horses had been removed, and new ones placed on such as wanted them. This had been a matter of serious consideration from the first day of our expedition ; for, as the horses of the colony are never shod, except those in the hands of the English, we could hardly flatter ourselves that we should meet with any person in the interior of the country, capable of undertaking such an operation. A young man, however, born deaf and dumb, without ever having seen a horse-shoe before, made several new ones, and replaced others with as much care and neatness, as one that had been brought up to the business of a farrier. This ingenious young man, the only one I can safely say that I ever met with in the course of my travels in this country, supported, by his labor, a worthless, drunken father, and a number of brothers and sisters.

Nothing of moment occurred until we reached the borders of the Camtoos River, which divides the district of Zwelldam from that of Graaff Reynet. Being passable only by waggons at one ford, we encamped there, as the most eligible situation for keeping open a communication between Brigadier General Vandeleur and the Cape. Scarcely, however, had we arrived, when an express from the General directed us to proceed to Algoa Bay.

The country between the Camtoos River and this bay is extremely rich and beautiful. Like a gentleman's park, or pleasure grounds, in England, the surface is diversified with thickets and knots of stately trees, planted, however, by the spon-

tancous and free hand of nature. The knolls are covered with thick grass, which, for want of cattle to eat it off, is suffered to rot upon the ground, or is partially burnt off towards the end of summer to make room for the young blades to shoot up with the earliest rains of winter. It is greatly to be lamented that so fine a country should be suffered to remain in total neglect. A few indolent boors grasp the whole district, which, when in possession of the rightful owners, the Kaffers and the Hottentots, some thirty years ago, maintained many thousand families by the numbers of their cattle it was found capable of supporting. The small game, which here are plentiful, gramineous roots, the bulbs of the iris, of the wild garlick, and of the *Cyanella*, the filaments and anthers of whose stamens bear a remarkable resemblance to the fingers and nails of the human hand, together with the seeds of the *Strelitzia Reginae*, and a variety of wild berries, were the chief articles of subsistence of the Hottentot tribes, and milk was the principal food of the Kaffers.

A few days before our arrival at Algoa Bay, General Vandeleur had subdued the rebellious boors in the manner I have already described in the beginning of this chapter, and had sent the ringleaders on board his Majesty's ship the *Rattlesnake*, to be conveyed to the Cape, to take their trial there by their own laws, before their own court of justice. Desirable as it might have been to punish the leaders upon the spot by martial law, as an example to a rebellious people, the General resolved to try once more what lenient measures might effect, concluding that, in the event of their own countrymen finding them guilty, the colonists must at least acknowledge the

justice of the decision; whereas in the other case, as it generally happens, the public are more ready to blame the severity of martial law than to acknowledge the criminality of those upon whom it is inflicted. The General having thus got rid of the rebel chiefs, and thereby put an end, as he thought, to further disturbances, concluded that little now remained to be done but to collect his scattered forces from the different parts of the district, and to assemble them at head-quarters in Bruyntjes Hoogté; part of which he meant to embark on board the Rattlesnake, and the remainder to send over land, by easy marches, to the Cape.

In crossing the country from Algoa Bay to the northward, in order to put his plan in execution, to our no less surprize than mortification, we fell in with a large party of Hottentots, so disguised, and dressed out in such a whimsical and fantastical manner, that we were totally at a loss to conjecture what to make of them. Some wore large three cornered hats, with green or blue breeches, the rest of the body naked; some had jackets of cloth over their sheep-skin covering, and others had sheep-skins thrown over linen shirts. The women were laden with bundles, and the men were all armed with musquets. We soon discovered, which indeed they readily confessed, that they had been plundering the boors. A Hottentot, among the many good qualities he possesses, has one which he is master of in an eminent degree,—I mean a rigid adherence to truth. When accused of a crime, of which he has been guilty, with native simplicity he always states the fact as it happened; but, at the same time, he has always a justification at hand for what he has done. From lying and stealing, the predominant and inseparable vices of the condi-

tion of slavery, the Hottentot may be considered as exempt. In the whole course of my travels, and in the midst of the numerous attendants of this nation, with which I was constantly surrounded, I can with safety declare that I never was robbed or deceived by any of them.

On making inquiry into the particulars of the unpleasant transaction that had taken place, one of the Hottentots, called *Klaas Stuurman*, or *Nicholas the Helmsman*, whom they had selected for their chief, stepped forwards, and, after humbly entreating us to hear him out without interruption, began a long oration, which contained a history of their calamities and sufferings under the yoke of the boors; their injustice, in first depriving them of their country, and then forcing their offspring into a state of slavery; their cruel treatment on every slight occasion, which it became impossible for them to bear any longer; and the resolution they had therefore taken to apply for redress before the English troops should leave the country. That their employers, suspecting their intention, had endeavoured to prevent such application by confining some to the house, threatening to shoot others if they attempted to escape, or to punish their wives and children in their absence. And, in proof of what he advanced, he called out a young Hottentot, whose thigh had been pierced through with a large musquet ball but two days before, which had been fired at him by his master for having attempted to leave his service. "This act," continued he, "among many others equally cruel, resolved us at once to collect a sufficient force to deprive the boors of their arms, in which we have succeeded at every house which has fallen in our way. We have taken their superfluous clothing in lieu of the wages due for our

“services, but we have stripped none, nor injured the persons of any, though,” added he, shaking his head, “we have yet a great deal of our blood to avenge.”

Such a *rencontre* at this time was extremely embarrassing, and the more so as it appeared these were a very small part of their countrymen that were then actually arming themselves against the boors, and plundering their houses. They informed us, moreover, that some of their countrymen, not willing to throw themselves on the protection of strangers, had fled among the Kaffers; but that the greatest part were on the road to Algoa Bay, to lay their unhappy situation before the English General.

The connection that had long subsisted between the boors and the Hottentots, a connection that was kept up by violence and oppression on one side, and by want of energy and patient suffering on the other, seemed now to be completely dissolved. The farther we advanced, the more seriously alarming was the state of the country. The boors, it seems, unable to restrain their savage temper, which the penalty levied upon them by the General had, with the assistance of a *sopic*, wrought up into a rage, determined to wreak their vengeance on the poor Hottentots, according to their common practice, whenever infuriate passion seizes them. The representations made to us by this party were more than confirmed by our own observations in our progress through the country. Among the numerous instances of cruelty to which we bore witness, the following were particularly striking.

We had scarcely parted from these people, when, stopping at a house to feed our horses, we by accident observed a young

Hottentot woman with a child in her arms lying stretched on the ground in a most deplorable condition. She had been cut from head to foot with one of those infernal whips, made from the hide of a rhinoceros or sea-cow, known by the name of *samboes*, in such a barbarous and unmerciful manner, that there was scarcely a spot on her whole body free from stripes ; nor had the sides of the little infant, in clinging to its mother, escaped the strokes of the brutal monster. With difficulty we had her removed to a situation where medical assistance could be given ; but the fever ran so high, and the body was bruised to such a degree, that for several days there were little hopes of her recovery. It was a punishment, far inadequate to the crime, to keep the inhuman wretch on bread and water who had been guilty of such unmanly cruelty, until the fate of the sufferer was decided. Owing to a good constitution she gradually recovered ; and the fellow was suffered to depart, after making her a pecuniary compensation ; had the wounds proved mortal, the perpetrator would, no doubt, have afforded the first instance of retributive justice for the numberless cases of murder that have been committed with impunity on this unfortunate race of men. The only crime alleged against her was the attempt to follow her husband, who was among the number of those of his countrymen that had determined to throw themselves upon the protection of the English.

The next house we halted at upon the road presented us with a still more horrid instance of brutality. We observed a fine Hottentot boy, about eight years of age, sitting at the corner of the house, with a pair of iron rings clenched upon his legs, of the weight of ten or twelve pounds ; and they had remained

in one situation for such a length of time, that they appeared to be sunk into the leg, the muscle being tumefied both above and below the rings. The poor creature was so benumbed and oppressed with the weight, that, being unable to walk with ease, he crawled on the ground. It appeared, on inquiry, that they had been rivetted to his legs more than ten months ago. What was to be done in a case of such wanton and deliberate cruelty? It was scarcely in human nature to behold an innocent boy for ever maimed in so barbarous a manner; and at the same time to look upon the cold blooded perpetrator without feeling a sentiment of horror mingled with exasperation,—a sentiment that seemed to say it would serve the cause of humanity to rid the world of such a monster. The fellow shrunk from the inquiries of the indignant General; he had nothing to allege against him but that he had always been a worthless boy; he had lost him so many sheep; he had slept when he ought to watch the cattle, and such like frivolous charges of a negative kind, the amount of which, if true, only proved that his own interest had sometimes been neglected by this child.

Determined to make an example of the author of such unparalleled brutality, the General ordered him instantly to yoke his oxen to his waggon, and, placing the boy by his side, to drive directly to head-quarters. Here he gave orders to the farrier of the 8th regiment of Light Dragoons to strike off the irons from the boy, an operation that required great nicety and attention, and to clench them as tight as he could on the legs of his master, who roared and bellowed in a most violent manner, to the inexpressible satisfaction of the by-standers, and, above all, to that of the little sufferer just relieved from tor-

ment. For the whole of the first night his lamentations were incessant; with a Stentorian voice a thousand times he vociferated, "*Myn God! is dat een maniere om Christian mensch te handelen!*" "My God! is this a way to treat Christians?" His, however, were not the agonies of bodily pain, but the bursts of rage and resentment on being put on a level with one, as the boors call them, of the *Zwarte Natic*, between whom and the *Christian Mensch* they conceive the difference to be fully as great as between themselves and their cattle, and whom, indeed, they most commonly honor with the appellation of *Zwarte Vee*, black cattle. Having roared for three days and as many nights, at first to the great amusement, but afterwards to the no less annoyance, of the whole camp, he was suffered to go about his business on paying a penalty in money, for the benefit of the boy, whom he had abused in so shameful a manner.

Another instance occurred, since our departure from Algoa Bay, which strongly marked the little reluctance that is felt by the African boors in the shedding of human blood, even of *Christian Mensch*, for whom they affect so great a veneration. On leaving the bay it was discovered that three fine young lads of the 81st regiment had deserted with their arms; and as these deserters knew that the troops were to march that morning towards the upper part of the country, *Van Roy*, from whose house we departed, concluding they might return, inquired of the General what he should do in case of such an event? The answer was, "Secure them, to be sure."—"But if they should resist?"—"You must take them at any rate; you and your sons and people about the

“house are more than sufficient to do that.” The following day the man came galloping after us, pale and frightened, and ready to sink into the ground. *He had shot the three deserters!* he had been obliged to do it, as he said, in his own defence, and for the protection of his family, whom they intended to murder. “If you can make that appear to have been the case,” the General told him, “you are justified in what you have done; but the fact is so extraordinary, that a very rigid inquiry will be made into it.” It is wonderful how rapidly the fellow’s countenance brightened up, on hearing there was some palliation in favor of what he had done. It was evident he felt neither remorse nor compunction in having destroyed three of his fellow-creatures, but was apprehensive only of what might have been the consequences to himself.

The General immediately rode back to his house. He found the dead bodies lying on the ground, just where they had fallen, one at the distance of ten or twelve yards from the door, the other two at forty or fifty. The first had evidently been shot through the breast, but both the others *through the back*. From these circumstances it was strongly conjectured that Van Roy and his sons had waited at the door, with their loaded musquets, the approach of these unfortunate men; that, on the first being shot, the other two had attempted to make their escape; in doing which they afforded the Dutchmen an opportunity of taking a cool and sure aim. The family, of course, told the same story as the master: What then remained to be done? Desertion had already begun, and threatened to become very general. It was, therefore,

deemed advisable to let the matter rest; and to summon the troops in the neighbourhood to attend the funeral of the unfortunate men, whose fate might operate as a check to its further progress.

It would seem, by the end which this same Van Roy was doomed to make, that, as our immortal poet has finely expressed it,

“ ——— Even-handed justice
“ Returns th’ ingredients of our poison’d chalice
“ To our own lips.”

He, in the subsequent wars between the boors and Hottentots, was shot through the head in his own house: which was afterwards burnt to the ground; his property plundered and destroyed, and his family reduced to extreme poverty.

The sanguinary character of many of the African colonists may be owing, perhaps, in a certain degree, to the circumstance of their having been soldiers in German regiments serving abroad; where the least relaxation from a rigid system of discipline is followed up by the greatest severity of punishment. The soldier, having served out the time of his engagement, which at most is five years, is at liberty to demand his discharge. If he is able to read and write, however indifferently, he usually finds employment, as school-master, in a boor’s family; if not qualified for such a situation, he either engages as a sort of servant, or hires himself to some butcher of the town, who sends him to the extremi-

ties of the colony to collect sheep and cattle. In all these situations he has the opportunity of making an intimate acquaintance with the boors, which generally leads to his marriage with one of their daughters. The parents of the girl spare him a few sheep and cattle to commence with, on condition of their receiving half the produce as interest, until he can repay the capital; he looks out for a *place*, as it is called, no matter where, whether within or without the limits of the colony, and builds for himself a hut; with his cattle are consigned to him, at the same time, and on the same terms, as he supposes, a few little Hottentot children to look after them; and on these little creatures, in the plenitude of his power, subject to no control, he exercises the same severity of punishment that his own irregularities had incurred when he was in the ranks.

From the barbarous treatment of the boors towards the Hottentots in their service, of which we had ourselves been witnesses in so many instances, it would have been an act of the greatest inhumanity to attempt to force these poor creatures back again upon their old masters; yet a very serious difficulty arose, how to dispose of them. Part of the troops, that composed the detachment under General Vandeleur, consisted of the strength of the Hottentot corps, otherwise called the Cape regiment. This body of men had been partly formed under the Dutch government, and, in fact, were the only serviceable troops that opposed the British forces in the pass of Muysenberg, where they acted with spirit, though unsupported. After the capitulation, General Sir James Craig found it expedient, for many reasons, to take them into the

British service, and to increase their numbers. He considered in the first place, that, from their rooted antipathy to the boors, they could always be employed as useful agents to quell any disturbances that might arise in the distant districts. He saw, also, that they were capable of being formed into excellent soldiers. In short, after an experience of near two years, the character he gave them was that of an orderly, tractable, and faithful body of men; ready on all occasions to obey the orders of their officers with cheerfulness and alacrity. And they have since shewn themselves highly deserving of the favorable testimony of Sir James Craig. During three years' service in the distant district of Graaf Reynet, in the course of which time they were required, by an unfortunate and unavoidable train of events, to act against their own countrymen and comrades, they never shrunk from their duty, and, if I recollect rightly, one single man only deserted in the whole corps.

A Hottentot is capable of strong attachments; with a readiness to acknowledge, he possesses the mind to feel, the force of a benevolent action. I never found that any little act of kindness or attention was thrown away upon a Hottentot; but, on the contrary, I have frequently had occasion to remark the joy that sparkled on his countenance, whenever an opportunity occurred to enable him to discharge his debt of gratitude. I give full credit to all that Monsieur Le Vaillant has said with regard to the fidelity and attachment he experienced from this race of men; of whom the natural character and disposition seem to approach nearer to those of the Hindûs than of any other nation.

We had little doubt that the greater number of the Hottentot men, who were assembled at the bay, after receiving favorable accounts from their comrades of the treatment they experienced in the British service, would enter as volunteers into this corps ; but what was to be done with the old people, the women and the children ? Klaas Stuurman found no difficulty in making a provision for them. " Restore," says he, " the country of which our fathers have been despoiled by the Dutch, and we have nothing more to ask." I endeavoured to convince him how little advantage they were likely to derive from the possession of a country, without any other property, or the means of deriving a subsistence from it : but he had the better of the argument. " We lived very contentedly," said he, " before these Dutch plunderers molested us ; and why should we not do so again, if left to ourselves ? Has not the *Groot Baas* (the Great Master) given plenty of grass-roots, and berries, and grasshoppers for our use ; and, till the Dutch destroyed them, abundance of wild animals to hunt ? And will they not return and multiply when these destroyers are gone ?" We prevailed, however, upon Klaas to deliver up their arms, and, in the mean time, to follow the troops until some arrangement could be made for their future welfare.

Proceeding on our march, along the banks of the Sunday River, and among the vast thickets that almost entirely covered this part of the country, we fell in with a prodigious number of Kaffers with their cattle, belonging, as they told us, to a powerful chief named *Congo*. This man was at the head of all the other emigrant chiefs who had fled from the

Kaffer country, eastward of the Great Fish River, on account of some enmity subsisting between them and their King *Gaika*, with whom I had, in vain, attempted, in company of the Landrost, to bring about a reconciliation two years before. As the position he now occupied not only encroached very much upon the territorial rights of the colony, but was also far within the line actually inhabited by the Dutch boors, we deemed it expedient to endeavour to prevail upon him to move towards the eastward; and for this purpose, we sent a messenger to request that he would give us the meeting. The answer brought back signified, that he did not care to come alone, and that he desired to know, if we had any objections to receive him at the head of a certain number of his people. The messenger being told he might bring with him any number of his attendants not exceeding thirty, he shortly made his appearance at the head of a party to that amount, each armed with a hassagay or spear.

On being told how necessary it was, for the sake of preserving tranquillity, that he should quit his present station among the boors, he replied with great firmness, that the ground he then stood upon was his own by inheritance, for that his father had been cheated out of it by a Dutch Landrost of Graaf Reynet; that, however, being desirous of remaining in friendship with the English, he would remove eastward in the course of three days; but that it was impossible for him to cross the Great Fish River, as there was a deadly hatred, or, as he expressed it, *there was blood between Gaika and himself*; and that *Gaika* was then much too powerful for him.

The decided tone in which he spoke, at the head of his small party, when surrounded by British troops ; his prepossessing countenance, and tall muscular figure, could not fail to excite a strong interest in his favor. An open and manly deportment, free from suspicion, fear, or embarrassment, seems to characterize the Kaffer chiefs. Though extremely good-humoured, benevolent, and hospitable, they are neither so pliant nor so passive as the Hottentot. The poorer sort are sometimes led to seek for service among the boors, and engage themselves for so many moons in consideration of so many head of cattle ; and they never suffer themselves to be duped out of their hire like the easy Hottentots. The conversation with Congo ended by recommending him to withdraw his people and their cattle from the banks of the Sunday River, to which he gave a kind of reluctant assent.

The whole of the party that accompanied this chief were tall, upright, and well made men ; affording a clear proof that animal food is by no means necessary to promote the growth of the human species ; or to add strength of fibre to the muscular parts of the body : on the contrary, reasoning from the general make and stature of the Dutch boors, who gorge themselves with animal food floating in fat, from morning till night, one would be apt to conclude, that so far from being necessary, it is not even conducive to strength of muscle ; but that its only tendency is to produce a laxity of the fibres, a sluggish habit of body, and extreme corpulency ; for the Dutch boors, though of a monstrous size, possess neither strength nor activity. Perhaps, indeed, these two qualities may be considered as correlatives, and that the de-

fect of the former may be more owing to a want of the latter than to the nature of their food. Those, perhaps, who have been accustomed to observe the peasantry on the north-west coast of Ireland, a tall, strong, and brawny race of men, subsisting on butter-milk and potatoes, will think it unnecessary to produce the Kaffers as instances of the above remark ; it may serve, however, to shew that difference of climate has no power to alter the general principle, and that the same cause produces the same effect in the northern parts of Europe and in the southern corner of Africa.

Milk in a curdled state is the principal food of the Kaffers. To this they sometimes add a few gramineous roots, berries of various kinds, the seeds of the *Strelitzia Reginae*, and the pith of a large palm to which botanists have given the name of *Zamia*. I observed also large tuberous roots, each the size of a man's head, of a spongy substance and an austere pungent taste, but I was not able to trace the plant of which they were the roots. They rarely kill any of their cattle unless on particular occasions. They possess no other domestic animals to yield them food. In the whole Kaffer country there are neither sheep nor goats, pigs nor poultry. They cultivate no kind of grain nor vegetables on this side of the Great Fish River, and very little on the other side ; but the Kaffer tribes, more to the westward, are very considerable horticulturists. The commissioners, sent out by the British government in the year 1801, to endeavour to procure a supply of draught oxen, found extensive fields of a species of *Holcus* near the city *Leetakoo*, the capital of a tribe of Kaffers called the *Booshooanas*. situate at the distance of sixteen

days' journey beyond the Orange River, in the direction of north-east from the Cape.

The tribe of Congo appeared to be very prolific ; children, in swarms, issued from the thickets ; and such as were under the age of eight or nine years were perfectly naked ; they exhibited no appearances of being scantily fed, but, on the contrary, were plump and healthful.

Just the reverse was the condition of their dogs. These animals were the most lean and miserable looking creatures I ever beheld, and their numbers seemed little inferior to those of the children. It is a fortunate circumstance for the Kaffers, and equally so for the colonists, who are no less fond of dogs than the former, that, notwithstanding the heat of the climate, the canine madness, with its concomitant and remarkable symptom the hydrophobia or dread of water, is totally unknown. One of the greatest nuisances in Cape Town is the number of dogs that prowl about the streets (acknowledging no master) particularly by night, when they quit their dens and lurking places, in quest of the offals of butchers' shops. In this respect, however, they are of use, for the lazy Dutchman conceives he has done his part by casting them out of the slaughter-house into the street. Before the English brought in a garrison of five thousand men, the head, the heart, the liver, &c. were all included among the offals ; but an increase in the consumption having caused an increase in the price of butchers' meat, these parts of the animal have, of late, been sold as well as the carcase ; and the dogs have consequently less to clear away. Not

many years ago the wolves and hyenas descended from their dens in the Table Mountain, and disputed the spoil with the dogs : and even now they sometimes advance near enough to be scented by the dogs, when the town resounds with the hideous howlings of the latter the whole night long.

The circumstance of Southern Africa being free from the canine madness, and also from the small pox, would lead one to conclude that neither the one nor the other of these diseases was of spontaneous origin ; but that actual biting in the one case, and actual contact in the other, were necessary for their production. Whatever may have been the cause that first created those diseases, it should seem such cause has not yet existed here, or that the climate is unfavorable for its operation. Twice since the foundation of the colony the small pox has been brought into it, and both times has committed dreadful havock among the settlers. That such will always be the fatal effects, may readily be imagined, among so gross a people, unprepared for the reception of the disease, and ignorant how to treat it ; but it is not so easy to conceive in what manner they got rid of it. I believe it is now forty years since the last time it made its appearance. All the old Kaffers, I observed, were strongly marked with it ; the disease, as I observed in the second chapter, was brought among them by a ship that was stranded on their coast ; but I should conclude it has visited them since the time it was last brought into Cape Town, as the chief Congo, who could not, when we saw him, be above thirty years of age, was marked with the small pox. It is rather singular that a disease, which is supposed to have originated in the

northern parts of this continent, and from thence disseminated into every corner of the world, should neither be endemic in the southern extremity of the same continent, nor its contagious effects, when carried thither, of permanent duration.

I am aware that some modern authors have traced the origin of the small pox to Arabia, where it was common at the time of the flight from Mecca ; but I think Dr. Mead's opinion more probable, that, at a much earlier period, it prevailed, along with the plague, in Ethiopia and other inland countries of Northern Africa. For had a disease of so contagious a nature been endemic in Arabia, in the beginning of the seventh century, when the inhabitants of that country were the carriers of the eastern, and the conquerors of the western world, its baneful effects would sooner have been experienced in foreign nations. That the Saracens and Arabians were the means of dispersing it through the world, there can be little doubt. The Chinese, according to their own annals, had it from the latter in the tenth century ; and as Doctor Mead has observed, in the beginning of the twelfth century, it gained vast ground by means of the wars waged by a confederacy of the Christian powers against the Saracens for the recovery of the Holy Land : " This being," says the Doctor, " the only visible recompence of their religious expeditions, which they brought back to their respective countries." The Ethiopians being a race of people almost unknown, and shut out from all commerce with the rest of the world, will account for its long confinement to its native soil.

That canine madness is not owing to heat of climate, as we are apt to suppose in England, may be inferred from its non-existence in Egypt, in the islands of the East and the West Indies, and other tropical situations, as well as at the Cape of Good Hope.

From the banks of the Sunday River to head-quarters in Bruyntjes Hoogté, little occurred that was worthy of notice. The observation I formerly made, that men and other animals in Southern Africa appear to increase in their bulk, in proportion to the elevation of the country of which they are inhabitants, was forcibly exemplified in our journey from the Zuure Veldt to Bruyntjes Hoogté. On the plains of the former, stretching along the sea-coast, seldom subject to long drought, and well covered with grass, the cattle are generally lean and of a diminutive size, and sheep can scarcely exist. On the heights of the latter, where half the surface of the ground is naked, and the grass found only here and there in tufts, they have the finest oxen, without exception, in the whole colony, and sheep equal to those of the snowy mountains. Nor are these heights less favourable to the growth of the human species. There is scarcely a family in which some part of it has not arrived to a very unusual size. But of all the monstrous beings I ever beheld, in the shape of a human creature, was a woman of the name of *Van Vooren*. So vast was her bulk that, although in perfect health, free from rheumatic or other local complaints, and under forty years of age, she had not been able to walk for the last twelve years of her life; nor, what was still more extraordinary, to raise herself to a sitting posture upon the bed without the help of a stick, tied by the

middle with a string, and suspended from the roof. Her arm, above the elbow, measured 23 Dutch inches, or 25½ English, in circumference. Yet, in this helpless and deplorable situation, Mademoiselle, for she was an unmarried lady, contrived to fulfil the end of her creation, by bringing into the world a fine healthy child, the father of which was said, but whether by way of joke I cannot pretend to say, to be an English officer. The fate, however, of this extraordinary person, as I have since been informed, was attended with very melancholy circumstances. In the subsequent wars between the boors and the Hottentots, the house in which she lived was attacked and set on fire. All the rest of the family effected their escape, except this unfortunate creature, whom they found it impossible, on account of her size, to get through the door, and were therefore under the necessity of leaving to perish in the flames.

Having collected the forces that had been stationed along the banks of the Great Fish River, we set out upon our return to Algoa Bay. On approaching the Sunday River, and perceiving that the Kaffers had made no preparations for departing, it was thought advisable to renew the message to their chief Congo. In the mean time the troops and the waggons proceeded on their march. After waiting some time, the messenger returned without being able to speak to the chief. Whatever reluctance Congo had discovered to quit the station he had taken up among the colonists, it never entered into our calculations that he would be rash and imprudent enough to commence an attack against a large body of regular troops. Such, however, was the step he chose to take, at the insti-

gation, as we afterwards found, of some of the rebel boors, who had fled amongst his people, in preference of appearing before the General in Bruyntjes Hoogté. Just as we came up with the main body a sudden alarm was raised in the rear. A Hottentot driver of one of the waggons was killed by a hassagai that had been thrown at him by some person posted in ambush. Kaffers began to appear in great numbers on all the heights, collecting, apparently, with a view to attack us; and several were observed close upon us lurking in the bushes. Being at this awkward juncture in a narrow defile, choaked almost with brushwood, and surrounded with Kaffers, we found it necessary to discharge two or three rounds of grape from two field-pieces, in order to clear the thickets.

The situation of the country became more and more embarrassing. It was a point that required some management to prevent a junction between the Kaffers, urged by the rebel boors to this act of aggression, and the dissatisfied Hottentots, that were every where flying from the persecutions of their masters. To get the latter down to the plains near Algoa Bay, as speedily as possible, was the most advisable measure; accordingly, accompanied by a few dragoons, I took charge of the Hottentots and their cattle, and we pursued our journey to the southward; whilst the General marched back into the Zuure Veldt, in order to pick up a party of infantry that had been stationed there, with a view of cutting off a retreat of the boors into the Kaffer country.

Whether it happened that, in passing through the woods, we had picked up some of the cattle belonging to the Kaffers, or

that they had a design upon those of the Hottentots that were driven before us, is not certain ; but on our arrival, towards the evening, at Zwart Kop's River, a number of the Kaffers were observed lurking among the thickets. About the middle of the night, the sentinel, which we had placed by way of precaution, gave the alarm of an enemy. Upon this a serjeant of dragoons observing something move in the dark, rushed into the bushes, and, firing his pistol, brought a man to the ground. It was a young well-looking Kaffer about six feet high. He made great efforts to remain on his feet, but weakened by loss of blood, he was soon unable to stand without support. On examining his wound, we found the ball had entered just below the shoulder blade, and passed through the right breast. With some difficulty we contrived to stop the hemorrhage, and to bind up the wound, after washing it well with milk and water. From the distortions of countenance, and the large drops of sweat that ran over his body, it was very evident that he suffered a violent degree of pain ; but he neither vented a sigh nor a groan, nor could he be prevailed upon to open his lips, although spoken to in his own language by a Hottentot interpreter. We caused him to be carried into a clean straw hut, and milk in a curdled state to be brought to him, but he refused it. At an early hour in the morning I went to the hut to inquire after the patient's health, but he was gone. The *coffray*, or infidel, at the point of death, thought it safer to crawl into the woods, than to remain in the hands of Christians.

From Zwart Kop's River we proceeded to a plain that is contiguous to Algoa Bay, where, to our great astonishment, we found the whole of the boors and their families assembled,

who had been plundered by the Hottentots, with their cattle and waggon and the remains of their property, waiting our arrival ; in order, as they said, to claim protection against the heathens. It was a painful situation to be thus placed between two parties, each claiming protection, and each vowing vengeance against the other, without possessing the means of keeping them asunder. My whole strength consisted in about a dozen dragoons ; the Hottentots, great and small, amounted to upwards of five hundred ; and the boors, with their families, to about one hundred and fifty. Fortunately the Rattlesnake was still in the bay, and I obtained from Captain Gooch twenty armed seamen ; and, the more effectually to keep the contending parties in order, I caused a swivel gun to be mounted on a post immediately between the boors and the Hottentots.

In this state, after many days of anxiety, in which none passed without quarrels and bickerings between the boors and Hottentots, I received a letter from General Vandeleur, stating, that the Kaffers, instigated by the rebel boors, had been led to the bold measure of attacking his camp near Bosjesman's River, for the sake, as he supposed, of obtaining a supply of gunpowder ; that the latter had kept up a pretty brisk fire from behind the bushes, but that the Kaffers, finding it useless to oppose their long missile weapons against musquetry, retired for a moment but soon appeared again, rushing forward upon the open plain, with the iron part only of the Iiasagai in their hands. That, however, after several rounds of grape from the field-pieces, and the fire of the infantry, by which numbers were killed, they retreated into the thickets.

These people soon perceived of how much greater advantage was a short weapon to a muscular arm, than a long missile spear, whose slow motion through the air makes it easily to be avoided. The blade of the Roman sword, which once conquered the world, was only about fifteen inches long, and such a sword would, perhaps, at this awful moment, be well suited for the nervous arm and the bold and invincible spirit of a Briton.

The same letter gave an account of an unfortunate affair that happened to Lieutenant Chumney and twenty men of the 81st regiment. This officer had been detached towards the sea-coast, and was returning to the camp at Bosjesman's River, when his party was surprized among the thickets by a large party of Kaffers, who attacked them hand to hand with the iron part of their Hassagais, the wooden shaft being previously broken off. This young officer defended himself bravely till sixteen of his party were killed. The remaining four, with a Dutch boor, got into a waggon that accompanied the detachment, and arrived safe at the camp. Poor Chumney was on horseback, and when the waggon set out had three Hassagais sticking in his body. Finding himself mortally wounded, and perceiving that the whole aim of the enemy was directed towards him, he made a sign to the waggon to drive off; and turning his horse, he set off in a contrary direction, pursued by the whole body of Kaffers; affording thus an opportunity for the small remains of his party to save their lives by flight.

In this situation of affairs the rebel boors, associated with the Kaffers, contrived to circulate a report among the Hot-

tentots at Algoa Bay, that it was the intention of the English to put them on board ship, and to send them to the Cape. Such an idea created no small degree of alarm among these poor creatures; and I observed on the following morning, that a great number had stolen away in the night; and, as we afterwards found, had joined the Kaffers. This malicious and ill-judged conduct of the boors was the cause of all the subsequent misfortunes that befel themselves and their countrymen, and ultimately brought on their own destruction. For it not only defeated our intention of carrying into effect such arrangements as were likely to have reconciled the two parties to each other; but it was, likewise, the means of bringing together an united force of Kaffers and Hottentots, whose first step was to drive all the boors out of their society, to plunder them of the rest of their cattle, set fire to their houses, and put several of them to death. Having cleared the whole of the lower part of Graaf Reynet, they advanced into the district of Zwellendam. Their whole hatred was levelled against the boors. English dragoons, travelling alone with dispatches, have frequently been met by large parties of these plunderers, and suffered to pass without molestation. Even a house, which they discovered at Plettenberg's Bay to belong to an English gentleman, they left undisturbed, whilst all the rest that fell in their way were burnt to the ground.

The same house, however, was afterwards plundered by a party of boors who had been collected by the magistrates of Zwellendam to clear the district of the Kaffers and Hottentots. These unprincipled men, either out of revenge, or from

an irresistible impulse to mischief, broke open the house, carried away clothing and every thing that was portable, drank all the wine and spirits they could find, and made themselves completely intoxicated. Yet the very men who committed those enormities were, at that moment, under the impression that their dearest connections (if it were possible any thing could be dear to such men), their wives, and children, were massacred by the enemy, into whose hands they knew them to have fallen. They had been met, it seems, a few days before, in a narrow pass by a party of Kaffers and Hottentots, and, as usual, on perceiving the enemy, mounted their horses and galloped away as fast as they could, leaving their wives and children and waggons in the possession of the robbers.

No outrage nor injury were offered to the prisoners, but, on the contrary, as on all similar occasions, they were treated with respect. They even dispatched a Hottentot after the fugitive boors to say, that if they chose to ransom their wives and children for a small quantity of powder and lead, and a dozen head of cattle, they should instantly be delivered up. It is natural to suppose that, under such circumstances, the ties of kindred affection would have superseded all considerations of prudence, and have stifled resentment; and that a proposal, which held out such easy terms for the recovery of their wives and children, would have been seized with avidity. This, however, was not the case. An African boor has no such feelings; his passions, uncontrolled by the powers of reason or reflection, are always predominant. One of the party, recognising the Hottentot, thus sent to them,

to have once been in his service, and recollecting he was now standing before them in the shape of an enemy, and defenceless, fired at once with rage and revenge, snatched up his musquet in his hand, and shot him dead upon the spot. Intelligence of this atrocious act was speedily conveyed, by the companion of the deceased, to the Kaffers and Hottentots; and it was reported, and believed, that they had in consequence put all the women and children to death. And under this impression, as I have just observed, the husbands and fathers of these women and children broke open Mr. Callender's house, and were dancing, in a state of intoxication, upon the green. The prisoners, however, were given up, notwithstanding the murder of the messenger; for they disdained, as they told them, to take away the lives of the innocent; but that they should soon find an opportunity of avenging the death of their countryman upon their husbands, together with the many injuries and oppressions under which they had so long been laboring.

It is painful to dwell on subjects that disgrace human nature, but as the atrocities of the African colonists have hitherto escaped the punishment of the law, all that can be done is to expose them to the horror and detestation of mankind. The following act stated officially to government by Mr. Vander Kemp, a missionary in Graaf Reynet, is enough to make one shudder at the name of a Cape boor. This zealous and intelligent man, on finding the Kaffers were not disposed to profit by his instructions, established himself under the sanction of government near the Sunday River, in order to try his success with the more tractable Hottentots.

His little village soon became an asylum for the poor fugitives, who, after their skirmishes with the boors, had concealed themselves among the rocks and thickets. They now fled to Mr. Vander Kemp as to a place of security, and to one on whom, being, as they considered him to be, in the service of the British government, they could place unbounded confidence. Among others, one poor fellow with his wife and child, in his way to the asylum, called at a boor's house in Langé Kloof of the name of Van Roy, a relation of the man who shot the three deserters, to ask for a little milk for his wife and child, who were nearly exhausted with hunger. The unfeeling monster seized the man, and bringing a loaded musquet, ordered a Hottentot in his service to shoot him; the Hottentot obstinately persisting to refuse, the exasperated boor snatched the gun and shot his own servant dead upon the spot, and then caused the other Hottentot with his wife and child to be murdered! If, observes Mr. Vander Kemp, atrocious deeds like these are to pass with impunity, the unfortunate Hottentots, not knowing whom to trust, will be driven to desperation, and a general insurrection will be the consequence.

It is, indeed, much less surprising that this nation should, at length, be roused to a spirit of vengeance, than that it should so long and so patiently have endured every species of injury. As pretended friends, and masters, the boors have always treated them with injustice and oppression; as enemies, with barbarous inhumanity. In their expeditions against the Bosjesmans, of which I have spoken at large in a former chapter, their chief aim is to murder the men, and

make the children slaves. I cannot convey a better idea in what manner they have been accustomed to conduct their hostile expeditions against the Kaffers, than by inserting a few articles of the instructions, proposed by the Landrost of one of the districts, to be given to the commandant.

“ Article 1st. No unnecessary cruelty to be exercised on the prisoners, on pain of exemplary punishment.

“ Article 2d. The women and children, and *especially* those of the Kaffers, that may happen to fall into the hands of the *Commando*, are not to be mal-treated, nor the children taken away; but, on the contrary, to be safely returned by a proper person to their respective families, after the *late example shewn by the Kaffers* at Plettenberg's Bay.” (This alludes to the circumstances I have already related.)

“ Article 3d. On the conquest of any kraal (village) the huts are not to be set on fire, as usual; as there is every reason for supposing that, *to this practice alone*, the burning and plundering of our farm-houses are to be ascribed.

“ Article 4th. *The dead carcasses of the enemy are not to be violated*, as has usually been the practice of the evil-disposed part of the *Commandos*, by cutting them with knives, lashing them with waggon whips, and hacking them with stones; as such conduct tends only to exasperate the enemy, and induces them to commit murder.

“ Article 5th. It is not, perhaps, advisable for the boors, “ *in the first instance*, to take away the cattle of the Kaffers ; “ because, by doing this, the enemy will always be tempted “ to hover round the *Commando* in order to watch a favor- “ able opportunity to retake them ; besides, to guard a con- “ siderable number of cattle, by requiring many men, “ weakens the *Commando* ; they ought therefore to confine “ their operations to the pursuit of the enemy, and to expel “ them the country, by which *the whole of their cattle will, of “ course, fall into the hands of the boors.*”

This curious production concludes by observing that, “ although all the above points have been repeatedly urged “ to the Commandants, it will avail nothing unless they be “ enforced by the government.” He might have added, that, removed as they were out of the reach and inspection of government, no recommendation nor orders would be attended to by men who were so completely under the dominion of their brutal passions. I should not have ventured to give the fourth article of these extraordinary instructions as authentic, had it not appeared before me as an official document. The British government was much too mild and moderate for a set of men of so odious a character as their own countryman has here described them, in the articles of his instructions. Such men will never become civilized until they are “ ruled with a rod of iron.” The most lenient measures, replete with every indulgence, have been tried without success. Not one sentiment of gratitude ever escaped them for a full pardon of all their offences, and the remission of a large debt ; on the contrary, rebellion raised its head in

the same moment that indulgence was extended. So conscious, indeed, are they of their wickedness, that, whenever they escape punishment, they conclude that the government no longer possesses the power of inflicting it, and that it spares them only because it is convenient to let them alone. Yet to what a wretched condition might they be reduced, by forbidding them all access to the Cape, and depriving them of gunpowder.

However desirable it might have been to apprehend and punish the rebels, who had instigated the Kaffers to acts of hostility against the British troops, yet it was by no means advisable, in order to obtain that point, to wage an unequal contest with savages in the midst of impenetrable thickets, whose destruction would have added little lustre to the British arms, and been advantageous only to the very people who had urged them on. General Vandeleur, therefore, very prudently withdrew his forces, and marched them down to Algoa Bay, where part of them were embarked on board the *Rattlesnake*, and the rest intended to proceed to the Cape by easy marches. Subsequent events, however, delayed their departure, and rendered the presence of troops necessary at Algoa Bay until the evacuation of the colony.

Having delivered over the remaining Hottentots, on the return of the General, and finding I could be of no further use, I set out for the Cape, where, after a journey of sixteen days, performed with two horses, I arrived on the 8th of June.

Little occurred on the homeward journey that was worthy of observation, unless it was the visible change that had taken place in the behaviour of the people of Zwellendam. While the boors of Graaf Reynet were still in arms, the inhabitants of this neighbouring district appeared to be wavering, but on hearing of their complete reduction, they now pretended to condemn their conduct. Whatever the real sentiments of the colonists might be with regard to the British government, this was not their last attempt to effect their avaricious designs on the cattle of the Kaffers, by commencing hostilities against the magistrates and the small force left in Graaf Reynet for their protection. But these disturbances were merely local, and had plunder only for their object. All the other districts remained quiet; and long before the intelligence of a general peace had reached this country, the people were so much reconciled to the British government, as neither to expect nor wish for a return of their own.

In fact there is no natural tie between the Cape and the United Provinces. The greater part of the colonists, being the descendants of soldiers in German regiments, composed of Prussians, Hanoverians, Flemings, and Poles, and of French refugees who took shelter here after the revocation of the edict of Nantz, have neither knowledge of, nor family connections in, the states of the Batavian republic; nor have they any distinct idea of *Vaderland*, a word, however, that is constantly in their mouths. All they know is, that the Cape belonged to a company of merchants; that this company was

their sovereign : and that they used to see a flag with three broad horizontal stripes, red, white, and blue, flying upon the castle, instead of the *Spinnekop*, or spider legs, as they called the British ensign. A few years more would therefore, in all probability, have rendered them, or the greater part of them, very indifferent as to the government under which they were to remain.

Some little rejoicing might, however, naturally be supposed to take place on seeing once again the same flag hoisted on the castle walls, which they had always been accustomed to look at ; and they would have shewn themselves a very worthless and despicable people not to have testified their feelings of joy on such an occasion. These rejoicings, however, were neither general nor tumultuous, nor of long duration ; they were chiefly confined within the castle walls. The recollection of the miserable condition of the colony at the capture, and the general prosperity that had rapidly succeeded it, seemed forcibly to have operated at this moment. From a state of poverty, and almost general bankruptcy, they were now grown individually rich. Instead of near half a million sterling, that for the last seven years had annually been expended in the colony by the army, the navy, and English settlers, they now began to consider that half of this sum might annually be taken out of their pockets for the maintenance of their future garrison. Little care, indeed, was taken to conceal that such would probably be the event, under the present exhausted state of the finances of the Batavian government.

They saw likewise that the settlement, though nominally restored to the Batavian republic, was actually to become a colony of France. Of this they had many convincing proofs. The commandant of the troops was a Frenchman of Swiss extraction, and half of the officers were French. A native of the Cape, who had held an employ of considerable importance under the old government, happening to be in Holland at the time when the definitive treaty of peace was signed, made application to the State Directory for a very high situation at the Cape, which, however, they thought proper to refuse. He went to Paris; obtained an audience of Buonaparte, or his minister, in consequence of which an *order* was sent to the State Government to revise their motives of refusal.

Another instance of French influence prevailing at the Cape was too striking to be overlooked. A Swiss gentleman, who had filled a high and honorable station in the service of the English East India Company in Bengal, but for some reason or other had been dismissed, passed through the Cape on his return to England, and became enamoured of its attractions. His wife, in his absence, being handsome and much younger than himself, engaged the attentions of Mr. Talleyrand, and lived with him as his mistress, until the French government had found it convenient to pass a resolution *that there was a God*, and therefore that religion required some decency to be observed, when the apostate Bishop of Autun found no difficulty in obtaining a dispensation from the Pope to marry her. The husband, on his return to Europe, proceeded to Paris, where Mr. Talleyrand,

to prevent his becoming troublesome, recommended him to accept of a high appointment at the Cape of Good Hope, where, I understand, he arrived within a month after the evacuation, not as plain Mr. G——, late of the English East India Company's service, but as *Monsieur Le G——, Conseiller privé en intime de la République Batave auprès du Gouverneur et Conseil au Cap de Bonne Esperance.*

It also appeared, from the conduct of the three commissioners that were sent out to arrange certain points with the British government, that French interest was likely to predominate at the Cape. These gentlemen, though calling themselves Dutch, made a hard struggle, but without success, that the minutes of their joint transactions and correspondence with the commissioners that were appointed on the part of the British government, should be kept in the French language. In short, every step that was taken by the new government clearly evinced that, although the Batavian flag might be suffered to fly, French influence was likely to prevail. Long, indeed, before the peace, it was become pretty evident that Holland was not in a condition to make any successful struggle in defence of her integrity or existence, and that an incorporation with Belgium, and becoming a department of France, would, in all probability, be the final *Euthanasia* of their *High Mightinesses*, the United Provinces.

These and other considerations produced a gloominess and melancholy on the minds of the better disposed part of the colonists that bordered on despondency. When the day of evacuation arrived, the castle and the road to the wharf were

lined with spectators; not drawn together for the sake of expressing a boisterous joy usual on such occasions, but to take a melancholy farewell of their best friends. As General Dundas passed along with the Commissary General de Mist and the Governor Jansens, a dead silence prevailed; not a word nor a murmur was heard. And the friendly and affectionate leave the Commanders in Chief of the two garrisons took of each other, after the delicate and trying situation in which, for the two last months, they had been placed, in consequence of the order from England countermanding the restoration of the settlement, was highly honorable to their feelings, both as men and officers. Few places, I believe, have been ceded by one power to another with more regularity and less commotion, than what happened at the restoration of the Cape of Good Hope, by General Dundas on the part of his Majesty's Government, to the representatives of the Batavian Republic.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.