

NEW
TRAVELS
INTO THE
INTERIOR PARTS
OF
AFRICA,

BY THE WAY OF

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

IN THE YEARS 1783, 84 AND 85.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF LE VAILLANT.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP, DELINEATING THE ROUTE OF
HIS PRESENT AND FORMER TRAVELS, AND WITH
TWENTY-TWO OTHER COPPER-PLATES.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

V O L. I.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR G. G. AND J. ROBINSON,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1796.

COLL. GHANA LIBR.

79412

1/Gf/DT 826: L.61
Africana Cases

DEDICATION.

TO

CITIZEN VARRON.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I Inscribe to you this second part of my Travels. Your modesty will take the alarm at this public address: but I merely discharge a debt of long standing, or rather I pay-in a feeble instalment upon the principal of what I owe you. Why cannot I discharge the whole, and pay you all which my

VOL. I.

a

friend-

friendship prompts, and my gratitude enjoins?

It is not yet in your power to present to us the detail of a journey much more interesting and useful than mine. You have seen wrested from you in a moment the fruit of four years exertions. Exposed to the poniards of the priests of Rome, you were unable, when you fled their malice, to save the most precious part of yourself.

In the mean time, deign to receive the public homage I offer you. In accompanying me over the barren and burning sands of Africa,
you

you must not expect to find those superb monuments the vaunted remains of which have, in two different journeys, been the object of your studies and researches; but you will every where encounter the genuine face of nature, and it is to this circumstance I trust for the propriety of the homage I am now paying you.

LE VAILLANT.

P R E F A C E.

THIS second part of my Travels ought to have followed much sooner the first. It was written a long time ago. Private disputes and public affairs have counteracted its publication. Of the first part there was an infinite variety of editions, pirated editions and translations. But the bookfellers never think they have got enough unless they have devoured both the author and his

work. Accordingly they pretended to doubt the success of the second part, after having experienced that of the first. After a thousand disappointments, I have at length met with an honest trader. I please myself with the opinion that fortune has directed my steps to a house where arts and letters are of some consideration.

It is in vain for me to attempt to deny it: the success of my first publication greatly surpassed my expectation. It has no doubt been praised much beyond its desert. In the midst of the eulogiums I have received, there were attacks to which
I could

I could not but be sensible. A certain critic has been much irritated with the sale of my former work. I willingly surrender to him this second part, which he has already devoured in imagination; and God grant that it may in some degree assuage the bitterness of his wrath!

There is added to this edition a general chart of my travels. It will be sold separately*. I owe much in this respect to the attention of the unfortunate Laborde, who made every exertion in his power to give effect to its accuracy and precision.

* The map alluded to by the author, will be found prefixed to the first volume of the present translation.

INTRODUCTION.

THE reader will recollect that I did not return to the Cape till after a six months journey through the interior parts of the southern extremity of Africa.

During my absence, the Cape had experienced many revolutions. On my arrival from Europe, I found there the French regiment of Pondicherry; and, on my return from this first journey, the garrison was reinforced with the Swiss regiment of Meuron and the legion de Luxembourg. I had been acquainted, in France, with several officers of the latter corps; and I felt, on seeing them again, all those tender sensations

tions which remind us of our country wherever we observe its manners, its character, and its language.

The females of the Cape, when I saw them for the first time, had really excited my astonishment by their dress and their elegance; but I admired in them, above all, that modesty and reserve peculiar to the Dutch manners, which nothing as yet had corrupted.

In the course of six months, a great change had taken place. It was no longer the French modes that they copied; it was a caricature of the French. Plumes, feathers, ribbons, and tawdry ornaments heaped together without taste on every head, gave to the prettiest figures a grotesque air, which often provoked a smile when they appeared. This mania had extended to the neighbouring plantations, where the women could

scarcely

scarcely be known. A mode of dress entirely new was every where introduced; but so fantastical, that it would have been difficult to determine from what country it had been imported.

In the course of my journey, I had collected a large quantity of ostrich-feathers, which I intended to transmit to Europe. When the ladies got notice of this treasure, it was impossible for me to convey them to the place of their destination. They flocked around me from all quarters to beg a few of them. People even whom I did not know presented themselves in the name of this or the other lady, and modestly requested the use of a dozen feathers for the evening. I disposed, therefore, of all my plumes as speedily as possible, that I might the sooner shut up shop. Such was the folly of the day; and this mode of insinuating one's-self into the good graces of the fair sex was so efficacious,

cious, that many officers sent to France for a cargo of feathers to gratify their passion. The husbands, on their side, vying in gallantry with the lovers, procured some from Asia, and even from Holland. Africa could no longer supply a sufficient number; and they were become dearer there even than in Europe.

The French enjoy one advantage in particular above every other nation. Wherever their destiny may lead them, they soon acquire a sort of empire over every thing that surrounds them. Their vivacity, softness of manner, and attention to the graces, have something in them so captivating, and even their presumption and forwardness so forcibly strike the generality of minds, and especially the minds of women, that, in a little time, perfectly overcome and subdued, it is considered as a sort of duty and honour to adopt their manners and language. Though the town

was

was occupied only with warlike preparations, and though an attack from the English fleet was every moment expected, the French officers had already introduced a taste for pleasure. Employed in the morning at their exercise, the French soldiers in the evening acted plays. A part of the barracks was transformed into a theatre; and as women capable of performing female characters could not be found in the town, they assigned these parts to some of their comrades, whose youth, delicate features, and freshness of complexion, seemed best calculated to favour the deception. These heroines, of a new kind, heightened the curiosity of the spectators, and rendered the entertainment still more lively and interesting. With regard to the actors, some of them had actually very considerable talents for comedy; and I recollect that one of them acted the part of Figaro, in the Barber of Seville, in so superior a style, that, at the Cape,

and

and in his corps, he was afterwards always called by the name of his character.

These ingenious diversions afforded me, I confess, much amusement; but the idea that most pleased me was to see them transferred to Africa; that is to say, in the neighbourhood of lions, panthers, and hyænas. As for the Creoles, who had never witnessed before any thing of the kind, they were absolutely enchanted. Nothing was talked of in every company throughout the town but the French plays. To add to the general pleasure, ladies of the first rank considered it as incumbent on them to lend to the military actors and actresses, their laces, jewels, rich dresses, and most valuable ornaments. But some of them had cause to repent of their condescension; for it happened more than once that the countess of Almaviva having left in pledge at the futtling-house her borrowed decorations, the

owner, to recover them, was obliged to discharge not only the bill due for brandy and tobacco, but all the other debts of the heroine.

During the intoxication and giddiness occasioned by these amusements, Love also did not fail to act his part; and certain little intrigues were, from time to time, brought to light, which gave employment to the tongue of scandal, and introduced unhappiness into families. Hymen, it is true, amidst these adventures, sometimes intervened to repair the follies of his brother; and many marriages, which restored every thing to order, were the result of his negotiations; but the complaints, though stifled, did not less exist. The watchfulness of the mother was alert. The husband, by so much the more secretly irritated as he saw himself obliged to conceal his jealousy, cursed in his heart both actors and theatre; while the matronly part of the community, less on the reserve, declaimed
with

with bitterness against the licentiousness that prevailed, which they wholly imputed to this mode of theatrical entertainment. At last, to the great mortification of the young, but to the high satisfaction of the old women and husbands, the theatre was on a sudden shut up. The cause that effected this was altogether foreign to the complaints that were made, and of a nature that it was impossible to foresee.

Though the Cape had not been attacked, it had experienced some of the usual scourges of war. A dread of the English fleet having prevented specie from being sent thither from Europe, cash in a little time became scarce; the price of provisions was increased; and a general alarm prevailed through the colony. In this penury, the Dutch East-India company thought proper to create a paper currency; but this fictitious money, which was supported by no other credit than a confidence

in the signatures, in reality added one evil more to what already existed. The greater part of the planters in the interior of the settlement were obstinate in refusing it; and many of them, apprehensive of being paid with paper, would no longer bring provisions to the town. By this conduct the value of every thing was quadrupled; and in a little time extreme scarcity was the consequence.

While matters were in this situation, our actors, who in all probability were not too regularly paid, or who at least did not receive an income proportioned to their expences, found themselves embarrassed. To extricate themselves from their difficulties, two of them took it into their heads to imitate the paper money of the company, and to put their notes also in circulation. Unfortunately they were so badly executed, and the signatures in particular so awkwardly copied, that they were soon detected. Justice laid hold

of the affair ; the business assumed a serious aspect ; and it was for some time apprehended that our two heroes of the sock would have made a very tragical exit. Every thing, however, was at length arranged ; and either from regard to the individuals and the corps to which they belonged, or gratitude for the pleasure they had afforded, it was thought sufficient to banish them from the Cape, and to put them on board a vessel that was about to return to Europe. I was present when they departed. The theatrical company was thus rendered incomplete ; and, ashamed of the adventure, they dared neither seek others to supply the vacant places, nor resume their entertainments.

Intoxicating as were these pleasures, Government meanwhile had not been inattentive to the danger which threatened the colony. As they daily expected to be attacked by the English fleet, they had increased the
means

means of defence, and ordered different works and new fortifications to be constructed. But, though these plans had been begun before I left the Cape, they were not finished when I returned; and I every where found men at work, busily employed in completing them.

At first, the business had been carried on with activity and ardour; because the inhabitants, instigated by their private interest, which was then considered as involved with that of the public, had voluntarily offered their services, and mingled with the workmen. Young and old, soldiers and magistrates, sailors and planters, all solicited the honour of co-operating for the general good and common safety. To behold this heterogeneous multitude—some loaded with pick-axes, and some with spades, or other similar implements—marching out in the morning from the town, and proceeding in high spirits

to the new fortifications, was a fight truly admirable.

But this patriotic fervour was of no long continuance. Under pretence of sparing their strength, and that they might not weary themselves to no purpose, they soon caused their slaves to follow them with the tools and instruments. In a little time they contented themselves with sending their slaves only; and at last these substitutes themselves, in imitation of their masters, or perhaps by their secret orders, gave over going also. Their enthusiasm, in short, from the first moment of its breaking out till the period when it was thus entirely cooled, had been the affair of something less than a fortnight.

The works, however, though abandoned to mercenary hands, were not interrupted. Government caused them to be continued with vigour; and, when I returned from my
journey,

journey, the expence of them already amounted to a very considerable sum. Nothing was to be seen but preparations for war and the means of defence. It appeared as if every inch of ground was meant to be disputed with the enemy; and if the company had reason to complain of the enormous cost with which these preparations were attended, they at any rate proved, that those into whose hands they had intrusted one of their most important possessions neglected nothing which they thought calculated to preserve it.

From the Table Mountain to False Bay the whole road was lined with small redoubts, which, being constructed in such a manner as to support each other, seemed likely to check the enemy, or at least retard him in his march.

Another road which conducted from the town to *Baie-aux-bois* (woody bay) was fortified

tified in a different manner. Being both the most beautiful, and at the same time the most pleasant of all the roads in the neighbourhood, it formed a delightful walk for the inhabitants; but from a dread that the English, invited by the facility which it presented of marching to the town, might resolve to make their descent at this bay, the road had not only been broken up throughout its whole length, but, at certain distances, deep trenches and excavations had been cut in it. These works, which were nothing in reality but miserable destruction, I could not behold without pain. The road had become my favourite walk; and I had in some measure appropriated it to myself. It was here I was fond of straying at those moments when it was deserted by others, to indulge at leisure in my reveries, and to regulate the plan of my journeys. I had counted every tree or shrub that grew on its borders, and was acquainted with every spot where I could sit down to enjoy

enjoy my meditations. War and its preparations had rooted up the verdant turf, and the flowers which had added to its beauty were faded or else totally disappeared. The town had lost what to me was its greatest ornament, its most bewitching charm.

In the neighbourhood, the whole shore, from *Pointe des Pendus* (gallows-point), near the Lion's Rump, to the bottom of the Bay, was defended by new works of every kind. The batteries were every where increased. Cannon, it is true, were wanting; but a supply of these had been promised from the Isle of France; and, if I remember right, after a peace was concluded, they actually arrived.

On the east the town itself was to be defended by a strong line of palisades, beginning at the shore and ending at the bottom of the Devil Mountain. It was the Isle of France again that was to furnish the wood necessary

for this circumvallation; and that engagement was, at any rate, much better fulfilled than the preceding one. But was it not a shame for a Government, possessing immense forests, to send eight hundred leagues to solicit of a foreign power assistance, which, without difficulty and almost without expence, it might have obtained by sea as well as by land from different parts of its own territories at home? I have already published some reflections on this subject in the account of my first travels. On my return to Holland, I mentioned the circumstance to several of the directors of the company, and I have no doubt that some plan will be adopted in consequence, which their own interest at the same time so powerfully recommends*.

* The state of things since these lines were written has greatly changed; it will, perhaps, change still more, and facilitate establishments, which, by custom, selfishness, and the interest of partial associations, have long been retarded.

As it was on the eastern side that the inhabitants expected the English to make their attack, it was in this quarter they took care to construct the strongest fortifications. But, among these new works, there was one which was far from meeting with general approbation. By professional men it was considered, if not altogether useless, as calculated at least very little to obstruct the taking of the town. To prove who were in the right, and who in the wrong, in the judgment of this matter, it would have been necessary that the town should actually be besieged; but this was an event that did not take place. To the inhabitants, however, the construction of this fort afforded a subject of considerable pleasantry. According to them, the contractors had laboured for their own advantage rather than for that of the colony; and by Colonel Gordon the fort was called in derision Fort Gullet.

While

While the means of defence were thus increased, Government endeavoured also to augment the number of troops. With this view, every person without distinction that offered himself was enlisted: be his defects what they might, not an individual was refused. I do not precisely know what such soldiers would have done in case of an attack; but I suspect they would have opposed no very formidable face to the enemy.

Just the same, in my opinion, would it have been with a regiment of Hottentots that was formed. Never did plan afford so much scope for ridicule as this; and to be convinced how just was the ridicule, a sight only of these grotesque troops at their exercise was sufficient. One day as I was crossing the parade where they were assembled, and where one of the company's servants was teaching them what he called military evolutions, I enjoyed

enjoyed this pleasure. I had never before laughed so heartily, and have never thought of them since without the same convulsive merriment. Those who have seen at a fair, apes perform their exercise under the whip of a show-man, jostle one another by contrary motions, wheel to the right when they should turn to the left, and jump about or leap on each others backs when they ought to march or to halt, will have no imperfect image of the manœuvres of these demi-savages. As none of them knew how to distinguish his right hand from his left, the reader may judge how well they must have obeyed the commands of their general. With a stupid look, they kept their eyes steadfastly fixed upon him; but scarcely had he given the word when, agitated as if by convulsions, each performed a different evolution; and all that could be taught them was to remain in a line closely squeezed one against the other. On the arrival of the first bullet,

and

and even on the first report of a cannon, the whole corps would have dispersed, like a flock of starlings, and never would it have been possible to rally them.

There was one mode, however, in which perhaps they might have been rendered useful: to have posted them in some secure place of ambuscade, where they could have nothing to apprehend, and there to have employed them in firing as occasion might offer. For it is scarcely to be expected that the savage, a total stranger to our prejudices, should set much value on the honour to be acquired by remaining at one's post, there to await perhaps certain death. The savage prefers lying in ambush for his enemy under the cover of darkness. The art of war is to him the art of avoiding danger. In the attack, it is only when he thinks himself sure of killing, without on his side running any risk; and to ask him to expose his life to procure victory

to those in whose success he has no interest, would be proposing an action that he would consider in the light of insanity.

Of the merit and bravery of the different officers destined to command the forts and the troops, I have nothing to say. They were all, no doubt, men of courage and talents, all worthy of the posts assigned, or the rank conferred upon them; but I very much regretted that I did not see among them the brave and intrepid Staaring. This seaman, since snatched by the hand of death from his family and country, had lately given an example of resolution that astonished the whole colony; and I publish it here with the more pleasure, as I shall thus, in part, discharge what I owe to the memory of a man to whom I was exceedingly attached.

A ship under Danish colours had anchored in the Cape Bay; and there were reasons

sons to suspect that she was an English spy, or at least a transport laden with warlike stores for the enemy. Staaring, who was port-captain, thought it his duty, in that quality, to endeavour to obtain certain information on the subject; and with that view went on board his sloop, and proceeded to the ship to examine her. This was what the Dane had been afraid of. Scarcely was the captain in his power when he gave orders to weigh anchor, and made preparations for putting to sea. Staaring, however, suspecting this treachery, had, before he quitted the shore, taken precautions to prevent its success. Accordingly, he made from the deck the signal that had been agreed upon; and the west battery, which he had himself caused to be constructed, and which was called by his name, immediately opened and began to discharge its guns upon the vessel. In vain did the Dane threaten in his wrath, that, unless Staaring gave a counter-signal and silenced the battery, he

he would lash him to the main-mast, and expose him to destruction from the shot of those very cannon which were fired in obedience to his orders. This brave man was not to be intimidated; and instead of basely complying with the proposal, he repeated his signal, which brought a second discharge from the battery. When the crew saw this, they became almost frantic with rage, fell upon the object of their vengeance, beat him severely, and actually tied him to the mast: but Staaring, though surrounded by danger, derided his tormentors. "You know not what you do," said he with a smile. "Perceive you not that these bullets are sent by my command; that they know me; and will, therefore, do me no harm?"

What he thus said in pleasantry, wonderful as it may appear, was eventually realised. The shot fell in showers on every side, without one of them touching him: but the ves-

fel was so shattered, that she was soon obliged to put about and to anchor with disgrace under the battery that had fired upon her. In short, this expedition, the success of which was the effect almost of a moment, proved so much the more honourable to the hero who conducted it, as the vessel, in reality, was a smuggler; and, being judged a legal prize, was sold, I believe, for the benefit of the company. For some time nothing was talked of at the Cape but Staaring's intrepidity. But his private affairs requiring his presence in Holland, he had recently departed with his wife; and, to avoid being attacked by the English, took his passage on board a Danish ship that was bound to Copenhagen.

The adventure at the Cape had reached the court of Denmark; but the circumstances of the capture were not distinctly known; and Staaring had to fear that, if the court should hear of his arrival, he might be arrested,
and

and perhaps put in irons till more certain information could be obtained. Some friends forewarned him of his danger. He thought it prudent, therefore, to withdraw; and departed privately from Copenhagen, leaving behind him his wife, who did not delay to follow him to Holland, where she had the misfortune soon after to lose him. But he has left a son who one day will doubtless fulfil the brilliant destiny to which the name he inherits so powerfully invites him.

The time I spent at the Cape was not lost to my studies and pursuits. I had not only been able, with a part of what I had brought with me from my journey, to form an interesting collection; but scarcely a day elapsed without my rambling into the country to procure other articles by which to enlarge it. Nothing came amiss to me: beetles, flies, butterflies, chrysalides, nests, eggs, quadrupeds, and birds of all kinds, had their value;

and all served either to fill up a place in my cabinet, or as objects of study. At the house of Boers too there was a kind of menagerie to which I frequently resorted, in order to make observations and sometimes experiments.

It was by means of this menagerie, added to what my two journeys had enabled me to observe, that I succeeded in obtaining a knowledge of the food, propensities, habits, and duration of life, more or less protracted, of certain animals. Some of these observations, which are highly worthy the attention of naturalists, I shall publish hereafter. At present, I mean to confine myself to a single experiment, which, not falling in with the thread of my narration, would be considered as foreign to it, and consequently can here only be inserted with propriety.

I had often remarked that spiders spread
their

their webs in certain solitary and close places, to which it is very difficult for flies and even for gnats to penetrate ; and I concluded that, as these animals must long remain without food, they were capable of enduring considerable abstinence and hunger.

To be assured of this circumstance, I took a large garden spider, which I inclosed under a glass bell, well fastened round the bottom with cement, and in this situation I left it for ten months together. Notwithstanding this deprivation of food, it appeared during the whole period equally vigorous and alert ; and I remarked no other alteration than that its belly, which at the time of its imprisonment was the size of a nut, decreased insensibly till at last it was scarcely larger than the head of a pin.

I then put under the bell another spider of the same kind. At first they kept at a distance from each other, and remained motionless ;

less; but presently the meagre one, pressed by hunger, approached and attacked the stranger. It returned several times to the charge; and in these different conflicts its enemy being deprived of almost all its claws, it carried them away, and retired to its former situation to devour them. The meagre one itself had also lost three of its claws, on which it equally fed; and I perceived that its plumpness was in some measure restored by this repast. At length, the new comer, deprived of all its means of defence, fell the next day a sacrifice. It was speedily devoured; and in less than twenty-four hours the old inhabitant of the bell became as round as it had been at the first moment of its confinement.

Other animals can by no means endure the same degree of hunger. An abstinence of a few days is sufficient to destroy them; and the term will be shorter or longer according
to

to the nature of their food. Among birds, for example, the granivorous generally die in the space of from forty-eight to sixty hours, while the entomophagi, those who feed on insects, will hold out for a short period longer.

But those which can least bear abstinence are such as live on fruit; a property that is owing probably to their stomach, which, digesting more speedily, has more frequent need of aliment. This quick digestion, however, is attended with one advantage, which is, that, reduced to an equal degree of inanition by abstinence, the animal, if assisted, will recover and resume its strength sooner than others. With the granivorous species this is not the case. Debilitated to a certain point, if nothing but the feeds on which they usually feed be given them, they can never be restored; their stomach having lost, in part, its power of digestion. The carnivorous, on the contrary, retain their di-

gestion to the last moment; and hence it happens that receiving the kind of food which is suited to them, an instant only is necessary to their recovery.

A little reflection will enable us clearly to perceive the cause of this difference. Flesh, from its affinity to the substance of the animal, becomes speedily incorporated with it; and, as its juices are highly nutritive, the assistance it gives is almost instantaneous. With seeds the case is the reverse: to be digested, they must remain some time in the stomach, where they require to be previously softened and triturated. This operation is tedious, and supposes, besides, a vital action in the gullet; a motion and force which fasting destroys.

What I have advanced upon this subject is not only supported by plausible reasons; but is the result also of experiment.

I took

I took two sparrows of the same age, and in equally good condition, and reduced them, by the want of nourishment, to such a state of weakness that neither of them was able to take what was offered him. I then forced down the throat of one some bruised seeds, and of the other a little minced flesh. In a few minutes the latter was quite well; while the former, two hours after, died.

Considering, however, granivorous birds with attention, it might be said, that seed, though it forms the principal part of their food, is to these animals a food at the same time that is insufficient and too little nutritive, since they add thereto fruit, flesh, insects, and, in a word, whatever nutritive substance they meet with. The carnivorous, on the other hand, whether they live on flesh or on insects, are uniform in their food. One kind is sufficient for them; and they have no recourse to seeds.

Of all the feathered race, the species most subject to hunger and to the frequent want of food have appeared to me to be the piscivorous, or such as feed on fish. Nature has accordingly given them large gullets or pouches, in which they accumulate, for future want, a larger store of provision.

With regard to birds of prey, they can endure hunger for a very considerable period. I have made on this subject various experiments, but shall content myself with relating a single fact, which is truly astonishing, and seems to prove something more than the mere capacity of enduring abstinence.

I had a vulture of the species called at the Cape *chasse-fiente* * (dung-hunter) which I

* The author gives here only a translation of the name used at the Cape. The Dutch name is *frontjaage*; and the bird alluded to is the same kind of vulture as that called in the West-Indies the carrion crow, T,

wanted to kill, in order to stuff it. The animal appearing too fat for the purpose, I obliged it to fast. Upon visiting it, I every day expected to find it dead, or reduced at least to extreme weakness; but it always appeared in the same state of health and vigour. At length, after eleven days of entire fast, seeing it still alive, my patience was exhausted; and, as I had other cares to engage my attention, I put an end to its existence. In preparing it for preservation, I perceived that it could have lived a much longer time; for, notwithstanding its abstinence, it still so abounded with fat, that I was obliged to extract it before I could succeed in my operation.

The same observation is applicable to quadrupeds. Such as live on flesh will endure hunger much longer than others; a fact so well known and attested, that I may spare myself the trouble of proving it.

The human species also furnishes a very striking instance of the same truth in those nations which more or less feed upon flesh. The Hottentot whose nourishment is milk and roots, or dried locusts, can by no means endure the fatigue and hunger which other Hottentots can who live by the chase, and who, often obliged to pass several days without eating, will suffer no inconvenience from the circumstance. I have even remarked that this kind of aliment, whatever prejudices may exist to the contrary, every thing else being equal, contributes to render the individual stronger than any other. Of all the races of men with which I have been acquainted, the largest and most robust, in my opinion, are the planters at the Cape; and I know of none that are so addicted to animal food. I myself, who, by the nature of my journeys, was obliged for several years to live solely on flesh, must acknowledge that I never enjoyed a more uniform or better state
of

of health than at that period. I also never so much abstained from strong liquors; whereas, if the English, who eat more animal food than the other nations of Europe, can make upon it two meals a day, it is because they drink in the interval, tea, punch, and other beverages of the same tendency, which accelerate its digestion.

Besides the experiments I prosecuted as to the power, more or less extensive, that certain animals have of subsisting without food, I engaged in others as to the impassibility, so to express myself, of certain kinds of insects, an impassibility by means of which beings, the term of whose existence is six months, or even less, appear to have received from nature the gift of being indestructible through the medium of those sensations commonly called painful, which are ordinarily destructive of every thing that has life.

I took

I took a large red-winged locust of the Cape, opened its belly, and, pulling out its intestines, filled the cavity with cotton; and in that state I fixed it to the bottom of a box with a pin, which passed through its thorax. It remained there for five months; and at the end of this period it still moved both its legs and its antennæ.

I transfixed other locusts in the same manner, without, however, opening their bellies as in the former case; and, to try if I could stifle them, I put into the box in which they were enclosed camphor and spirit of turpentine, and they lived there notwithstanding several days.

“If you tear a leg from a fly,” says the philosophical author of *Etudes de la Nature*, “it moves about as if it had sustained no loss. When deprived of so considerable a member, it neither faints nor is convulsed;”
 “emits

“ emits no cry, nor shews any symptom of
 “ pain. Children of a cruel disposition amuse
 “ themselves with thrusting long straws into
 “ the anus of these insects; and, thus im-
 “ paled, they fly into the air, or walk and per-
 “ form their usual movements, without seem-
 “ ing to be in the least affected by it. Reau-
 “ mur, one day, cut off the fleshy and mus-
 “ cular horn of a large caterpillar, which con-
 “ tinued to feed as if nothing had happened
 “ to it.”

I have sometimes attempted to drown in
 spirit of wine certain kinds of insects. The
 most robust carnivorous kind would have
 been stifled by it in less than two minutes;
 whereas these insects were often alive after an
 immersion of twenty-four hours. It is well
 known that Dr. Franklin recovered flies which
 he found in some bottles of wine that had been
 sent to him from Madeira, and which he had
 kept in his cellar for upwards of six months.

These

1 INTRODUCTION.

These experiments, which were a source of considerable amusement, occupied my hours of leisure, filled up the interval between my two journeys, and served to moderate my impatience. But at length the desire of again contemplating nature recurred with so much force, that a residence at the Cape became insupportable, and I began to think seriously of my departure.

DIRECTIONS to the BINDER for placing the COPPER-
PLATES.

VOL. I.

The MAP to front Page	-	-	-	I
PLATE 1 Encampment at the plantation of I. Sla-				
ber	-	-	-	23
2 View of the Cape of Good Hope	-			124
3 Male anhinga	-	-	-	180
4 Encampment at Heere-Logement	-			216
5 Passage of the Elephants-River	-	-	-	242

VOL. II.

6 Encampment at the horde of Klaas Baster				22
7 Cucumber-euphorbia	-		-	142
8 Male and female hippopotamus	-		-	207
9 Head of the giraffe	-		-	277
10 Camp of the giraffe	-		-	290
11 Spotted wolf	-	-	-	323
12 Greater Nimiqua man	-		-	358
13 Greater Nimiqua woman	-		-	ibid.

VOL. III.

14 Melon-ribbed euphorbia	-		-	22
15 Catterpillar-euphorbia	-		-	ibid.
16 Houzouana man	-		-	164
17 Head of a Houzouana man	-		-	ibid.
18 Houzouana woman	-		-	180
19 Head of a Houzouana woman	-		-	ibid.
20 Large-snouted boar	-		-	242
21 Black ape	-	-	-	295
22 Oricou	-	-	-	384

TRAVELS
INTO THE
INTERIOR PARTS
OF
AFRICA.

COUNTRY OF THE GREATER AND LESS
NIMIQUAS.

I Sit down at last to discharge my debt. Different as are the circumstances under which I resume my pen, the impulse to write is become the more powerful. The benefit of my long and wearisome travels shall not be lost. If the first fruits have been devoured by merciless oppressors, the misfortune is amply repaid by the spectacle of public liberty. A sufficiently fine harvest still remains to make me anxious of offering it to my country; and this portion, at

least, of the only presents I am able to bestow, will neither be debased by tares nor weeds. In the situation in which I live, I find the image of my early independence. I have no obstacles to overcome, and no corrupt beings to deal with, that I may pay to nature the tribute of adoration, which she has a right to expect from the most faithful of her lovers. I re-enter the deserts of Africa once more to visit her. I shall paint her as she is. She cannot but be pleased at seeing me, when she learns the efforts that, in this happy portion of the earth, have been made to revive her worship, and rebuild her altars. I will show her her portraits. She will not despise the dress in which they will be seen. Can she be offended if, at so great a distance from the country where she first appeared to me without either paint or attire, a slight veil be thrown over her charms? or rather has she not herself fixed the limits where change of temperature, and greater wants imperiously demand a modification of her essence? Let it then excite no astonishment if, in the relation of my adventures, and desirous of preserving my sincerity, a sigh escape me at the sight of her first image. She had my whole affections; I owe to her an account of

all the secrets of my heart ; and this predilection, which I cannot forego for the remote assylum in which I am destined to take up my residence by her side, is an additional homage that I render to the people still worthy of practising her lessons.

Land of repose, of ignorance, and of felicity ; land that without toil hast so long nourished me ; ye silent rocks, where I deposited all remembrance, and all regret of the past ; ye enchanting solitudes, troubled by no sigh, and soiled by no tyranny ; should some Frenchman chance to wander upon your borders, open to him your delightful retreats, and render still more august the inestimable blessing which his exertions have obtained for him !

I was scarcely returned to the Cape of Good-Hope when my thoughts already turned upon another excursion. Sixteen months incessantly occupied in travelling and hunting, had neither cooled my zeal, nor accomplished my wishes. The passion of increasing my knowledge in natural history became every day more imperious, and seemed to acquire strength from the multitude of objects I had collected. My fatigues were no sooner at an end, than the remembrance of them ended also. Finding my-

self in the midst of a town, and about to engage in the gossip of a society, for which I was by no means formed, I could not help casting behind me a longing look. I plunged in idea into those romantic retreats, those majestic forests, of which I had taken possession without difficulty, and could leave without protectors. This strange mixture of feeling and misanthropy, the ordinary guide of the actions of my life, abated the pleasure of seeing again friends who were so dear to me; or in other words, the Cape was not the place in which it would have been most pleasant to me to have enjoyed their company. From this ebb and flow of pleasure and uneasiness resulted a sentiment no less singular. I mean a total indifference as to the discoveries I had made, and with which it was my purpose to enrich the finest and most extensive of all the sciences. The sight and developement of the curious objects I had brought back with me to the Cape afforded me but little of heart-felt delight. The dramatic interest was passed. Thus it is with the most charming concert, which often, when the effect is produced, leaves a void in the soul, and the composer is coldly employed in putting together the different parts of his music.

By

By degrees my sociability returned, and I felt an inclination for company; but to enjoy also my treasures, I was forced to become a stranger to myself.

In all my attentions friendship had the first place. I once more saw, and pressed to my heart, the respectable Boers, whose health had occasioned me such alarm, when I was yet a hundred and fifty leagues from the Cape, and encamped on the borders of the Kriga. To him was I indebted, from the pains he took to get me into his house, after my unfortunate disaster in the bay of Saldanha, for all the fruits of so curious an expedition. He was eager to ascertain the state of the boxes I had brought with me, as he had before employed the utmost precaution in unpacking those I had remitted to him in the course of my travels. His zeal had made him ingenious, and suggested means of preservation that absolutely astonished me. To oblige me he had become a natural philosopher; and my collection was not only unimpaired by passing through his dextrous hands, but he had classed the different subjects of it with great propriety and intelligence. The arrangement of this cabinet, when I did not even know whether it had escaped the accidents

of so tedious a conveyance, was a sight truly ravishing. I had felt great anxiety respecting this first collection. When I called to mind the various ways in which it might be injured, the distance from which it was sent, the nature of the roads, the successive and continual effect of heat and rain, and the carelessness, perhaps, of the persons to whom it had been intrusted, I expected to find at best nothing but a wreck. On the contrary, my animals had gained new life, and seemed to breathe under the eye of their master. Such cares, such precaution and delicacy, could not fail to render at last my return agreeable to me.

A visit to the boxes which had arrived with me completed my satisfaction. Every thing they contained was equally brilliant and whole. My birds, which amounted to a thousand and eighty, were as fresh as at the moment when they were killed and prepared; my butterflies retained all their purity, and there was not an insect that had lost so much as a feeler. On this account the method I employed in packing and conveying them became additionally dear to me. The kind of box that I invented for the purpose has been described in the first volume of my former travels; and experience has so
fully

fully convinced me of its excellence that I cannot too often recommend the use of it.

The news of my return was soon spread through the Cape, and a crowd of idlers hastened from every quarter requesting to see what they called my new curiosities. The trouble of continually opening and shutting my boxes determined me to add this portion of my riches to that which my friend had so ingeniously arranged in my absence. I began with classifying the different species of birds, not indeed methodically, but, in a natural series, by pairs, male and female together.

Almost the whole of Boers' house was converted into a cabinet of natural history, and this sort of decoration, at once splendid and novel, attracted so much company, that one might have supposed it the general place of rendezvous of the whole town. It was never without visitors. What kind of curiosity influenced these visitors, and what interest was felt for the arts and sciences, by a people wholly engrossed by mercantile speculations, may be judged from the circumstance, that the objects which afforded them the greatest delight were frequently those belonging to the cantons nearest the town, and that there was not an in-

habitant of the Cape, who, even in his most ordinary walks, might not observe subjects of natural history, extremely valuable to any but an African. How is it when nature, at every step produces a miracle under our feet, that men can be so indifferent to her worship, and that the love of gold can compensate the pleasure which the discovery of one only of her secrets is capable of affording?

Among these inquisitive personages there were many, however, whose deportment in some degree flattered my sensibility. At sight of the rareties which I had brought so far, I remarked a much less interest for the fruit of my travels than for the traveller himself. They could hardly conceive the possibility of my having escaped the numerous perils which had before been exaggerated to me; and if, like Ulysses, my family had resided at the Cape, the report of my death would have given me more than one suitor to contend with, and more than one Eumeus to seduce.

A still greater number regarding my labours as futile and unproductive, were continually teasing me with the question, "Well, what gold mine have you found?" Gold was the idol of these men, and a single grain of this omnipotent

rent metal would have produced more effect upon them than the most humane and generous sentiments. Every expedition that brought no gold with it, was, in their estimation, so much time wretchedly mispent. This passion for gold is the chain that links together the scattered Dutch. I remember, that in my early youth, when my father took me with him to a distance from the colony, and we brought back with us, to Paramaribo, some curious objects for the embellishment of his cabinet, the inhabitants never failed to ask why instead of these things we had not brought gold.

But let me not forget that I found among the crowd some enlightened amateurs, whose suffrage were a counterbalance to these repeated mortifications, and by whom my labours were in a manner appreciated and felt.

In the number of these judges I ought particularly to distinguish Colonel Gordon. He had traversed, like myself, some of the southern countries of Africa. To many of the literati of Europe his observations are known. Should he read this account, he will find in it the pledge of an esteem that is without bounds. May it induce him to extend his reputation by publishing his discoveries. He owes to Europe
an

an account of such complete researches, and which relate to so interesting a part of Africa. They are the property of the science, which would then no longer remain buried in oblivion. The Colonel was frequently delighted with the many and various species I had collected, and he hesitated not to acknowledge that the majority of them were perfectly new to him.

It is true, that, bound to society by no tie that interfered with, or controuled my favourite pursuits, absolute master of my time, and disengaged from every affection but that of the chase, I gave myself up to its exercise like a true savage. A savage indeed has no inducement but want; whereas I often affixed to the conquest of a single object whose existence I had discovered, a price that no watchings and no fatigue could counterpoise. Whenever, allured by the cry, or other token of some new bird, the ordinary means were insufficient, I set my invention to work that it might not escape, and if it were necessary to spend a whole month in pursuing, or rather in waiting for my prey, I immediately pitched my tent, and never quitted the place till I had obtained it.

It is to this unbending perseverance I owe the advantages of possessing almost every species of bird belonging to that part of Africa over which I travelled. I use the word almost, because there are certainly events that exceed the limits of our power. Who does not know, for instance, how much the changes of season are calculated to drive from the hunter, or bring within his reach, species of birds, which he can then derive only from chance? It is thus with birds of passage. In countries subject to heavy rains, to long droughts, or considerable varieties of atmosphere, such birds no doubt come and go much oftener than in Europe, where we experience no alternative but that of heat and cold; and no sportsman, however dextrous, ought to expect any thing more than to obtain a collection that shall bear some degree of proportion to the variety of species: to discover all that exist of this kind, the life of man would be insufficient.

My days were usefully and almost wholly occupied in classing my treasures, keeping my cabinet in order, and thinking upon the means of supplying its deficiencies, in order to form a complete system, that should one day, under the infirmities of age, console me for the incapacity

capacity of studying the elements at their source, and deprive me of regret at the recollection of a discipline that cannot be commenced again but by a recommencement of life. I promised myself in idea greater pleasure from my second, than I had enjoyed in my first travels. The compass of experience would now be my guide and enable me to surmount the most tremendous obstacles. How far our foresight can extend, and how near a second precipice frequently is to that which we have escaped, will be seen in the sequel.

I had in a manner prepared all that was necessary for my expedition: but the moment of my departure from the Cape did not advance so rapidly as I wished. A person whom I had looked for with the most tormenting impatience, whom I had not seen since my return, and without whom I could promise myself neither pleasure or safety, was absent. This was no other than Klaas, who at last suddenly presented himself before me. There was then at the house of the fiscal, a select, but numerous party of friends. Klaas enjoyed, wherever he went, no inconsiderable share of reputation. The associate of my travels, and entrusted by me more particularly than the rest with the execution

cution of my plans, I could not be too lavish in my praises of this my faithful privy-counsellor. His sudden arrival excited in the house of Boers the most lively curiosity. Nothing was thought of but my friend, and, as he entered, every one spontaneously rose from his seat. I had owed every thing to his attachment and fidelity, and he instantly received testimonies of esteem that were a sort of compensation. The fiscal drew his purse and made him a considerable present; an example that was followed by the whole company. Stupified with astonishment, Klaas looked at the wealth that was thus showered upon him, and thought himself as rich as the governor himself.

A single thought, however, with which his mind laboured, soon absorbed every sentiment that arose from this unexpected reception. Upon entering, he had advanced towards me to testify his joy, but his emotion was so great as to deprive him of utterance. He also had a present to make. With half-opened mouth, and eyes brimful of tears, he held out a packet to me, consisting of a box or two, upon which he appeared to fix an extraordinary value. I played a little with his agitation, which increased the silence of those who were spectators
of

of the scene. At last I relieved him from his embarrassment, or he would otherwise, I believe, have remained all night in the same attitude. "Well," said I, "for whom are these boxes?" "For you, for you!" said he. "They are full of those animals of which you are so fond. If I have been tardy in returning, it was only that I might not come empty-handed, and without bringing with me something to prove that I had not forgotten you. I am afraid, however, that the birds are neither so beautiful nor so rare, as those which we have killed in our excursion."

Judge of my astonishment and joy, when, upon opening the boxes, I perceived a well-arranged collection of handsome insects, with some birds very expertly skinned, and agreeably to the method which he had seen me so often practice in the desarts. I freely confess that no testimony of favour or esteem has ever filled my heart with so pure and delicious a sentiment as this frank and artless proceeding on the part of my Hottentot, and the knowledge, that during our separation, which had by no means been short, his thoughts had been employed solely upon me. Worthy and excellent nation! ye wits of Europe, match me if you can,

can, with all your ingenious delicacy and sublime ideas of generosity, a trait of friendship and feeling, simple and genuine as this. My dear Klaas, how often, invited to the houses of personages of rank, complimented by some, carested by others, distinguished by all, how often, in the midst of flattering favours and brilliant promises, have I opened your box of insects, and thanked you for the short, but delicious instants of pleasure, which formerly diversified the tedious hours, when my single resource was to display to you my knowledge, and unwillingly to entrap your applause!

Klaas did not stay long after he had delivered his present. The treasure he had received began to embarrass him. He thought of the wife I had given him, into whose hands he was eager to deposit his wealth. Having first learned from him, that the other companions of my travels, scattered here and there in the vicinity of his horde, were tranquil and happy, my cattle in good condition, my waggons and furniture under cover and secure, and my whole caravan ready to attend me at a moments summons, I embraced my faithful coadjutor and suffered him to depart.

This unexpected visit on the part of Klaas brought

brought to my recollection another companion of my travels; a good friend, a faithful servant, extremely cunning, fruitful in expedients in times of emergency, and by whom I had more than once been extricated from embarrassments. The whole company were desirous of seeing him, and we walked towards his house as if to inform him that I was on the point of setting off. There was a sort of playful contention who should be the first to tell him the news. The reader will perceive that I am speaking of my ape. There could be no festivity unless he was of the party. Boers and myself were accustomed to visit him every day after dinner, and to take with us some of our dessert. Naturally gentle and careffing, he was free from the faults of his species, and had rather imbibed those of his master. He seemed also to have acquired some virtues, for he was sensible to kindness and civilities, and always eager to repay them. I knew but one person whom he would not suffer to stroke him; and to him he bore a most extraordinary enmity. This was an officer of the Pondicherry regiment, who lodged like myself in the house of the fiscal, and who, to try the affection of my ape, pretended one day to strike me. At this supposed

ill treatment Kees was in a terrible rage, and from that moment took a dislike to the officer. At whatever distance he perceived him approaching, his cries and gestures sufficiently denoted the desire he felt of avenging me. He grinded his teeth and made the most painful efforts to dart upon him. In vain had the offender frequently attempted, by the offer of dainties, to soften his anger. Resentment had left a profound hatred in the soul of Kees, which it required a long time to efface.

The impotence of his exertions, to wipe away the stain which my honour had suffered by the affront, denotes that the unfortunate animal was chained. It was the fear of losing him that induced me to adopt so degrading a measure. His fame had gained him such numerous friends, that, if he escaped from the house, he was sure to be stolen, either by the sailors who would have conveyed him on board, or by the inhabitants of the Cape, who would have secreted him till I was gone, or even by the slaves who would have roasted and eaten him.

Poor Kees appeared to have a melancholy sense of his slavery. Boers, indeed, had provided him with a very handsome kennel; but

is there any enjoyment without liberty? My ape, besides, possessed a degree of moral perception, which rendered his situation more painful than it would have been to a vulgar ape. The moment he saw me, he flew the whole length of his chain to meet me; and it was me in particular that he seemed to upbraid with ingratitude for his captivity. The period of rendering him happy every day drew nearer; I hardened myself against his importunities, for I loved him too well to give him an imprudent testimony of my affection.

In reality, I should have had every thing to fear if I had had the weakness to have yielded to pity. He might have escaped of his own accord. A sentiment still stronger than friendship might every instant have allured him away. It is not with the ape as with other domestic animals, whom instinct attaches to the soil where they have been brought up, and who always return to it; whether, like the dog, they have greater fondness for the master than the house; or, like the cat, more attachment to the house than the master. The ape, on the contrary, indocile and refractory, incapable of lasting remembrance either of the one or of the other, retains a propensity to independence,

which the mildest education, or the tenderest treatment cannot correct. Besides, resembling in some degree man, in the formation and use of his members, he is like him also in the faculty of propagating at all times his species; and the reverse, therefore, of other animals, who, in this respect, are in a state of virtual incapacity, except in the fixed and periodical seasons which nature has assigned them. Kees had still his virginity, and had never known pleasure. The slightest spark would have set him on fire; an instant was sufficient to convert him into a libertine; and if, with all the indiscretion and vivacity of youth, he had once lusted after a female, his master would soon have been forgotten; he would have followed her into the depth of the woods, and would never more have returned. Extremely fond of Kees, and unable to prevail on myself to lose him, I used my power as a despot, and chained him up that I might dispose of him as I liked.

The reader will forgive these details. They are interesting to a traveller like myself, who has no brilliant exploits to relate, and no wilderness of invention in which to lose himself.

Every day I became more occupied with the excursion I had in view. This new enterprise required numerous preparations. I flattered myself that in a few days they would all be completed. The fatigues of my former expedition were as perfectly dissipated as if it had been undertaken ten years ago. At length I was ready to depart.

Unfortunately it was the driest season of the year. Such of the inhabitants to whom I had communicated my projects, and who were most interested in my welfare, notwithstanding the desire they felt that I should complete my discoveries, were continually urging me to wait for a more favourable period. The weather, they said, was inauspicious and unseasonable. As if the weather and seasons which prevailed at the Cape, and in the neighbourhood of the sea, must necessarily be the same at the distance of some hundreds of leagues in the interior of Africa. I had already some experience upon the subject; but I was weak enough to yield to the persuasions of these over-timid friends. Another project instantaneously occurred to my mind. I accordingly deferred my departure till the season arrived that was represented as favourable. It will hereafter be
seen

seen how fatal was this procrastination, and to what calamities it exposed both my people and me.

I had resolved to withdraw myself from the Cape. The circumstance by which I had been induced to adjourn my grand expedition, was an additional motive with me to undertake an excursion in the environs of the town. It would at least be food to my impatience; and I should find in this resource, the only one that offered itself amidst the eternal wearisomeness with which I was beset, some compensation for the delay which the season had imposed upon me. I had learnt, in the short conversation I had had with Klaas, that the two Hottentots to whom I had committed the care of my oxen, and the equipage of my caravan, waiting the signal for a second expedition, had conducted my cattle to the pastures of Groene-kloof, and that my goats, agreeable to my directions, had remained in Swart-land, under the eye of my friend Slaber, who, uniform in his zeal to serve me, had taken charge of them.

What reproaches did I not cast upon myself for having neglected, since my return to the Cape, this worthy and respectable friend! By what business, what necessity, what laws of decorum,

corum, what infatuation of good company, had I been so long prevented the paying him a visit? Where could I taste a more pure and genuine pleasure than under the roof of this honest planter, who, after my misfortune at Saldanha bay, when I had lost every thing I possessed, and was wandering in a strange land, without asylum, without money, without friends, without any kind of resource, saved me at once from sinking in despair? The recollection of this virtuous African occasioned me the most poignant regret. I flew to his habitation, which received for the third time one of his dearest children. The caresses of this charming family were bestowed on me in profusion. From the surprise and joy they exhibited, and the sudden disorder that prevailed in the house, one might have supposed it to be the celebration of an ancient festival, or the return of some important personage from an illustrious expedition. Nothing was thought of but how to render my abode agreeable to me. The parties of pleasure that were most within their reach and my own, were parties of hunting. They contrived such as were particularly amusing. A sober and tranquil excursion now and then interrupted the labour of this more fatiguing employment.



ENCAMPMENT AT THE PLANTATION OF J. SLABER AT THREE-FONTYN.

employment. The amiable daughters of Slaber were the directors of these excursions, and there was a finesse and a grace in their contrivances for this purpose, that one could scarcely have expected from women so remote from the customs and coquetry of Europe. For example, they imagined they could not present to the regards of their impatient and humourous guests, a spectacle better calculated to prolong his visit than that of his own horses browsing in the fields near their habitation. They led me, without my having the least suspicion of the matter, to an agreeable ascent, where I found my little stock in the most enviable state of felicity and fatness. They were indebted for their prosperity to the personal attentions of my fair friends. We came nearer, and a new subject presented itself to my surprise. Many of my female goats had yeaned, and brought me so many kids. No man who has not been in the same situation can feel what I felt at this time. My animals were the only possessions that had never occasioned me regret, mortification, or uneasiness. The benefit I had derived from my goats in my first journey, assured me of the still renewed and more considerable benefits I should now

receive. It is with pleasure I dwell upon this incident. May future travellers derive instruction from it; for, however ingenious may be their precautions in other respects, they must expect to suffer amidst the deserts of Africa, if they do not provide themselves with oxen as friends, and young goats as play-fellows.

It was at last necessary to tear myself from this incomparable family, whom I promised more than once to call upon, in the course of my rambles round the Cape. I kept my word. This tranquil and august habitation, indeed, like an irresistible loadstone, often attracted me at a considerable distance, and I experienced no subject of pleasure that I did not hasten to deposit in the bosom of the celestial society that occupied it.

I have somewhere said, that one of the men who were most attached to me, and from whom I had derived the greatest services in periods of danger, was old Swanapoel. I had dispatched one of his comrades to request him to come to me at the Cape. He hastened thither immediately. I considered it as particularly incumbent upon me to recompense his fidelity; and in telling him that we were to depart together upon a second expedition, I
gave

gave him a proof of my friendship that was by no means trivial.

An unfortunate event had formerly taken place, that had nearly cost him his life. In the heat of a quarrel, and from a sudden impulse of anger, he had struck a Hottentot woman, who had died in consequence of the blow. The circumstance having been represented, in an unfavourable light, to the justice of the canton, who had no great kindness for him, poor Swanapoel was sentenced to be banished, for the rest of his days, to Roben island. He had already resided there several years, when the declaration of war between England and Holland caused the island to be evacuated, and the convicts to be conveyed on board the company's ships. It was at this period that I entered upon my first travels. I have sufficiently spoken of him in the course of my narrative; and so honestly did he discharge the offices I appointed him, that I considered his crime, which was known to me, as having long been expiated. My friend, the fiscal, who had enquired into the particulars of the old man's story, did not wait for my report of his character to do him
some

some degree of justice. Softening, on my account, the laws of which he was the interpreter, he granted me, before I had time to request it, Swanapeel's liberty, as long as I should have need of his services during my abode in Africa. I promised on my return to apply to the government in his behalf: but soon after, by an impulse of generosity that I could hardly expect, Boers set him completely at liberty. He did more: affected even to tears by the account I gave him of this man's conduct, he was desirous of recompensing his fidelity to me by a present, which he afterwards made him, of a complete set of traveling accoutrements, and by an order that he should receive arrears of pay for the whole time that he had been with me. Such were the delicate and provident attentions by which my friends, in emulation of each other, sought to encourage my zeal, by interesting in my favour, in a thousand ways, the companions I had chosen to partake of my dangers: and thus, by ascribing to me all the merit of actions of which I was but the object, did they artfully instill beforehand into my Hottentots, that spirit of subordination and obedience,

ence, without which no traveller in Africa can extend his observations beyond the limits of the colony.

To enhance the favour, the fiscal had left entirely to me the pleasure of communicating this intelligence, so agreeable to the person whom it particularly concerned. How sweet is the recovery of freedom and honour! Scarcely had I uttered the words, *you are free*; scarcely had I begun to relate what my friend had done for him, than, impelled by gratitude, and as if restored to new life, the old man threw himself upon my neck, which he bathed with his tears. I was strongly impressed and agitated. It seemed as if it were I that had been torn from banishment and restored to society. All the evils I had experienced on board the Middleburg were at once pictured to my mind. I looked back, through a period of two years, to that disastrous moment, when I had myself stood in need of the pity of mankind; a moment so fatal, that it was impossible for me to suppose I should one day have an opportunity of exercising towards another the same commiseration, at once so natural and affecting, as I then experienced.

When

When the emotion of Swanapoel was somewhat appeased, and he was capable of attending to me, I told him my projects, and promised he should accompany me. In my grand expedition indeed this was impossible. From its uncertainty and the difficulties that might attend it, and considering too his advanced age and the fatigues of our former journey, I could not think of taking him so far. But the colony afforded a field sufficiently ample for me to be desirous of availing myself once more of his services. I should have been hateful to my own eyes if, at a time when he had so much reason to rejoice, and when there yet remained of life a short interval which he might spend in tranquillity and honour in the bosom of his family, I had exposed him at a distance to the risk of perishing. The offer I made him of our traversing the colony together seemed perfectly to satisfy him; or at least if he felt mortified at the idea that I should take him no farther, he was careful to conceal it, and even afterwards, in his intercourse with my people, not a word of discontent escaped his lips.

I have already explained, in my former
narrative,

narrative, the reasons that induced me to adhere inflexibly to my plan, of keeping at a distance from the habitations of the colony, and of having no intercourse with the planters. Beside the interruptions and inconveniences that their visits would unavoidably occasion, I had always a considerable spot of ground, a sort of estate, to overlook, which I never found in better order than when we had none of these neighbours about us. It may be remembered what cause I had to repent a deviation from this rule at Agter-Bruintjes-Hoogte. Though I had intercourse with these planters for four hours only, it spread such a spirit of insubordination in my camp, that it required all my firmness to re-establish order and a good understanding. To this unlucky circumstance, to these first fruits of so dangerous a communication, do I owe the misfortune of never visiting the country of Caffraria, a country so extremely curious, as to merit of itself a separate expedition, and so interesting, that I shall all my life regret the not having known it.

In my present plan of traversing the colony, properly so called, and studying the humour
of

of its half savage, half polished inhabitants, I could not avoid incurring such risks. I took care, however, to associate with such Hottentots only from whom I had nothing to fear, or whom I could dismiss at my pleasure. This little excursion became every day more interesting to me. It was in a manner the frame of the grand picture I was desirous of sketching. To have rambled, during my abode at the Cape, from habitation to habitation, in the neighbourhood of the town, was little gratification to me. I must penetrate farther, and make the tour of the colony at large, to procure, if possible, a topographical plan of it. A radius of forty or fifty leagues would be too insignificant a distance to prevent my returning the moment I desired it; and at present there seemed to be no plan better calculated to console me under the mortification I felt from the suspension of my journey into the desert.

It was in this little enterprize I engaged Swanapoel. I did so with the less reluctance, as I considered it only as a pleasant journey, that would be unaccompanied either with fatigue or danger. I allowed him a day or two to enjoy with his friends the liberty that
had

had been conferred upon him, and appointed his return as the signal of our departure. He was exact to his time, and the moment he appeared we mounted our horses. I took with me such conveniences and such preparations only as are indispensable when the intention is to pass some time in the country. The colony was thoroughly known to Swanapoel, who had advised me not to incumber myself with useless luggage, assuring me that I should in all cases find sufficient opportunities for the supply of my wants, and be every where received with the kindest and most liberal hospitality. The practice of this admirable virtue, which is almost banished from the face of the earth, was of use to me on this occasion; but it would have been fatal to my people, whom it would have disgusted with the fatigues they had to share with their chiefs, and infallibly prevented them from following me.

I took the route of Hottentot-Holland, intending to proceed from thence to every point of the colony, as far as the Twenty-four Rivers, and afterwards to return by way of Swartland, where I should have an opportunity or
once

once more reposing myself under the roof of my worthy friend Slaber.

I shall enter into no particulars respecting the productions of the different cantons, their state of cultivation, and other objects of which I have already treated. I shall confine myself, in the few observations I have to make, chiefly to the character of the inhabitants, and their mode of living; digressing only for a moment to notice an excellent spring of hot water which the company has converted into a bathing place for the sick, and which is therefore called the hot-baths. It was there that Boers, in a state of despair, and abandoned by his physicians, recovered his health. How gladly would I have erected a temple upon this spot, which had been the means of saving a valuable friend whom death had so long persecuted! I would have surrounded it with a fence, and have had it deified. In imitation of the charming and magick ages of mythology, those days of profound and ingenious fiction, when rivulets, brooks, and fountains, had each their secret symbols, and called to mind some beneficent deity, I would have offered to the naiad of these

these waters a homage that posterity would perhaps have consecrated.

In visiting Franche Hoeck, I did not, as before, regard without interest that race of French refugees, formerly persecuted by their unjust country, stripped, proscribed, dishonoured as so many wretches unworthy to exist. Victims of fanaticism and intolerance, and destitute of every other refuge, they repaired to this miserable solitude, which the pity of some neighbouring governments assigned them; a pity which would have feared to have allowed them a residence too near the seat of their original disaster. Banished from France, they have even forgotten the language; but they have not forgotten their calamity. Their customs they have borrowed from the Dutch, their original character being totally lost; but they are distinguished, for the most part, by the darkness of their hair, which forms a striking contrast with the almost white hair of the other inhabitants. It is thus that invisibly are destroyed the modifications that the life of man receives from his government, his education, and his laws. Every thing is gradually annihilated, recomposed, revived; a few tra-

ditions only remain, as a solitary testimony through successive ages.

The lot of these unhappy fugitives, martyrs of their religion, whatever it be, who have forsaken every thing, even the tombs of their ancestors, to transplant themselves to the extremities of Africa, excited in my breast the most tender commiseration, of which they little suspected the cause. Since my return to France, though immense oceans separate us from each other, this interest has daily increased. Liberty would willingly efface the very remembrance of so dastardly a proscription. The younger children of these wretched parents will perhaps one day find, in their old country, the enjoyment of all the blessings which the rage of priests and the fatal complaisance of a despot have robbed them of.

I can no where so properly relate as here the manner in which grants of land were formerly made in this so long uncultivated country, and the usages that still take place upon the subject. I could wish the reader to be particularly attentive to this account, in which he will discover something of the origin of human possessions and establishments.

I owe

I owe it to chance, which directed my steps to the Rooye-Zand, or Red-sand colony.

Fatigued with the extreme heat of the weather, and desirous of resting myself, I one day at noon entered an habitation that offered itself, where it was my intention to remain till the cool of the evening. There was nobody in the house but a young woman, of a charming figure, and who appeared to be about sixteen years of age. I paid my respects to her, and, agreeably to the customs of the country, saluted her. My eyes involuntarily wandered round the room. Conceiving that my astonishment arose from the circumstance of her being alone, she anticipated what she imagined I was about to say, by telling me that her father and mother were absent upon business. Surprised they should be from home in the burning heat of the day, I asked by what accident they had been compelled to leave her. "Why," said she, "we were told this morning that somebody had planted a baaken (a stake) upon our estate; and my parents, alarmed at the intelligence, immediately set off to enquire upon the spot into the truth of the report." At a loss to conceive how a stake driven into the

D 2

ground

ground could be of so much importance as to oblige these planters, contrary to their usual custom, to expose themselves to the intense heat of the sun, and even to abandon their daughter, I replied very simply, that if one man, passing by, had planted this stake, the next comer would perhaps take it away again, and that there was nothing in the circumstance so extremely urgent. I even offered, if her parents did not succeed in discovering it, to pull it up myself if I passed that way. The business, she said, depended neither upon them, upon me, nor any other person. But her father, she added, would shortly be at home, who would give me a more particular history of the baaken. Meanwhile she invited me to take some refreshment, and to bear her company.

Her parents, as she had supposed, soon arrived. The father caressed her for detaining me, and I was loaded with civilities on the part of the mother. We sat down to table. An unrestrained cheerfulness presided at the meal. The melancholy affair that had occasioned such alarm was arranged, and all parties satisfied.

I longed for the promised history of the stake. These good people are slow in their motions,

motions, and it was not till after many preambles, in which however I gave myself up to the most charming distractions, that my host began as follows.

“ You must know,” said he, “ that, in this
“ country, to see and to possess are nearly
“ the same thing. When an inhabitant of
“ the Cape wants to obtain a spot of ground
“ in the colony, whether for agriculture or
“ for grazing, he traverses different cantons, to
“ look out for a situation that may suit him.
“ When he has found it, he sets up what is
“ called a baaken, as much as to signify to
“ any one who may be looking out with a
“ similar purpose, that the spot is already
“ occupied. Then he returns to the Cape,
“ and applies to the government for a regular
“ permission and title. This sort of sollicita-
“ tion is seldom refused ; but, as the grants of
“ uncultivated ground made by the company
“ are usually a league square, it happens,
“ sometimes from mistake and sometimes from
“ malice, that the baaken has been set up upon
“ the ground of a former proprietor ; or that
“ in the circumference granted him, of which
“ the baaken is the centre, some part of ano-
“ ther man’s land is included. In this case,

“ to terminate the dispute, arbitrators are sent
“ for, and a decision obtained. If the ques-
“ tion be not much involved, a compromise
“ is easily made; but in many cases it happens
“ otherwise. Then commences a regular
“ suit at law, and an eternal subject of va-
“ riance and hatred between the two parties.
“ Another misfortune in such cases is, that
“ the original proprietor is rarely at liberty to
“ quit his farm, and to undertake the ma-
“ nagement of his own cause, which assured-
“ ly he is the person to understand best.
“ The trial, however, goes on, and the ad-
“ vocate, who has frequently never seen the
“ spot, acquits himself as well as he can.
“ The judge, who is equally in the dark,
“ gives sentence accordingly; and thus your
“ Europeans, who think that no people have
“ understanding and reason but themselves,
“ forget that they have not less a monopoly
“ of corruption and vice. The simplest dis-
“ putes often terminate in the ruin of fami-
“ lies, while nobody gains by them, except
“ it be the judge, whose trade thrives upon
“ this species of nourishment. The planters,
“ on the other hand, whose condition re-
“ moves them from the bustle, subtlety, and
“ intrigue

“intrigue of large towns, settle these things
“in the clearest and most sagacious manner,
“with no other instructor but good sense,
“and no other guide but reason.” Philosopher as my host affected to be, and though his countenance, which became animated at every stroke of satire that escaped him against the institutions of society, was expressive of considerable energy, candour, and good sense, I have taken the liberty of abridging his narrative, leaving it to the reader’s imagination to supply what I have omitted.

I proceeded on my journey in the evening, after receiving a kiss of peace and good will from the whole family.

From Rooye-Zand I passed into the canton of the Twenty-four-Rivers, the most pleasant spot, beyond dispute, in the Dutch settlement. It derives its name from the numerous streams by which it is watered; and hence we may judge how productive and picturesque it must be. The principal canals, also, by the drains which are judiciously cut, convey abundance and fertility to all the cultivated grounds in the neighbouring farms; and the inhabitants exercise considerable skill in increasing or diminishing the body of these wa-

ters, so favourable to their crops. In no part of the colony do the meadows enjoy the same degree of smiling verdure; the freshness of which is such, that the sight alone is sufficient, in this burning climate, to fascinate the eye of the traveller, charm his imagination, and actually suspend his fatigues. The canton of the Twenty-four-Rivers is the Eden of Africa, where we walk through groves of *pampelmoes**, citrons, and oranges; where the smell is deliciously regaled by the perfume of the flowers, and where a slight shade invites to repose, to thoughtfulness, and meditation. Every thing round these gardens equally tends to support the delusion of enchantment. The eye extends to a distance, and beholds a magnificent horizon. Some rising hills embellish and diversify the plains, which are bounded by mountains, the summits of which are hid among the clouds. We find at our feet whatever is necessary to our wants, or that constitutes the enjoyment and luxury of life. The attraction of this spot is so great, that we cannot help wishing we could build an ha-

* A species of citron that bears in the West-India Islands the name of shaddock: the fruit is larger than the orange, of a redder pulp, and a bitterish flavour. T.

bitation and reside there for ever. The houses are closer together, and are gradually increasing; so that I should not wonder if they were shortly to exhibit the spectacle of a second town in the colony, and the valley of the Twenty-four-Rivers become at last the richest and most populous country in the environs of the Cape.

I have said, that it was my intention to return by way of Swart-Land to the Cape, and spend a few days with my good friends, or rather, as I may call them, my good relations, the Slabers. Among the diversions in which we were accustomed to engage together, there was one that, at the time it was proposed, and even after I had made the experiment, singularly astonished me. They had promised to procure me some birds, which were not in my collection, and which were unknown to me. Whenever a novelty of this kind was the question, I was always prepared the instant it was started. Accordingly I took up my fowling-piece, and was ready to be gone. "Stop," said they; "leave if you please your fire-arms, which will only incom- mode us. The chace to which we invite you is of a new kind; having never seen it, you will make but a sorry figure. Follow

“ us then, and be satisfied for once with being
“ an humble spectator.”

My guide yoked his oxen, and we set off; he with a long and enormous whip, which the planters make use of, and which I have already described; I with nothing but a stick, which served me as a cane. Arrived at the scene of action, he took his plough, and began to trace out a furrow. The new earth no sooner appeared, than I saw a vast quantity of very small birds flock together from every side, and almost alight upon the plough-share, which they eagerly followed. Of what could these birds be in pursuit, that neither the instrument which was in motion, nor the man who directed it, could terrify them? Alas! they darted to the ground to devour creatures animate like themselves, the maggots, worms, and insects which the plough exposed to their view. So unexpected a sight was almost perfect ecstasy. It had one alloy, however. Empty-handed and without weapons, I was obliged passively to contemplate these devourers of insects, without being able to secure one of them. These birds were killing animals weaker than themselves; I was desirous of killing the birds; while perhaps behind me was some more ferocious beast longing to treat

me with the same kindness. Without the slightest preamble, Slaber coolly asked me which of the birds I should like to have. I ventured to point one out, though I had no doubt he was laughing at me. Immediately, flourishing his enormous whip, he brought to the ground with a single stroke the very same bird. In twenty instances that I put his skill to the proof, he never once missed his aim. This dexterity of the whip, indeed, is an acquirement general among the planters; but Slaber was an adept in the exercise, whom I never saw surpassed. It forms an article in the education of their youth, and is in my opinion of more worth than the imbecil sports of our schools and colleges. I shall return again to this subject hereafter, thinking it entitled to a minuter investigation.

There are some cantons, meanwhile, in which this art is much less practised than in others. All the planters have neither the same occupations nor the same usages. They lead, indeed, for the most part, a life simple and uniform; there are points of contact and habits of resemblance that apply to them all: on the other hand, they differ according to their origin; and though the monotony of their life extends

tends over the whole surface of the colony, and they, in consequence, exhibit at first sight to the traveller no discriminate features, there are nevertheless shades that deserve to be pointed out, and which may serve the better to make known the character of this as yet new nation.

The planters of the Cape may be divided into three classes; those who reside in the vicinity of the Cape, within a distance of five or six leagues; those who live farther off in the interior parts of the colony; and, lastly, those who, more distant still, are found at the extremity of the frontiers among the Hottentots.

The first, who are opulent proprietors, and have handsome country-houses, may be likened to what was formerly called in France *petits seigneurs terriers*, and differ extremely from the other planters in ease and luxury, and particularly in their manners, which are haughty and disdainful. Such is the result of wealth. The second, simple, kind, hospitable, are cultivators, who live upon the fruits of their labour. Here we have an example of the good effects of mediocrity. The last, poor enough, yet too indolent to derive subsistence from the soil, have no other resource than the produce of some cattle, which they feed as they can.

Like

Like the Beduin Arabs, they think much of the trouble of driving them from canton to canton, and from one pasturage to another. This wandering life prevents them from building any settled habitations. When their flocks oblige them to sojourn for a while in the same place, they construct, in haste, a rude kind of hut, which they cover with matts, after the manner of the Hottentots, whose customs they have adopted, and from whom they in no respect differ, but in their complexion and features. And here the evil is, that there is no precise situation in social life to which these miserable beings belong.

These sluggish tribes are held in horror by their industrious neighbours, who dread their approach, and remove as far from them as they can; because, having no property of their own, they steal without scruple that of others, and, when in want of pasturage for their cattle, conduct them secretly to the first cultivated piece of ground that comes in their way. They flatter themselves they shall not be discovered, and they remain till every thing is devoured. If detected in their thefts, squabbles and contentions ensue, and afterwards a suit at law, in which, recourse is had to the magistrate (*drofsart*),

sart), and which commonly terminates in making three men enemies, the robber, the person robbed, and the judge.

Nothing can be so mean and cringing as the conduct of the first description of planters, when they have any thing to transact with the principal officers of the company, who may have some influence over their lot; and nothing so absurdly vain and so superlatively insolent as their behaviour to persons from whom they have nothing to hope and nothing to fear. Proud of their wealth, spoiled by residing near a town, from whence they have imbibed only a luxury that has corrupted, and vices that have degraded them, it is particularly towards strangers that they exercise their surly and pitiful arrogance. Though neighbours to the planters who inhabit the interior of the country, you must not suppose they regard them as brethren; on the contrary, in the true spirit of contempt, they have given them the name of *Rauw-boer*, a word answering to the lowest description of clown. Accordingly, when these honest cultivators come to the town upon any kind of business, they never stop by the way at the houses of the gentry I am speaking of; they know too well the insulting manner

in which they would be received. One might suppose them to be two inimical nations, always at war, and of whom some individuals only met at distant intervals, upon business that related to their mutual interests.

What disgusts me the more in the insolence of these Africans is, that the majority of them are descended from that corrupt race of men, taken from prisons and hospitals, whom the Dutch company, desirous of forming a settlement at the Cape, sent thither to begin, at their risk and peril, the population of the country. This shameful emigration, of which the period is not so remote but that many circumstances of it are remembered, ought, I conceive, to render particularly modest those who are in the most distant manner related to it. On the contrary, it is this very idea that most contributes to their arrogance; as if they flattered themselves that, under the guise of supercilious manners, they could hide the abjectness of their origin. If a stranger arrives at the Cape with the design of remaining and settling there, they conceive him to be driven from his country by the same wretched circumstances which formerly banished their fathers, and they treat him with the most sovereign contempt.

This

This melancholy failing is the more to be lamented, as the contagion has spread through almost every residence about the Cape, which is in reality a very charming canton. Embellished by cultivation, by its numerous vineyards and pleasant country-houses, it every where exhibits so varied and delicious a prospect, that, were it occupied by other inhabitants, it would excite no sensations but those of pleasure.

I myself even, whom no interested motives had brought to the Cape, who had nothing to ask of them, and who had come into Africa for the sole purpose of studying nature, was once subjected to the impertinence of their receptions, and learned from experience of what it consisted. The adventure is pleasant: I have often laughed at it with Boers, and shall digress for a moment to relate it.

One day my friend took me to see the famous vineyard of Constantia, and introduced me to the proprietor. We were received by him, not only with the same attention and respectful manner that all the inhabitants of the colony showed towards its principal magistrates, but he was eager to lead us over the immense cellars, so wide that the heaviest waggon might
turn

turn round in them, and to show us the enormous casks, with hoops of brass extremely bright, and the age of the wine marked upon each cask, with legal attestations.

The name of this man was Cloete. When business of any kind called him to the town, which was frequent, he seldom failed to pay his court to the fiscal, and in the course of these visits he pretended to be extremely desirous of seeing me again at his house, at Constantia. Finding little attraction in the beauty of a cellar, or a cask, I had always excused myself. But one day he was so urgent in his entreaties, and proposed, in so obliging a manner, a hunt, in which his sons were to accompany me, and which promised considerable amusement, without requiring either preparations or expence, that I suffered myself to be prevailed upon, and fixed a day with him.

I kept my word, and repaired to Constantia at the appointed time, in company with Larcher, one of Boers's friends. Upon entering the habitation of our host, how great was our surprize at the parade of ostentatious grandeur, and the air of stately superiority, with which we were received, and which formed a

singular contrast with the humble and submissive demeanour I had observed in him at the fiscal's. Once returned to his domains, and finding himself more at his ease, this petty potentate forgot, in a moment, both the town and his superiors.

We considered this reception as an insult. In the first emotions of displeasure, I hesitated whether to stay or go; and consulting the looks of my companion, whose eyes in like manner seemed to be interrogating mine, I waited only for his signal to determine me: but, when reflection had calmed a little our resentment, we thought it much better to stay, and amuse ourselves even with the haughtiness of this lordly vine-dresser.

The supper was splendid. There was an abundance and variety of dishes, elegance in the decorations, and every thing suitable. The object of this pageantry and magnificence was to dazzle and lessen us. So little did the pleasure of his insignificant guests enter into the account, that we were served with the common wine of the country, while he had the impudence to drink himself, before our eyes, some choice Bordeaux, which his slaves poured out for him.

Having

Having left the table, and retired to our apartment, we found this adventure still more amusing than it was gross. We resolved, however, to be even with our host, and to read him, in return, a useful lesson. He had promised to visit us at the Cape, and we formed the plan, in recompense for his wine of Bordeaux, to present him with some wine of the worst species that could be procured; which, if it did not inspire gaiety, was at least calculated to inspire wisdom into the inflated brain of this African Jupiter.

But how great was our astonishment when we awoke in the morning, and were saluted with a most admirable concert playing under our windows! Delighted with the enchanting sounds, we endeavoured to guess their cause. We asked each other, how it could happen that this satrap, the night before, should have shown himself so haughty, and now display the most refined attention? We concluded, that either his rudeness was the affair of a day, or that, being sobered by a night's rest, he hastened to obliterate from our minds the negligence with which we had been treated. Our conjectures and our praises were of short du-

ration. The concert was intended for the amusement of our host, and not for ours; and this was not the first time that it had saluted the walls of his palace. This great man was accustomed to be thus awaked every morning; and he retained, for the express purpose, fifteen slaves particularly skilful in musical execution.

Before we set out on our return, we found our prince laying aside a part of his dignity. Perhaps he saw the effect that his grand airs had produced on me and my companion. He was afraid that at the Cape we should be disposed to amuse the town's people at his expence; and, for a parting glass, he presented us with the choicest produce of his cellar; the wine so much celebrated in Europe, and which often lends its name to the most impudent counterfeits, which are offered to us with the highest ostentation.

What I have said of the disgusting and absurd pride of the planters near the Cape, must not be applied to them all indiscriminately. There are some, who, by no means, deserve the reproach; and in this number I particularly include Becker, whose house is the abode of ease and cordiality. No honest stranger
ever

ever enters it without experiencing those pleasing attentions, the result at once of politeness and generosity. Becker, however, was not born at the Cape, but is, I believe, a German.

As we advance into the country, the planters are a sort of farmers; and constitute, by their manners, customs and occupations, a class by themselves, perfectly distinct from that I have been describing. Situated farther from the Cape; and, of consequence, not having the same opportunities for disposing of their commodities, they are less rich than the first. We see among them none of those agreeable country-houses, which, placed at different distances from the town, embellish the country as we pass, and afford such charming prospects. Their habitation, which is about the size of a large coach-house, is covered with thatch, and divided into three rooms by means of two partitions, which reach only to a certain height. The middle apartment, in which is the entrance to the house, serves at once both as a parlour and eating-room. It is there that the family reside during the day, and that they receive their tea and other visitors. Of the two other rooms, one forms a chamber for the male

children, and the other for the females, with the father and mother. At the back of the middle apartment is a farther room, serving for a kitchen. The rest of the building consists of barns and stables.

Such is the distribution which is generally followed in the interior plantations of the colony: but nearer to the frontiers, where there does not prevail the same ease of circumstances, the habitations are much less commodious. They are merely a barn, consisting of a single room, without any division, in which the whole family live together, without separating, either day or night. They sleep upon sheep-skins, which serve them also for covering.

The dress of these planters is simple and rustic. That of the men consists of a check shirt, a waistcoat with sleeves, a large pair of trowsers, and a hat half unlooped. The women have a petticoat, a jacket fitted to their shape, and a little round bonnet of muslin. Unless upon extraordinary occasions, neither sex wears stockings. During a part of the year, the women even walk with their feet quite naked. The occupations of the men require that theirs should have some covering; and

and this covering they make from a piece of the hide of an ox, applied and shaped to the foot soon after the animal is killed, and while the hide is yet fresh. These sandals are the only article of their dress which they make themselves; the rest is the business of the women, who cut out and prepare their whole wardrobe. Though the equipment I have mentioned constitute the every-day dress of the planter, he has, however, a coat of handsome blue cloth, which he wears upon days of gala and ceremony. He has then also stockings and shoes, and is dressed exactly like an European. But this finery never makes its appearance but when he goes to the Cape; and then, indeed, is not put on till he arrives at the entrance of the town.

It is commonly in these journeys that they purchase such things as they may want to refit their wardrobe. There is, at the Cape, as well as in Paris and London, a species of old-clothesmen, who deal in commodities of this sort; and who, from their enormous profits, and the extortion they practise, have obtained the name of *Capse-Smoufe*, or Cape Jews. These traffickers contrive, at all times, to sell their goods

at a dear rate; but they vary the price in proportion as their stock is great or small; of course they bear no fixed price, and the planter who comes from the desert, and who can understand but little of this fluctuation, is sure to be duped.

On the other hand, the regular shopkeeper, who knows the probity of these farmers, and how punctual they are in the payment of their debts, exerts every effort to prevail on them to open an account with him. He tempts them by the pretended cheap price and excellent quality of his stuffs, and offers to remit the payment till their next journey in the following year. It is seldom that these people, simple and unexperienced as they are, perceive the craft that is presented to them under this guise of kindness and civility. If they suffer themselves to be prevailed upon, they are shackled for life. Upon their return, there are new purchases to be made upon the same conditions; and thus, year after year, always in debt, always buying without prompt payment, they become the prey of an extortioner, who raises to himself a fortune out of their weakness.

It is true, these buyers, after being thus duped at the Cape, commonly return home only to make dupes of others. The cunning that has been employed to deceive them, they employ in their turn to tempt the Hottentots who are in their service. The remnants of stuff, or the frippery garments which they bring back, are sold to these unfortunate servants with so great a profit, that commonly the wages of a year are inadequate to the payment, and they find themselves, like their masters, in debt for the year that is to come. In the end, therefore, it is the poor Hottentot that pays for the extortion at the Cape. The circumstances I have here mentioned, are an epitome of the practices of the world in all conditions of life. The subtle knave always knows how to impose a tax upon the fool, who, having paid it, attempts to impose it upon some other fool; so that at last it is the greatest dolt that bears the burthen. And thus do men chain themselves together by means that ought in reality to disunite them.

One might suppose that the planters, of the class of which I am speaking, from their practice of agriculture, would bestow some attention

tion upon the cultivation of vegetables and fruit. This would be so much the easier to them, as, having acquired gratuitously a considerable portion of ground, they can be in no want of a spot for a garden. Meanwhile I have seen no roots or other vegetables regularly cultivated in any of the interior parts of Africa, except in the country of the Auteniquas. Every where else gardening is unknown; and if you find a fruit-tree near any of their habitations, it is planted there only as some great and uncommon curiosity.

Custom has rendered the planters insensible to the want of fruit and pulse. The facility with which they rear their cattle makes up for this privation, as their flocks afford them plenty of provision. The chief food is mutton; and their tables are loaded with such profusion as to disgust one at the sight.

From this mode of living, cattle are in the colonies, as in other places, not only a useful object, but an article of the first necessity. The planter undertakes himself the care of watching over his flocks. Every evening, when they return from field, he stands at his door, with a stick in his hand, and counts them over
one

one by one, in order to be sure that none of them are missing.

People who have no other employment than a little agriculture, and the superintendence of a flock, must have long intervals of idleness. It is thus with the planters, particularly those who live in the interior parts of the country, and who being unable, on account of their distance from the Cape, to dispose of their corn, never raise more than is sufficient for their own consumption. From the profound inaction in which they live, one would suppose their supreme felicity to consist in doing nothing. They sometimes, however, visit each other; and upon these occasions the day is spent in smoking, and drinking tea, and in telling, or listening to, tales of romance, that are equal neither in merit nor morality to the story of Blue-beard.

As every man always carries with him wherever he goes, both a pipe, and a tobacco-pouch made of the skin of the sea-calf, he is sure in these visits to have one source of amusement. When any one of the company is desirous of lighting his pipe, he takes out his pouch, and, having filled, passes it to the rest.

This is a civility that is never omitted. However numerous may be the party, every body smokes: the consequence of which is a cloud, that, rising at first to the upper part of the room, increases, by degrees, till it fills the whole house, and becomes at last so thick, that it is impossible for the smokers to see one another. Sparmann has given of these smoking parties an account equally humourous and true. For myself, whom the smell of tobacco particularly incommodes, I confess that when these infectious fogs began to descend to a level with my head, I left the room and ran into the fields to breathe a purer air, and to cleanse my lungs.

There is another custom which, from an invincible repugnance, I could never prevail on myself to adopt: I mean the evening bath; a custom so esteemed by the Greeks, and which recalls to the memory periods so delightful, and manners so happy. But how extreme is the difference between the Ulysses and Nausicas of the Greeks, and those of the Cape! I have already observed, that neither the men nor the women wear stockings, and that the latter also, for a considerable part of the year, go without shoes.

As a practice of this kind must continually foil the feet, they remedy the inconvenience by a daily habit of cleanliness. Every evening, before they go to bed, the Hottentot or negro woman who performs the drudgery of the house, brings a tub of water into the middle of the room, and washes the feet, first of the father and mother, then of the children and the rest of the family, and, lastly, of the strangers. As the tub serves in turn for the whole company, without the water being once changed, it may easily be imagined that I, who was to come last, discovered no great eagerness to leap in. To excuse myself, I pretended that it was customary with me never to take off my boots, till I was upon the point of getting into bed; and the excuse was admitted.

These civilities however, dictated by the purest intentions, and which originate in the usages of the remotest antiquity, have in them a romantic and sacred character that at first sight strikes the imagination. How ungrateful should I have been if I had seen only the disagreeable side of the question, and had felt my heart uninterested—I, who place in the rank of first necessities that virtue, so little known

our days, of hospitality and all the duties which it enjoins? I have been too frequently the object of this brotherly love, which offers us a family and friends when at a distance from our own. I have always met with this tenderness and affection. Every one has been officious to serve me; father, mother, children, all have strove who should bestow on me the greatest attention; not by those gentilities, those expressions, half-formed, but full of hypocrisy and falshood, which are the portion of your well-bred people; but by that frankness and smiling good nature which place a man at his ease, and banish from his mind every idea of embarrassment and constraint.

Those who understood that I had made a distant excursion into the country, and had passed near their habitation, reproached me with unkindness for not having turned a little out of my way to visit them. They spoke of the pleasure it would have afforded them; and asked, in a tone of concern that was affecting, how I could prefer sleeping in the open air to a comfortable lodging in their house, where they would have considered it as a duty to render my abode as pleasant as was in their power.

But

But at that time the object for which I travelled among them depended, I conceived, for its success, upon my keeping at a distance.

What proves still farther the extreme goodness and benevolence of these people, is, that a stranger, the moment he is received by the master of the house, becomes in a manner a member of the family. Accustomed to a family life, they delight in ties of affinity, and consider in the light of a relative every person they love. The children who climbed my knees, either for the purpose of caressing me, or to admire and count my buttons, called me their grand-father. I was the cousin of the parents, and the uncle of the daughters; and among my nieces, I frankly confess, there was more than one whose artless importunities and eloquent eyes have frequently made me forgetful of the hour I had fixed for leaving them.

Upon entering a house, the form of salutation is, to shake hands first with the master, and then with every male person in the company, arrived at years of maturity. If there happens to be any one whom we do not like, the hand is refused to him; and this refusal, of so common a testimony of friendship, is
looked

looked upon as a formal declaration that the visitor considers him as his enemy. It is not the same with the females in the company. They are all embraced one after another, and to make an exception would be a signal affront. Old or young, all must be kissed. It is a benefice with the duties attached to it.

At whatever time of the day you enter the house of a planter, you are sure to find the kettle and tea-things upon the table. This practice is universal. The inhabitants never drink pure water. If a stranger presents himself, it is tea they offer him for refreshment. This is their common liquor in the interval of meals, and in one season of the year, when it often happens that they have neither beer nor wine, is their only beverage.

If a stranger arrives at dinner time, before the cloth is taken away, he shakes hands, embraces, and immediately seats himself at the table. If he wishes to pass the night, he stays without ceremony, smokes, drinks tea, asks the news, gives them all he knows in his turn; and the next day, the kissing and shaking hands being repeated, he goes on his way, to perform elsewhere the same ceremony. To
offer

offer money on these occasions would be regarded as an insult.

It will naturally be supposed that education, in such a country, must be totally different from that of Europe. The children have not there, as with us, insignificant drums, trumpets, and other pretty but useless toys, which we give them to drive away their petulance, and render them less troublesome. With the Africans, the only amusement the children know, serves at the same time as the commencement of their education.

It is customary, when the cart or waggon belonging to a planter is not employed, to leave it in the open air by the side of the house. As soon as the children can climb to the board that serves for a seat, they place themselves upon it; and, with a whip in their hands, exercise themselves in commanding the oxen, which are supposed to be present, calling them by their names, striking the place of any one that is thought not to obey with sufficient readiness; in a word, in directing the course of the waggon, in making it turn, go on, or recede, precisely as they wish. After having successively handled, in this manner, whips suited to their

age, they arrive at last to the management of a bamboo, nicely tapered, fifteen or sixteen feet in length, with a thong at the end of it still longer; and with this instrument they can strike, at the distance of more than twenty-five feet, a pebble that is pointed out to them, or a piece of money thrown upon the ground. I have already mentioned a pleasant amusement of this kind, which one of the Slabers procured me, who singled out with astonishing address, among a multitude of birds, such individuals as I was desirous of having. Swanpoel also, the companion of my journey, would seldom miss a partridge flying; and, notwithstanding his age, applied his whip with so much force, that, in one of our excursions, I saw him strike perfectly dead, a duck, of a much larger species than the common one of Europe.

When a young planter can drive a waggon, and exercise a whip, his education is nearly completed; for they never think of teaching him either to write or read. At the age of fourteen he is considered as arriving at manhood, and ranks in society accordingly. He shakes hands with the men, embraces the women, and smokes. A fusée also is given him,
with

with liberty to hunt as much as he pleases. Entering at this period into the enjoyment of all the rights of man, he regards himself as such, and hastens to choose among the girls of the neighbourhood a mistress, whom he finally marries; for it is seldom that a youth is found to pay his addresses to several women.

The planters being all hunters, from having their flocks and fields to defend from the ravages of wild beasts, are provided with a certain number of fuses, according as the family is large or small; and respecting these guns, they employ a precaution that is singular. Experience has taught them that the brightness of the barrel frequently alarms, by its reflection, the animal of which they are in pursuit, and warns him to fly. To remedy this inconvenience, the barrels in Europe are browned; but the planters, who are not skilled in this art, rub them over with the blood of sheep; an operation which, though less neat, indeed, and pleasant, produces the same effect, since the instrument becomes thereby equally tarnished.

Upon the question of the excellence of fire arms, their prejudices and principles are very different from ours. In their estimation a gun

is never bad, if the stock and furniture be good. This is the only circumstance to which they attend, when they make a purchase. As to the barrel, they care but little whether it shoots well or ill, because they boast of having a method that will correct the faults of the very worst.

To correct, in their sense of the word, is not to make a barrel good that was not so before; it is merely to make it shoot straight, which with them is the same thing. There is, indeed, no great ingenuity in their method; but it is at least simple, and its success, which is the result of experience, always certain.

It consists, as they express it, *de roer op de schoot*, in bringing the gun to the mark: in other words, by dint of firing at a mark they ascertain its defect. If it shoot too high or too low, to the right or to the left, they place upon the breech a second moveable sight, which they raise or sink, incline this way or that, as the defect may require, till they succeed in striking the mark. Arrived at this point, they fix the sight, and the gun becomes instantly a good one. This operation, it must be acknowledged, requires extreme patience, and can only be performed

formed by persons who have a great deal of leisure at their command; but theoretical calculations and the principles of optics are above their capacity. If it afterwards happen, in the course of their sports, that they miss their object, the gun, they say, does not yet answer to the level, and the same operation is performed again.

In the course of this expedition I traversed Stellenboch, the whole of Hottentot Holland, Draaken-Steyn, Bocke-Veld, Rooye-Zand, the canton of the Twenty-four Rivers, and Swartland. These different countries afforded me little that was interesting, except the prospects, and these even were all inferior in beauty to others which I had seen, and particularly to that of the Twenty-four Rivers. As to the manners of the inhabitants, I have already said that the shades which distinguish one canton from another are very few and scarcely discernible; we find every where the same simple course of life, the same love of ease, of indolence and inanity.

On my return to the Cape, I found that Boers had experienced a relapse of his disorder, and had been obliged to resort again to the baths.

He had written to Europe to ask leave of the company to resign his office. Having received and filled it with honour, he wished also in quitting it to be without reproach; and he had laboured, therefore, day and night to put every thing in order previous to his departure, which he intended should take place the moment the vessel arrived with the intelligence that his resignation was accepted. This sedulous application, at an unfavourable period, before his strength was thoroughly re-established, had occasioned the relapse. I hoped that the repose and tranquillity likely to result from a total remission of the functions of office, and the anxieties attached to it, would be productive of the effects he expected, and one day regain him the health he had lost. But the vessel from Europe was not arrived, and something, I conceived, ought in the mean time to be done. As he had often expressed a desire to visit the interior parts of the colony, and as I had myself farther observations to make in the charming country of the Auteniquas, I resolved, if possible, to revive this desire, and lead him of his own accord to propose the expedition.

Accordingly, sitting one evening with other
persons

persons before the entrance of the house, under the shade of the trees that surrounded it, I entered into a description of this country, the most pleasant in the colony. I related every thing that had attached me to it when I formerly encamped there; how pure was the air, and how enchanting the prospects. I insured him a speedy convalescence, a recovery in a few days, both from his bodily complaints, and that uneasiness of mind to which he was continually a prey. These agreeable reveries, which roused him a little, insensibly led us farther. We advanced even to Caffraria. I visited the worthy Haabas; I saw once more my dear Narina and her interesting horde; in short, I travelled over again, in imagination, the course which I had before travelled with my people. We promised ourselves the purer enjoyments, as we should have none of those obstacles to struggle with, which, from inexperience, and a too numerous equipage, had every instant sprung up at my feet. The hope of visiting Caffraria was particularly fascinating to me in these ideal excursions; and, at this conjuncture, humanity, I thought, imposed it as a law upon me. There prevailed

at the Cape, an opinion that the Caffres were a wicked and ferocious people; in consequence of which these unfortunate beings were exposed to persecutions that could not fail to irritate their minds, and render them still more formidable. My friend himself had been more or less infected with this almost universal prejudice. I conceived that, by gradually introducing milder institutions among these people, an important and interesting revolution might be effected; which could not fail to take place, the moment their tranquillity and safety, which ignorance, and the terror alone of their name had for so many years disturbed, should, by equitable laws, be secured to them. The man best calculated to work this desirable change in the situation of the Caffres, and their persecuting neighbours, was the fiscal; since upon his report to the company of the state of the settlement, on his return to Holland, would depend the regulations that it might be thought proper to introduce for the melioration of the government, and the welfare of the inhabitants. It was necessary, therefore, that he should have personal experience of the truth of what I had twenty times told him, of the evils that resulted
from

from the impolitic administration of the frontier parts of the colony, and the necessity of appeasing those hordes, continually harassed by the most flagrant injustice, the most horrible inhumanity, which left behind it so keen a resentment, and of the benefits that would flow from friendship and a good understanding.

I prevailed upon Boers to consent at least to make trial of this excursion; and I little doubted that, if I could once lure him into the country, he would suffer me to guide him step by step wherever I pleased, without so much as noticing the distance. His health, however, requiring particular precautions, it was resolved, while the preparations for this journey were making, that we should spend a week at my good friend Slaber's, who was as dear to Boers as he was to myself. Whether we departed from Swart-Land, or returned to the Cape, was of little importance; our route could not fail to be known, as it would be that which I had already travelled, and from which I had returned six months before; and letters from Europe, therefore, might easily be dispatched to us, in the same manner as Boers had dispatched mine to me while I sojourned in the country

country of the Auteniquas. It was accordingly a settled business, and my friend conceived himself to be already in my tent.

The conversation that took place upon this occasion, and which powerfully interested the company, reminds me of a curious event that happened at the same time, and which I cannot pass over in silence.

Our eyes were naturally attracted by the objects before us. Mine indeed, by an involuntary impulse, are sure to be directed to whatever trees are in sight. We perceived the branches of one near us to move. Immediately we heard the piercing cries of a shrike, and saw it tremble as if in convulsions. We first conceived that it was held in the gripe of some bird of prey: but a closer attention led us to discover, upon the next branch of the tree, a large serpent that, with stretched-out neck, and fiery eyes, though perfectly still, was gazing at the poor animal. The agony of the bird was terrible; but fear had deprived it of strength, and, as if tied by the leg, it seemed to have lost the power of flight. One of the company ran for a fusée; but before he returned the shrike was dead, and we shot only the serpent.

I requested that the distance between the place where the bird had experienced the convulsions, and that occupied by the serpent before it was shot, might be measured. Upon doing so, we found it to be three feet and a half, and we were all convinced that the shrike had died neither from the bite nor the poison of its enemy. I stripped it also before the whole company, and made them observe that it was untouched, and had not received the slightest wound.

I had my reasons for what I did. Extraordinary as the fact may appear, and though the persons who had been the witnesses could hardly believe, even after having seen it; it was to me not new. A similar adventure had happened to me in the canton of the Twenty-four Rivers, and I instantly related it to confirm what we had just seen.

Hunting one day in a marshy piece of ground, I heard all at once, in a tuft of reeds, a piercing and very lamentable cry. Anxious to know what it was, I stole softly to the place, where I perceived a small mouse, like the shrike on the tree, in agonizing convulsions, and two yards farther a serpent, whose eyes were intently
fixed

fixed upon it. The moment the reptile saw me it glided away; but the business was done. Upon taking up the mouse it expired in my hand, without its being possible for me to discover, by the most attentive examination, what had occasioned its death.

The Hottentots, whom I consulted upon this incident, expressed no sort of astonishment. Nothing, they said, was more common; the serpent had the faculty of attracting and fascinating such animals as it wished to devour. I had then no faith in such power; but some time after, speaking of the circumstance in a company of more than twenty persons, in the number of whom was colonel Gordon; a captain of his regiment confirmed the account of the Hottentots, and assured me it was an event which happened very frequently. "My testimony," added he, "ought to have the more weight, as I had once nearly become myself a victim to this fascination. While in garrison at Ceylon, and amusing myself, like you, in hunting in a marsh, I was in the course of my sport suddenly seized with a convulsive and involuntary trembling, different from any thing I had

" had

“ had ever experienced, and at the same time
“ was strongly attracted, and in spite of my-
“ self, to a particular spot of the marsh. Di-
“ recting my eyes to this spot, I beheld, with
“ feelings of horror, a serpent of an enormous
“ size, whose look instantly pierced me. Hav-
“ ing, however, not yet lost all power of mo-
“ tion, I embraced the opportunity before it
“ was too late, and saluted the reptile with the
“ contents of my fuscée. The report was a
“ talisman that broke the charm. All at once,
“ as if by a miracle, my convulsion ceased ; I
“ felt myself able to fly ; and the only incon-
“ venience of this extraordinary adventure was
“ a cold sweat, which was doubtless the effect
“ of my fear and of the violent agitation my
“ senses had undergone.”

Such was the account given me by this of-
ficer. I do not pretend to vouch for its truth ; but
the story of the mouse, as well as of the shrike, I
aver to be fact. I will add also, that, since my
return to France, having had occasion to talk
with Blanchot upon the subject, an officer
who succeeded Boufflers in the government of
Senegal, he assured me with confidence, that
both at Goree and in Senegal the opinion was

universal; that ascending the river of that name, as far even as Galam, three hundred leagues from its mouth, it equally prevailed among the Moors, at the right, and the Negroes, at the left; that among these people nobody doubted this power in certain species of serpents, of fascinating both animals and men; and that the tradition was founded upon long experience, and the many misfortunes they are continually witnessing.

Here again let it be remembered, that I am only the historian, and that I take upon me neither to validate nor explain these reports. With respect to the two instances I have adduced, and of which I am at once the recorder and the evidence, they will probably be regarded by many of my readers, as the pure effect of that extreme and involuntary terror which every animal experiences by instinct, at sight of an enemy that has power over its life; and they will allege, perhaps, in support of this supposition, the example of the fether, who retains in their place a partridge or a hare, by the mere circumstance of his presence and look.

To this I reply, that if a partridge or a hare
remain

remain quiet before the dog, it is not so much from a sudden impulse of fear as from deliberate cunning. While close upon the ground they imagine themselves to be concealed from the enemy. What confirms this conjecture is, that if the dog approaches near enough to seize upon his prey, the bird instantly takes wing, and the hare scampers away. It will certainly not be denied me, that it is fear which makes them fly. Such is the powerful effect of instinct in every animal at the appearance of danger. But why do not the hare and partridge at sight of the dog remain fixed and motionless with terror, like the shrike and the mouse in presence of the serpent? Why should fear give to the former new strength, while the others die on the spot, under all the increasing symptoms of agony, and without the power of escaping, as if retained by some invincible force? The rat does not remain stationary upon the approach of the cat, but hastens away the moment he perceives her. May not then the look and presence of a serpent, and the nature of the corpuscles that emanate from its body, produce a very different effect from the emanation and look of the cat?

How

How few are our opportunities of observing nature? Let us study her more closely, and we shall perhaps find, that she has many particular laws of which we are yet ignorant. Before the discovery of electricity, had an author ventured to assert that there existed fish, which, though small in themselves, could give to a number of persons at once so violent a shock, as to make them feel considerable pain in all the articulations of the body, the assertion would have been regarded as the most absurd fable. This supposed fable, however, is become an indisputable truth. Without speaking of the torpedo, with which every body is acquainted, I shall content myself with citing, in proof of this fact, the *Beef-aal*, or electrical eel of Surinam. I had for many years an opportunity of observing this species of fish; as my father, for the purpose of experiment, kept one continually in his house. Upon touching a fringed sort of membrane, situated under the belly, and extending the whole length of the body, I have always observed a very violent shock immediately follow. My father was desirous of ascertaining, if the shock would be diminished by being communicated to a
number

number of individuals at once; and, for this purpose, he collected together about ten persons, who formed a chain by the junction of hands. No sooner had they touched the membrane of the eel, than they felt themselves equally struck at the same moment. Nor was this all. To convince the spectators that the imagination had nothing to do in producing this effect, he had placed a dog as a link between two of the persons composing the chain, who held him, one by the right, and the other by the left foot. At the instant of contact the animal gave a loud cry; and his pain, which was the cause of this cry, proved beyond dispute that that of the rest of the party was not less real.

Reasoning physically upon this subject, I acknowledge that a considerable difference ought to be made between an effect visibly produced by the immediate action of a body, and another effect operated without any apparent contact, any visible medium, like that of the serpent upon the animals in question. But who will affirm that, in presence of its prey, the serpent does not act physically upon it? Perhaps this death-dealing quality belongs only to some particular sorts of serpent. Perhaps it is

not enjoyed by them, unless at particular seasons, and in certain countries. The ancients have described the basilisk as killing with its look. This is certainly a fable; but is it not a fable, absurd as it may appear, that originally had some truth for its foundation? No doubt, in remote periods, circumstances may have been observed similar to those of my shriek and my mouse; or, perhaps, even to that related by the captain. Hence they might have concluded that a serpent, impregnable himself, and always conqueror, since he could kill by a look, could be no other than the king of his race. From his royalty they would naturally have called him basilisk; and as a sovereign must have some particular sign to attest his pre-eminence, the poets, who often exaggerate by wishing to adorn nature, may have added the wings, the feet and the crown.

This digression, of which, perhaps, the subject would have escaped my memory, was deserving, I conceived, of a place in my work; and, though it has somewhat interrupted the dramatic effect, I could not abstain from relating it in the order in which it presented itself to my mind. Whatever title may be given to
my

my narrative, it is of little importance whether there prevail in it or not a scholastic arrangement. The art of writing is not my object, but truth and clearness. I am talking with my friends, and have nothing to do with the trammels of literature.

I have said, that I had prevailed on Boers to accompany me in my excursion. An unexpected accident hastened our resolution. Intelligence was brought to the Cape, that a French vessel, the crew of which had mutinied, was at anchor in the bay of Saldanha. This news particularly concerned Percheron, the naval commissary, who was obliged by his office to repair to the bay in order to take cognizance of the matter, and, if possible, remedy the evil. Understanding that we were nearly to take the same route, he requested a place in Boers's carriage, and was accordingly one of our party. An officer of the Pondicherry regiment, whose name was Larcher, made a fourth, and we set off in a sort of hunting vehicle (*chariot de chasse*) drawn by six horses.

The distance we had to travel was, in reality, but an easy day's journey, and we intended to halt no longer than was necessary just to show

felves to the crew; but, like those tempests which are always preceded by fatal omens, we found it that day not only impossible to arrive at Saldanha, but we had to lament by the way the unhappy fate of more than one of our attendants.

The Sout-Rivier (salt river), which it was necessary to cross at a distance from the town, had its banks almost covered with cormorants. We were desirous of killing some of them, and we alighted for the purpose. Upon setting off again, a negro who was behind the carriage, taken at unawares, was thrown to the ground by the suddenness of the motion, and fell with such violence as to break his leg. He was an excellent servant of Boers and very much beloved by his master. We were obliged, therefore, to quit the road, and repair to the nearest habitation, to take the proper care of our unfortunate patient. A litter was constructed, and we had him conveyed to the town. This accident having delayed us several hours, and Boers wishing to regain the time that had been lost, the coachman put his horses upon the gallop, and drove us like the wind.

We had some dogs with us. One of them,
very

very much heated by this extraordinary speed, and attracted by a stream that was at a distance, ran on before to bathe and refresh himself. I have already observed in my former travels, that, in Africa, every dog that plunges into the water, under such circumstances, is almost sure to die there, unless somebody happens to be sufficiently near to take him instantly out. The dog in question, when we arrived at the stream, had already paid the fatal tribute. Facts of this kind are so common in the colony as not to admit the possibility of dispute: and here I would fain ask our philosophers to account for this circumstance, and tell us why the dogs of Africa are so frequently subject to death, in a situation where those of Europe do not experience the slightest inconvenience.

It was late when we arrived at the patriarchal habitation of the worthy Slaber. The embracing and salutations being over, there was a general uproar, as it were, in the house. They hardly knew in what terms of joy to express their gratitude, as well to Boers as to the friend he had brought with him. All were eager to welcome this friend; I was sensible of this; at the same time it was impossible not

to notice the demonstrations of kindness that were equally bestowed on their older acquaintance. The girls, in particular, waited upon him with a most captivating grace. One took his hat, and another his cloak. They questioned him as to his health and his wants. They seemed to think him not sufficiently unreserved, because he could not find employment for all of them at once. Delightful officiousness, charming vivacity! which rendered still more agreeable, by the contrast, the plain and honest good-nature of the father of the family. When they learned our intention of staying a week with them, their acclamations of joy burst forth afresh, and resounded through the house. It was the triumph of a victory. Our spirits were presently as cheerful as theirs; and so perfectly were we at our ease, that a stranger would have been puzzled to say who were the entertainers and who the guests. The first evening was spent in arranging our plans, and assigning to each day of our week its appropriate amusements; an arrangement that was opposed now and then by the women, who did not fail to impose upon us some hard conditions.

Per-

Percheron, who was of the party, had all this while nothing in his head but the ship and its refractory crew in the bay of Saldanha. Before he surrendered himself to pleasure, he was desirous of performing his duty. He asked me, therefore, to set off with him the next morning, and accompany him to the vessel. This was precisely my intention. Every other person in my situation would probably have regarded this proposal of the commissary as extremely imprudent. I, on the contrary, was delighted with it, and had resolved, if he had not forestalled me, to make it myself. I had never seen a crew in a state of insurrection against their officers; the scene was perfectly new to me; and every thing extraordinary, every thing which promised a new sensation, had in my eyes an attraction that was not to be resisted. Accordingly, without reflecting upon the consequences of this temerity, without considering that, in the gaiety of my heart, I was going to expose myself to the most imminent danger, I appointed an hour with Percheron, and longed for its arrival.

Though we had only four leagues to travel, and had entered upon this journey immediately

after breakfast, we were again so incommoded on the way, that we did not reach the bay till the close of the evening: a circumstance that put us extremely out of humour, and was not calculated to diminish the prejudice which we had before naturally entertained against the mutineers.

The shades of night seemed to blacken on purpose, as if to conceal from us the vessel; and it was with the utmost difficulty, and by dint, as it were, of groping, that we found our way across the downs. I twice discharged my fusée to announce our arrival, and to signify our wish that a boat might be sent us. Useless precaution! They pretended not to hear us. In danger of passing the night in the watch-box upon the strand, we cursed the ship, the crew, and the bay. The captain, it seems, fearing that we were such of the mutineers as had gone on shore in the course of the day, and who were to return, in the evening, furnished with arms, was cautious of receiving us. At length, by repeatedly firing, and by our cries and vociferations, we inspired some confidence, and a boat was hoisted out to fetch us on board.

To form an accurate image of the disorder

to which we were witnesses it is necessary to have seen it. A ship floating in the ocean, and deprived of all external intercourse, is of itself a world sufficiently strange; and here, by the mutiny that had taken place, it was a world turned upside-down. The crew, divided into groupes, occupied here and there the different parts of the deck. On all sides were heard murmurs, threats, tremendous imprecations, and horrible oaths; every where there prevailed a frightful tumult. The voices of the chiefs were drowned amidst the deafening cries of the men. From the impetuous motions of this unruly multitude every thing seemed to predict some approaching and dreadful crisis. Some among them, more enterprising than the rest, acted with greater fury: they flew with rapidity from place to place, as if to communicate their indignation or their fears at the arrival of the commissary. The feeble light that prevailed in the vessel gave a gloomy tint to this scene of horror that bordered on the sublime. It was so many demons amidst the waves, busy at the work of preparing torments for mortals. At the same time we were pressed and enveloped by this licentious troop. Then it was that I
felt

felt all the peril of our situation. The title of commissary which Percheron bore, was the reverse of giving us confidence; it seemed to have brought him purposely on board to punish the rioters. The proscription that awaited him was sure to fall equally upon me, who appeared to have accompanied him in order to lend him my assistance. A general murmur was excited against each of us. A murmur, did I say? Alas! we were the criminals; and the menacing looks of these terrible judges told us, in a language perfectly intelligible, what torments the power of force, combined with rage, was capable of inflicting on weakness and innocence. I had never so strong a conviction as at that moment, by what a slender thread we sometimes hold our lives, and how unexpected is the chance upon which depends our safety. Had one of these conspirators pronounced our death, a hundred arms, no doubt, would instantly have executed the sentence, and the sea would have been at once a tomb for us both.

It is true, I had my double-barrelled fusée; but my companion had nothing with which to defend himself; and, as to the officers, incapable

ble of exerting the necessary firmness, they seemed, upon our arrival, to be in a dreadful consternation, as if expecting some fatal explosion, that would destroy at once both the ship and its inhabitants.

As it was impossible to withdraw from the danger that threatened us, we had no resource but to assume a tranquil countenance, and wait the event. This resolution gave us fortitude. Percheron, little dismayed by the threats of the violent, said, in a tone of authority, that he wished to be informed of the cause of this mutiny; and that the crew might depend upon redress, if their complaints were just, and upon being treated with lenity if they had unfortunately overstepped, through mistake, the necessary bounds of obedience: and turning to those who seemed desirous of giving him the particulars of the affair, he appeared not to notice the animated gestures and murmurings of the rest. His tranquillity by degrees so far appeased their anger, that we were able, at last, under pretence of doing justice to every party, to adjourn the farther hearing of the business to the next morning. Percheron had hoped that sleep would in the mean time calm their
irri-

irritated passions, and suggest to his mind the means of terminating the affray.

There was no way by which to quit the vessel; and, as we had arrived at this extremity, it would have been equally dastardly and indiscreet to abandon the crew to the mercy of so furious a tempest.

The preparations for supper afforded but little relief from the trouble in which we were all plunged; and we thought, therefore, of retiring to rest. The captain gave his bed to Percheron, while I had that of the first pilot, which was situated in a cabin upon the deck. In this cabin was a window, the panes of which had been broken at the commencement of the disturbance. It is upon such things, upon windows and lamps, that your malcontents always vent their first spite; as if the noise occasioned by the breaking of them was calculated to appease and satisfy their vengeance. These broken panes were a subject of alarming inquietude; I considered them as a second Judas; because, fronting the head of my bed, they afforded an easy opportunity to any ill-disposed person in possession of a pistol, to shoot me during the night, should the disturbance

turbance happen to break out afresh. To guard as much as possible against surprise, I began with putting out the light; then having changed the direction of my bed, and placed my fusée, which was well loaded, by my side, I waited the return of day, sleeping as I could. In the intervals of my sleep, I heard, from those who walked the deck, the most seditious discourse, threatening the next day to show no favour to any one: I saw some of them pass before my cabin, and they appeared to elevate their voices that I might hear them. At length, day-light appeared: delightful day-light, which dissipates the phantoms of the imagination, and renders also the wicked less daring and presumptuous! What we had hoped came to pass; reflection, and still more perhaps the dread of a well-deserved punishment, had calmed the fury of the most vehement. Percheron, judiciously embracing so favourable a moment, addressed them in a most animated speech, in which he painted in lively colours the wrongs and injustice of this rebellion, and the severe penalties which the law inflicts for such crimes; then, artfully ascribing the cause of the mischief to the perfidy of those whose
love

love of disorder had seduced and drawn in the rest to the commission of such enormities, he promised pardon to every man thus misled, who should again return to obedience; and concluded his speech with a sharp reprimand of the ring-leader, who, though in confinement, was, no doubt, hatching in his mind new troubles. This man, perfectly naked and stretched at his length, was bound within a chicken-coop, which was fastened and barricaded with clamps of iron. He was one of those beings to whom nature has given, with a robust constitution, that fortitude of mind, that contempt of danger and death, so favourable to, and so destructive in, factions. He still threatened. They had seized him at a moment when he was off his guard; which was a necessary precaution, as he was able of himself to inspire terror into the whole crew. The business of bringing to trial and punishing this man devolved upon the chief magistrate of the Cape; and accordingly he was ordered to be conveyed thither. From this moment tranquillity was restored; and we were convinced, from what we saw in this instance, that, in every case of tumult, nothing more is necessary

to recall a misguided multitude to their senses, than to humble them in their own eyes by showing them the despicableness of their conduct, or to take from them their chief. With respect to the rest of the insurgents, they were delivered over to the clemency of the captain and officers of the vessel, by whom a general amnesty was granted; and they all returned to their duty.

Having left the ship, and being once again on shore, we were eager to repair to our company, to relate the circumstances of the danger we had escaped, and of which upon leaving them we had no suspicion.

How little did I expect that this singular adventure was destined to be followed by a new mortification, of which the consequences were long in my memory, and that, in quitting for a day my dearest friends, I should have to lament the loss of one of them, and speedily to prepare myself for seeing him no more!

As I drew near to the habitation of Slaber, I discharged, as I had been accustomed to do, my fusée, to inform them of our arrival, and to invite them to meet us. In spite of my repeated signals, no person appeared; a silence

of friendship that seemed to announce to me some melancholy news.

My suspicions were presently verified, when upon entering the hall I saw the daughters of Slaber approach me with an air of inquietude and dejection. Alarmed at this reception, the cause of which I conceived related to themselves, I anxiously demanded what misfortune, in so short a space of time, had befallen them. "The misfortune I have to acquaint you with," said one of them, "is personal to yourself: Boers is returned to the Cape, and in a few days you will lose him. He has received, in your absence, dispatches from Holland, informing him that his resignation has been accepted; and, as there is a vessel in the bay ready, at this moment, to sail for Europe, in which he is resolved to embark, he instantly mounted his horse, with Larcher, to make without delay the necessary preparations. I need not say how happy we should esteem ourselves if, after this loss, we could prevail on you and your friend to remain with us awhile: at the same time it is my duty to tell you, that before he left us, Boers foresaw that you
" would

“ would perhaps be desirous once more to
“ afford him the pleasure of seeing you at the
“ Cape: with this view he has left behind him
“ his carriage and horses; and here is a letter
“ also which he has written, and which he re-
“ quested might be delivered to you.”

The beginning of this discourse had alarmed me, but, from some cause or other, I was revived by its conclusion. I imagined that, from a sportive disposition, they were desirous for a moment of amusing themselves with me. A letter, the carriage and the horses,—it must surely be a pleasantry! And so convinced was I of this, that, notwithstanding the air of seriousness with which it was told me, and the protestations of the whole family that he was actually gone, I visited, with Percheron, every room of the house in search of the absentees, not doubting but they had concealed themselves to keep up the jest. Alas! They were gone!—My benefactor had quitted me! And my only consolation was to hasten to the Cape, once more to embrace him before his departure.

The next morning as soon as it was light we entered the carriage, Percheron and myself,

and were instantly off. Arrived at the house of my friend, the first objects that saluted my eyes were his trunks and packages collected together to be conveyed on board the ship; which, as I learned from himself, was to sail the next day. In vain had the physicians represented that his health was in too feeble a state to encounter so tedious a voyage; that he ought first to spend two or three months in the country to regain the necessary strength; and that the ship, besides, in which he purposed to embark, being too small to admit of the proper accommodations, he was rashly exposing himself to almost certain death: nothing could dissuade him. Prejudiced against a country in which he had experienced a variety of troubles, and which were likely to increase, he longed for the moment of withdrawing from it. In Holland, too, he had left a respectable father, whose image was alive in his heart, and his separation from whom he had always regretted. In a word, he preferred the happiness of seeing his family to the cares and anxieties which accompany wealth and follow in the train of empty honours.

Subject, myself, to similar recollections, and
capable,

capable, in his situation, of imitating his conduct, I could not, strong as was my attachment to him, attempt to combat so determined a resolution; and I therefore thought only how to employ to the greatest advantage the few and fleeting moments of friendship that remained. I was anxious he should take with him some pledge of my regard. He was no naturalist, except so far as he had imbibed from me a taste for the study; yet I selected from every description of my treasures a valuable cabinet of curiosities of natural history, which I sent on board with his other effects: and I had almost resolved to embark myself, so great was the dejection of my mind at the idea that I should no longer have before my eyes this judicious counsellor, this consoling friend, who had more than once received into his bosom the overflowings of my heart, at a time too when he had his own vexations to devour.

The 25th of October 1783, a melancholy epoch that has a thousand times recurred to my remembrance, and that has occasioned me, of all the events of my life, the greatest portion of wearisomeness and regret, at length arrived.

It was necessary to separate. "I depart," said he, previous to his quitting me, "perfectly tranquil as to every thing which relates to yourself: I have recommended you to my most intimate friends, whose care you will experience, and for whom I can answer as faithfully as for myself. Meanwhile, that I may not, when absent, be totally unconnected with your grand expedition; I wish to contribute to it a few trifles, that are no longer necessary to me, and which I beg you to accept: they are my two hunters, my two fufees, and, in short, to save you the trouble of listening to a dry catalogue of insignificant articles, my whole sporting accoutrements."

I was so oppressed that I could not answer. Without giving me time to speak, he pointed to a morning-gown placed on a chair, for which I had observed in him a particular predilection, though he seldom wore it except upon certain fixed days. "The stuff," said he, "of which this garment is made, was once worn by my mother, who, upon my departure for Africa, entreated I would wear it in my turn out of love to her, as a monument of her affection
" and

“ and an eternal pledge of remembrance. I
“ have hitherto discharged this duty with the
“ most filial tenderneſs, though it has long
“ painfully reminded me that this dear parent
“ is no more; but now that I am going to
“ reſide with my father to conſole and comfort
“ him in his old age, can I any longer pre-
“ ſerve what would inceſſantly expoſe to his
“ view the loſs he has ſuſtained? No; it is my
“ friend who muſt henceforth wear it for me:
“ by this title is it, my dear Vaillant, that I
“ tranſmit it to you, not as an ordinary pre-
“ ſent, but as a legacy that was bequeathed me,
“ a legacy that I value, and of which I charge
“ you to acquit for me the duties, by uſing it
“ agreeably to the intentions of my venerable
“ mother.”

Such a preſent as a morning-gown to a tra-
veller accuſtomed to a very different ſtyle of
drefs, almoſt always equipped in a hunting
jacket and with a fuſee in his hand, will ap-
pear laughable enough to the reader, who will
conceive it much better fitted for the ſhoulders
of one of our phyſicians or ſolicitors of the
ancient mode. But the occaſion of this ſcene,
which ſo many would look upon as calculated

for a Bartholomew frolic, stamps on it such affecting marks of simplicity, goodness, and sincerity, that even to this moment it excites in my mind the tenderest emotions. The gown itself is of no value: but the ideas it revives are touching. The hand from which I received it is so dear to me, that now, after ten years have elapsed, I cannot contemplate without pleasure the remains of a garment, which I made a point of wearing to the last thread as soon as I became more settled. The most beautiful relic of antiquity would not have been more religiously preserved.

I threw myself into the arms of my friend with tears in my eyes, and I felt his also moisten my cheek. His house, where every thing was in motion, was an affecting spectacle: it resembled the hurry of a removal upon the approach of robbers. The abandonment of places to which we have been so strongly attached, and in which we have tasted the truest and most innocent enjoyments, has in it, to minds of feeling, something that is dreary and disconsolate. The habitation of my friend shared a little in the regrets that I felt for the master; an article of furniture, the simplest things that
he

he was in the habit of using, painfully attracted and fixed my regards. This acute sensibility is the inheritance and misfortune of a small number only of human beings: wherever it exists it gives actual life to the most inanimate objects. But what rendered the scene still more afflicting, was the mournful silence of our common friends assembled round the one who was leaving us. We accompanied him to the boat that was to tear him from our embraces. As he would not suffer us to attend him to the ship, we remained on the shore following him with our eyes. Arrived on board, he waved his handkerchief from the deck, as the last, the farewell signal of friendship.

A person equally dear to us both took pity on my sufferings, and conducted me to his house. We spent the day in enumerating the various instances of benevolence which had honoured the public and private life of the best of men. His name was incessantly in our mouths. While we were thus soothingly occupied, our grief was suddenly renewed by the report of the guns from the harbour and the port, which announced the departure of the

vessel, and saluted the fiscal for the last time. I flew to the turret of the house, and, with my glass, I saw the vessel sailing so rapidly before the wind, that it quickly sunk below the horizon.

When night arrived, I returned to my old apartment. It seemed a prison to me. Left to myself, I was like a culprit whom all the world had abandoned, and who was delivered over to his remorse. No lover ever felt more acutely the pains of separation.

The next morning I was visited by Serurier, the new fiscal; Colonel Gordon, commandant of the place; Hakker, the sub-governor; Conway, colonel of the Pondicherry regiment, whom I have since had the pleasure of seeing at Paris; and, in short, by all the friends of my dear Boers, all the persons to whom he had recommended me, and who joined in assuring me, that it should be their business to make me forget, by their care, a loss which was not less sensibly felt by them than by me. Every one entreated me to take up my residence at his house; but among these offers I ought particularly to notice that of Colonel Gordon, which was made in the name both of
himself

himself and his wife, and with so much importunity, such extreme kindness and sincerity, that it was impossible not to accept it. Beside, independently of personal obligations, and the services he had rendered me from the moment of my arrival at the Cape, he had a taste like myself for natural history; and I was attached to him by this circumstance, as well as by the ties of gratitude and friendship. I resolved, however, not to avail myself immediately of this obliging invitation, and I requested that he would suffer me to remain in my present apartments till after the sale of Boers's effects: for the house was still completely furnished, as he had taken with him such things only as his voyage rendered absolutely necessary.

When the sale at length took place, it proved, beyond any thing that had preceded it, the general esteem which the ex-fiscal had enjoyed at the Cape. The desire which every body felt of possessing some portion of his effects, raised them to a price greatly above their value. Among his friends there was even a warm contention who should have such articles of the furniture as had been particularly appropriated to his personal use. All considered it as a duty
to

to have one lot at least; and I saw, with peculiar satisfaction, in the countenance of each, as they bore away their purchases, a regret for the person to whom they had belonged.

Previous to this sale, the colonel had asked me to accompany him in an experiment that he was desirous of making in order to ascertain the position and bearings of the Piquet mountain, as viewed from the Table mountain. The project was no sooner known in the town, than a number of officers belonging to the different regiments of the garrison requested they might accompany us. Of these personages some had no other inducement than that of enjoying, as mere lookers-on, the spectacle of his labour, and others were idlers at a loss how to employ the day. The first would be perfectly recompensed with the sight of a magnificent prospect, and the last with being able to say, on their return to Europe, that they had been at the top of the famous Table. Though a troop like this would be more incommodious than useful, he yet acquiesced; and we set out, at day-break, with the necessary instruments. A most fortunate circumstance favoured our operation: the sky, during

ing

ing the whole day, was perfectly serene, and, what is infinitely rare, not a single cloud upon the Table mountain came to annoy us.

Upon this occasion I experienced the enjoyment of a particular felicity; which was that of having killed, upon the platform of the mountain, a bird of a new species, which, till that moment, I had not seen in Africa, and which I have never met with since. It was the rock black-bird. I brought it with me to Europe; it constitutes at present an article in my collection, and will form, in the *Ornithology* that I shall soon publish, a new and interesting species, not unworthy the attention of the naturalist.

A bird killed so near the town, and at the same time new to all the inhabitants of the Cape, must have been a stranger to the place where I found it. I suspect it to have emigrated from that range of rocks and mountains, which, from their resemblance to those of the north of Europe, bear the name of the *Norwegian mountains*, and which, detaching themselves from the Table mountain, and stretching to the south, form what is called the *southern point of Africa*. Many persons have had the curiosity

to visit this point, but they have arrived at it either by the sea-side or by the route of Constantia and False-Bay. I, on the contrary, was desirous of finding my way thither along the top of the mountains themselves.

So new an enterprize seemed to promise me curious and unknown objects. I had nothing to dread on my journey but extreme fatigue, and the consideration of such an inconvenience was little calculated to stop me.

A friend lent me two negroes, to whom I added a Hottentot, and I divided among them the labour of carrying my camp equipage, my carbine, a cloak, powder and shot, some dried provisions, and, in short, what appeared to me to be absolutely indispensable; for, being obliged continually to ascend and descend, it was necessary that we should have no incumbrance. As for me, I carried my double-barrelled fufee, had two pistols in my girdle, and was followed by three dogs, the choicest of my pack.

It was thus equipped, and favoured by the most beautiful weather, that I repaired to the summit of the Table mountain.

Seen from afar, and at a certain distance, this mountain seems to terminate in a flat top; and

and hence has arisen the name of Table given to it by mariners and travellers. Its summit, however, as I have already said, is far from being a plain. Intersected throughout by enormous cavities, it at the same time appears rugged with ridges, eminences, and high rocks; which, by their crumbling down and the changes they undergo, attest how much they have lost their primitive form. Its longest side is that which looks towards the town. Not being provided with instruments, it was impossible for me to measure the extent of it exactly. I however attempted it by walking several times over it; and I observed that each time I went from the eastern to the opposite western extremity, it required nearly twenty minutes: which certainly indicates a quarter of a league in length, at least.

While employed in my measurement, my good fortune rendered me a spectator of an interesting phenomenon, which the curious have often sought to observe on the mountain, but which does not always present itself to the eye of the beholder with the same magnificence: I mean the formation of one of those southerly storms, produced by the accumulation

of clouds on the summit of the Table, which is vulgarly called its *peruke*, as I have already said in my first Travels.

This phenomenon I must here describe, but in the most accurate manner, lest the effect should be taken for the cause, and that which belongs to the one ascribed to the other. It was preceded by a train of fog, which we saw brushing over the surface of the sea, and which advanced towards us, passing over Table-Bay. Its approach announced to me a most dreadful tempest; but I rejoiced that I was able to behold and study at this height the progress of so beautiful a spectacle, at the hazard of some trifling inconveniences, which could not be put in competition with the advantages I was about to derive from observations, which, no circumstances perhaps would ever put it in my power to repeat, if I suffered the present opportunity, which presented itself so fortunately, to escape. Without delay, therefore, I pitched my tent towards the east, and as near as possible to that part of the mountain, which, already separated from the Table by the progressive and continual crumbling down of fragments from the action of the winds and the rain, is known by the
I particular

particular name of the Devil mountain, and which is tending more and more to become insulated from the large mass.

The train of fog soon covered the whole valley from False-Bay to the bottom of the mountains, and at length entirely deprived us of the view of the charming landscape of Constantia, Nieuwland and Ronde-Bosch; after which, becoming apparently larger, it soon reached the Table; and, in less than two hours, increased to that degree that it not only covered the space which separated us from the Devil mountain, but enveloped us also on all sides. This mist was so dense that it was impossible to distinguish any thing at the distance of a foot from us. The atmosphere, however, notwithstanding the movement of this great body of vapour, did not seem disturbed. I could not perceive a breath of wind; but, in return, my clothes were insensibly soaked through.

I have several times had an opportunity of remarking, that, when these clouds spread themselves over the Table mountain, they covered only the eastern part of it, while the western remained pure and untouched. I knew
also,

also, and I have said elsewhere, that, during these fogs, a planter, who sets out from the town in order to go to False-Bay, may make his choice either to walk under a scorching sun, by proceeding to the west, or to expose himself to continual rain by advancing on the opposite side. But, as I was upon the mountain at the moment when the cloud was condensing itself I could easily ascertain what part was covered, and what was not; and being even enveloped in it I had nothing to do but to walk forwards till I got out of it. This I did, proceeding towards the east of the plain, when I found myself exposed to the rays of an ardent sun, and under a sky in every part serene.

My eyes were now gratified with a view of the most beautiful horizon I had ever beheld. I could distinguish all the plantations which decorate the Tiger mountain, Blauw-Berg, Groene-Kloof and the Piquet mountain; the town lay almost perpendicular under my feet; but when, with my perspective glass, I looked at the weather-cocks of the houses, I observed that they were turned in every direction, which indicated that the greatest calmness prevailed there,

there, as well as on the mountain, where there had not been the least movement in the air, since the leaves of the trees reposed in profound tranquillity.

The bay displayed a spectacle still more astonishing. The northern part of it was exposed, at that time, to a very violent gust of wind, which did not extend to the southern part. Thus, three ships in the latter seemed to enjoy a perfect calm, while all those which were at anchor in the other, were agitated by a furious blast. From this striking contrast, and I might almost say incredible, in so small a space, there resulted a very great difference in the colour of the water. This double effect appeared to me like a magic picture; for it exhibited as it were in the same frame, and without any interval, at once a calm and a tempest.

The conclusions I drew from it are as follows: The wind, which had taken its rise on the surface of the Indian ocean, blowing with violence, entered by False Bay, passed to the Table Bay only through the defile that separates the two bays, and followed its direction in the northern part of the harbour, while the

projection formed by the mountains towards the Cape, and at the Cape itself, deadened the greater part of its force. It cannot be said, therefore, that the collection of clouds on the south-west, which are accumulated over the Table mountain, and which thence precipitate themselves over the town, occasion there those furious blasts of wind, so inconvenient and at the same time so salubrious to the inhabitants of the Cape; for I have seen the greatest tranquillity prevail, not only in the town, but in all that part of the harbour, which, being opposite to the direction of the mountain, must naturally shelter them on that side. During the whole time I resided at the Cape, I indeed always remarked that the hurricane was never by any means so violent when the clouds remained in a state of stagnation, and, as it were, suspended over the summit of the mountain: the same circumstance happens in all the interior parts of Africa; and every where, in short, where great heights oppose a barrier to this impetuous wind.

About one in the afternoon, judging that the cloud had attained its maximum of increase, I retired from it in order to survey it in a more

favourable point of view, and to ascertain, if possible, its height. At a distance it exhibited the appearance of a mass of fog, forced together and compressed by its own weight. Its extremities, or upper and lower edges, were very apparent. I could perfectly distinguish where it terminated, and I can affirm that its height was not more than fifty or sixty feet.

The sharp and elastic air of the mountain had given me so keen an appetite, that, however resolved I was to continue my observations during the remainder of the day, I was obliged to suspend them for a while, that I might go and take some refreshment in my tent: but scarcely had I again entered the fog when I felt a light wind, exceedingly cold and cutting, which had not existed in the morning. It was so weak, indeed, that I ascribed it to the motion of the vapour, which continued still increasing. As it, however, occasioned me some inconvenience, and I was here less than any where else in a situation to continue my researches, I caused my tent to be removed, and went to pitch it at the eastern extremity of the plain.

My negroes and my Hottentot being totally

useless to me in the business I was engaged in, I was desirous of deriving some other benefit from them, by employing them, for the rest of the day, to search on the mountain for a pretended monument, respecting the existence of which I had long been tormented.

Kolben says, that in 1680 the governor Van der Stel having made an excursion to the Table mountain, in company with several ladies of the Cape, and particularly the lady of the governor of the Indies; and being desirous of leaving to posterity a solemn monument of this party of pleasure, and of the great efforts made by his young companions, he caused to be erected on the spot a column or pyramid, with an inscription proper to transmit to after ages the remembrance of his great name. The author even enters into details, and relates particular circumstances of this journey, to induce the reader to give credit to it: but notwithstanding the diligent search made by my companions, they found not the smallest vestige of this pretended column; which, if the story of it be true, must either have been destroyed by time, or some other hand inimical to such erections.

I still continued to follow all the movements

ments of the cloud. Part of it had detached itself, and, passing through the hollow which separates the Devil from the Table mountain, proceeded to settle on the back of the latter, where it appeared suspended, as in a state of stagnation, without having any further communication with the grand mass. About five o'clock this detached part seemed to be pressed down, and to have become heavier. I imagined that it was going to precipitate itself on the town, and to occasion there one of those hurricanes so common at the Cape in the months of March and April, but uncommon at the season when I observed it. I was, however, deceived. Without diminishing in height, it moved beyond the flat summit, descended below its edges, and, winding along the declivity, rejoined the cloud at the Devil mountain, with which it became confounded, so that they were again formed into one. All this was effected without the least disorder in the air. The harbour itself ceased to be agitated by the wind; and so universal was the calm, as to make me renounce all hopes of a storm, with the sight of which I should have been highly gratified; but which, by its effects, would have afforded no such

amusement to the inhabitants of the town, who were not equally interested in making observations on it.

The approach of night made me some amends for this disappointment, by presenting a very different picture, less uncommon, indeed, but perhaps more sublime than the grand tempest with the sight of which I had flattered myself. The picture I mean, was the sun setting in the ocean. One might have said, that it was the arrival of the master of nature at the boundaries of the world. I saw this globe of fire plunge with majesty below the waters, and vanish from my sight. How enchanting was the spectacle he presented to my astonished eyes; when, sweeping the surface of the deep, he seemed all of a sudden to embrace the abyss, in order to regain, as Ossian says, the vast palace of darkness. On his approach, the waves raised their agitated heads to be gilded by his light; but their colours, illuminated by his rays, insensibly died away, and totally vanished the instant he disappeared. The ocean was no longer enlightened, but the immense veil of clouds which had collected on the east, still reflected his flames from its upper surface. Their whole

whole mass represented mountains of snow, and their top displayed a zone resplendent with all the colours of the rainbow. This spectacle lasted only for a moment; but at the distance of about thirty leagues to the north, the Piquet mountains, still higher than the Table mountain, retained, for some time, the light on their majestic tops, that seemed to project from the purple and violet ground of the sky. They might have been styled lighthouses, destined to enlighten the interior parts of the continent during the obscurity of the night. How little is man to this exalted height, and how wretched are his passions when he compares himself with immensity!

On the approach of darkness, the baboons had retired to their holes; the vultures had quitted the plain, and returned to the rocks: some small birds only still fluttered around me, and, scattered over the shrubs and the bushes, were celebrating with their concerts the close of so beautiful a day. Their song died away with the twilight; obscurity gave up the mountain to funereal birds of prey; and I, thoughtful and melancholy, returned to my tent, which my people had already surrounded with

a large fire, for the purpose of keeping at a distance noxious and destructive animals that shun the light.

I had reason to expect that I should meet on the mountain with a kind of enemy still more dangerous than these animals: I mean those fugitive slaves who quit their masters' habitation to reside among the rocks, and who take advantage of the night to plunder the neighbouring plantations. I had to fear, that some of these deserters might be concealed in my neighbourhood, and that, favoured by the darkness, they might attempt to surprize or attack me. I had, however, taken the necessary precautions; I was too well armed to dread such a combat; and the vigilance of my three dogs, still more than my fires, enabled me to repose during the whole night in security.

The fog became so moist that, when day appeared, I felt myself in my tent quite penetrated with cold, notwithstanding a very thick cloak which I had wrapped round me, and with which I was entirely covered. If such was my situation, it may be judged what my people must have suffered. To recover from my numbness, I determined to remove to a

part

part of the mountain where I conceived there would be no fog. I expected to find the sun there, as I had found him the preceding day; but the cloud had partly covered him, and he did not make his appearance till he had passed the meridian. While waiting for his arrival to warm me, I traversed the platform with my fufee, hoping to procure some provisions, if I found any game in my way. I, however, saw only some vultures, which, perched on the edge of their holes, benumbed by the cold, and soaked with the dew, were also waiting for the sun to dry themselves and take their flight. In this condition, they seemed to be incapable of moving their wings, and suffered me to approach almost close to them. I killed several of them; and when the sun had re-appeared, and I felt myself warmed, I ordered one to be roasted, intending to dine upon it with my people: but the smell was so disgusting, and the taste so detestable, that I could not endure it. My two negroes also loathed it; and even my dogs, after having smelled to it, turned away without touching it. My Hottentot alone ate of it; and to him it was tolerable, because it was fat,

When

When we had dried ourselves thoroughly, we struck the tent; and descending on the south-east side of the Table mountain, I made my way through the thorns and bushes to the False-Lion's-head; for such is the name of a mountain unfortunately celebrated by some shipwrecks, and very justly dreaded by mariners. To understand this, it must be recollected that, as I have already several times observed, there is another mountain called the Lion's-head, which is a land-mark to pilots coming from Europe to the Cape. The false head takes its name from the resemblance it has to the real head, though it is not so high; and this conformity is so much the more dangerous, as, near this mountain, there is another, which, terminating in a flat like the Table, represents, when seen from a distance at sea, the western face of the latter. In foggy weather, if the pilot, deceived by this resemblance, makes towards the land, thinking to enter the bay of the Cape, he is lost, as his vessel is sure to be stranded on the sand-banks of the shore. There is, however, a sure and infallible mark to distinguish them, which I think it my duty to point out. The Lion's-head is totally insulated

on the north side; there being only the back part of the Lion-mountain, in that quarter, that can show itself, and which is considerably lower; while the false head seems to adhere without interruption to a chain of mountains which, on the north, becomes united with the Table mountain, and, on the south, extends to the point of Africa, where it forms the promontory. In very hazy weather, indeed, the mark I have here pointed out becomes useless; because, the body of the mountains being then involved in fogs, their summits only which are above the vapour can show themselves. But in that case there is another certain mark of distinction. The Lion's-head having on its northern side no other mountain so high as itself, its top must be seen alone in that quarter; whereas the false head having, towards the north, other summits equally elevated, these summits and that of the false head must be seen at the same time. If the pilot, therefore, uncertain which of the two heads he perceives, sees to the north of that head, and in the same line, the tops of other mountains, he cannot be mistaken; it is the false head which presents itself; but if he observes nothing on the
northern

northern side of the point, and if of the mountains he distinguishes it be the last towards the north, it is the real head; for the rump of the Lion, which forms part of it, is low, and when seen cannot be mistaken. It will readily be remarked that these appearances can occur only to vessels which, coming from Europe or the Indies, find themselves to the southward of the entrance of the bay: those which are more to the north have a quite different view; and in that case it is impossible for them to see the false head, as they must then perceive the mountains of the Cape, such, almost, as they are here represented; for when I took the view of them I was upon Roben island. With regard to the other view, that was also taken on my arrival at the Cape; but, the drawing having been torn in two, I lost a part of it. I have, however, subjoined here the remaining part, which extends only to the False Table.

I shall not enlarge upon the importance of these observations: to publish them is, in my opinion, serving the cause of humanity; and had my voyage, after so much expence and fatigue, been productive of no other good than that of preventing a single shipwreck, I should
have

VIEW OF THE CAPE FROM ROHEN ISLAND.



WEST VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS OF THE CAPE TAKEN AT SEA.



A VIEW OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE FROM THE ROAD
A. Devil Mountain. B. Table Mountain. C. Lion's Head. D. Lion's Rump. E. Gallews Point.

have applauded myself during my whole life for undertaking it.

From the Table mountain to the False head I every where observed, throughout the whole tract of country that I traversed, a great number of birds of the species of the blackbird, the thrush, and the black and yellow bird *; and after passing the latter mountain, a number of bee-eaters, of the kind which are found in the southern provinces of France, and in Italy. At the Cape, as in Europe, these charming winged animals are birds of passage. They flew about in thousands before me in the valley, and settled in flocks on the bushes and shrubs with which it is covered. Under other circumstances, their beauty would have been a sufficient motive with me to seek for them, but at that time their exquisite taste was the temptation; and with the advantage afforded me by their numbers, a few discharges of my fusée directed into a bush procured a supply of provision for myself and people for a whole day.

Their abundance in this place astonished me the more, as I had observed many birds of

* See the note in page 259, Vol. I. of the Author's former Travels. T.

prey of the hawk kind, which attacked them without mercy. The valley abounded too with a prodigious quantity of green serpents, of from four to five feet in length. It was the humidity of the soil that attracted these reptiles, which was also favourable to their increase. The multitude and size of them gave me no little uneasiness; and I had the more reason to believe them venomous, as my dogs, which generally went before me in the bushes, now ranged themselves all three behind me, and advanced with seeming fear. To assure myself of what I had to dread from these enemies, I killed one, and examining its mouth I saw with joy that they were not dangerous. For once my dogs were deceived; their instinct was in fault; and I ascribed the error to the gradual change effected in these domestic animals by education: wild dogs I am certain would not have thus been mistaken.

Another cause of uneasiness, and one that appeared well founded, still alarmed me: I mean the want of water on the tops of the mountains which I intended to traverse, thereby to proceed to the promontory of Africa. I was fearful I should be obliged to renounce my
design,

design, that I might not be distant from springs and streams, or forced to descend continually from eminences to quench our thirst in the valleys, which would have occasioned at the same time much fatigue and much languor. We had already enough to suffer from the continual ascending and descending required in passing from one mountain to another, without being still forced to repeat several times a-day, under a scorching sun, this laborious exercise. Happily however it was not necessary. During the five days that my journey lasted, I found in the cliffs and holes of the rocks some excellent rain water, and these small natural cisterns were sufficiently numerous, and had a sufficient abundance for all our wants.

From the foot of the Table mountain to the point of Africa, the distance is generally reckoned, by the common route, to be eight leagues; I made it, by my windings and turnings, from twenty-five to thirty: but I experienced no obstacle, and I at length arrived at the formidable promontory, the most celebrated and most stormy of all those of the antient world. The dangers of a sea almost always raging occasioned it to be called, by the first Portuguese navigators, the

the Cape of Tempests; a fatal appellation, for which they soon after substituted the more consoling one of the Cape of Good Hope; when, upon opening to their sight the Indian ocean, it presented to their barbarous avarice the possession and treasures of the richest country in the universe.

Placed on a spot of the globe the most favourable, perhaps, for the grand spectacles of nature; I had on my right the Atlantic, on my left the Indian, and before me the Southern ocean; which, breaking with fury at my feet, seemed as if desirous of attacking the whole chain of mountains, and of swallowing up Africa. To render more magnificent the sublime effect of this picture, I had only one wish to make; which was, to behold one of those tornadoes that gave rise to the first appellation of the promontory. For several hours I entertained hopes of this gratification, upon seeing long trains of fog raised by the wind from the surface of the sea; but my expectations were soon frustrated, and the air became so pure and calm that I could very clearly distinguish, at the eastern extremity of False Bay, the famous Cape of Needles; which,
when

when seamen have the misfortune to miscalculate their longitude, exposes them to certain shipwreck, and where were lost, among others, the ambassadors sent by the king of Siam to the king of Portugal.

Notwithstanding the serenity which prevailed in the heavens, the sea experienced a degree of agitation. Its swelling, opposed to several contrary currents, rendered it also noisy. The surges had not that majestic regularity, in which, in happier climes, we see them roll towards the shore; there, one after another, to vanish: a too faithful picture of life, and of the annihilation which follows it: on the contrary, broken against each other, they dashed themselves in confusion upon those shoals and rocks so often buffeted by tempests.

As they reached the shore, the waves threw out a number of shells, and, among others, the *nautilus papyraceus*. Desirous of procuring some of these univalves, so delicate and tender, I went down to the shore; but I soon perceived that none of them were perfect, being all either broken and mutilated, or else blackened by the putrefaction of the dead animal. Observing some alive, which the waves every

now and then presented to our view, my people waded into the water to catch them; but the moment they approached their hands, the shell instantly sunk, and, with all the art they employed, they could not get hold even of one; the instinct of the animal shewed itself to be more subtle than they, and obliged them to give up the attempt. Amused as much as disappointed by this dexterity, I called my fishermen, who returned not a little ashamed at being out-witted by a shell-fish. More successful than they, I had the good fortune to kill several marine birds of the species of the sea-gull and sea-swallow. One of the latter, characterised by a large bill of the colour of red coral, will form among my descriptions a new species, entirely unknown to ornithologists.

Besides these birds, we saw soaring above the sea, and as far as our sight could extend, a prodigious number of white boobies*, which, with their wings folded and their necks stretched out, suffered themselves to drop heavily

* The same species has been described by Buffon under the name of *fou de Bassan*. See *les planches enluminées*, plate 278.

from the sky; like so many masses of lead, upon the fish which they observed in the water. At the same time the albatrosses and frigats, more nimble in their motions, seized their prey, while brushing the surface of the waves with an easy and rapid flight; and the pelican, with his huge body and broad-webbed feet, swam majestically along, filling his capacious gullet with the small fry, which he fished for with solemn gravity. Having, with a few discharges of my fusée, dispersed all these winged tribes to a distance, I retired.

My taste for new objects led me to avoid returning to the town by the way I had come. I knew that in the neighbourhood of False, and near Simon's Bay, there were barracks, where a detachment of troops from the garrison was always stationed. A post so distant from the Cape is a kind of exile, during a great part of the year, to the men who are sent thither; and, for this reason, care is taken every three months to relieve them.

At that time, the commandant of this dreary desert was an officer whom I had often had an opportunity of seeing at the house of Boers. I was therefore desirous of paying him a visit,

and of taking advantage of this occasion to examine at leisure the bottom of the Bay. He not only received me with cordiality, but, upon the pretext that it was necessary to arrange the small collection of insects and birds which had been the fruit of my journey, pressed me to spend a few days with him. Wishing to visit Cape False, and the shores opposite the Bay, I accepted his invitation, and the next morning early a fishing-boat that I met with conducted me thither. In traversing this quarter, I beheld with astonishment those immense hills of shells and sand which, manifestly formed by the sea, afterwards served it as a shore, and are at present at a considerable distance from it. These undoubted monuments of its abode convinced me, that this sea penetrated formerly to what is now a part of the main land, and that it rose there to a great height; that it has since very considerably retired, and, consequently, that it daily loses ground, though it appears that it ought daily to gain, by the frequency of the storms, and the violence of the winds, which incessantly drive it towards the coasts. After my return from this trip, I spent two days more with the commandant. Six hours, at most, were

were all that would be necessary for me to return to the Cape by the ordinary route ; but I contented myself with sending back the two negroes, that had been lent me, loaded with the various objects I had collected, and returned myself by the margin of the sea-shore, following the windings of the bays and creeks, beginning at the point of the nautili, and ending on the side at the west.

This journey, notwithstanding its short duration, was attended with fatigues which I had not foreseen. At every step, some obstacle or other was sure to intervene. Here a projecting rock presented itself, and there I was obliged to clamber a precipice with my Hottentot, assisting each other in turns, and continually exposing ourselves to the risk of slipping, and of being thereby precipitated into the abyss below. At one time, a rapid declivity opposed our descent, and we had no resource but that of committing ourselves to its mercy, by gliding down on our backs, in danger of being mangled and torn by our fall. At another, after much toil and labour, I found myself stopped by some creek or piece of water, which, forcing itself between two high rocks, blocked up my pas-

face, and obliged me to make long and wearisome turnings, the least inconvenience of which was a mortifying loss of time.

My journey, however, was at length happily accomplished. But it is not here that I shall give the result of it. The excursion which I made afterwards, as far as the tropic, enabled me to become acquainted with other circumstances of a similar nature, and to convince myself, that not only the southern point of Africa, but also its interior mountains at a great distance within the land, have in part been covered by the sea. At some future period I shall publish my remarks and reflections upon this subject; at present I shall content myself with observing, that the ideas I have here suggested become so evident, upon visiting the coasts of the colony, that they have struck even the Hottentots themselves; and it is probable that the Table, as well as the two neighbouring mountains, and all those which form the chain extending to the promontory, were formerly an island, separated from the continent by an arm of the sea, which reached from Table to False Bay, and formed a junction between them. It is hardly possible to refuse to this

con-

conjecture the force of truth, when we survey the low plain, and see that it consists of nothing but a mixture of sand and shells half decomposed.

To this evident fact I shall add another, which is, that this part of Africa, which I affirm, and with great reason, to have been an island, has formed three very distinct ones. I had a proof of this in crossing the chain of mountains of granite, of which I have before spoken. I observed there two long defiles, lying in a direction from east to west, and which, it is probable, were formerly straits. That which ends at the bottom of False Bay, is still covered with a sand-hill; the other terminates at *Baie-aux-Bois* (woody bay.) To point them out to the reader, I have taken care to dot them in my chart. In short, being on different levels, it cannot be doubted that they were formed at different periods. However ancient may be that epoch, there is one still more remote; when the Table mountain itself, elevated as it is above the level of the ocean, seems nevertheless to have been partly covered by its waters.

As to the natural history of this part of

Africa which I travelled, I will freely confess, that I had formed of it too extravagant an idea; for, of birds, I found no other kinds than are to be met with in abundance through the whole district of Constantia, Ronde-Bosch, and Nieuw-land; where they may be obtained with less trouble than on those lofty mountains, which are so difficult to be climbed. One alone seemed to prefer a habitation among these steep rocks; which was a particular kind of wood-pecker, of the size of our green wood-pecker, and with a reddish belly. Nature, who does not confine herself to general rules, and who takes pleasure in attending to the minutest details, sporting with the systems of our methodical naturalists, has given to this red-bellied wood-pecker, habits the very reverse of what are observable in all other birds that we know of the same species; for it never climbs trees, but perches itself, like other winged animals, upon the branches, and seeks its food in the earth, into which it forces its bill, and its long tongue, armed with a dart, to drag out its prey, in the same manner as other wood-peckers do on worm-eaten trunks.

The only quadrupeds that inhabit these
6 heights,

heights, beside baboons, are the *Kaimfi* of the Hottentots, or Klip-springer of the Dutch planters, a species of antelope, found only on the most inaccessible rocks, and of which I shall speak elsewhere. In the low bottoms and valleys, and particularly upon the borders of the small rivulet that pours itself into *Baie-aux-Bois*, are found some *Grys-boc*, and *Duykers*, two species that I have formerly mentioned.

Every evening I heard the roaring of hyænas, but I never met with any of them in the course of the day. Once only I had a partial view of a panther, among the sand-hills in the neighbourhood of False Bay. I saw also some partridges of that large species, very improperly called at the Cape, pheasants. Shrubs and plants are very numerous on the mountains; but of these enough has been already said by Thunberg, Paterfon, and Sparmann.

Upon quitting the lodging I had occupied at the Cape, in the house of Boers, I accepted one from Colonel Gordon, though it was probable that my plans would suffer me to remain in it only for a very short time.

Scarcely had I taken possession of it, when I began to prepare for my departure, and gave
even

even some orders respecting my carriages and cattle : but the Colonel, who was acquainted with the country through which I was about to commence my journey, and who had travelled over a part of it, stopped me in my career, by assuring me that, if I departed before the rainy season arrived, I should find only parched and barren deserts, where I should infallibly die of thirst, with my whole caravan.

This argument brought me to a determination ; for it was impossible not to yield to the advice of a prudent and enlightened man, who spoke from experience. My confidence in him was so great, that I never even thought of objecting to what he said. He had travelled, indeed, to the north of the Cape, as I was preparing to do ; but, as it was not my intention to pursue the same route, the advice he gave was by no means applicable to me ; as, in the end, I too fatally experienced. I caution future travellers, therefore, who shall undertake a similar excursion, not to follow my example, but to set out from the Cape at the time of the intense heat, or, at least, so to settle their departure, that, during the summer of the country, that is to say, from November to February,
they

they may be in a higher latitude than that of the frontiers of the colony. I shall particularise elsewhere my reasons for speaking in this manner, and the reader will see in what misfortunes I was involved by undertaking this journey at an unseasonable period.

It was then the month of January, and, agreeably to the advice of the Colonel, I was not to depart till May. By deferring it so long, I could make my preparations at my leisure, with more care, and even with more economy: another advantage was, that it would enable me to complete, as far as possible, a collection of the animals of the colony. My disaster in the bay of Saldanha had considerably injured this project, and now that it was in my power to finish it, I could not suffer the opportunity to escape.

Such of the Hottentots as I had retained in my service since my first journey, were at Groene-Kloof, employed in keeping and looking after my oxen. I paid a visit to my herds and their guardians, and had reason to be satisfied with both. Remarking however that, among my cattle, there were three or four which had been too much fatigued by their
former

former excursion, to be able to endure a second, I parted with them. Colonel Gordon lent me four excellent oxen, which he had brought back with him from his expedition, and I purchased besides a new team that cost me a hundred and sixty-five rix dollars. With regard to my people, they all not only showed the greatest eagerness to accompany me, but had inspired the same ardour into some of their comrades, whose courage and fidelity they insured, and who had requested them to beg that I would accept of their services. Could I foresee that such fair promises would afterwards be belied?

At the Cape, I experienced marks of kindness from all quarters. The friends of Boers, become more particularly mine since his departure, strove who should be the first to offer me some present, either to add to my stores, or to complete my equipage. The wife of the Colonel reserved to herself the exclusive privilege of supplying me with sugar, and other necessary provisions for my table; while her husband, military even in his gifts, begged me to accept of a new marquee, and the services of the armourer of his regiment to repair my fuses.

fufees. Van Genep, the poft captain, who had fucceeded Staaring, ordered me, from his ftore, a moft beautiful tent, in place of my own, which, from the continual rains I had experienced in the country of Auteniqua, had become unſerviceable. Gilkin, the commandant of the artillery, and the officers of the garrifon, ſent me a conſiderable quantity of powder. In ſhort, every perſon was deſirous of giving me ſomething; and, from the general zeal diſplayed in my favour, one might have ſuppoſed that my journey was a public enterpriſe, to which all the inhabitants were bound to contribute according to their abilities.

I conſidered myſelf as honoured by the ſmalleſt trifles, and made it my duty to accept them. Among the preſents of this kind I muſt mention one in particular, which was given me by the Colonel, and accompanied with ſome pleaſantry. It conſiſted of three grenadier caps, on the gilt copper-plates of which, lower than thoſe of the French, was repreſented the crowned lion that forms the arms of Holland. He was aware that theſe caps were highly gratifying to the ſavages, and would gain me
the

the good will of the hordes whose chiefs I should think proper to ornament with them.

I employ'd them for that purpose, as will hereafter be seen; in different places in the interior of the country; and I have often regretted the want of objects equally rare to the savages, and which might have facilitated an intercourse that it would be vain to attempt in any other way. In general, and it cannot be too often repeated, it is only with toys, as one may say, that the friendship of men in a state of nature is to be conciliated. I am filled with a mixed sentiment of contempt and indignation, when, in the accounts of travels among savages, I read histories of massacres and wars, of which, without a blush, men often avow themselves the defenders, and which are exhibited to Europeans as acts of prowess, deserving of renown, and worthy to be imitated: As for me, I have already said, that my reasonings upon this subject are very different: of this the reader will be more and more convinced, as he follows me in my travels. Experienced as I am at present, it would be easy for me so to conduct myself, as to avoid even the thought
of

of an adventure that should cost the life of a single individual. It is in the name of humanity that I here exclaim against the impudent pretensions of those travellers, who would go to the distance of four thousand leagues from their native soil, to subdue by the sword their fellow creatures, and make them adopt even their most ridiculous follies. By nature, man is neither good nor bad; society alone can render him worthless. It requires no little address and sincerity to divest ourselves all at once of our prejudices, and rise to a level with those whose confidence and love it may be necessary to gain.

I did not delay, till the moment of my departure, to provide myself with merchandise for barter, which might be useful to me in my route. Whenever a vessel had brought any trinkets to the Cape, I procured an assortment of them, and I had taken my precautions so far back, as to be under no uneasiness on that head. My provision of lead, tobacco, glassware, nails, and, above all, knives and tinder-boxes, was ready; and as my journey was to continue longer than the first, I had doubled the quantity, intending still to augment them
should

should there be room in my waggons when I set out.

My kitchen utensils having been already sufficient for me, I did not think it necessary to make any addition to them. I only exchanged a part of my porcelain for a few articles of the same kind made of pewter. I still remembered the accident that had happened to it, when the waggon that carried it was overturned in a river. Such conveniences are little of themselves; but when custom has rendered them necessary, we feel a degree of dissatisfaction at being reduced to a condition in which it is impossible to procure them.

I ought also to mention here other articles no less essential, and of which I made ample provision. I mean needles, pins, and tweezers, with a quantity of riband, and some dozens of Indian handkerchiefs, particularly those of a red or blue colour. All these articles, which the wives or daughters of the planters incessantly ask from travellers, are necessary to gain their affections, and perhaps something more when an opportunity offers. I carried with me also, though very unseasonably, a box filled with locks and padlocks, imagining that by
these

these I might render a service to some of the inhabitants in the interior parts of the country: but what would have afforded me considerable pleasure, in my first journey, became useless in this; as I found no occasion of giving away a single lock, except to a planter of Nameroo, who accepted it, I believe, merely to oblige me, as I will freely confess I was ignorant myself where he could fix it, there being only two openings in his house, of which one, that served as a door, was shut, during the night only, with an ox's hide; and the other, serving as a window, was closed with the bottom of an old cask. Lastly, knowing how much snuff was in request among the women, I provided myself with several pounds of it. However minute these details may appear, their probable utility to future travellers, who may undertake the same expedition, leads me to consider it as an indispensable duty not to pass them over in silence.

I had sent for Swanepoel to town, to take care of my packages, and to consult him respecting my stores. His knowledge in these matters was likely to be of use to me; and indeed he reminded me of certain occurrences

that, for want of the necessary tools, had occasioned us very great embarrassments. To guard against similar inconveniences, I appointed him inspector-general of all my preparations, charging him to make a good assortment of every thing likely to be useful, that we might be in want of nothing by the way. After discharging the duties of his office, he repaired without delay to the horde of Klaas, to inform him of the day of my departure, and to appoint a rendezvous in Swart-Land, at the house of my friend Slaber, where I purposed to assemble my whole caravan, and where one of my carriages had been previously sent a long time before.

Of the Hottentots who had accompanied me in my first journey, there were only eight with whose conduct I had been constantly satisfied. It was my wish, therefore, to retain only these eight, and I gave them notice of my intention. In vain did the others come begging that I would accept of their services; I kept to my resolution, and rejected them. To supply their place, Swanepoel, on his return, proposed to me some intrepid fellows of his acquaintance, for whom he became answerable. Among them were two excellent marksmen,

men, who he thought might be useful, and whom, indeed, I accepted without hesitation.

I had it in my power to have enlarged my company with several persons more. As every one at the Cape knew that my first journey had been fortunate, that no other accidents had happened to me than those which are unavoidable in such enterprizes; many planters and Europeans wished to be my associates. I cannot repeat all the requests that were made me on the subject; but, faithful to my principles, and determined more than ever to remain perfectly free in my operations, I suffered my resolution to be shaken neither by personal considerations, nor the most pressing importunities; and, under different pretences, softened by politeness and civility, I found means to disembarraß myself of all my solicitors.

Among the number was one in particular of the name of Pinar, a keen sportsman, a great frequenter of the woods, and more especially celebrated for his dexterity in hunting elephants. This man, who by his great exploits in this way had acquired a certain celebrity in the colony, and of whom a hundred acts of

prowess, each more wonderful than another, were related, offered also to accompany me; and, by the air of confidence with which he presented himself, seemed persuaded that I ought to esteem myself happy in having with me a hero of so extraordinary merit. I ventured, however, to thank him; and my readers may judge for themselves whether I was wrong in refusing him, when I inform them that, having had the misfortune to meet him on my way, he had nearly occasioned the death of my old Swanepoel.

I was, however, tempted to make an exception in favour of a young surgeon, who was extremely pressing in his entreaties. The talents of a man of his profession might, in case of need, have become particularly useful both to me and my caravan. Besides, being obliged to have an intercourse with the savage tribes among whom I was about to travel, I should have it in my power to administer to them assistance, by which I should increase towards me their good-will and affection: nor could I reflect without pain on that unfortunate Gonaqua man, whom I had seen in his hut, abandoned to the most dreadful torture, with-
out

out my being able, from my ignorance of medicine, to relieve his sufferings.

On the other hand, I had to fear that the dangers and fatigue of the journey would be too great for the courage of my Esculapius. And what was I to have done, should that be the case? I must have returned the same way I came, till I arrived at the colony, in order to leave him in a place of safety; for I certainly should not have abandoned him to himself in the midst of the deserts.

In this perplexity, I was struck with an idea that appeared to remedy the inconvenience, and preserve to each his personal independence. This was, to have a separate carriage and establishment for him, in order that, should he be disposed to return, he might do so freely, without interfering with or impeding my progress. An arrangement like this would have placed us both equally at our ease. I proposed it to him, adding, that my consent to his accompanying me would entirely depend upon it: but it was not accepted, and I dismissed it from my thoughts.

Among my acquaintance at the Cape, there were some who would fain have dissuaded me

from my plan, assigning as a reason the pretended character of the African tribes, whom they represented as ferocious monsters and cannibals, among whom I should soon be infallibly destroyed. But, flattering myself that I knew man in a state of nature better than these fine talkers, whose superficial knowledge had been derived from books destitute of truth, I had no dread of the danger that was announced to me. I have had opportunities of studying human nature in its uncivilized state; every where it has appeared to me to be good; every where I have seen it also, when not irritated and treated with injustice, to be hospitable and friendly; and I here affirm, from the conviction of my heart, that in those pretended barbarous countries, where the whites have not yet rendered themselves odious, because they have never been there, it would have been sufficient for me to hold out my hand in token of friendship, to make the Africans press it with affection in theirs, and receive me as their brother. If I wished to obtain any services from them, or to barter with them, I had in my brandy, my toys, and my tobacco, very advantageous means of commerce. What black is there who would
not,

not, with transports of joy, have yielded up to me every thing he had, for goods in the possession of which he would have found the most necessary objects, and the most delicious gratifications with which he was acquainted? I repeat it then, If I have been thwarted in my projects, they are not men, but the seasons that I accuse; the seasons, whose unfriendly opposition I began to experience from the moment of my departure.

At every time of the year the roads of the Cape are bad: and, if such be their ordinary state, judge what they must be when the rainy season commences. Scarcely had I proceeded a quarter of a mile from the town, when one of my carriages was dragged into a hole, and overturned in the mud; nor was it possible for my ten oxen that drew it, nor the exertions of my Hottentots, to stop its fall.

In an instant the accident was known at the Cape, and I was soon joined by a crowd of the inhabitants, some attracted by mere curiosity, and others by a desire of being useful. I had, in reality, need of assistance to place the carriage on its wheels again; for it was not possible to raise it without unloading it, and the boxes

were so large and so heavy, that they could not be taken out and replaced without a multitude of hands. It was necessary even to empty them on the spot. Every one lent his aid; and, as my effects were taken out, they were deposited round my carriages in such places as were freest from mud. In a little time, the whole surrounding space was covered with them, and every thing I possessed, exposed thereby to the view of the company. At length, my whole cargo was again put in order, and I pursued my course; but not without many distressing reflections on the part of the spectators, who, from so unfortunate a beginning, augured no good of my journey.

Their predictions were but too true; and I had soon reason to apprehend a full accomplishment of them, by a second misfortune which I experienced.

The accident which happened to my carriage had consumed almost the whole day. It was half past three in the afternoon before I could proceed; the days were the shortest in the year, and, if my carriages travelled in the night, accidents still more disastrous might take place. To prevent this, I resolved to stop
towards

towards the close of the day, and I caused my cattle to be unyoked in *Groene-Valey* (green lake), about two hundred yards from a plantation.

I observe, in all the maps of Africa, and all the accounts of the Cape of Good Hope, that the Dutch word *valey* is translated valley. The word *valey*, however, signifies a lake or marsh, and not a valley, which in Dutch is *kloof*.

This was a manor plantation that belonged to the governor. His *baas*, or overseer, saw me arrive, and, while my oxen were unyoking, he stood quietly at his door; but no sooner were they let loose, than he gave orders to the Hottentots and negroes under his command, to seize them and convey them to the farm. At that moment I had just caused a fire to be lighted. Surprised at the conduct of the slaves, I went up to the overseer, and desired him to explain it. He replied, that there were particular orders from government, which forbade any planter to unyoke and turn cattle adrift within his master's domains, and that, in consequence of doing so, all my oxen were confiscated. Excellent logic for a knave devoid of all principle!

I was

I was not a planter, and therefore the regulation could in no manner affect me. As a stranger, I was pardonable for not knowing it; and besides this privilege of a stranger and a traveller, I had, from the governor himself, particular letters, in which he enjoined all the inhabitants of the colony, not only to avoid throwing the least impediment in the way of my journey, and to allow me a free passage wherever my curiosity might lead me, but also to give me, by authority of government, every assistance I might have occasion for. All this I represented to the overseer. I observed to him also, that, when my oxen were seized, they were in the downs, and consequently beyond the privileged boundaries of the domain. In short, I complained to him of the uncandid manner in which he had behaved towards me, since, instead of giving me notice when he saw me unyoke, he contented himself with being a silent spectator, as if highly gratified by seeing me fall into an error.

To these remonstrances he made no other reply, than that he had a right to confiscate my cattle: and in truth the capture would have been of some worth to him. Tired of his
iniquitous

iniquitous morality, I assumed another tone, and, with all the energy that an honest man is capable of displaying when heated by passion, I gave him to understand what a rascal I thought him. To this he made no answer; but ordered his slaves to collect all my oxen, and conduct them to another plantation of the governor's, a league distant. I could then no longer contain my indignation; and clapping my double-barrelled fusée to my shoulder, I declared aloud, that if any man dared so much as to touch one of my animals, I would immediately blow out his brains.

This threat had the desired effect. The baas and his slaves, equally intimidated, remained quiet, without daring to stir. In this attitude I left them; and, while they scarcely ventured to move, I ordered my writing-box to be brought, that I might inform the fiscal of what had happened, telling Swanepoel at the same time, to take one of my horses and proceed to the Cape with my letter. Upon hearing the word fiscal, the overseer began to tremble: he was afraid that, should my complaint reach his master, he might be deprived of his place. He begged me, therefore, to
countermand

countermand the departure of Swanepoel; ordered his people to set my cattle at liberty; and apologized in the most suppliant manner for his conduct, throwing the blame on the severity of the orders he had received.

What the knave said of these orders was perhaps true; for, if there are servants of the greatest meanness, there are also masters of the most sordid avarice. This consideration prevented me from seeking to punish the overseer; and, after all, when my oxen were restored, what more had I to desire?

As I could not, however, perfectly depend on the motives which had dictated this man's excuses, I thought it right to be on my guard respecting my cattle. To turn them loose to feed during the night would have been running the risk, should the overseer alter his resolution, of having them carried off without my knowledge: or he would have charged to my account, and perhaps have exaggerated, any damage they might have occasioned. I ordered them, therefore, to be all made fast round my carriages, and I placed at hand some armed sentinels to defend them.

Next morning, at break of day, I proceeded
on

on my route towards *Groene-Kloof* (green valley), a canton so named from the beauty and excellence of its pastures. It is one of the Company's posts, where they fatten cattle for supplying the butchers in the town, and for victualling ships in their way to and from India. The day following, after passing through Bavians-Berg and Dassen-Berg, I entered Swart-Land. Though the roads were still equally bad, they ceased to be dangerous to my carriages, because we travelled upon sand. Assured that there was no longer reason to fear their being overturned, and out of patience at the slow pace they advanced, I put spurs to my horse, and took the lead, in order to arrive before them at the house of my friend Slaber.

He was ill, and very much weakened by a violent dysentery; a disease that in warm countries is always dangerous, but particularly so to persons advanced in years. I threw myself into his arms; he pressed me in his; and by the pleasure that sparkled in his countenance, I saw that my presence restored, in some measure, his strength, and alleviated his pains. These symptoms of convalescence communicated delight to the whole family, and in-

creased the pleasure they seemed to experience at seeing me again. In the midst of their kindness and caresses, Klaas came also to pay his respects to me. I had appointed him a meeting at the house of Slaber, where he had arrived the evening before with some Hottentots, his comrades, trusty persons, whom he had selected to accompany me, and whom he accordingly introduced. The daughters of Slaber thanked me, with the tenderest affection, for the relief I had afforded to the sufferings of their father, and, to complete his cure, they besought me to spend some time with him. In vain did I represent the embarrassment into which they would be thrown by the numerous train that followed me: they redoubled their entreaties, and urged me with such terms of friendship, that I was obliged at length to comply. How, indeed, could I resist these charming daughters, who, soliciting in behalf of their father, asked, as a favour, what I ought to have considered as a kindness to myself?

At the Cape, the European manners have introduced into society the different games that are common in Europe: but these games are unknown in the colonies, notwithstanding
the

the inactive life and habitual idleness of the inhabitants. Neither cards nor dice are any where seen; their sole amusement is the chase; and this, in general, they pursue with indolence, unless they have, as spectators and companions, strangers who are keener sportsmen than themselves.

I was, therefore, treated with the chase. All the shooters of the neighbourhood were invited, and for several days together we ransacked the whole country around. Slaber's daughters, in the mean time, were not unmindful of their guest; and never, even at the court of Alcinous, was a stranger the object of greater assiduity or more affectionate care. They exerted their skill in pastry, and prepared for me cakes, biscuits, and confectionary, to add to my stock of provisions: delicate morsels, which I ought to have reserved for moments of famine, but which, after the manner of children, I was impatient to devour and share with my people.

These hunting excursions prepared me for fatigues of a longer duration, and I imagined myself already engaged in them. I had not neglected to arrange my caravan. To accustom

it early to the severe discipline that I wished, if possible, to observe in this journey, I had encamped it at a distance from the house, and placed it under the inspection of old Swanepoel. I recommended to him to discharge his office with the utmost strictness, as if we had to dread some hostile neighbour. I did not fail to observe it myself with the eye of a master; and I watched, with particular attention, the new comers that had been procured by Swanepoel: I was continually afraid I should have cause to complain of these men, and that their ardour might cool before I had an opportunity of putting it to the trial. It appeared of importance to me, to bring even my oxen and horses to the habits they were hereafter to follow, and for that reason they were removed to the camp: my goats also were tied up every evening round my carriages. The much-loved family of Slaber were highly delighted with this spectacle, which was perfectly new to them; and the girls, particularly, often proposed to travel and encamp with me. One of them rallied me more obstinately than the rest, and repeated, that nothing ought to excuse my taking with me a female companion.

panion. Sensible she was far from being in earnest, I strenuously resisted all she could urge on this head, and with great gravity refused the offers of one who certainly intended the boundaries of her father's farm to be the limits of her excursion. However, it is not without some vexation and regret that I now feel this happiness was wanting to render the enjoyments of my peregrination complete; and that nothing was more easy than to have departed, shared the toils of the journey, returned, and, in a word, lived with me.

Though it was now the middle of winter according to the ideas of the inhabitants, that is to say, the rainy season, we nevertheless enjoyed for our hunting excursions very favourable weather, the rain not being so frequent at this period in the mountains as at the Cape. This must be ascribed to the collection of clouds driven from the north towards the Table mountain, and which never fail to break over the town and its environs. We resided under a mild climate, and every day was more delightful than the preceding one. Those terrible south-east winds, which often desolate the whole country around, had fled from our atmosphere.

mosphere. The heavens were pure and serene; and I deliciously abandoned myself to the enjoyments of this second Capua. I became solitary and thoughtful. At the same time I regretted to see so many charming days no better occupied than in killing insignificant game, and was resolved to arrange matters for my departure; but an unexpected incident intervened still for a short time to delay it.

Nothing could be farther from my thoughts at that moment than that unfortunate vessel the *Middelburg*, in which I had formerly lost my whole property, when it was suddenly brought to my recollection by one of Slaber's sons, who came to tell me, that some neighbours, having examined the remains of the wreck in Saldanha Bay, had distinctly perceived the hull of the vessel, at the depth of twenty feet under water; that curiosity, and the allurements of the riches it might contain, had induced some of them, who were expert divers, to plunge into the gulph, and that their labour and search had not been fruitless. Several of them, he said, had brought up some valuable pieces of china; and that, since, new
divers,

divers, emboldened by their example, had hazarded a similar sub-aqueous pilgrimage, and endeavoured to found the sides of this ill-fated vessel. It was natural for me, who had lost in it the only treasures on which my hopes were founded, to put in a claim upon this occasion; and if by my efforts I obtained only a piece of a rope, or some wretched and broken sherds, they would have appeared to me precious relics, worthy of being carried away and preserved in remembrance of my misfortune.

The cargo of the vessel had consisted chiefly of porcelain from China and Japan. Other planters, as I have said, in imitation of the first, had gone to search the wreck, and had been equally successful; but the business, becoming at last too arduous, had been abandoned. I was resolved, however, to revive the attempt. The calmness of the weather appeared to be favourable to the enterprise, and I was the more eager to engage in it, from the opportunity it would afford me, if I succeeded, of presenting some elegant porcelain to my fair hostesses, as well as to some of their neighbours, by whom, during my visits to Slaber,

I had been treated with great kindness and friendship.

Accordingly, taking with me a party of my people and some good swimmers, I set out for Hoetjes Bay, a small creek into which our ship had retired when attacked by the English squadron. I found the Middelburg, as it had been described to me, very near the shore, about twenty feet under water, and its hull, from the calmness of the sea, perfectly perceptible.

This calmness aided the operations of my divers, and they entered upon the business with so much alacrity, that it was not long before they brought up a number of loose articles, which I deposited with great joy on the shore. With such prizes, however, they were not satisfied; though the task was so difficult, as the planters had experienced, that frequently, before they succeeded in an attempt, they were obliged to return several times to the surface of the water to breathe.

At the bottom of the ship there were whole boxes; but they were too heavy for the exertions of a single individual to lift. Mean-
while

while it would be highly gratifying to them to procure me one; and to accomplish it, they devised the plan of diving two at a time, holding one another by the hand, in order to labour together on the same box, and raise it, if possible, by their joint efforts, one on each side. The manœuvre succeeded; and I saw them shortly appear with a complete box, which was brought in safety to the shore.

Charmed with my treasure, and anxious to know what it contained, I caused it to be opened; when I found, to my extreme satisfaction, a handsome service of dishes and plates of all sizes, well assorted. Other divers had furnished me with tea-cups, and some magnificent bowls, equally valuable for the beauty of their shape and their extraordinary size. But by remaining so long under water the colour of this china was so much altered, that the part originally white appeared as if variegated with a tint of green; and what was still worse, it had contracted, from the same cause, so nauseous and fetid a marine smell, that those of my people who had opened the box, or assisted in emptying it, were, as well as myself, seized with a vomiting. From this circumstance I

lost all desire of pursuing any further my researches. Besides, night was approaching: my people therefore, after washing the china, each took up his burden, and we returned.

Flattering myself that this strange smell had not penetrated beyond the surface, my first care, on my arrival at the plantation, was to ascertain this by causing some cups and other articles to be immersed for a while in boiling water mixed with ashes. I then wiped the vessels thus lixiviated, and put some tea in a tea-cup, some victuals in a dish, and some milk in a bowl; but they instantly acquired so detestable a taste, and so stercoraceous a flavour, as induced me to believe that all my labour would prove to be fruitless. In vain were other means tried to destroy this odour and taste: none of them succeeded, and I gave up the attempt.

In my displeasure I had forgotten the bowl of milk; and upon my going to see it, two hours after, I saw with astonishment that it was turned to a curd. It was to be presumed that every other article of the china would have the same quality. I tried two others, and examined by

my

my watch what time they would require to produce a similar effect. In fourteen minutes the milk was curdled, and, what was remarkable, it had no bad taste. This fact supplied me with as useful hint. It told me, that in the course of my journey I might speedily and whenever I pleased have new cheese; and the discovery was of too much importance to me not to take advantage of it. During my first excursion a fortunate incident of a like kind had supplied me with butter, my milk having been changed into that substance merely by the jolting of my carriage. From my cows and my she-goats I should now be able to procure, without difficulty, butter, cheese, and whey. I carried with me, therefore, four of the bowls, which served me during my whole journey. They did not, indeed, retain their virtue in its full force; after four or five months it diminished, and the milk was curdled more slowly; there were times even, according to the degrees of temperature, when the effect was not produced in less than five or six hours; but it was sure to take place, and did not entirely cease till the end of six or seven months. The vessels, however, never lost their disagreeable marine taste.

Previously to my quitting the Cape, I had prepared several letters for my family, in which I informed them of my intended second expedition, and the means I had devised for carrying it into effect. It was not possible to tell them the precise route I should follow, because I was ignorant of it myself, as it would depend entirely upon local circumstances, which might happen to favour or thwart my wishes. I merely said, that my plan in general was to cross, from south to north, the whole continent of Africa, and then to return to Europe by the way of Egypt if the passage of the Nile was open, and if not, by the coasts of Barbary; that this enterprize, from the best calculations I could make, would require six years; and that as, during that period, no opportunity might offer for writing to them, they ought not to be alarmed at my silence.

These letters I had resolved not to send till it should appear that no farther obstacles would stand in the way of my journey. When sure of this, I immediately dispatched Swanepoel to the Cape with them, requesting Colonel Gordon to forward them to their place of destination by the first neutral vessel that should sail.

On his return, Swanepoel brought me one
from

from the Colonel, in which, as a new testimony of zeal and attachment, he had sketched out, point by point, the course I ought to pursue. Having himself made the same expedition with Lieutenant Paterfon, he knew the places where water was to be found, and he obligingly pointed them out. Not content with this service, great and important as it was, he sought to render me another, by procuring me the acquaintance of two personages, extremely desirable in an excursion like mine; the one a planter, of the name of Schoenmaker, who lived after the Hottentot manner among the savages; the other a mulatto Hottentot, who spoke with fluency the Nimiqua language, and who would, on that account, be singularly useful, if I could prevail on him to accompany me. To each of these men Colonel Gordon wrote a separate letter recommending me to their care, and he sent them to me unsealed, begging I would read them to the parties. It could indeed be no easy task to find in their deserts two such wandering and unsettled beings; but so minute were the Colonel's directions, and so laboriously had he pointed out the means of tracking them, as I may say, that,

arrived in their cantons, I succeeded, though not without difficulty, in my search.

How ingenious are the devices of friendship ! And can I ever sufficiently acknowledge my obligations to that of Colonel Gordon in this instance, to which I owe not only my own life, but the lives of all my people ? It was in the midst of a dry and burning desert, when obliged to abandon my waggons and effects, after seeing all my oxen, one after another, perish with thirst, when reduced, with my poor comrades, to the destitute situation of having no other drink than the milk of my goats, and when inevitable death seemed to await alike both them and me — it was in this extremity I called to mind the planter and Hottentot to whom his provident kindness had recommended me. Guided by his instructions, I entered upon the pursuit of these men ; I found them, and we were saved. But let me not anticipate moments of anguish, of which the recollection will be sufficiently bitter when I come to describe them.

What reason had I then to applaud myself for the precaution I took, and which doubtless some good genius suggested to me, of increas-
ing,

ing, while at the house of Slaber, the number of my goats! I purchased several in the neighbourhood, and particularly young ones, which, though they afforded no milk as yet, would soon become more exuberant than their mothers. I added also to my stock of cattle three milch cows. Among the articles too of domestic consumption, I provided myself with a few sacks of flower: not that I flattered myself during my journey to be supplied thereby with fresh bread; such an expectation would have been madness; but it would be possible at least to have soups, pastry, and cakes; and these would be a sort of substitute. Every habit to which we accustom ourselves becomes insensibly a want. This I had particularly experienced in the beginning of my first journey. To be all at once totally without bread had been extremely painful to me; and I hoped now, by means of this flower, gradually to wean myself from the custom, in order to be prepared against a day of necessity. Besides, if circumstances proved favourable to the making of bread, I had the wife of Klaas, who might render me this service. She had accompanied him in our excursion, with the hope that,

that, passing near the country where he had first met with her, I should procure her an opportunity of seeing again her horde and her friends. In the eyes of a cit, this love of country, in savages whom he disdains, and whose existence appears to him a scene of uniform wretchedness, will doubtless be regarded as improbable. He will conceive that there can be no happiness but in towns, and none of this patriotism except in places where there are to be obtained what he calls the conveniences of life, that is, the gratification of wants which he has created himself, and which afterwards become necessaries.

I had fixed the 15th of June for my departure from the habitation of Slaber. On the 14th I made a general muster of my equipage and my people. Including the wife of Klaas, and my inspector-general Swanepoel, I had altogether nineteen persons, thirteen dogs in high condition, one male and ten female goats, three horses, of which two, handsomely caparisoned, were those given me by Boers; three milch cows, thirty-six draft oxen for my three waggons, fourteen for relays, and two to carry the baggage of my Hottentots. These
fifty

fifty head of horned cattle were sufficient for the present service; but I meant to increase them as it should become necessary, and as I advanced farther from the colony, where, in the way of barter, I should be able to purchase them at a cheaper rate. The cock that, in my first journey, had afforded me intervals of pleasure, suggested the idea of having one again, and, that it might be happier than my other had been, I gave it a mate. Lastly, for my amusement, and, I may also say, for society, I took my ape Kees; Kees who, chained up during my abode at the Cape, had apparently lost his gaiety, but who from the moment he regained his liberty gave himself up to sports and antics that were extremely diverting.

Such was the company I associated in my enterprise, and which I had conceived to be necessary, either to insure its success, or for the purpose of affording me some pleasant relaxations.

Next morning every thing was ready for my departure, according to the orders I had given, and my people were waiting only for my signal to begin their march. Whilst I was bidding a painful adieu to the Slabers, and
while

while my heart swelled with affectionate gratitude, I a thousand and a thousand times embraced the kind family, who till that moment had continued to load me with marks of friendship and care, and from whom I thought myself about to be separated for ever. When on the very point of quitting them, the young men of the neighbourhood presented themselves to take leave of me, and to assist at my departure. Such is the etiquette of the country, when the inhabitants wish to testify their respect for those whom they esteem. The whole troop saluted me with a discharge of musketry; and I, who expected such a testimony of politeness, returned it by another from my Hottentots. When I mounted my horse, these young people accompanied me on horseback also to the distance of above a league. At length, being obliged to separate, and having mutually shaken hands, I was again saluted by a general discharge, to which I replied by firing my own piece, and causing my people to fire theirs. To speak the truth, I regretted the loss of my gun-powder wasted in this manner to no purpose; but custom required this sacrifice, and I could not avoid it without a breach of politeness,

ness, and without offending men who voluntarily conferred upon me the greatest honour which the prejudices of their country allow them to pay. Some of the planters in the neighbourhood of the Cape keep small cannon on purpose for such salutes.

In the southern part of Africa it is easy to make long marches during the fine days of summer, that is to say in January, when the day consists of fourteen hours; but at the solstice in June, when the sun is in the northern hemisphere, the days being only nine hours and a half, the length of the night will not allow a traveller to advance as fast as he might wish. Such was nearly the period at which I set out. Besides, being obliged to traverse the colony, I had reason to expect that I should be everywhere retarded by the importunity and politeness of the planters; and indeed this was the case the very first day. I had proposed to encamp near the residence of Louis Karsten; but that worthy and respectable planter, of whom I have had occasion to speak in my first journey, and at whose house I passed some agreeable moments during my stay at Saldanha Bay, seconded by his wife and eight children, among whom

whom were four handsome daughters, came, with the usual salutes, to invite me to pass the night under his roof; and I could not refuse. However, in my next day's journey, to save both my time and my powder, I firmly rejected every solicitation of this kind, and pitched my tent for the first time; but as there had been a heavy fall of rain, and as, if it continued, I might be stopped by the overflowing of the Berg-rivier, I hastened to encamp the second day on its banks, and the day following I happily left it behind me.

This river, which has its mouth in St. Helen's Bay, but according to Kolben much higher up, bounds, on the east and north, the district called *Swart-Land* (black-country), though the soil is far from being of that colour; on the contrary, it is sandy, and yet produces grain of all sorts except oats, which grow nowhere in the colonies, and in place of which barley is substituted for horses. In *Swart-Land*, these animals have no other food with their barley but chopped straw. In summer, therefore, when grass is scarce, on account of the rivers and streams being dried up, the planters are obliged to remove their cattle to districts
less

less parched, and to keep at home only those absolutely necessary either for tilling the land or conveying their corn to the town.

Every kind of large game, without excepting even the elephant, was found formerly in this country. At present nothing of that sort is to be seen but a few bubels, and very rarely some pasans. The planters, by settling here, have destroyed or driven away all the rest. With regard to small game, such as the steen-bock, the duyker, the grys-bock, hares, partridges, &c. it is still very abundant, and, perhaps, too much so for the happiness of the country; since it draws thither hyænas, jackals, leopards, panthers, and above all, wild dogs, which are a real scourge to the flocks in this district. The lion seldom makes his appearance here. Either from haughtiness or prudence this animal shuns inhabited places; as if afraid of exposing himself in an unequal contest, where his courage and his strength would be opposed by fire-arms.

To the north-east of Swart-Land is the charming and fertile district of the Twenty-four-Rivers. With fresh pleasure I beheld this

terrestrial paradise of Southern Africa; those smiling plains which I have elsewhere described; and those odoriferous groves of orange and shaddock trees, which separate the habitations from each other, and which make us regret that they are thereby too frequently broken and discontinued.

Though determined, agreeably to the resolution I had formed, not to stop at the house of any planter, I could not however dispense with paying my respects, as I passed, to Hans Liewenburg, a rich land-holder, who on various occasions had treated me with considerable kindness and esteem, and with whom I had lodged in my preceding excursion through this district. Though Liewenburg, as well as his neighbours, employed the most pressing solicitations to detain me, I resisted a long time; but it was impossible not to comply, when one of his sons, uniting his entreaties to those of his father, promised to afford me an opportunity of killing two magnificent birds, which were continually seen near the plantation. At first, this vague promise appeared to me to be only one of those ingenious stratagems which politeness sometimes allows itself to employ. I
put

put therefore several questions to the young man, begging him to describe the birds in question; and he did it in a manner so clear and so natural, that I readily distinguished in the description the anhinga, an uncommon bird which I had not yet seen in Africa.

This discovery attacked me, so to speak, on my weakest side. From that moment I was not at liberty to refuse; and I granted, to my shame be it spoken, to two birds, which I was not yet sure of getting, what I had refused to the solicitations of friendship.

Next morning I reminded my young man of his promise, and he conducted me towards a tree that was commonly frequented by these birds. I soon found that I had not been deceived in my conjectures; I actually perceived two aningas, but of a particular species, different from the two peculiar to America, and from that of Senegal, described by Buffon. The young man, who had for a long time observed their habits, told me that it would be necessary for me to retire, if I wished to take a sure and advantageous aim. He conducted me, therefore, to a distance of about two or three hundred paces from the tree; made me conceal

myself, and returned to the spot himself, to put them to flight, when, he assured me, they would undoubtedly pass over my head. His conjecture was, however, not verified: these birds, more cunning than we, had perceived our stratagem; and seeing but one person, instead of two, they suspected that the absence of the other was to be dreaded, and accordingly flew off in a different direction. By searching the environs, it would probably have been easy for me to find them again; but then I should have run the risk of rendering them more shy, and of making them, perhaps, desert the country. Besides, I was not willing to fire at the one, till I should be certain that my second shot would bring down the other. I deferred the excursion, therefore, till after dinner, and we returned to the house.

In the evening, just before sun-set, I again repaired to my lurking-place; and that I might not be observed by the aningas, I went thither directly, while young Liewenburg, on his part, proceeded alone to the tree. This time the deception succeeded: the two birds, having no cause of suspicion, passed me at the distance of twenty paces, and by means of my double-
bar-



MALE ANHINGA.

barrelled fusée I brought them both to the ground.

Become possessor of an object so valuable in my eyes, could I quit abruptly, after I had obtained it, the complaisant hosts to whom I was indebted for it? No:—gratitude, friendship, and even decency, required that I should remain some days with them, and I obeyed the dictates of these sentiments.

Though I reserve for my ornithology the particular description of these birds, I cannot refrain from giving the reader a short sketch of it. The denomination of *Slange-Hals-Voogel*, (snake-necked bird), which my Hottentots gave to the anhinga, characterises it in a very simple and accurate manner. Buffon, who was equally struck with the conformation peculiar to birds of this kind, has delineated them by a similar expression. “The anhinga,” says he, “exhibits a reptile grafted on the body of a bird.” Indeed there is no person, who, upon seeing the head and neck only of an anhinga, while the rest of the body is hid among the foliage of the tree on which it is perched, would not take it for one of those serpents accustomed to climb and reside in trees; and the

mistake is so much the easier, as all its tortuous motions singularly favour the illusion.

In whatever situation the anhinga may be seen, whether perched on a tree, swimming in the water, or flying in the air, the most apparent and remarkable part of its body is sure to be its long and slender neck, which is continually agitated by an oscillatory motion, unless in its flight, when it becomes immoveable and extended, and forms with its tail a perfectly straight and horizontal line.

The true place which nature seems to have assigned to the anhingas, in the numerous class of the palmipedes, is exactly between the cormorant and the grebe *. They partake indeed equally of both these genera of birds, having the straight slender bill and the long neck of the latter; while they approach the former by the conformity of their feet, the four toes of which are joined by a single membrane. They partake also of the cormorant by their flight;

* This bird is called by Willughby, the Greater Loon, or Arsefoot; by Edwards, the Greater Dobchick; and by Brisson, Colymbus and Grebe, of which he enumerates eleven distinct species. See his Ornithologie, vol. vi. page 33. T.

having

having like it the wings larger and fitter for the purpose, than those of the grebe, which are short and weak. The tail of the anhingas is extremely long : a characteristic very singular and remarkable in a water fowl, and which ought, it would seem, to render them totally distinct from diving birds, which, in general, have little or no tail.

By this trait, they approach still nearer to the cormorants* ; for though the tails of the latter are shorter, the tails of both have a great resemblance to each other, since their quills are equally strong, elastic, and proper to form a rudder when these fowls swim through the water in pursuit of fish, which constitute their principal nourishment. When the anhinga seizes a fish, he swallows it intire if it be small enough, and if too large he carries it off to a rock, or the stump of a tree, and, fixing it under one of his feet, tears it to pieces with his bill.

Though water is the favourite element of this bird, it builds its nest and rears its young

* At the Cape there are four kinds of cormorants, one of which has a tail almost as long as that of the anhinga.

on rocks and trees; but it takes great care to place them in such a manner that it can precipitate them into a river as soon as they are able to swim, or the safety of the little family may require it.

There are, in general, few animals so fierce and so cunning as diving birds; but, in my opinion, the one I am describing surpasses in sagacity all the other species, particularly when surpris'd swimming; for it is then very difficult, I may say indeed impossible, to kill it, as its head, which is the only part expos'd, plunges and disappears the instant the flint touches the hammer of the fusee; and if once miss'd, it is in vain to think of approaching it a second time, as it never shows itself more, but at very great distances, and then only for the moment necessary for breathing. In short, so cunning is it, that it will often baffle the sportsman, by plunging at the distance of a hundred paces above him, and rising again to breathe at the distance of more than a thousand paces below him; and if it has the good fortune to find any reeds, it conceals itself there, and entirely disappears.

The male anhinga, of which I here speak,

differs from the female, which is smaller, in having the whole under part of the body, from the breast to the root of the tail, of a beautiful black, while the latter has the same parts of a yellow isabella colour. It has also, on each side of its neck, a white stripe, which extends from the eye to the middle of its length, and intersects a reddish ground. A very singular characteristic, common to all the aningas, is that of having the feathers of the tail deeply striated, and as it were ribbed. I shall pass over other singularities, which will be found in my general descriptions.

During the time I resided at the house of Liewenburg, I chiefly employed myself in again traversing every part of the district. The family, according to the custom of the country, exerted themselves to procure me opportunities of enjoying the pleasures of the chase; and, in conformity with the same custom, the neighbours were invited to join in them. We killed a great quantity of small game, particularly wood-cocks, which are very numerous on account of the abundance of rivers that every where form small marshes; and we wandered over those high mountains which are the boundaries

daries of this delightful country. The sides of these mountains are covered with large trees, and among these we fell in with a panther, which my dogs roused from its den among the rocks. In an instant, and at one leap, it sprang to the top of a tree, twenty feet in height above them; and as the briars and fallen trunks which lay extended on the ground retarded the quickness of my pace, I could not get within reach of it time enough to fire, which afforded it an opportunity of escaping from tree to tree, as fast as it could have done on an open plain. Besides the antelopes of which I have spoken, we found in the canton of the Twenty-four Rivers a number of zebras, pasans, bubels, and ostriches, which must be hunted on horseback; but the ground is so covered with bushes, and so encumbered by the arched nests built there by the termites, or white ants, that it is very dangerous to pursue them full speed, as the velocity of these animals requires.

Naturalists have for some time past made us acquainted with this species of ants, which, advancing under ground like miners, construct for themselves, at certain distances, a sort of dome

dome or arch several feet in height. Smeathman communicated many years ago to the Royal Society of London a very minute description of them, a translation of which has been inserted in the French edition of Sparman's Travels by the editor. In this account we are told of the height and figure of the domes constructed by the termites; of the danger experienced by habitations in the neighbourhood of these insects; and of the destruction they frequently occasion, so as to destroy in one night the whole furniture of a house; but these details are not applicable to the termites of the Cape of Good-Hope, or at least to those I have had an opportunity of seeing, either in Camdebo, or the district of Twenty-four-Rivers. I have found more than once termites in Africa; but they were neither so dangerous nor so destructive as those mentioned by Smeathman. The highest of their huts, which I saw, did not exceed four feet; and they were more or less solid, according to the solidity of the ground in which they were constructed. In short, instead of being covered with moss and grass like those seen by the English traveller, they are always, in the part in which I travelled, perfectly smooth,
and

and of the same colour as the earth of which they have been formed.

The Hottentots eat the nymphs of these ants, which they consider as a very great delicacy; and mine, when they found an opportunity, did not fail to open the nests to get at them. There are also many birds and quadrupeds which carry on war against these insects; but their most dangerous enemy is a species of ant-bear, called by the planters *erd-varken*, (earth-hog), which makes them its principal nourishment. When these retreats have been searched and deserted, they become bee-hives, and swarms of wild bees take possession of them in order to deposit there their honey and their young. My ape Kees shewed a wonderful instinct in discovering these secret repositories of dainties, which he announced by repeatedly skipping and jumping, and of which we shared with him the profits: as for me, when I found any of these nests empty, and when, having been opened only on the sides, their arched roofs remained entire and unhurt, I applied them to a very useful purpose; I made natural ovens of them in which we cooked our victuals. Very little preparation was necessary, except
to

to clean them well, and afterwards to heat them with brushwood. Our victuals could then be cooked in the utmost perfection.

If we believe Kolben, Swart-Land and the district of the Twenty-four-Rivers, when the Dutch first settled there, were inhabited by several tribes of savages, the names of which he mentions. At present, not one of these primitive and original nations is to be found, nor does tradition even speak of their existence. I have certainly too great a horror for crimes to attempt to excuse them, wherever they may be found; and if the first planters got possession of the two districts I have mentioned, only by exterminating the inhabitants, they were monsters whose name and remembrance ought to be devoted to eternal execration. But before we condemn them, should we not convince ourselves by evidence that they are really guilty? May not Kolben, who in every page of his work commits so many mistakes, be erroneous also in this respect? Have the people he mentions really existed, and can we believe that the Dutch destroyed them, when so many hordes of Hottentots, whom they have preserved,

served, subsist in the country around and even in the midst of them to this very day?

However this may be, the district of the Twenty-four-Rivers is at present, as I have already said, the most agreeable part of the Dutch colonies at the Cape; for not only is grain of every species, as well as pulse, cultivated there, but the inhabitants apply also to the culture of fruits; and this kind of commerce is the more lucrative to them, as, being almost the only persons who carry it on, they have little to fear from competition. The fruits which they send to the town for sale are principally lemons, oranges, limes, shaddocks, figs and pomegranates. They often transport thither waggon-loads at a time; and whatever be the quantity, so great is the number of purchasers, that it is bought up almost immediately. The price of these fruits is generally from four to six rix-dollars per hundred weight. There is a kind of orange, however, called at the Cape *naretjes*, which, notwithstanding the smallness of its size, is sold at a higher rate. The *naretje*, distinguished like the citron by a protuberance at the upper end, is
not

not so large as the common orange, but in taste and flavour is infinitely superior to that and every other species. Grapes thrive well also in this district, and tolerable wine and spirits are made from them.

I have already said that the colony of the Twenty-four-Rivers owes its name to a current that flows through it, and which receives into its channel a great number of smaller streams that discharge themselves along with it into the Berg-rivier. This assemblage of rivulets, by the ready means which it affords of watering the lands, is the circumstance that has most contributed to fertilize the district. As the mode of culture requires scarcely any labour, the inhabitants enjoy a peaceful and happy life. The population, however, is far from being numerous; a considerable part of the land is still uncultivated; and there are scarcely to be seen more than forty or fifty plantations, whereas the number ought to be infinitely greater.

Such of my readers who know that man is sure to multiply wherever he finds the means of living commodiously, will not fail to lay this deficiency in population to the charge of the govern-

government: for myself, I blame not the government, but the numerous abuses introduced, and continually increased, by the inferior agents it is obliged to employ. Government, undoubtedly, wishes for the prosperity of its colonies; its own interest must naturally inspire that wish; but in vain will it make wise regulations; in vain will it create numerous establishments, if those to whom it entrusts its powers employ them only to its own detriment and the detriment of the colonies.

Without pretending to detail or examine these charges, which might be as imprudent as useless a task, I shall content myself with indulging a hope, that a town may be one day founded in the district of the Twenty-four-Rivers. Situated in the most fertile part of the colony, it would soon, from the pleasantness of its situation and climate, surpass the Cape itself; and having the ready means of exportation, the cultivation of lands would necessarily increase with the population of the country. Its grain and its fruits, as well as the grain of a part of Swart-Land, might be conveyed in flat-bottomed boats by the Berg-rivier to the Bay of St. Helen; and it would be easy to
esta-

establish store-houses on the banks and at the mouth of the Berg. At the Bay itself there might be a magazine for the coasting trade; and this trade might be carried on with the Cape by means of sloops, which, embracing the moment of favourable winds, would soon get thither with their merchandise, and would thus supply with provisions, very advantageously, and at a cheaper rate, both the town itself, and all the ships from India and Europe which might put into Table Bay. From the abundance of pastures in the district, great numbers of cattle might also be raised in it. This fertile country, so highly favoured by nature, would furnish even timber for building; since the trees, having less to suffer in this quarter from the violence of the south-east winds, could not fail to thrive, if the inhabitants would only take care to form proper plantations. Saldanha Bay might serve likewise as a central magazine for all that part of Swart-Land which lies near it, and which is too far from the Berg to send its grain down that river. This magazine, besides the utility it would be of to the planters in the interior parts of the settlement, would become a real benefit to the ships of all

nations, which, driven from their course by contrary winds, and unable to enter Table Bay, might take shelter in that of Saldanha, certain of finding there the refreshments necessary to enable them to continue their voyage.

The wish which I here form for the conveniency of the planters, and the benefit of navigators in general, will doubtless long remain unaccomplished: for has the commercial policy of privileged companies ever been known to unite their private interest to the interest of the public, when that ardent thirst of gold, which rules so powerfully the merchants of all nations, commands them, in so imperious a manner, to oppose, from mistaken selfish motives, every thing that does not tend to increase the advantages which their greedy avarice leads them to expect? It is also for another reason scarcely to be expected that the East India company will soon carry into execution either the establishment in question, or those I have mentioned respecting the bays of the delightful country of Auteniqua, however evident it may appear that they would promote the good and prosperity of the colonies; since, from the fear it is continually under that the captains in its
service

service may sell, for their own behoof, a part of its commodities, and particularly the spiceries with which the ships that return from India are loaded, the company obliges them to touch at the Cape, where it is supposed they are watched more narrowly than they could be at any of the other adjacent bays. This suspicion, which certainly does little honour to the officers it employs, is even carried so far that a captain dares not take upon him to touch at a foreign port, without the most urgent reasons; and every person desirous afterwards of commanding a vessel would be obliged, in this respect, to be still more scrupulous. I have myself experienced a melancholy proof of the severity of these orders; for on my return from the Cape, during a most unfortunate passage, having struggled nearly six months against contrary winds, and being in want of provisions, our captain would not venture to stop even for a moment at one of the Canaries, which we passed within cannon shot.

One day, however, the company may perhaps deign to examine my plan, and order it to be put in execution; but till it is accomplished, I shall sincerely regret that so fine a

country should be suffered to remain almost a desert; and that for want of hands and cultivation it should lose the benefit of every thing that nature has done for its fecundity. I am persuaded that sugar canes, cotton and indigo, would grow extremely well in the district of the Twenty-four-Rivers.

My host, before I quitted him, begged me to accept a few bottles of lemon juice, which I found afterwards of very great service; and at the same time requested that, on my return, I would bring him back a male and a female goat from the country of Nimiqua. He had heard this species of goat highly extolled; and it is indeed the most beautiful I have any where seen. His two sons made me promise also to sell to each of them one of my fuses. They expected that, when my journey was finished, I should pass that way again to the Cape, and were not aware that my intention was to return thither no more. On my departure, the family saluted me with a discharge of fire-arms, which I was obliged to return; and the case was the same at every other plantation that I passed. All the inhabitants without exception ran with the utmost eagerness

to meet me, firing their pieces and wishing me a happy journey : a circumstance that gave me the greatest uneasiness, because, harassed by the noisy reception of these planters, who were continually retarding my progress, I was obliged also, in my turn, to testify my gratitude by burning my powder to no purpose in these tiresome adieus.

These inconvenient visits consumed so much of my time, that I had advanced as yet only four leagues. Next morning, I found myself in the district of the Piquet mountains, and arrived, in good time, near the habitation of a respectable veteran, named Albert Haanekam.

This planter was a kind of practical philosopher, who had devised the means of rendering himself at once both happy and free ; for happiness and freedom are not always one and the same thing. He had formed for himself a plan of life that had no resemblance to that of his fellow-planters. Without wife or children, having no connection with his neighbours, and no company, in short, but that of his own slaves, he lived, as one may say, alone ; yet knew so well how to supply the want of

O 3

society,

society, that time was not to him, as to the rest of the planters, a tedious and wearisome burthen. He employed it sometimes in labour, and sometimes in meditation; for he knew as little of reading as they did; and was indebted for his philosophy solely to his own reflections, and the combinations suggested by nature. With an existence of this kind, and happy after his own manner, he had never become a prey to languor; and the serenity of his mind seemed even to have had an influence on his character: at least I never, in any part of the colony, witnessed a sprightlier conversation, or met with a more amiable and entertaining old man.

Having been previously informed that I was to pass through his plantation, and to visit the Piquet mountains, he came to meet me, and offered to serve me as guide in ascending the highest of them, if I would consent to spend the day with him. The first part of his proposal was too agreeable to me not to acquiesce in the second. I attended him therefore to the mountain, where I met with nothing that deserved particular observation, but where I enjoyed the magnificent spectacle of a view the

more

more extensive, as the atmosphere was remarkably pure. The Table mountain was perfectly visible to the naked sight, and with my glass I could perceive also the town.

Nothing elevated my imagination so much, when raised to this height, as seeing the houses of the Cape, on which I looked down. I moved my glass with great eagerness over the mass of buildings; and felt as if I had gained a victory every time I concluded that I could distinctly perceive the situation of a particular house. Those of my friends engaged my sight longest. "They are, perhaps, at this moment," said I, "thinking of me, and, by an involuntary and natural return, I am occupied only with them. They are expressing their wishes for the success of my enterprise; imagining, perhaps, that I am far distant and hid in obscurity; while, in reality, I am but just exalted above the atmosphere which surrounds them."

On my return to the plantation, I found a splendid repast waiting for me; splendid, that is, for the inhabitants of the colony, and suited to the prejudices of their vanity; for these good and simple souls have, as well as others,

their fashions and etiquette. It, however, presented no idea of what we call a well arranged table, with delicate dishes and the richest viands: Magnificence here consists in covering the table with a profusion of meat; and the heavier it is loaded, the greater is the honour, and the more, in their estimation, do they treat their guest as a person of importance, entitled to their attentions and esteem.

We were three only at table, my host, Swanepoel, and myself. Twenty grenadiers, after a forced march, would, however, not have been sufficient to devour such a quantity of provisions; the dishes themselves were heaped, and that in the middle supported a pyramid of six roasted fowls, which were all of an enormous size.

This profusion, which would have satiated even ogres *, presented to me the loathsome picture of a farm-yard entirely laid waste. My appetite instantly forsook me; and, endeavouring to forget my disgust by dwelling on the cause of my journey still present to my mind,

* A kind of fabulous beings or monsters, said to feed upon human flesh, and which make a conspicuous figure in Fairy Tales. T.

I occupied myself, during the repast, in harassing with questions the master of the house. As for Swanepoel, his eyes were employed in attentively surveying the central and smoking pyramid; but incapable of enjoying any longer the gratification of eating, he could devour it only in imagination, and was almost choked with satiety and regret. I can compare this extravagant repast, worthy of the heroes of Homer, to nothing better than to those side-boards which were seen, formerly, at certain periods of our festivals, and which, bending under a multitude of all kinds of poultry, seemed exposed on purpose to regale a famished people.

As I had already put many questions to my host during our excursion to the top of the Piquet mountain, I conversed with him at dinner on his possessions and orchards. Tired of sitting, I contrived to express myself in such terms respecting his singular mode of life, as to make him at length think of leaving the table. He had no difficulty in justifying the good opinion I had conceived of his activity and intelligence. We walked over all his grounds, in which I every where saw well cultivated

tivated fields, trees in a thriving condition, plantations in the most admirable order; in a word, an air of fertility and abundance, which I had not the pleasure of observing on the other farms and plantations of the colony.

The district of Piquet-berg, according to what my host told me, does not contain more than twenty-five or thirty plantations; nor can it, in my opinion, ever contain more, because, having but a certain number of streams and rivulets, which the first inhabitants of course took possession of, those who may in future come to settle will find only barren and parched fields totally destitute of water. The soil, in general, is indifferent; yet the proprietors raise what corn is necessary for their own consumption. The only trade which the nature of the country allows them to carry on is, as at the Twenty-four-Rivers, that of fruit; and for this fruit there is no other sale than among the neighbouring planters, who send themselves to fetch it; for the distance from Piquet-berg to the Cape is too great to undertake a journey thither merely to dispose of oranges. My philosophic veteran was desirous of giving me a certain quantity of his,
to

to supply me on my journey. In vain did I represent to him that I had purchased a sufficient stock, when at the house of Liewenberg. He went and examined my carriages himself, and filled every empty space he could find with the produce of his orchards, which afterwards, and during the greater part of my journey, proved an agreeable relief both to me and my people.

To this obliging mark of attention he added, with the same kindness, a present which was much better calculated to afford me pleasure. It consisted of three pair of pigeons of a particular species, none of which I had ever before seen. However agreeable to me might be such an acquisition; I would, however, accept but one of the three pair, as that was sufficient for our amusement; and I begged my generous host to keep the other two till I came back, though I had fully resolved within myself not to return.

In passing the plantations of Isaac Ferassi and Gerit Schmit, I was exposed to a fresh persecution from invitations; but as I had not the same motives to induce me to accept these as I had to accept that of Haanekam, I abso-

lutely refused. I knew not a greater punishment than such interruptions; and every time I passed through the estate of a planter, I was seized as with a fever when I saw the proprietor, with whose compliments I was before acquainted: that is, I must sleep at his house, and spend a whole day in drinking and smoking with him. I employed myself on my journey almost entirely in searching for pretexts to elude the pursuit of these good people, near whose habitations I dared neither to stop nor encamp: a man fearful of being robbed by them would not have shunned their approach with more care than I did. How often, when talking with my companions, did I sigh after the moment when I should see behind me the last house of this too hospitable colony!

I hastened my march as much as possible, wishing to encamp on the other side of the Kruys. This precipitation was not unattended with danger, as I learned to my cost; for my life had nearly been the sacrifice.

When at the distance of about a quarter of a league from the river, night overtook me. Had I been more prudent I should have encamped

camped where I was ; but as the road, during the whole day, had appeared to be good, I imagined it would continue so to the banks of the Kruys, and I ordered my people to advance. As for me, having tripled the distance by continually running after game, fatigue at length surpris'd me, and I got into my carriage, and threw myself upon a mattress, to rest myself for a moment.

The Hottentot who sat on the pole and directed the last yoke of oxen, dismounted from his seat and walked by their side ; but his companion, who was before and who guided the first yoke, had quitted his, so that the Hottentot behind could not well see where he drove them. The ground near the river became every instant steeper and more slippery. On a sudden a violent shock threw the whole weight of the carriage on the pole, and it rolled, with all the cattle in confusion, to the brink of the river, without any of my Hottentots being able to stop it or to alter its direction. On this movement, as rapid as it was violent, I endeavoured, but in vain, to jump out. I imagined that I was precipitated among the rocks. However, notwithstanding my fright, I still retained sufficient

ficient coolness to guard, as far as I was able, against the worst misfortune; and making with my arms and legs under the tilt, in which I saw myself buried, so many props to prevent contusions on the head, I waited with firmness till the carriage should stop, as I found it impossible to dismount. This situation was extremely painful, but I continued in it only a few minutes. To roll thus without knowing where; to be shaken about amidst the darkness of a close carriage; abandoned by my people for a considerable space, and having no choice but that of being drowned or dashed in pieces, was certainly enough to have shaken the most heroic courage.

My people, alarmed, both for themselves and me, at the consequences of so melancholy an accident, ran as fast as they could to assist me: but as they were unable to keep pace with the carriage, and as the darkness of the night prevented them from seeing, in a road seldom trodden, the marks either of the oxen or the wheels; I heard them calling to me aloud, and talking to one another as if they had been dispersed. I replied and called to them in my turn; but whether through fear on their own
account,

account, or the dread of seeing me a mangled corse, dashed perhaps to pieces, I was not heard, and their cries drowned mine. This noise was increased by the rattling of the other two carriages, which had also been hurried towards the river; but the drivers, more attentive to their cattle, had been able to moderate the violence of the impulse.

At length, however, we met; and nothing could equal the joy of my companions when I assured them that I had sustained no hurt. This was not the case with my carriages. My own, in particular, had scattered as it flew the greater part of the utensils it contained; and what was still more remarkable, of the lemons which had been given me, not a single one remained. I was obliged to wait till day-light before I could collect again the different articles, and repair all the damage occasioned by this precipitate descent. On the other side of the river, which it was necessary we should cross in order to continue our journey, there was a kind of plantation belonging to a proprietor named Dirck Coché. I had need of accurate instructions and information respecting the route, which Coché was able to give me. It
was

was necessary also that I should purchase a certain number of sheep, and I flattered myself that he had it in his power to supply me. Whilst my people, therefore, were employed in arranging my carriages, and preparing to proceed, I set out before them, and having forded the Kruys on horseback repaired to the plantation.

Scarcely had I entered into conversation with the owner, when his wife, starting up in a fright, uttered so piercing a cry that every person in the house ran to her assistance. Two serpents had actually touched her legs: upon her moving I perceived them under the seat. We all armed ourselves in the best manner we could with chairs and sticks to destroy them. When they saw this preparation, their rage was kindled, their eyes became enflamed, and raising their necks, and hissing in a most furious manner, they attempted to dart upon us; but being upon our guard and attacking them with still greater violence, they fell a sacrifice to our repeated blows. It was fortunate for the woman that she had not been bitten; as they proved to be of a most venomous species, called at the Cape *kooper-kapel*, and she would in-

fallibly have died in the space of a few minutes.

Such is the inconvenience of a country newly inhabited. Man continually sees his tranquillity interrupted, and his life endangered there by troublesome insects, ferocious beasts, and venomous reptiles. Coché, by way of caution, told me that the *kooper-kapel* was very common in the district through which I was about to travel. After this intelligence, I formed a resolution that I conceived to be highly necessary; which was, not to pass the night in my tent, but to sleep in my carriage, where I should have much less to apprehend from the formidable visits of these alarming guests.

Whilst I was concluding a bargain with the farmer for a few sheep, my carriages and their drivers crossed the Kruys, and I pursued my journey, keeping along the banks of the river; but I could not proceed far that day, as we had to travel over sand, and to cross and re-cross the Kruys six times. Next day our situation was still worse; the sand was so deep and so loose, that the wheels of my waggons sunk almost to the axle-tree; and for each vehicle I was obliged to add four more oxen to

the twelve that already composed the team. In this manner we passed the plantation of Josias Ingelbregt, and at length quitted the serpentine course of the Kruys, which waters this wretched country, and reached Swart-bas-Kraal. There are however men who, sordid and miserable as it is, inhabit this district, and cultivate the few spots of less barren land which are to be found there. One of them, named Hans Van Aart, had a plantation at Lange Valey (Long Lake), where I was obliged to spend the night, and farther on was another belonging to Hermanes Lauw. I did not stop at the house of the latter; in consequence of which I was forced to encamp on a dry plain, where I could not find a single drop of water to refresh my cattle. By the way I had met with a prodigious number of partridges, and had killed about thirty, which I intended for my own supper and that of my people. My custom, on such occasions, was to boil my game; for I had observed that, when broiled or roasted, the smell of the meat, being conveyed to a distance by the winds, attracted during the night a number of hyænas and jackalls; which being observed and driven away
by

by my dogs, the howling and barking was so incessant that it was impossible to enjoy a moment's repose. As I could not in the present instance, for want of water, cause my partridges to be boiled, I put one on the gridiron for myself, and gave up the rest to my people, who roasted them upon small spits, which they placed round the fire: but what I was afraid of actually happened: a number of carnivorous animals, drawn towards us by the smell of the game, kept prowling round my camp, and my dogs barking at them did not allow us to shut our eyes for an instant.

To this fatigue of the night was added thoughtfulness for the morrow. I did not know whether we should be so fortunate as to find any water; and had reason to apprehend that, after one day of thirst, my people and my cattle would have to suffer a second still more painful. When the morrow came, we found nothing but a sandy desert covered with briers and rushes; but while I gave myself up to the most melancholy reflections, I was roused from my revery by the cry of a bird which passed over my head. It was a *berg-eend* (mountain duck), or rather a beneficent genius which came

to revive my hopes by announcing a discovery I had no reason to expect.

Perfuated that this bird was flying in fearch of water, and that it would not fail to alight wherever it fould find any, I put furs to my horfe, and followed it on a full gallop, that I might not lofe fight of it. I was right in my conjecture: after a few minutes purfuit, I obferved it descend towards a large and high rock, where it alighted. I afcended this rock on foot, and found a large cavity, forming a natural bafon, filled with rain water, in which the animal was swimming, plunging, and flapping its wings, with much apparent fatisfaction.

It would have been eafy for me to kill it; but, after the fervice which it had rendered me, how fhameful would have been the ingratitude! I contented myfelf with endeavouring to put it to flight, in hopes that, as it had enjoyed for a fhort time only the pleafure of this bath, it would go in queft of another fomewhere in the neighbourhood, and thus point out to me a new ciftern. My expectations, however, were on this occafion difappointed: the bird indeed flew away; but, fcares perhaps for the firft time in its life by a human being,

being, it continued its flight to a great distance, and I soon lost sight of it.

From the top of the rock I had made a signal to my people to advance towards me. When they arrived, I ordered them to fill my jars. I had several in my waggons ; and I certainly, upon leaving Lange Valey, would not have suffered them to be empty, had it been possible for me to foresee the drought that awaited us. The jars being filled, I directed my people to water my horses and a few of the smaller animals belonging to my caravan. These repeated draughts exhausted my cistern, so that nothing was left for my poor oxen : but I knew that ruminating animals can endure both hunger and thirst for a considerable period ; and I besides flattered myself that, before the day was closed, I should meet with another fortunate incident, similar to that which I had just experienced. My hopes, however, were vain ; during the whole day we had nothing but a dry and burning desert to traverse. After dinner two of my oxen, exhausted by thirst and fatigue, dropped down, and I was under the necessity of leaving them behind—sad and melancholy presage of the

misfortunes that awaited me! In short, I was obliged in the evening, as the day before, to unyoke my cattle, and encamp on a spot totally destitute of water, with the expectation of a fate still more dismal the day following.

A heavy fall of rain which happily took place during the night, revived my hopes; but, heavy as it was, it appeared to me at the time as if it could be of no service to my cattle; for what relief were they likely to derive from water which disappeared as soon as it fell, and was instantly lost in the sand? They nevertheless found means to drink of this rain, which I thought would be useless to them, by a method, the possibility of which I could never have suspected, and which afforded me a new opportunity of admiring the sagacity of animal instinct. The water as it fell upon them formed itself into drops, which, uniting, ran down their sides in small streams. On the commencement of the storm they had assembled in groups, and in this position, thronged one against the other, licked and collected each from the body of its neighbour the streamlets of rain as it trickled down. My cattle, by this unexpected supply, having quenched their thirst,
and

and being at the same time refreshed, recovered their strength: but what increased my astonishment was, that the two I had left on the road, worn out and expiring, had been also revived, and doubtless in the same manner; for they both joined my camp in the night; and Klaas, who always took delight in being the first to communicate agreeable intelligence, came to me at day-break, elated with joy, to inform me of the circumstance.

I was now only a day's journey from *Heerlogement* (master's residence), where I should find, I was told, a very abundant spring of water, a most agreeable retreat, and groves and grottos covered with inscriptions and figures. By the description that was given me, it appeared as if a second Angelica, or some Hottentot Medor, had visited and embellished this scene of enchantment. I banished, however, from my mind all this improbable romance, and indulged only the hope of finding the fountain. My wants were urgent; I looked forward to it, therefore, with longing expectation, and resolved, if possible, to reach it before night. I arrived; I found it; and, with whatever respect the description of it ought to have

inspired me, its waters were soon rendered turbid by my Hottentots and cattle. With regard to the grotto, the inscriptions, the creeping shrubs hanging in festoons, all these like a dream vanished on our approach. I saw only a large cavern, which served to shelter me and my caravan. It was spacious and lofty; and, being open at the east, we were covered without being shut up in it. Situated upon a small mount, it overlooked on one side my camp and the plain, which, by the uniform and dreary prospect it presented, filled me with melancholy and discouragement; and on the other was joined to an immense chain of dry mountains, extending in the form of an amphitheatre, the nakedness of which, and the different tints of ochre, grey, and white, with which they were variegated, exhibited a view at once terrifying and majestic. The remains of a habitation, now fallen into ruins, attested that the proprietor had been long forced to abandon this wild and unproductive waste. I made preparations for passing the night in the grotto; but I was obliged to share it with jackdaws and wood-pigeons which repaired to it at the close of the day, and perched in hundreds on a tree, the
roots



ENCAMPEMENT AT HEERE LOGEMENT.

A The Grotto

roots of which were implanted in an enormous crevice, while one of its branches overspread the floor of this natural hall.

The figures and inscriptions consisted only of a few caricatures of the elephant and ostrich, with the names of three or four travellers who had probably stopped here formerly, like myself, to refresh themselves.

Though the fountain contained a greater abundance of water than I expected, my uneasiness was not on that account diminished. We had still to traverse extensive plains of sand; and every thing announced that I should, perhaps, not find in them so much as a spring to cool our thirst. A ray of hope, however, dissipated for a moment my fear. In the morning, two large clouds which rose on the horizon, and which approached towards us, seemed to promise an abundant rain. Meanwhile nothing more fatal could have presented itself to our view; for these clouds consisted of myriads of locusts, voracious and destructive insects, brought from afar by the winds. The sight of them threw my people into the utmost consternation, by whom they were considered as
the

the harbingers of drought and sterility. My ape alone was a stranger to this general alarm : he shewed, on the contrary, signs of joy and exultation, and followed with his eyes the direction of the locusts, expecting with impatience that some of them would drop, that he might seize and devour them at pleasure.

Whilst we were indulged at the fountain of *Heere-logement* with a temporary enjoyment of the necessary refreshments, we did not neglect our usual labours and researches. Among the rocks, and on the mountains which surrounded us, we found abundance of those small quadrupeds called in the country *dassen*, and by Buffon the daman. I knew already by experience that this small animal was excellent eating. To people who for a long time had lived on lean beef and mutton, this was a fortunate opportunity of varying our food ; and the flesh of this animal, however fat it might be, could not but be considered by us as a delicious treat. My people devoured it with their eyes, even before it was in our possession. We all, therefore, set out in pursuit of the damans, and each procured as many as he

4

could.

could. I had already killed a few, when, on turning a rock, I roused a panther, which I fired at; but the shot in my fusée being too small to strike it instantly dead, it escaped. It was probable, however, that, having found a sort of warren there to supply it with food, it would not retire far from its haunt, and that I should meet with it again. I accordingly searched the environs with my dogs, and succeeded in finding its usual place of retreat, where I saw several heaps of the bones of damans, and the remains of various kinds of small antelopes.

This discovery promised me a double satisfaction; that of killing the panther when it should return to its hiding-place, and that of finding game in the neighbourhood for my table, as the animal had found for its repast. These pleasures, however, were not realized: for neither I nor my people met with any antelopes, which perhaps had all been destroyed by the panther; and with regard to the animal itself, I in vain spent two wearisome hours of the night waiting for it in ambush: it did not appear; which induced me to believe that

I had

I had really wounded it, and that it had probably gone elsewhere to die.

During my hunting excursion I fell in with a Hottentot, servant to a planter in the neighbourhood, for whom he was looking after a flock of sheep. Though I had already, among my animals, a tolerable lot of sheep; yet, as the barrenness of the country I had begun to traverse made me apprehensive that, with all my economy, they might not be sufficient for our consumption, I wished to increase the number by purchasing some from the Hottentot. As a keeper, it is true, this man had no right to dispose of them; but I offered him so advantageous a price, that his master could not but have been satisfied with his bargain. He persisted, however, in refusing me; and the only benefit I derived from our interview was a knowledge of my best and shortest road to the Elephants-River, where I was anxious to arrive.

According to this shepherd, I had still a long day's journey to travel, which it would be necessary when I set out to accomplish as speedily as possible, without interruption and without halting, as during the whole route
neither

neither water nor pasturage would be found. He informed me also, that beyond the river I should meet with the same inconveniences, till I arrived at the country of the Nimiquas; and added, that though it was now the rainy season, the rain had universally failed; that a dreadful drought was every where experienced; and that never in the remembrance of man had this part of Africa suffered such distresses.

This intelligence troubled and disquieted my mind. I foresaw nothing but misfortunes to my enterprize; and we even already began to experience them. Six weeks only had elapsed since I quitted the Cape, yet my oxen were as much fatigued as they had been during my first journey after a march of six months. To give them time to rest themselves and recover their strength, I remained at Heerelogement seven whole days, during which our table occasioned such a consumption of *dassen* or damans, that even my Hottentots began to loathe them. At length, however, on the fourth of July, the war we had declared against these poor animals ceased, and I quitted the place, after having left my name and the date

of my arrival in the grotto, according to the custom of preceding travellers.

Agreeably to the advice of the shepherd, I fet out at break of day ; and after a very fatiguing march we perceived towards night, from the elevated point on which we then were, the Elephants-River winding below us, at the distance of about half a league ; but as I knew by experience the danger of descending mountains in the night time, I resolved to encamp on the eminence, and, notwithstanding the extreme fatigue of my cattle, to wait for the morning, before I should proceed to the river.

On each side it was bordered with very large mimosas, and various kinds of white trees of the species of the willow ; but the ground was every where scorched and dry, and the smallest trace of verdure was not to be perceived even under the trees. In vain did I search along the banks in hopes of finding some less parched spot which might afford grass for my cattle : I could not discover a single tuft of herbage ; so that they were obliged to be satisfied with a few oily plants, and the leaves of shrubs.

At a little distance from the river was a
house

house inhabited by a widow, Van-Zeil, and her family, which I discovered by seeing some cultivated fields. I repaired to it, and met with the most friendly reception. The widow fold me some sheep, and also four hundred pounds of tobacco, which I thought proper to add to my stock. For this tobacco, which was of her own growth, I paid at the rate of two-pence Dutch money per pound, which made about eighty livres for the whole quantity. I purchased also some strong liquor, to supply the place of that which I had already consumed. The widow, in the course of our conversation, confirmed the account of the Hottentot shepherd respecting the disastrous drought by which the country was desolated; a drought indeed so excessive, that all the hordes of the Lesser Nimiquas had quitted the interior parts of the country, in order to approach the sea-coast.

By the dreary prospect before me, I was enabled to judge what the country would be into which I was about to enter; and yet I still entertained hopes, and endeavoured, as I may say, to quiet my fears by delusion: so possible and even probable does that appear, which coincides

incides with our ardent wishes. If the country of the Lesser Niquias, said I, has been deprived of rain, this scarcity of water has perhaps been only local; the districts situated beyond it may not have experienced the same drought, and may have had an abundant supply of what has been hitherto wanting in those through which I have travelled.

Reasoning thus from very uncertain probabilities, I employed my thoughts in devising means for traversing a country, the dryness of which, however terrifying, might not be an invincible difficulty; and I hoped that it would be succeeded by another better watered, the temperature and fertility of which would perhaps make amends for all my fatigue.

When the widow found that I was determined to depart, notwithstanding her advice and remonstrances, she prepared for me a small supply of biscuit, and desired her two sons to show me the only ford at which I could cross the river without danger. We were obliged to go along the bank downwards to a considerable distance to find this passage, to which my guides conducted me with their oxen;
and

and as a testimony of their friendship they wished to accompany me to the other side, and to remain with me till the next morning; but I declined their offer, because, as the weather visibly threatened rain, I was apprehensive that the water might suddenly rise, and prevent their return. It was indeed fortunate for me that I crossed the river that evening; for during the night there came on a deluge, which continued, without interruption, for three entire days, and which flattered me with new hopes of the happy success of my journey. Its violence was even so great, from the very first moment it began, that I was obliged to halt, and to encamp on the border of the river. I was here favoured by my good fortune; since, had I been one day later, I should have found no ford, and should have been reduced to the necessity of crossing on rafts; a laborious method, which would have occasioned to my people much fatigue, and to me a great loss of time; besides that, the stream being rapid and enclosed between steep banks, the use of a raft, during an inundation, would have been attended with considerable danger.

The second day the waters swelled so much

as to reach my waggons; and I was obliged, therefore, to remove my camp to a greater distance towards the plain. Had the rise taken place during the night, my camp might have been swept entirely away; and my own life, and the lives of my people, have been exposed to the most imminent peril.

At the Cape, I had often heard of the risk which a traveller runs in this part of Africa, when he encamps too near rivers. Respecting these dangers the planters had even told me wonderful tales, to which I gave little credit, considering them only as the exaggerations of the narrators; but experience has since convinced me of their truth. Many a time, when encamped during the most beautiful weather, and even after a very great drought, near small rivers, and at a distance from their banks, have I seen them so swell on a sudden, by the bursting of a storm, as, in less than three hours, to rise above the trees on their banks, inundate the plains to a considerable distance, and form around me an immense lake.

It is, therefore, prudent in a traveller never to encamp near rivers, except on an eminence which, when at their greatest height, they cannot

not reach ; and it is easy to ascertain this boundary by inspecting the trees on their banks. In their overflow they carry along with them reeds and grass, which, being caught by the branches, remain suspended, and attest how far the water has risen. In the day-time we may without danger station ourselves on the banks, under the shelter of the trees. In general, indeed, no shade is to be found any where else ; and if an inundation should happen, there would at least be little or no risk, as nothing could prevent its being seen ; but to remain thus situated in the night, would be exposing ourselves imprudently, and especially during the winter monsoon.

The rain having at length ceased the third day, I proceeded on my journey ; and following for three hours the course of the stream downwards, I arrived at the confluence of a rivulet, called in the Hottentot language *Koïgnas*, and by the Dutch *Dwars-rivier* (cross-river). This stream, which, like the greater part of those in Africa, flows only during the rainy season, was so deeply enclosed between banks in the place where we could cross, that we did not observe it till we were close upon

its brink. The passage across this rivulet, to speak the truth, gave me great uneasiness; not indeed on account of the Koignas itself, which is very narrow, and, receiving little water from other streams, had not been much increased by the rain; but on account of the difficulty of approaching it, occasioned by the steepness and height of its banks. The soil, besides, consisted of glutinous earth, which the rains had rendered so slippery, that the descent was extremely dangerous for my carriages. Thus did drought and rain both conspire to defeat my intentions; and every thing, in short, seemed in combination to present at every step new obstacles to my progress.

Klaas, wishing to contribute by his care to the happy success of our passage, took upon him to direct the first waggon, and put himself at the head of the oxen: but his foot having slipped in descending, he fell down; and before he had time to rise he was not only trod upon by the first pair of oxen, but the other four also passed over his body. Luckily I had observed him fall, and my cries brought to his aid his companions, who, favouring by their resistance the efforts made by the driver to
keep

keep back the last yoke, stopped the carriage at the very moment that it was about to descend, and just ready to roll over my unfortunate favourite. I dragged him from below the oxen; and it is impossible for me to express the joy I felt, when, having placed him on his legs again, and interrogated him respecting his fall, he informed me that he had received no material injury. He had however suffered some contusions from the oxen; but these animals, though hurried down the descent, had, from an instinct of which I admired the sagacity, spared him as much as circumstances would allow: and indeed it is almost incredible that so many feet should have passed over him without crushing him to death.

Having landed on the right bank of the Koignas, I directed my route, according to the information I had received from the widow Van-Zeil, towards the *Vleermuys-Klip* (rock of bats). As I advanced, I observed the track of a lion quite fresh. This discovery, which since my departure from the Cape was the first of the kind, warned me to be upon my guard in our encampment during the night. The animal had been lurking among the bushes

near the river, at the time of our crossing it, and had doubtless been determined to fly to the plain by the noise of my caravan. I went in pursuit of him with one of my hunters and some dogs, and we followed him the greater part of the day; but the approach of night, and the fear of losing our way, as it was at last so dark that I could no longer distinguish the tracks of the wheels of my carriages, compelled me to return to my camp.

Swanepoel, to supply me with a beacon by which to direct my course, had caused the fires to be lighted sooner than usual. I have already said that it was customary for us to kindle several every evening; they served both to secure us against the cold during the night, and to frighten away hurtful and dangerous animals; but on this occasion they attracted a particular species, from which it was impossible for us to defend ourselves. The rock I have mentioned, near which we were encamped, contained an immense quantity of bats, and it is from this circumstance it takes its name. Of these animals some, scared by a light that was new to them, made in their holes so frightful a noise as almost to stun me; while others
fluttered

fluttered in hundreds around us, squeaking, and every now and then flapping their wings in our faces. In vain did we attempt to defend ourselves; the threatening crowd only increased, and we received blows from every quarter. Favoured by the darkness, I perhaps might have secured myself against their insults by returning to my waggon; but how escape from the piercing din of this countless multitude, which made the very rocks resound with their cries? My cattle also were as much annoyed by them as ourselves; and every thing announced a disagreeable night, without the hope of relief. In this distressing situation, I saw only one course to be pursued; which was, to decamp immediately, and leave the field of battle to these troublesome and obstinate enemies.

I accordingly gave orders to strike our tents and yoke the cattle, and, proceeding down the Elephants-River, encamped at a place called in the Hottentot language *Krekenap*, and in Dutch *Back-boove*.

Notwithstanding the vexation and ill humour into which this nocturnal decampment, and the adventure that occasioned it, had

thrown us, I was pleased with the idea of advancing, from the hope of finding convenient pasturage for my animals, which were all reduced to a most deplorable condition, and particularly my oxen and horses, which, since we left Heere-logement, having had nothing but such oily plants to feed upon as had been spared by the drought, were seized with a looseness, which gave me very great uneasiness. That they might recover, I allowed them a few days rest; during which, desirous of turning this delay to advantage, I resolved to traverse the neighbourhood, and to explore the country, especially the mouth of the Elephants-River, which, from the information I had received, could be only a short distance from my new camp.

Klaas, though he still felt some pains from his fall, was earnest in his desire to accompany me. I set out, therefore, attended by him and three more of my people, among whom was one of those Hottentots he had engaged in my service, and who was loaded with my private tent, the only baggage I thought it necessary to take with me. My intention was to proceed along the bank of the river; and I conceived that by thus following its course I should shorten

shorten the way, as I should run thereby the less risk of losing myself: but the rain had the day before so swelled the river, that it had in many parts overflowed, and had formed, especially in the low lands, immense lakes. These collections of water, which often presented themselves, rendered it necessary for us to make long windings, that greatly retarded our progress; and to reach the sea, I was therefore obliged to employ more time than, under other circumstances, such a distance would have required. I would not, however, alter my route, because the lakes were covered with an immense multitude of aquatic birds of every kind, and particularly gulls, sea-swallows, and flamingos, which I saw in thousands.

I thought I must find among these innumerable flocks new objects worthy of being added to my collection. I indeed killed several, and among these a charming bird three feet in height, which at present makes a part of my cabinet of natural history. Its head and throat, which are entirely bare, are covered with a skin of the brightest red, terminated by a band of a beautiful orange, which separates the naked part from that covered with feathers.

The upper part of the wings, having broad stripes of a fine violet colour, agreeably shaded, is bordered by a white band of feathers, the thick and silky beards of which, separated from each other, have a perfect resemblance to a rich fringe. The quills of the wings and tail are of a greenish black, which, as it receives the light in a more or less oblique direction, assumes the appearance of violet or purple. The rest of the plumage is of a beautiful white. The bill, which is long and somewhat crooked, is yellow, as are the feet. This bird belongs to the genus of the ibis, of which we are already acquainted with several species.

Having at length arrived before night at the sea-shore, I caused my tent to be erected, and a fire to be kindled; but notwithstanding our great fatigue none of us could close our eyes. The sea breeze was so sharp, and the cold so excessive, that we were obliged to employ the whole night in warming ourselves. This state of suffering made me wait with impatience for the day; and as soon as it appeared I set out in quest of game with three of my people, advancing along the banks of the river.

My companions soon left me, and went to
hunt

hunt among the sand-hills, with a view of finding some bird or animal with which I was unacquainted, or any other extraordinary object proper to gratify my curiosity. They gave themselves considerable trouble; but their zeal was unaccompanied with success. All their search ended in the discovery of a few antelopes (ree-bock), at which they fired; and which, flying towards me, followed each other in a string, as they passed the spot where I stood. I had an opportunity of firing at them in my turn; but at that moment I was engaged in viewing a prodigious number of vultures, and other birds of prey, which I saw flying round, or hovering in the air, and then alighting at the distance of a quarter of a league before me. My people had killed two of those antelopes called steen-bocks; but, regardless of this acquisition, I was devouring with my eyes the carnivorous birds I had discovered, which were becoming every moment more numerous; and my curiosity was doubled, when I was told by my people that these birds were attracted by the smell of a dead elephant, or some other animal, on which it was probable they were feeding.

When

When we approached, we actually found on the shore a spermaceti whale about fifty feet in length. It was lying at the distance of more than a hundred paces from the sea; and had doubtless been forced thither by the waves; but the sea must certainly have experienced a most tremendous storm, to be able to throw so far a mass so enormous. It was attacked by a variety of carnivorous birds, and by a number of crows; but particularly by different species of those small quadrupeds, of the genus of the polecat and weasel, which, at the Cape, are known under the general name of *muysbond*. All these animals were busily feeding upon the whale, of which a considerable part had already been devoured by them; but our approach disturbed the enjoyment of their repast. The birds betook themselves to flight; the *muysbonden* scampered away; the crows, however, a species of carnivorous animals more obstinate than any other, remained and were loth to quit their prey: without being frightened by our visit, they hovered round the carcase, and over our heads, croaking in the most frightful manner.

The sand, to the distance of more than fifteen
feet

feet round the whale, was moistened with its blubber, which had been converted into oil by the heat of the sun. The loss of this greafe, dispersed in this manner, was a source of affliction to my Hottentots, who regretted that they had not within their reach one of my carriages loaded with a dozen barrels, that they might fill them with oil; an event which would have rendered them happy during the whole journey. Desire, however, soon begets industry: they thought of their antelopes, and requested my permission to dispose of them. Having obtained it, they returned to the spot where they were hid, and, slaying them, made bags of their skins, of which each was capable of holding more than forty pounds of oil.

I endeavoured myself to derive some benefit from the whale. Examining it with attention, I observed various kinds of beetles crawling over this immense body of carrion, and employed also in devouring it. Having counted fourteen different species, I began to hunt these swarms of insects; and some individuals selected from each species were, in turn, sacrificed to my favourite passion, and served to enrich my small collection. The repository in
which

which I preserved them was a flat light box made of deal, which I placed above the crown of my hat; and in order that it might be carried the more commodiously, it was, like the hat itself, of a round form, and secured as well as shaded by the ostrich-feathers with which I was accustomed to ornament my head.

More satisfied with what I had collected than with the immense provision of oil made by my Hottentots, I returned to my tent, which had been guarded in my absence by one of my people. Having seen by the way, among the sand-hills, a considerable quantity of the dung of elephants; I was induced to believe that these animals must abound in this district, and that the river had not unjustly acquired its name from them. None of the dung was indeed fresh; but I concluded from this circumstance that the elephants usually frequented the right bank of the river, and that, forced at this season by the drought to quit a spot that was now become barren, they had crossed over to the left, which I supposed to be less parched.

These, however, were only conjectures; and
proba-

probability, perhaps, ought rather to have led me to believe that these animals, without changing from the one bank to the other, had retired into the interior parts of the country. A desire of meeting with a herd or two, and of hunting them, had nevertheless so heated my imagination, that, by attempting to gratify it, I exposed myself to the danger of being irreparably lost, with the best Hottentot of my caravan. I shall here give a particular account of this celebrated instance of fool-hardiness, which was nothing less than to cross with my fire-arms, baggage, and attendants, a considerable river swelled by inundations, in order to encamp on the opposite side.

Fortunately I had with me excellent swimmers, to whom the crossing of a river, whatever might be its breadth, could be no cause of uneasiness. With me the case was entirely different. The reader will recollect that I once before imprudently risked my life, in my first journey, when pursuing an eagle on the banks of the Queer-Boom. Warned by this danger, I had since exercised myself frequently in swimming, and had indeed never neglected it when an opportunity occurred. I was however as
yet

yet very imperfectly acquainted with the art; and I by no means found myself sufficiently confident to attempt an overflowing river, which was at the same time extremely rapid and of an immense breadth. I held a consultation therefore with my people on the course to be pursued, and the best and most prudent means to ensure its success.

The first idea that suggested itself to us was that of a raft; which was the most natural as well as the most convenient mode of conveyance, and that which I had tried before without any accident, but on rivers, it is true, less dangerous. Trusting to the strength of my swimmers, I imagined for a moment that it would be an easy task for them to drag it to the opposite bank; but on examining the difficulties more minutely, we apprehended, and with reason, that, as the raft would form an extensive surface, it might acquire a velocity which it would not be possible for the swimmers to overcome and to direct. It was necessary however to find or to construct some species of float that would bear me, and they might be able to conduct. My Hottentots had no skill upon this subject. How indeed should they

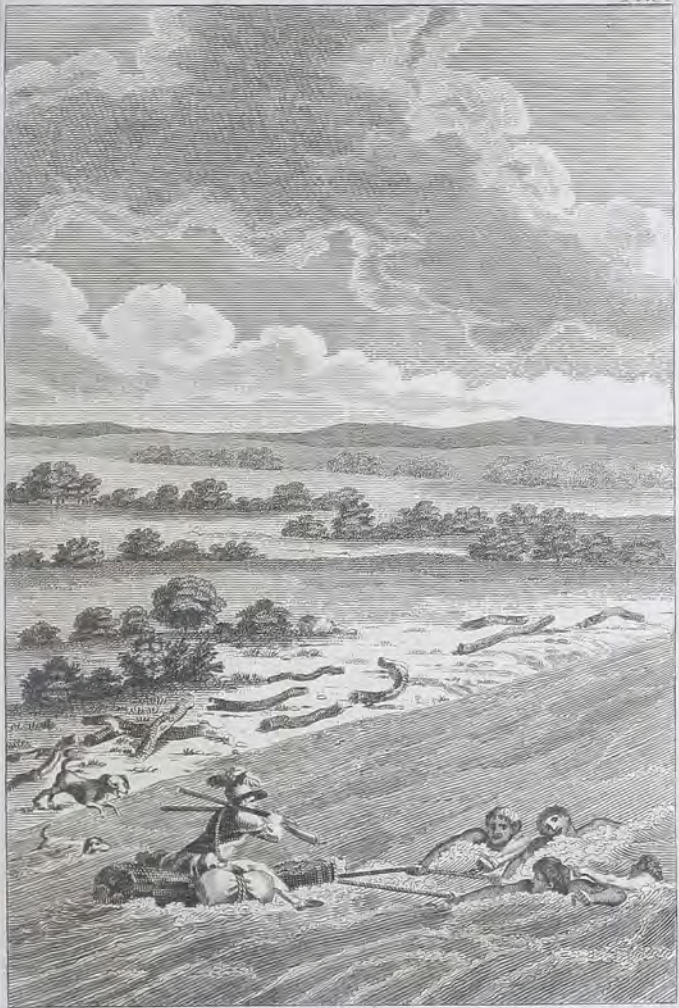
they be ingenious in resources of which none of them had any need? And by what strange accident did it happen, that there stood upon this shore a native of Surinam, educated at Paris, and incapable of swimming? The incapacity was all my own: it was therefore just that I should invent the means of relieving it. I proposed to launch upon the stream the trunk of a tree, upon which I should seat myself astride; and my four companions unanimously exhorted me to have courage, and they would answer with their lives for my safe arrival on the opposite shore.

Thus animated, I felt no longer the smallest hesitation: it remained only to find the species of float requisite for my purpose. Of trunks, indeed, there was an abundance; for the inundation, as is sure to be the case in those countries where trees and plants, passing through the various stages of vegetable life, perish as they stand, and wither on their roots, had overturned great numbers, and scattered them along the banks; but the majority of them still retained their branches, and of those without branches, some were too short, some too long, and others too slender. It was neces-

fary to fix upon one that was in all respects favourable to our project; and after proceeding to a considerable distance up the river, we at length succeeded. The difficulty that had attended this research had been accompanied with no little murmuring; meanwhile to this very circumstance, in the end, were we indebted for our lives.

Our first operation was to launch the tree, and to fix to one end of it two strings of leather, to enable the swimmers to drag it after them. We then rolled up in a bundle their krosses and my tent, which we fastened to the middle of the float, tying firmly at the same time to this bundle the two leathern vessels of oil, one on each side. These vessels I thought would not only serve to diminish the weight of the machine, but also prevent it from upsetting and plunging me into the water.

It remained to find a method of transporting our powder-flasks and artillery, and particularly of preserving them dry. This care I took upon myself. It would be possible, I imagined, to hold my fuses resting on my shoulders; and as to the powder-flasks, I suspended them from my neck, with my watch. The preparations
being



PASSAGE OF THE ELEPHANT'S RIVER.

being finished, and every arrangement made for so singular a passage, I proceed, accoutred in this grotesque manner, to my station. I enter the water astride on my log, place myself erect, as if on a saddle, that is to say, upon the crosses and tent between the leathern vessels; my swimmers dart forward, they take hold of the strings, they draw along the frail and perilous bark, with its cargo and passenger, and I behold myself adrift upon the stream.

So many precautions might suffice to secure me against every accident. I was therefore free from apprehension. At the same time, not to exhaust my swimmers, to whom so wide a passage must prove trying, I settled with them that there should be only two of them in the front to pull me along, while the other two, resting upon the hinder part of the raft, might strike with their feet, and push me forward with their bodies; these last serving to relieve the others as occasion should require: a pleasant kind of Tritons, who were soon to give a high degree of alarm to their Neptune.

At first we proceeded delightfully; because the part of the river which had overflowed the banks, scarcely possessing any motion, offered

of course very little resistance. The swimmers, therefore, dragged me along without difficulty; they were even ridiculing the fear they had entertained of not succeeding, and I myself was making merry at my own expence. I could not help laughing at my stiff and constrained attitude; with my two arms raised aloft holding in the air my instruments of death; with the collar that was about my neck, and the baggage which surrounded my waist, serving as ballast to the most singular conveyance that the mind of man perhaps had ever invented: but the scene was presently changed, and the accents of our voices became expressive of very different sentiments.

Scarcely had we entered the current when, its rapidity overpowering our efforts, we saw ourselves gradually drifted out of our course; and soon its violence was so great that, notwithstanding the courage and dexterity with which my negroes combated with the water, we found ourselves hastening towards the sea.

Had we been actually carried thither, no exertion could have saved me: I must infallibly have perished. However, as my good fortune would have it, the wind, blowing from
the

the sea, counteracted in some measure the current, and retarded our destruction: but, at the same time, it excited waves that prevented us from advancing to our destination, and which besides so continually covered us with water, that we were every instant hid from each other.

By an inconvenience also which it was not possible to have foreseen, and which would now admit of no remedy, the trunk, which had hitherto continued steadily in its horizontal position, could no longer be kept in it by any effort. Sometimes it pressed with violence upon the swimmers that conducted it, and rendered it impossible to preserve the thongs at their full extent, or to derive any advantage from them. Sometimes it was urged with equal force in the opposite direction; in which case it hung with irresistible weight upon the thongs, pulling back the guides, and shaking them completely out of their course. But, what was worse, it often sunk entirely under water at one end, while the other was raised to a situation nearly vertical. In this posture, the assistance of the swimmers behind was rendered useless; and I saw myself, in spite of all my

Hottentots could do, carried along by the current, tossed this way and that, and ready every moment to lose my equilibrium.

The danger was imminent. The swimmers in the rear precipitately quitted their post, and, seizing the thongs, all four endeavoured to pull me forward with their utmost strength. I attempted by the use of my feet to assist their efforts. Their exertions were incredible: they had promised to place me in safety on the opposite shore, and they deemed themselves obliged rather to die than to quit their undertaking; but, notwithstanding their unshaken fidelity, I began to despair. The force of the current seemed stronger and stronger; it drew me every moment towards the sea; and I saw no prospect of safety but in quitting the trunk, the accoutrements about my neck, my guns, and all my conveniences, and casting myself upon the mercy of my Hottentots, hoping that they, by surrounding me, would be able to keep me above water, and convey me either to the shore we sought, or the shore we had left.

In the midst of the most lively alarm I had ever experienced, would it be supposed what

was

was the nature of the consolation that diminished my horror? I strongly felt upon this occasion how much the calamities of man are lessened by being divided. I commiserated the possible fate of my brave attendants, who seemed upon the point of sacrificing their lives to their attachment to me: yet this attachment took away the bitterness of death: I should at least not be abandoned till I had experienced all the attentions of friendship.

Meanwhile my poor Hottentots, panting, exhausted, and deprived of strength, called on each other with a feeble voice to persevere. Not one relaxed his hold of the thong; not one ceased to swim, or to oppose some sort of resistance to the stream; they had recourse to skill where strength failed, and were attentive to improve every possible advantage. One of them was wholly new to my service, a stranger to my intercourse and my person; yet he did not yield to his comrades in pertinacity, and I believe would have been one of the first to perish in the exertion.

Death seemed to stare us in the face, when I began to perceive, by the diminished resistance, that we had sufficiently cleared the

centre of the current; they perceived it too; they collected all their force; they took breath; they found themselves in a perfect calm; and presently they gained the shallow, where they could touch the bottom with their feet. The first who felt it announced it by a shout, which was repeated by the rest. In vain should I attempt to paint the emotion which now burst forth from us all. I disengaged myself from the grotesque situation, which had excited alternately our pleasantry and our alarms; I leaped upon the shore; I threw myself upon the neck of my deliverers, and they embraced me with transport.

Our first care was to kindle a large fire, by which to warm ourselves and dry our clothes. From the combined effect of fear and the water, we shivered as with an ague. My swimmers, by a happy foresight, had provided themselves with a calabash of brandy. Notwithstanding my repugnance to this liquor, in the present instance I partook of it with pleasure; and though the quantity I drank was small, it braced up my nerves and instilled new life into my frame. In order to have the free use of my hands in clinging to the trunk, I had

had been obliged during our passage to fasten my artillery to my knees; it had accordingly been wetted; and I hastened to repair the mischief by wiping and drying it. Twenty times had I been drenched myself by the waves; yet the water had fortunately neither penetrated my powder-flasks, nor injured my watch. What reason had I to rejoice that I had so far persevered as not to abandon the raft! The loss of my fire-arms and my tent would have been irreparable; and not only would it have defeated the object for which I had crossed the river, but have greatly incommoded me in my general expedition.

At the time, however, other thoughts occupied my mind. I congratulated myself solely on the danger we had escaped; of the greatness of which I had no conception, till I observed from our landing-place the distance we had passed. Then it was that I reflected with seriousness on the extravagance of my folly, and the rashness of the enterprise. Upon viewing the passage, I shuddered with terror. It was not a river that we had crossed, but a vast inundation, of which the eye could scarcely reach the extent. As I had no instruments to measure it, it is

impossible for me to speak with accuracy of its breadth; but some estimation may be formed from the time we were upon the water, which I observed to be a full half-hour: meanwhile an allowance must be made for the rapidity of the stream, which drifted us from our course and retarded our passage.

Perceiving my Hottentots to be recovered a little from their fatigue, I began to think of the most effectual means of rewarding their fidelity; and I requested them to ask of me with freedom whatever they pleased.

Klaas was at this moment sitting by my side, squeezing me by the hand, and testifying in the most affectionate manner the pleasure he felt at having once more contributed to my safety. "I have a favour," said he, "to ask of you, not for myself, but for another. If you think that my friend Jonker" (which was the name of my new Hottentot) "has acted like a youth of courage, I could wish you to bestow on him a fusée. It was I who engaged him in your service; it is I who am responsible for his conduct; and be assured he will never give you cause to repent this indulgence."

To understand this request the reader must know, that I imposed on myself very severe laws in the distribution of my fire-arms. They were not given to all my people indiscriminately. On the contrary, I had granted this favour to those alone with whose character I was thoroughly acquainted, and who had signalized themselves as much by their fidelity, as by their courage and address; and these I farther distinguished by the name of hunters. Every month I gave them also a ducatoon (a piece of coin of about nine livres) as pay; while the rest received only a rix-dollar, which is one third less. This pay, to men who had no need, during our journey, to be at any expence, added to other little profits which it was my intention one day to bestow upon them, could not but afford them the hopes of considerable enjoyment when my excursion should be completed, and they should return to the Cape.

I promised to Jonker what Klaas had asked for him; that is to say, to give him, on my return to our camp at Krekenap, a fusée, with complete accoutrements and ammunition. I even conferred on him another favour; that of

7 appoint-

appointing him one of the conductors of my principal waggon, the benefits arising from which, added to his pay as a hunter, increased his income one half. Thus did I enjoy the pleasure of distributing rewards and granting promotion to my companions, without the influence of any base intrigue, any insidious recommendation, that might induce me to be lavish towards some, and niggardly and unjust towards others. In short, I happily governed my small caravan without the assistance of those plodding intriguers, who vain of their knowledge, and intruding themselves every where, arrogate to themselves the right of meting out rewards, and pronouncing definitively respecting the merits of others.

These marks of distinction, these various honours, conferred all at once upon my new Hottentot, so elated him with joy, that he could not find words with which to express to me his gratitude. Possessed of a fusée, and become the conductor of the carriage of his master, he was in his own estimation equal in importance to a grandee of Spain. To listen to this Hottentot, he had all the dispositions requisite in a sportsman. He felt, he said, the
greatest

greatest desire imaginable to become a good marksman; and though he had few opportunities of improving himself, he found his skill little inferior to his most experienced neighbours. In short, he expatiated so much, and with such simplicity, upon the method he practised for hitting the mark, as to afford extreme amusement to his countrymen who knew him. Seeing how much they enjoyed the joke, I proposed a trial of skill, nothing doubting that our new knight-errant would prove an inexhaustible source of entertainment. His three companions were all of them expert in what they undertook: as to himself, the post of safety, by way of eminence, would have been to have placed one's-self precisely before the mark.

As I saw he looked somewhat ashamed, and took the point to heart, and as he was even afraid that his miscarriage would injure him with me, I was eager to revive his confidence: I told him that, when I first attempted to handle a gun, I shot farther from my mark than he did, and that I had no doubt, with his enthusiasm upon the subject, he would soon prove a very excellent marksman. I should
have

have been less forward in my compliments to a spruce petit-maitre of my own country, most especially if his foppery betrayed itself in the putting on a pair of spectacles.

What I had predicted in pleasantry was afterwards confirmed: Jonker became in reality the most intelligent, and the first of my purveyors. A few observations will explain this singularity. Hunting in Africa is a very different pursuit from what it is in Europe. There the talent of the hunter does not, as here, consist only in having a steady hand, and a sure eye: with these qualities he must possess others still more essential, and without which nothing is to be done against the cunning of the antelopes of the desert. He must have an acute sight, so as to discover the game at a considerable distance before they discover him; he must employ great art to lure and to deceive them; above all, he must possess an active body, capable of assuming every position, and of drawing itself patiently for a long time upon the ground, in order to get within reach without being perceived. These are the qualifications of good African hunters; this it is which gives them that rare character, so highly esteemed

esteemed by the planters and the Hottentots, and on account of which they are distinguished by the name of *wild-bekruyper*, an appellation equivalent to that of creeper-after-game. Such a sportsman, though he may not shoot so well as another destitute of this African talent, will at the same time kill more game; because, by his suppleness and address, he will contrive to drag himself along, till he approach so near the animal that the most unskilful shooter would find it impossible to miss. The Boshmen are generally considered as the best *bekruypers*; meanwhile I have had frequent opportunities of admiring the same agility in Jonker.

His sight was so keen, that he could often distinguish an antelope as it lay upon the ground, at a distance that I could not observe it even with my glass; and, excepting Kees, he had the most penetrating eye of my whole caravan.

Wild animals possess the sense of seeing in the greatest perfection; because, from the kind of life which they lead, having great distances to traverse, the faculty is in continual exercise, by the frequent need they have of measuring those distances. For the same reason, men
also

also in a state of nature enjoy this sense in a degree scarcely less exquisite; and if those in civilised society are deficient in this quality, it is because their prospects being almost always more confined, they have much less occasion to develop it; because every thing that surrounds them, such as silks, gilding, reverberated and multiplied lights, objects of luxury, variegated and dazzling colours, fatigue, without improving their sight; and lastly, because their professions, practices, and habits, their writing, reading, and the strange abuse of pleasures, must tend early to impair a sense continually strained and perverted, while nothing is at the same time presented that can bring it to perfection. Why have hunters, who reside in the country, and above all mountaineers, better sight than the inhabitants of cities? The reason is plain; and I may adduce myself as an example. Before my arrival in Africa, my sight was so weak that, to read or write, I was obliged to hold the book or paper close to my eye. But having spent several years in the open air, traversing mountains and valleys, and crossing vast deserts, it has been considerably strengthened; and I can now see as far as another.

When

When we had amused ourselves for some time in firing at a mark, I thought it would be prudent to employ my powder in a more useful manner. As it was for the purpose of hunting elephants that I had crossed the river, at the hazard of my own life, and the lives of my four companions, I resolved to go in pursuit of these animals. With this view, accompanied by my three hunters, I ranged about and scoured the whole country; but we saw neither dung nor traces, which made me sincerely regret that I had subjected myself in vain to so much fatigue, and exposed myself uselessly to so many dangers. It is probable, as I have already said, that the elephants frequented the right bank of the river; but when obliged by the drought to change their residence, instead of crossing to the left bank, where they would have found an equal scarcity of food, they had retired farther into the interior part of the deserts towards the north.

The severity of the cold had prevented us from sleeping the preceding night, and we were again equally unfortunate. A violent rain which came on continually extinguished our fires; nor was it possible for us to re-kindle

them. We were obliged, therefore, to fortify ourselves with patience, and to wait till a new day should arrive to invigorate our strength.

It appeared, but without bringing more favourable weather; and I resolved to return immediately to my camp by the shortest way I could find. As the rain had rendered my tent and other baggage exceedingly heavy, so that my Hottentots were likely to be overloaded, I advised them to abandon the two skins of oil, that their burden might thereby be lightened. This was requesting, however, an impossible sacrifice; and rather than have made it they would have left behind them their clothes. Too mindful of the services they had rendered me, and unwilling to offend them, I contented myself with taking Klaas along with me; and I committed to his care my ibis, an object of which I was as tenacious as were my Hottentots of their oil. With regard to the other three, they were to take their own time, and return in whatever way they should find most convenient.

Towards evening we arrived opposite my camp, to reach which we had only to cross the river; and we were at a place where, with a little

little precaution, it was tolerably practicable. The darkness of the night prevented Swanepoel from seeing us; but our cries reached him, and he sent two horses used to the water, and two swimmers to guide us in our passage, which we happily effected without danger.

Behold me then returned to my family, among my tents, my carriages, my companions, and my animals. How great was my joy when I compared my present tranquillity with my situation at the mouth of the river! I found myself, however, so excessively fatigued, and so oppressed with drowsiness, that, having taken off my wet clothes, and put on dry ones, I threw myself on my mattress, and slept without interruption till the next day at noon, that is to say, nearly eighteen hours. I should even, I believe, have fallen into a lethargy but for the care of Swanepoel, who, alarmed at my sleeping so long, and fearing that I was ill, came to waken me.

Jonker and the other two Hottentots, whom I left behind, had arrived in the morning, and they did not fail to relate to their companions all the circumstances of our curious adventure. Each made his remarks according to his cha-

racter ; but the history of the whale diminished my imprudence in their eyes, and rendered me much less culpable. They even considered my journey to the coast as the most fortunate of our enterprises ; and they all regretted that they had not been chosen to accompany me : all, that is to say, but Swanepoel, who alone seemed sorry I had undertaken it, because of the dangers to which it had exposed me. Sometimes he addressed his reproaches to the whole company, and sometimes to the four swimmers in particular, whom he considered as criminal for having obeyed me. I myself even, as soon as I awoke, was not exempted from his censure. I respected him on account of his age, and I listened to his remonstrances ; but I regretted at the same time that I was not able to answer him, by displaying before his eyes the spoils of a conquest more brilliant than that of an ibis, the only fruit of my perilous expedition.

At dinner, my four companions had filled the heads of the other Hottentots with an idea of the great quantity of oil they might procure by going to the sea shore where we had left the whale. During the rest of the day,

6

their

their conversation was engrossed by this unfortunate subject; and so heated were their imaginations, that, when I awoke the next morning, they came to me in a body to beg I would allow six men with two oxen to make an excursion to the shore, for the purpose of collecting a certain quantity of the melted blubber, which would afford them so delicious a treat. This, however, was not precisely the motive they alleged, to induce me to load my waggons with this additional incumbrance. They pretended to have my interest in view: the traces and axle-trees of my carriages, they said, had almost every moment need of being oiled; they wanted it even at present, as they had not for a long time been greased; and I should run, perhaps, the risque of not finding again so favourable an opportunity.

These pretences, though apparently founded in truth, had with me very little weight. I had just learned that, during my absence, two of my best oxen, while drinking at the river, had been carried away by the current and drowned; and there was reason to apprehend that the same accident might happen to others.

I had besides flattered myself, that, by remaining at Krekenap, I should find pasturage which would have restored my sick cattle; and it was in reality to give them time to recover that I had indulged myself in an excursion across the river. This district, however, had supplied them with no better food than the preceding ones; their dysentery still increased; and I found them on my return much worse than before. I had resolved, therefore, to decamp the same day, and to proceed with all possible expedition in search of a more fertile and happier spot.

This plan was by no means favourable to that of a journey to the sea: but an ardent desire is not so easily extinguished; and I clearly saw that sooner or later I must give way to it. My Hottentots persisted in their request, representing that it would in no manner retard my departure, if I would allow Jonker to be of the party, who being acquainted with the deserts which I was going to explore, would serve as a guide, and enable them to join me by the shortest roads to the place where I might happen to encamp. Had I continued any longer obstinate, it might have excited too
much

much discontent among my Hottentots. They received my consent with transports of joy that bordered upon delirium. For the moment, neither the evils we had suffered nor the greater ones which awaited us had a share in their thoughts: every thing was forgotten: the hope alone of an abundant supply of blubber was sufficient to constitute the most perfect happiness.

So great was their eagerness, that I was obliged to allow Jonker to set off immediately with the two oxen and his detachment. I gave him a fufee and ammunition; and he was saluted by the acclamations of my whole company. Envidable mortals, who could be contented at so small an expence, and whom a little oil was about to render so wealthy and felicitous!

My own departure was less joyful; though I had strong reasons for quitting without regret the banks of a river which had been so highly extolled to me, and which had proved by my residing there so disastrous to my cattle. But I was terrified at the prospect before me, and I anticipated the misfortunes with which I was threatened. The sky was beau-

tiful and serene, and we directed our course towards the north: notwithstanding, however, the mildness of the weather, my cattle were so weak that, after a march of three hours, they refused to draw, and obliged me to halt. In the afternoon they were able to proceed only two leagues farther. I was then under the necessity of unharnessing, and of abandoning three of my oxen, which sunk through fatigue, and probably died on the spot, as we never saw them afterwards. In the night I lost five more, which I saw miserably perish in the place where they had lain down, without my being able to afford them relief; and so weak and exhausted were the remainder, that, another league, and they would all perhaps be reduced to the same melancholy situation. We had found, indeed, during the whole day, neither water nor pasturage: yet I resumed my journey, but with the precaution of sending out, in all directions, such of my people as I could spare, in order to discover, if possible, a spring and a little herbage, near which we might encamp.

But vain and fruitless was the precaution: the soil, in this frightful desert, presented every-
where

where to their view the same scorched and unproductive surface. I now reproached myself for the valuable time I had wasted on the banks of the Elephants-River, by which my cattle had been deprived of the little strength that remained to them, and were rendered incapable of gaining a less fatal district. We, however, pursued our way through the naked sands, exhausted, melancholy and hopeless. At length I perceived at a distance the *Krakkeel-Klip* (rock of discord), where, I had been told, was a deep and spacious hollow; and the late rains it was possible might have filled it with water. As we drew nearer, we imagined that upon the borders of this hollow we saw some waggons: an idea that filled us with joy and revived our hopes. We inferred from this appearance, that the cavities of the rock must infallibly abound with water; and as to the carriages, whether they were the property of a Hottentot or belonged to some traveller, we might promise ourselves certain information of the route we had to pursue. Alas! it was all a delusion. Upon our approach the waggons disappeared, and in their stead two enormous elephants presented themselves to
our

our view, who had come to this reservoir to quench their thirst, and who betook themselves to flight the moment they perceived us.

The cavity indeed contained some water, and a sufficient abundance to serve even my whole caravan. But how detestable was its nature! Frequented by all the wild animals of the district, who repaired thither to drink, the borders of the pond were covered with excrement and filth, which the rain continually diluted and carried along with it to the bottom of the reservoir. By the fermentation of these putrid and infectious substances, it had acquired a greenish colour, a nauseous smell, and the most abominable taste. So great, however, was our distress, that the discovery of this disgusting pond was considered by us as a fortunate event. Before I suffered my cattle to taste it, I ordered the jars we had emptied the preceding evening to be filled; and to render it as drinkable as I could, I filtered it carefully through several linen cloths; it was then put on the fire; and afterwards I threw into it a few ounces of coffee that had been ground. By these operations it was clarified a little, and the taste it had contracted by the saline and sulphurous

phurous particles of the excrements dissolved in it was somewhat diminished; but the noxious quality, communicated by these solutions, remained in all its force. All who drank of it were seized with a looseness; and to some it occasioned vomiting, hiccups, and violent pains in the bowels, which made us apprehend that the water might have been poisoned. I was the only person it spared; or rather, my sufferings were less because, having mixed it with goat's milk, I had drunk but a very small quantity.

From Krekenap to Krakkeel-klip, the distance was only eight leagues; and these eight leagues had been the business of two complete days: during the second, indeed, I was able to accomplish only three, which cost me no less than eight hours march. For, exclusive of the general weakness of my oxen, which could with difficulty drag themselves along at the rate of half a mile an hour, we had continually to unyoke, in order to leave behind us those in particular, which, fainting through inanition, were incapable of rising again upon their legs. In a word, to form a just estimate of the deplorable situation to which these animals

mals were reduced, the reader must be informed that, since my last departure, that is to say, during the two calamitous days I have been speaking of, I had left seventeen of them extended here and there on the road.

Towards evening, I saw arrive successively at the rock different herds of antelopes (springbocks) which were accustomed no doubt to quench their thirst at the pond. In vain did I attempt to get near enough to kill some of them, thereby to obtain a supply of provision for a day or two, and save the few sheep I had left. They eluded my vigilance; and my horses, being equally exhausted with my oxen, could not be employed in pursuing them. No situation could be more desperate. I imagined myself to have arrived at the boundary of my travels, and I retired to rest overwhelmed with the most painful and melancholy ideas.

Next morning we found our poor animals in such a state of lassitude, that we unanimously agreed to spend the day at Krakeelclip, to afford them an opportunity of resting themselves; and I employed the early part of the interval in once more giving chase to the antelopes with a few of my best marksmen:

but

but the plain was too open and uncovered for us to come within shot of them.

The pond was the only reservoir of water within a great distance round, and fortunately some coveys of moor-fowl repaired thither to drink. My people, more successful than myself, killed about thirty brace of these birds, which afforded us a most excellent repast. One of my oxen was in a state of agony, which seemed to indicate that before night I should lose him. I therefore resigned him to my Hottentots; and the flesh, when salted and prepared after their manner, supplied them with a stock of provisions which lasted some time.

I had retired to my tent, a prey to the bitterest reflections, when, in the middle of the night, Kees all at once sent forth a cry which was instantly answered by the barking of my whole pack of dogs. By the acuteness of his smell, his hearing, and his sight, this animal was always the first to put us on our guard against danger; and, of all the services which he rendered to me, this was the one which principally induced me to be fond of him. The alarm he had given set every body on foot; for we had equally to dread the attack
of

of the Boshmen and that of ravenous beasts of prey. The vicinity of the cistern might expose us to either, and perhaps even to both at the same time. Uncertain what enemy I had to combat, I caused a few shots to be discharged towards the quarter which my ape pointed out, and from time to time I took care they should be repeated.

These supposed enemies were my people, who had gone in search of the whale. They were now on their return; and, having discovered our camp by means of the fires we had kindled, were hastening to join us. The noise of our fuses had frightened them; they kept therefore at a distance; and previously to their advancing they discharged a shot in their turn to inform me who they were.

At that moment, however, prepossessed with the idea of being attacked, and having no expectation of their arrival at so unseasonable an hour, their signal only increased our alarm. We imagined them to be maroon Hottentots, who, provided with fire-arms, had come to assassinate us and plunder my camp. The discharging of the fusee strengthened this idea, and was considered by us in no other light than
than

than as the commencement of a battle. Presuming that the enemy was firing from some ambush, and was endeavouring to dislodge us, I encouraged my people, and we rested under arms the whole night, resolved, in case of extremity, to sell our lives as dearly as possible.

When day appeared, I observed indeed, at a certain distance, a group of Hottentots; but though they were in reality my own, not seeing the two oxen which ought to have accompanied them, my mind became more and more confirmed in the idea that pre-occupied it, and I did not know them. Observing them, however, approach towards me, I went to meet them, and the illusion was presently at an end. The air of dejection with which they accosted me sufficiently announced how well founded had been my foresight, when I opposed their departure. They told me that they had gone in quest of me too far to the north, supposing me to be more advanced in my journey; but perceiving no traces either of my waggons or animals, and apprehensive that some accident had retarded me, they had thought proper to return, and had proceeded towards Krekenap.

With

With regard to the two oxen, they had perished by the way for want of pasturage. Perhaps my Hottentots themselves had occasioned their death by fatiguing them too much, and obliging them to carry a burthen of oil greater than their strength would admit. I was in a manner convinced of the truth of this suspicion: but, situated as I was, I did not think it right to dishearten them by reproaches. Who could have believed it? From the moment the party had quitted the whale, they had neither eaten nor drunk; but the passion for the oil, of which they had gone in pursuit, had rendered both hunger and fatigue supportable. They brought back about a hundred pounds weight; and there was nothing, as I conceive, that they regretted in this cruel disaster but the not having been able to bring the whale itself.

I was afraid so much as to examine the state of my caravan. From day to day it had become more deplorable, and my soul was filled with anguish and apprehension. It was not without effort that I could spur myself on to the review. I could, however, no longer dispense myself from ascertaining the number of oxen that were capable of being again put in harness.

harnesfs. Alas! it was dreadfully diminished, and I was obliged to leave one of my vehicles behind me in the desert. It was the first time such a misfortune had overtaken me; but there was no remedy, and my Africans advised me to submit. But this was not all: I knew not what was to become of us, whither we were to go, or to what point we were to direct our course. This was a new and more horrible source of disquietude. I cannot describe it in a more striking manner than by adding, that I despaired of being able to conceal these alarming circumstances from my companions, and therefore called them together and laid the whole of the case before them. By one, I was advised to return the way I had come, and to regain the Elephants-River: by another, to push on to that of *Swarte Dooren*, which was in reality not a river, but a canal made by some torrent; but which, from the late rains that had fallen, might perhaps supply us both with water and pasturage. The first of these projects was impracticable, and, so far from offering a resource, threatened destruction as well to ourselves as to our cattle, if we were rash enough to undertake it. We

should have, indeed, at the Elephants-River, though no pasturage, the consolation of water in abundance; but to return through the scorched plains we had left behind us, and to travel three days more, with such lean and exhausted animals, and in want too of every necessary, was more than could be effected though some god had been the charioteer. On the contrary, the other plan might plunge us still deeper perhaps in the abyss; but, concealed behind the veil of futurity, it was a resource that afforded us at least some food for our hopes.

Obliged to make a choice, I therefore gave the signal for advancing; and every thing was in motion for our departure. We abandoned the carriage, after taking such things from it as I conceived would be necessary for our use, and substituting in their stead some heavy boxes from the other two vehicles, in order to render them lighter. These articles I intended one day to recover, if circumstances proved favourable; and in the mean time I entrusted them to the care of heaven and the elephants. However, that no Hottentot hordes or planters from the frontiers, passing that way, might
save

save me this trouble, I ordered the carriage to be surrounded and even covered all over with the branches of trees, which gave it at a distance the appearance of a bush; and, as a farther precaution, my Hottentots took off one of the wheels and buried it at a distance in the earth.

We resumed our journey, and by patience, courage, and perseverance, arrived at last at *Schuit-Klip* (boat rock), but not without losing more of our oxen, though the distance we travelled was only two leagues and a half. *Schuit-Klip* is a small rock of an oval form, and, as its name implies, hollowed out like a boat. It contained a small quantity of water, and, to add to our felicity, of a most excellent kind. From the steepness of its borders, the quadrupeds in the neighbourhood were unable to trouble it, and it was not therefore spoiled like that of *Krakkeel-Klip*. For the same reason, my horses could not drink at this reservoir; but we drew from it a sufficiency to afford a little refreshment both to them and my oxen; and, always sanguine as to the future, I deferred till the next day the continuance of our journey. So many obstacles, however, that seemed incapable of being surmounted,

did not fail to damp my courage ; and though I assumed externally an air of tranquillity, and talked to my companions in a tone of cheerfulness, I was inwardly a prey to the most tormenting reflections. Swanepoel, better acquainted with my character and disposition, and possessing also more penetration than my dear Klaas, came to me to make a very fatal proposition, which was that of leaving behind me another of my vehicles. “ Your teams,” said he, “ are reduced to a state of debility, “ which requires that you should be as sparing “ of them as possible. Notwithstanding our “ cares to diminish the luggage, still, if they “ have two waggons to draw, I fear that before “ to-morrow night not a single ox will remain alive. In that case what will become “ of us? We are not far from the district of “ Klaas Baster, the man pointed out by Colonel Gordon as likely to be of use to us. Go “ in pursuit of him, continuing your journey “ with one waggon only. As you proceed, “ dispatch your people different ways through “ the country ; and if you are so happy as to “ find him, send us assistance. Give me only “ four men, and I will be answerable not only “ for

“ for the carriage you shall leave here, but also
“ for that which we abandoned at Krakkeel-
“ Klip.”

This advice was certainly, under such circumstances, the most reasonable that could be given. By husbanding the water of the rock, Swanepoel would have wherewith to supply the wants of his small detachment ; and some showers of rain might happen to fill and augment the cistern. I left with him, therefore, a supply of provisions ; removed into his wagon such heavy articles as were likely to embarrass me on my way, and addressed to him at my departure a word of admonition : “ My
“ dear Swanepoel,” said I, “ if my unlucky
“ stars, if the bad fortune which persecutes me
“ should bring hither a band of maroon Hot-
“ tentots, or plundering Boshmen, I expressly
“ forbid you to expose either your own life or
“ the lives of your companions ; let my car-
“ riage be robbed ; hasten immediately to
“ join me, and let me see you again as safe and
“ sound as I leave you.”

Of the fifty-four oxen with which I began my journey, thirty-one had died. The twenty-three that remained I divided into three teams,

convinced that eight would be sufficient for my waggon after it had been so much lightened. At the same time I took care to shorten the stages, and to proceed only a league without changing the team; and in this manner I arrived at *Oliphants-Kop* (Elephants-head).

This likewise is a rock that has acquired its name from its figure. I flattered myself that I should find water here as at *Schuit-Klip*, and there had actually been some in its different cavities; but, except a little moisture, it had all evaporated. My oxen, which had not drank during the whole day, and which, the evening before indeed, had only been supplied with a few drops, visited in vain all the clefts of the rock. So great was the distress of these poor animals, that, wherever they found moisture, they held their nostrils over it, as if refreshed by its exhalation, and endeavoured to lap up with their tongues the aqueous particles it might contain; while at the same time they pressed their sides and beat their tails against the cavity, seeking to imbibe relief at every pore. As for me, I had still a little water remaining in a jar, which I shared with the twelve Hottentots who accompanied me;
and

and we found another resource in my goats, as their milk was not yet dried up.

The heavy and continued rains we experienced, when proceeding along the banks of the Elephants-River, had not extended to the district of Oliphants-Kop; or, at least, if any had fallen here, as the cavities of the rock seemed to indicate, the quantity had been too small to produce any visible effect on vegetation.

The country every where around exhibited the most frightful sterility, nor did any thing seem to indicate a change. To the west was an immense plain, which, extending perhaps to the sea, presented, as far as the eye could reach, an uniform sheet of dry earth, interspersed here and there with a few oily plants only, and some withered and stunted bushes. At the east a long ridge of naked mountains gloomily bounded the horizon; and, in short, silence, dreariness, and desolation, prevailed on all sides.

In a situation less deplorable I had formerly been indebted for my safety to a bird, which, alighting upon a rock, had given me reason to conclude that it might contain water; and I

expected the same benefit here from flocks of moor-game, which I saw pass me in the air. With this hope I followed their flight with eager eyes; for I knew that these birds repair regularly twice a day to the water to drink and wash themselves: but conceive the despair in which I was plunged, when, flying at first from north to south, I saw them return in a contrary direction without stopping; which seemed to be an infallible sign that there was no spring, nor the smallest reservoir of water, any where in the neighbourhood. These birds, however, flew at such a prodigious height, that my sight could not long follow them; and all I could conclude from their passage was, that they were perhaps hastening to quench their thirst at the Elephants-River. No rock bird whatever alighted near us; which doubtless indicated that nature here was in a most forlorn state. Moor-fowl, in general, are inauspicious birds, because, living on seeds and insects, they are to be met with only in dry and scorched districts. I recollected that I had been under great alarm, during my first journey, by the circumstance of the numerous coveys of them I had seen in crossing the barren country of
Karaw,

Karaw, after leaving Snewberg, and that it had proved a sign equally certain of the sterility of the district: whereas neither in the fertile country of the Caffres, nor in the delightful groves of Auteniqua, had I ever observed a bird of this kind: a contrast that excited in my mind the most melancholy sensations.

We had arrived at Oliphants-Kop at so early an hour, that I hoped we should be able to proceed a few leagues farther before the close of the day; and I was the more resolved to do so, as, seeing neither pasturage nor water, it was necessary for me to trust to the chance of finding, at a greater distance, a more commodious spot for encamping. I gave orders therefore for our departure; but when my people began to harness my oxen, not one of them was found fit for service: they all lay down around the waggon so apparently exhausted, that there was reason to apprehend they would never rise again upon their legs.

What situation could be more dreadful? I saw myself obliged to pass the night in this parched and barren spot, where my cattle were about to perish for want of water and food, and we ourselves, in like manner, were tor-

mented with the most devouring thirst; and to add to this distress, not even the smallest hope presented itself of being able to extricate myself from my difficulties. Meanwhile, to leave no resource untried, I employed all my people, during the remaining part of the day, in searching every where in the neighbourhood, each in a different quarter, for holes and cavities which might have been filled with rain; and I went myself upon the same pursuit with my ape and my dogs: but we all returned, Hottentots and their master, one after another, dejected to the camp, with the same tidings upon our lips, "I have found nothing:"—dreadful tidings, that consigned us over to still farther sufferings and misery!

What a crowd of black and ill-omened ideas now rushed upon my mind! At sight of the deplorable situation of my unfortunate cattle, a deadly terror crept through my veins. The state of my Hottentots, from whom I had endeavoured to conceal a part of our evils, did not fail also to add to my torments; and I cursed a thousand times the blind confidence which had induced me to advance.

A desperate situation leads to the adoption
of

of desperate measures: I resolved therefore instantly to embrace the only expedient I had to pursue; which was, to abandon my third and last vehicle, together with the animals that remained, to distribute arms and ammunition among my people, and to proceed on foot to the Elephants-River with such of them as would agree to follow me.

This plan, with whatever difficulties it might be attended, was apparently the only rational one that remained: yet, when I proposed it to my Hottentots, not an individual approved of it. Convinced that the interruption of a journey, which they had seen me so anxious to accomplish, must occasion me the greatest mortification, they unanimously protested that they would never abandon me, and that they would cheerfully go on with me wherever I should think proper to lead them. At the same time each exhorted me to take courage, and to try my fortune once more, by proceeding a few leagues farther. Those who had gone in search of water towards the east assured me, by way of consolation, that there was a range of hills at the bottom of the mountains before us, and that the valleys between would perhaps afford

us excellent pasturage and abundance of water; while those who had gone out in the opposite direction had observed a cloud or two peeping above the horizon, from which they augured in their turn that a storm was not far distant, and that it would certainly make its appearance either during the night or to-morrow.

Under the immediate pressure of difficulties and danger, such vague conjectures inspired me with little confidence: but the affecting testimonies of attachment I had received, rendered less painful to me the thoughts of a dissolution, which I considered as rapidly approaching. I exhorted all my people to betake themselves to rest; and I retired myself to my waggon, where I spent the whole night in the most gloomy reflections. At break of day I was suddenly roused from my reverie by a clap of thunder, which confirmed, to demonstration, what had been announced by one of my Hottentots. I jumped with alertness from the carriage, and, by a natural movement, raised my hands in adoration towards the clouds, which the thunder seemed to be driving before it. My friends, transported like myself, ranged them-

themselves eagerly around me. In a moment the whole heavens were overcast, and the clouds blackened delightfully over our heads. My heart palpitated with joy and apprehension. I waited with the most eager impatience for the happy effects of the storm; every instant expecting it to descend upon us in a torrent of rain. Transient hopes! horrible, horrible joy! Scattered by the wind, the clouds disappeared from over our heads, and sunk below the horizon. This spectacle struck every one of us with so great a consternation, as to deprive us of all power of speech or motion. Despair became impressed upon the most resolute of my people; and the dead silence that followed, shewed how vain it was to call upon them for consolation or assistance.

During the night two of my oxen had died, and three of my dogs had deserted me. I lost also one of my horses, which I saw expire before my eyes. Thus was I losing one by one my whole flock of cattle; and I beheld them perish with the more regret, because, having shared in my fatigues, I had become attached to them as so many servants of my household. They approached slowly indeed to their last moments,

moments, but these moments were singularly painful. They were first seized with convulsions, which ended in a long and dreadful agony. Scarcely was one deprived of life than another became a sacrifice. Next after my horse, this unhappy lot fell upon the very best of my oxen; and of all my losses, this in particular occasioned me the greatest affliction. The reader will pardon me if I digress for a moment to tell him the reason.

I had given to this faithful servant the name of England. He was the oldest and strongest beast I possessed: accordingly he had successfully encountered the fatigue of my first journey, though, during the whole route, he had constantly occupied the thill to my heaviest and principal waggon. Distinguished by an instinct superior to the other animals of his species, my people, when they unharnessed him, gave themselves no concern to prevent him from escaping; he wandered at will in the pasture, and was committed, if I may so express myself, to the guidance of his own understanding; there was no fear that he would wander from the place. When it was time to travel another stage, it was unnecessary to fetch

him from the pasture, and bring him to the waggon, as was requisite for the rest: three smacks of the whip was our signal for march, and as soon as he heard them he came to his post. He was always the first to present himself to the traces, as if he had been afraid to lose his priority in a place which he had constantly been employed to occupy.

If I went out for exercise, or to hunt, at my return England, as far as he could see me, quitted his pasture, and ran towards me with a particular sort of bellowing, expressive of his joy. He rubbed his head against my body in different directions, and caressed me after his manner. Frequently he licked my hands; and I was constrained to stop long enough to receive his civilities, which sometimes lasted for a quarter of an hour. At length, when I had replied by my endearments and by a kiss, he led the way to my tent, and walked quietly before me.

The evening before he died, England laid down near the shaft of his waggon; and it was in this place he expired. I saw his last agonies, but was unable to render him the slightest assistance. Ah! how frequently, when
friend-

friendship has misled me, when seducing appearances have allured my confidence, have I thought of poor England, and involuntarily cast my eye upon the hand he had so often licked!

The rain which we had desired with so much earnestness having failed us, we were determined to quit our northern direction, and to return to the north-east, towards those passes in the mountains from which we expected our safety.

For twenty-four hours not one of us had tasted food. Not that we had been in any want of provisions; but we were apprehensive that eating would enhance our desire to drink. Thus exhausted with fatigue, worn out with watchfulness, and tormented with thirst, we resumed our journey and proceeded to the mountains.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.