

ing Mrs. Rycott quietly resume her place, and her knotting-needle, as if nothing had occurred; but she was used to this sort of scene—and knew the best remedy was near at hand. ‘The Devil’s in you all, I believe,’ exclaimed her husband, as he held both his hands to his head; in seeming apprehension of its bursting asunder. ‘Why don’t you run, Sirrah—and bring the fellow here neck and crop?’—By Jove, you are all in a conspiracy against me.’ Off ran Percy, happy in the opportunity of escaping. ‘Will the scoundrel never come?’—Ring again, woman—ring till the spring break—I’ll trounce the negligent puppy.—Aye, aye—it’s all over—I feel the effect of the bursting of that vessel.’ It was snuff, I assure you, Mr. Rycott.—‘Zounds! Mrs.—Mrs.—Rycott—leave the room, leave the room.—Aye, that’s right—ready at a word—go, go—and leave me to die under the paroxysm—that’s right—all proper—go, go—by Jove, you shan’t stay.’ Mrs. Rycott was returning—but again he had her go—and she went, as the tardy Schwartz made his appearance, who, walking slowly and methodically up to his master’s chair, demanded what was the matter. ‘Oh, Schwartz—my faithful fellow—I verily believe I am going off in earnest now.’ ‘Bah!’ ‘It’s no bah, Schwartz, I feel it here.’ ‘You feel’n t every where—vat the deivel ish the fagary you get—the kimmer meid com to me, and say her mashter ish ringing for life or de lead—and here you look plump and fraish like your own Anglisch rindfleish.’ ‘Plethora—plethora—be assured, my good Schwartz.’ ‘I’ll no be assured of no soch ding—your pulse beat von, two, dree—like de clock—and tish nodding but von great passion.’ ‘My head throbs, Schwartz, and there’s no pulsation at the heart.’ ‘Vat den, as de heart got into de head?’ ‘I must lose blood.’ ‘Loos the deivel—Doctore Dweezempate swear you bleed yourself into wasser—dat is drobzey.’ ‘What am I to do, Schwartz?’ ‘Noding ad all.’ ‘With this pulse?’ ‘Tish no pulse.’ ‘No pulse—then it’s all over with me indeed.’ ‘Tish no ower wid you—bein quiet, and no colda de weil’ and child.’ ‘I have no patience with these.’ ‘I zec—I know dat—quite a well enough.’ ‘They think nothing’s the matter with me.’ ‘Dere is noding de matter wid you—I say—and dat’s true.’ ‘Aye! Schwartz—but you are tender of me, and know my constitution.’ ‘Well, den, can not you be zatified?’ ‘I must be.’ ‘Eef you not yourself in soch grand passion, just for nodding at all.’ ‘For nothing at all?’ ‘I zay, most for nodding ad all—you vil borzt som lode vein.’ ‘My God!’ ‘Id ish true—pon mein zole.’ ‘I won’t—I won’t utter a word.’ ‘Nonsense—you speak ver well—but no speak in von passion.’ ‘I’ll try.’ ‘Mein Gode! you most do eet—or you shall die!’ ‘Die!’ ‘Like ein dog.’ ‘You may go, Schwartz.’ ‘I need note to hav com—dat zec.’

“And away stalked Mynheer Schwartz, who may, perhaps, have surprised certain of my readers, by the display of something like miraculous power in thus quelling a storm, which seemed to threaten a whole household with destruction. But let such be assured, that it was all in the natural course of things and events in this life. The notion of independence is one of those chimeras which germinate upon the pride of man. Even the Eastern mythologist, when he had acknowledged the earth to be dependant upon the elephant who bore it on his back;

and he again dependant upon the tortoise, who performed the part of a double atlas, was yet unable to make out a reasonable tale of independence in favour of the latter. There is, in fact, no such thing—surrounded by all that riches, rank, and health can supply, still is man dependant upon his fellow men, for all that essentially contributes to make up the sum of human happiness. This is too self-evident to require any illustration—but there is a species of dependance which is not so apparent to the common observer, and which peculiarly attaches to those who value themselves upon the power of rendering the world—politically or domestically speaking—subservient to their wishes and control.

“We have all read of tyrants and conquerors who mowed down nations—or heads—or whatever else might seem to stand in the way of their power—but if we look a little further, and penetrate behind the scenes, we shall generally find a minion, a favourite, or a mistress, who has firm hold on some one string, by which the despot himself is held, and worked at the will and pleasure of one of those—his chief DEPENDANTS!”

The stately old couple at Lacy Rhyal are not so entertaining as their testy neighbour and his quiescent wife; and indeed even were they so, our limits would prevent us from exhibiting them.

A scene with smugglers is, like most of the others, overdrawn into extravagance; and we have to censure many impure, though not indecent allusions, where females are concerned, and which do not appear essential to the wit of the dialogue. In action, the persons occasionally do what there is no good reason to suppose they would in like realities have done: as for instance, the ruin of her darling child by the inopportune claim urged to him by Judy Mallory; Percy’s refusal of all pecuniary aid from his quondam father when changed into his fond and affectionate friend, &c. &c. But still, on concluding these remarks, we may justly appreciate Percy Mallory among the Novels of the day which will interest and amuse the great majority of readers.

BURCHELL’S TRAVELS IN AFRICA.

To the description of Bushmen customs, &c. in our last, we promised to add some of the characteristic traits which appeared to us most worthy of notice, as exhibiting the regions through which Mr. B. travelled: and we proceed with this pleasing duty. He tells us—

“In our way over the plain, we fell in with an ostrich’s nest; if so one may call a bare concavity scratched in the sand, six feet in diameter, surrounded by a trench equally shallow, and without the smallest trace of any materials, such as grass, leaves, or sticks, to give it a resemblance to the nests of other birds. The ostriches to which it belonged must have been at that time feeding at a great distance, or we should have seen them so open a plain. The poor birds at their return would find that robbers had visited their home in their absence, for we carried off all their eggs. Within this hollow, and quite exposed, lay twenty-five of these gigantic eggs, and in the trench nine more, intended, as the Hottentots observe, as the first food of the twenty-five young ones. Those in the hollow, being designed for incubation, may often prove useless to the traveller, but the others on the outside will always be found fit for eating. In the present instance the whole number were equally good.

“The expedient resorted to by Speelman on a former occasion, was now adopted to a certain extent: after filling all our bags, the sleeves of their watch-coats and their second pair of trowsers were crammed full of eggs. It was considered as an auspicious omen, that at the commencement of our journey so valuable a prize had been placed in our way. Our faithful dogs were not forgotten in this division of the spoil; and their share, which we immediately broke into a bowl, was eaten up on the spot. . . .

“We made our dinner from the ostrich-eggs; each of the Hottentots eating a whole one, although containing, as already mentioned, as much food as twenty-four eggs of the domestic hen. It is therefore not surprising that I found myself unable to accomplish my share of the meal; even with the aid of all the hunger which a long morning’s ride had given me. The mode in which they were cooked, was one of great antiquity; for all the Hottentot race, their fathers, and their grandfathers’ fathers, as they express themselves, have practised it before them. A small hole the size of a finger was very dexterously made at one end, and having cut a forked stick from the bushes, they introduced it into the egg, by pressing the two prongs close together; then, by twirling the end of the stick between the palms of their hands for a short time, they completely mixed the white and the yolk together. Setting it upon the fire, they continued frequently to turn the stick, until the inside had acquired the proper consistence of a boiled egg. This method recommends itself to a traveller, by its expedition, cleanliness, and simplicity; and by requiring neither pot nor water; the shell answering perfectly the purpose of the first, and the liquid nature of its contents, that of the other.”

On a different occasion, two rhinoceroses were shot for food by Speelman, one of the Hottentots:

“As the hunting of a rhinoceros is attended with danger, he certainly had some reason to be proud, when he had in one day killed two of these formidable animals.

“His account of the affair was, that when they came to the place where the Bushmen expected to find them, the animals had changed their ground; but that it was not long before they discovered no fewer than four, feeding quietly on the bushes in another part of the plain. They advanced towards the creatures, at various distances, according to each man’s courage, but Speelman came the first within shot, and wounded one mortally. The other people coming up, fired till it had received seven balls, when it fell dead. He then went in pursuit of the other animals, which had fled over the hills; and having discovered one in the middle of the open plain, approached fortunately unperceived, and brought it down with a single ball: nor did he fail with exultation to remark, that he had on that day fired off his gun but twice, and at each time had killed a rhinoceros.

“This was not the first rhinoceros which Speelman had shot in the course of his life; and to prove his knowledge of these animals, and to save me the trouble of asking him questions, he voluntarily communicated all that he had learnt by his own experience. Their smell, said he, is so keen and nice, that they know, even at a great distance, whether any man be coming towards them; and on the first suspicion of this, take to flight. Therefore it is only by approaching them against the wind, or from the leeward, that the hunter can ever expect

to get within musket shot. Yet, in doing this, he must move silently and cautiously, so as not to make the least noise in the bushes, as he passes through them; otherwise *their hearing* is so exceedingly quick, that they would instantly take alarm, and move far away to some more undisturbed spot. But the dangerous part of the business is, that when they are thus disturbed, they sometimes become furious, and take it into their head to pursue their enemy: and then, if they once get sight of the hunter, it is impossible for him to escape, unless he possess a degree of coolness and presence of mind, which, in such a case, is not always to be found. Yet, if he will quietly wait till the enraged animal make a run at him, and will then spring suddenly on one side to let it pass, he may gain time enough for re-loading his gun, before the rhinoceros get sight of him again; which, fortunately, it does slowly and with difficulty. The knowledge of this *imperfection of sight*, which is occasioned perhaps by the excessive smallness of the aperture of the eye (its greatest length being only one inch,) in proportion to the bulk of the animal, encourages the hunter to advance without taking much pains to conceal himself; and, by attending to the usual precautions just mentioned, he may safely approach within musket-shot. This creature seems to take as much pleasure in wallowing in the mud, as the hog. As far as my own experience enables me to speak, I can attest the correctness of Speelman's remarks.

"The present animal was a male of large size, but being nearly cut up when I arrived, I was unable to ascertain its particular dimensions. No hair whatever was to be seen upon it, excepting at the edge of the ears, and on the extremity of the tail. Our *bullets*, though cast with an admixture of tin to render them harder, were flattened, or beat out of shape, by striking against the bones; but those which were found lodged in the fleshy part, had preserved their proper form; a fact which shows how little the hardness of this creature's hide corresponds with the vulgar opinion, of its being impenetrable to a musket-ball. It is however to be admitted, that bullets of pure lead, fired from too great a distance, or with too weak a charge of powder, will sometimes fail to penetrate the skin, and fall flattened from the animal's side, should they happen to strike one of the thicker parts of the hide, or where a coating of mud has dried fast upon it. This skin, when dry and formed into shields, may possibly turn a ball; as it is then become so much harder than when alive. In cutting up this rhinoceros, my people found one bullet more than they had fired: it appeared to have lain in the flesh a considerable time. This animal therefore had probably lived formerly within the Colony, but having been hunted and wounded by the Boors, it had, though in vain, sought refuge beyond the boundary.

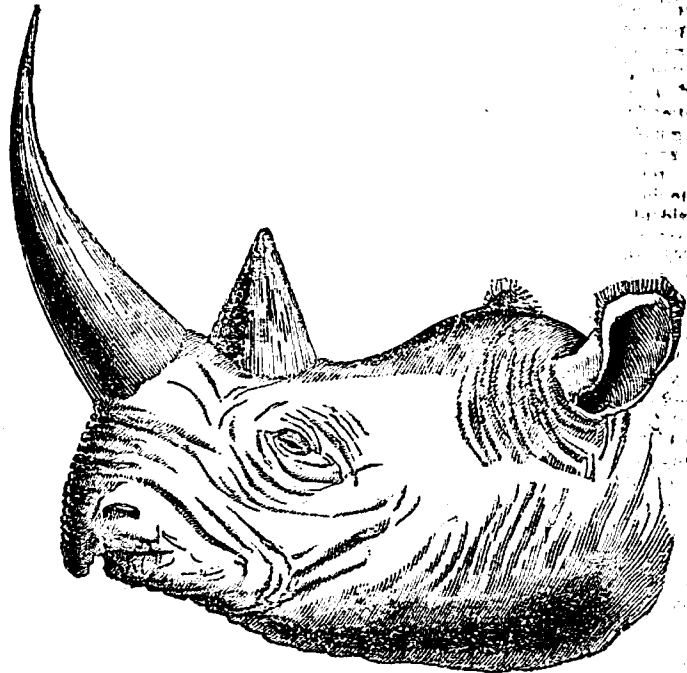
"On each side of the carcass the Hottentots had made a fire to warm themselves; and round a third fire, not fewer than twenty-four *Bushmen* were assembled, most of whom were actively employed the whole night long, in broiling, eating and talking. I watched them with astonishment: it seemed that their appetite was insatiable; for no sooner had they broiled and eaten one slice of meat, than they turned to the carcass and cut another. I scarcely think that they allowed themselves any time for sleep. Some of the natives whom I had seen at the dance, were

among the number of those who assisted at this nocturnal feast.

"The meat of the rhinoceros was excellent, and had much of the taste of beef; and although the flesh of this, which was an old animal, was somewhat tough, perhaps on account of being but just killed; yet that of the female, being fatter, proved exceedingly well-tasted and wholesome. The tongue would have been pronounced a dainty treat, even by an epicure. - - -

Next morning, "Taking with me one of the Hottentots, and some Bushmen as guides,

I crossed the rocky hills on the west, and descended into a dry and extensive plain, thinly covered with low bushes. In the middle of this we found the *second rhinoceros*; at which Speelman, with a party of natives, had arrived an hour earlier, to prevent its being cut up before I had seen and examined it. I immediately proceeded to make drawings, both in front and in profile. The animal lay in a position very favourable for this purpose; having fallen on its knees, and remaining nearly in the same attitude as when alive.



"The first view of this beast suggested the idea of an enormous hog, to which, besides in its general form, it bears some outward resemblance in the shape of its skull, the smallness of its eyes, and the proportionate size of its ears: but in its shapeless clumsy legs and feet, it more resembles the hippopotamus and elephant. It is, in fact, in many less obvious particulars, closely allied to all these; and by later naturalists, has been well arranged in the same class with them.*

"Its length over the forehead and along the back, from the extremity of the nose to the insertion of the tail, was eleven feet and two inches of English measure; but in a direct line, not more than nine feet three inches. The tail, which at its extremity was complicated, or flattened vertically, measured twenty inches; and the circumference of the largest part of the body, eight feet and four inches. On examining its mouth, I found, agreeably to common opinion, no incisive or fore teeth in either jaw: in the upper jaw on each side, were five large grinders, and a smaller one at the back; but in the lower, there were six grinders besides the small back tooth."

"* Of this species of rhinoceros, we shot nine in the course of these travels; besides a smaller one. This has been presented to the British Museum."

Honey was also found, and formed a pleasing variety for the palate. It was devoured in the comb, and "some of the Hottentots professed to be equally fond of the larva, or young imperfect bees."! The quakka too was eaten. When one was shot and "brought home, it was so warmly praised by my Hottentots, as being excellent *meat*, that I ordered a steak to be broiled for my dinner. The novelty, and my own curiosity, must have had some influence on this occasion, since I was induced to consider it good and palatable. It was tender, and possessed a taste which seemed to be between that of beef and mutton. I made from it several meals: but this was the only time when I ate of quakkas or zebras from pure choice; for, I confess, I could not, with respect to these animals, resist altogether the misleading influence of prejudice and habit; and allowed myself, merely because I viewed this meat as horseflesh, to reject food which was really good and wholesome. In this respect, the Hottentots are much wiser than the Boors, who reject it for the same reason with myself, but who, nevertheless, hunt these animals for the use of their Hottentots and slaves. On all subsequent occasions, when necessity compelled me to eat of it, the fat, which was yellow and oily, always smelt rather strong and disagreeable; but I cannot

sert that such food was ever found to be wholesome."

The following passages are connected with the animal details:

"As we advanced we saw at a distance round us, in every quarter, innumerable herds of wild animals, quietly grazing like tame cattle. Quakkas, springbucks, kанныs, and hartebeests on all sides, was a sight we had never before seen during our whole journey; and Philip immediately mounting the horse, took a circuit for the purpose of cutting off the retreat of the nearest herd.

"In the mean time we halted: this gave us an opportunity of noticing the footmarks of lions. Our Bushmen added their advice to keep close watch over our cattle, as we were now entering a part of the country where those formidable beasts were known to bound. This fact might, without having seen the footmarks, or without incurring much risk of being mistaken, have been inferred from the great numbers of wild animals just observed: for, where no game is to be seen, there no lions are to be feared: since these, it is evident, can live only in those parts of the country where they can procure daily food. Travellers, therefore, who are obliged to depend upon the chase for their support, will consider the dangers and inconvenience of lions, to be more than counterbalanced by the advantage of abundance of game. . . . As soon as twilight began to advance, we heard the lions roaring at a distance, and commencing their nightly prowling. . . .

"In the early part of the night, the jackals at a little distance were yelping around us; and, although they might not have filled the office of a lion's provider,* vulgarly assigned to them, yet I had no doubt of their having attentively performed the duties of clearing their royal master's table. To prevent him making his supper-room in the midst of our oxen, we kept several fires burning all night.

"In the morning we were visited by four Bushmen; to whom, according to my custom, I made a present of some tobacco. In their way to us, they happened to pass by the spot where a lion had last night been preying upon a quakka: they found every part of the carcase devoured, excepting the feet, which they brought away with them; these being all that the jackals had left. . . .

"The dogs most common among the Bushmen, are a small species entirely white, with erect pointed ears: and as this sort was not noticed in the Colony, it is probably a breed which may have been long in the possession of the native tribes. . . .

"We did not discover any fish in these waters; but observed a very pretty and new species of frog of a green colour, and marked by a longitudinal yellow stripe on its back, and by transverse stripes of brown on its hind legs. It was further distinguished by its silence, or at least by croaking very seldom. Whether this silence be only occasional, or a constant character throughout the year, I could, as a traveller, have no opportunity of ascertaining."

The following fact affords an extraordinary idea of the state of vegetation in these parts. On the 25th of February, Mr. B. remarks,

"I now looked in vain for that rosy wild flower-garden which decorated these plains on our former visit to the Asbestos Mountains. It had totally disappeared; and so astonishingly, and almost incredibly rapid, is the progress of vegetation in these regions, with respect to bulbous flowers, that in the

short space of ten days the beautiful lilies, then observed just coming into bloom, had completed their flowering, and ripened their seed; the flower-stems were dried up, had parted from the roots, and were nearly all blown away. . . .

At a small kraal of Bushmen, which lay on Mr. B.'s route—

"Their chief, or captain, was distinguished in a manner so singular, that my Hottentots were highly diverted at the ridiculous insignificance of his rank; and, as they could not clearly understand his proper name, gave him that of *Oud Kraai-kop** (Old Crow-head,) as he wore the head of a crow fixed upon the top of his hair.

"It will be immediately perceived that this mode of ornamenting the head, corresponds with the ancient custom of distinguishing men in armour, by some figure placed as the crest of their helmet. Should therefore the science of heraldry ever be introduced among the Bushmen, the family of the *Kraaikops* would hereafter be distinguished by the crow-head as their crest; but what should be emblazoned on their shield, or whether the field should be gules, or vert, or sable, can only be determined by the learned men of their own tribe. . . .

"The captain of this kraal, having heard of our killing the two rhinoceroses for Kaabi, requested me to stop a day longer, and hunt for him also. But fearing to establish a custom which would hereafter prove extremely inconvenient to us, as it might lead every kraal to expect that we should do the same for them, I thought it most prudent at once to refuse Old Crowhead; though at the same time I promised him a share of whatever we might chance to kill on the road, if he would allow some of his people to accompany us for the purpose of carrying it back. On which he ordered an old man and his son to attend us.

"Both these people being excessively thin, and apparently reduced to that state by want of food, they immediately received from my Hottentots the names of *Oud* and *Klein*, *Magerman* (Old, and Young, Lean-man.) It seemed to be an act of charity to take these poor creatures with us, that we might feed them plentifully for a few days.

"The Hottentots, and, perhaps, all the tribes of Southern Africa, have a custom of thus giving names to strangers when they are of a different nation from themselves. This arises chiefly from the difficulty which they find, either in pronouncing, or in remembering, a name to which their ear has never been accustomed, or the meaning of which they do not understand."

* This fellow's Hottentot name is half classical, *Teuro duce*.

Horæ Jocosæ, or The Doggrel Decameron. By Joseph Lunn, Esq. 12mo. pp. 199. London, 1823. Whittakers.

WHEN low obscenity shall be accounted wit, and gross indecency shall pass current for humour, these doggrel tales (in imitation of Colman) may be thought witty and humorous. Till then, they cannot be read; and are dull, pointless, wretched trash, destitute of every merit, and even of the miserable quality of being original in their illth. How any man who writes himself Esquire on his title page, could utter such trash, we are at a loss to imagine; and how a respectable publisher could sanction it with his name, astonishes us still more. Had we been asked to guess the probable consequence of such an offence

against good manners and morals, as the author has committed, we should have anticipated that the Sheriff of London, instead of aiding and abetting the culprit, would have ex officio superintended his whipping in the Press-yard at the Old Bailey.

Keneswilha; or, Corfe Castle. 8vo. pp. 424. London, 1823. Hurst, Robinson, & Co.

THE Tale is above the common run of circulating Novels,—moral, and with much of good principle conveyed in easy language. The scene is laid principally in Corfe Castle, of which there is a very pretty vignette in the title page. The period is during the reign of Ethelred the Unready; and the struggles of the Saxons with their Danish enemies are worked up with a sufficient degree of interest and historical truth.

SCHMIDTMEYER'S TRAVELS IN CHILE.

AGREEABLY to our promise, we continue the illustration of this not unentertaining quarto. We have already noticed the expertness of the natives in catching cattle, horses, &c. with the *lazo*, or looped string: the author has a print of this; and adds, that nothing can give an adequate idea of the cruelty with which animals are treated in these parts;

"Whilst the lazed beast is held fast by the horse and kicking, another horseman flings a noose at its hind legs and entangles them: both the horses then are made to draw the ropes tight, and the ox, no longer able to struggle, is hamstrung with an axe: its throat is at last cut, and the carcase hacked lengthways into three pieces, which are hung up in carts, and carried to the beef markets."

But their barbarity is not confined to animals, for, says Mr. S.—

"The Santa Fenes were, at this time, at war with the Buenos-ayrians: it was waged on a small scale, but with the greatest animosity. A postmaster of the former party requested us to walk with him to some kind of garden near his house; and there, under a tree, with a savage exhibition of pleasure on his countenance, he shewed us thirty or forty dead Buenos-ayrians, whom he had collected and lain in a heap round the stem, with their clothes still on, the flesh having been carried off by the atmosphere and birds of prey."

Our author was glad to travel full gallop as fast as possible through this striking country; and no wonder that he rejoices in his approach to the tremendous Andes, where nature is less outraged by man. Some part of the chain was seen at the distance of two hundred and fifty miles; and Mr. S. continues,

"— or might be supposed to stand on the borders of Scotland, and we, in London, looking at it. But the Andes can be seen at a still greater distance: the Abbé Molina mentions three hundred miles; and a gentleman, on whose testimony I may rely, has twice seen them, without a glass, from some spot near the Punta of San Luis, rising considerably above the horizon, a distance which, in England, would remove the sight of them from Scotland to the Isle of Wight: or, if placed by the side of Mount Blanc, would render them visible at Paris.

"Here then, and in height, when the distance is considered, the Alps already sink into insignificance; but not in beauty; for, the summit of Mount Blanc, seen from the spot which I have mentioned, with the tops of Mount Rosa and of some other high moun-