

TO

DR. JAMES BURNES, F.R.S.,

THE NARRATIVE OF A HUNTING EXPEDITION FROM THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

THROUGH

THE TERRITORIES OF THE CHIEF MOSELEKATSE,

TO THE

TROPIC OF CAPRICORN.

BY

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CHAPTER X.

FROM MERITSANE TO MIMORI, AND HUNTING ON THE
MOLOPO.

CONTINUING our journey on the 14th October, twenty-eight miles, through a beautiful country abounding with trees and grass, we reached the Lotlokane, the shallow channel of a periodical river, said in the rainy season to contribute its mite to the Molopo, which it joins at some distance to the westward. At this season it was perfectly dry; but we had fortunately found a small pool of water on the road, at which we breakfasted, after killing several hartebeests and sassaybes. The skins of both these animals, and especially of the latter, are in great demand amongst the savages, for *kobos*, or fur cloaks—both on account of their brilliant colour and their supple nature. They are cured by means of continual rubbing, stretching and scraping; and for this purpose are constantly carried about, and referred to as an amusement in moments of leisure. The operation is rendered less tedious by the constant addition of grease; and less irksome, by savage howlings and gruntings, intended to pass current for singing.

The sassaybe, or crescent-horned antelope, and the caama, hartebeest, are both members of the Acronotine group, and are alike remarkable for their elevated withers, drooping hind quarters, and triangular form. The colour of the former is a pompadour or purple violet, and of the latter bright orange; their legs and faces being eccentrically

formed, then emptied its contents upon us; the rain pouring down like a sluice for five minutes, and obliging us to seek shelter in the waggons. Ceasing as abruptly as it commenced, we passed on at once to parched and dusty land, from a tract which had in an instant become covered with pools of water.

It was nearly dark when we reached the Molopo, a few miles below its source. This river, which forms the western boundary of Moselekatse's territory, exhibits a broad shallow bed, covered with turf traversed by a deep stream about ten yards wide, completely overgrown with high reeds. The soil on both sides is black, spread with luxuriant grass, and detached clumps of acacia. We crossed, and encamped on the northern bank, under a solitary tree, around which was a ready-made fence for the cattle. During the night, the obtrusive visit of a hippopotamus—of which amphibious animals there are abundance in the river—caused great consternation: Richard screaming, and the Hottentots expending their ball-cartridge as usual.

The two following days were spent in hunting the eland and gemsbok.* The latter which is doubtless the animal from which the delineations of the fabulous unicorn have descended, is one of the most magnificent antelopes in the universe. Although common in Namaqua-land, it is rare in this part of the country, and we were fortunate in finding three, one of which I succeeded in riding down: nearly, however, sacrificing my best horse in the arduous achievement. The oryx is about the size of an ass, and nearly of the same ground colour, with a black list stripe down the back and on each flank; white legs variegated with black bands; and a white face, marked with the figure of a black nose-band and head-stall, imparting altogether to the animal the appearance of being clad in half mourning. Its copious

* *Oryx Capensis*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

black tail literally sweeps the ground : a mane reversed, and a tuft of flowing black hair on the breast, with a pair of straight slender horns (common to both sexes), three feet in length, and ringed at the base, completing the portrait. During the chase, I passed under the noses of three rhinoceroses, which, on my return, I was unable to find. Richardson had fallen in with a troop of five lions, one of which he wounded, but being deserted by the Hottentots, was unable to follow among the brushwood ; and my horse was so completely exhausted, that I was obliged to drag him home, carrying the saddle myself.

Prodigious swarms of locusts passed overhead to the eastward during the greater part of the day, and were followed by such dense flights of birds as almost to darken the air. The *springhaan-vogel*,* as the latter is called by the colonists, is about the size of a swallow, with numerous speckles like the starling, and is said to subsist almost exclusively upon the destructive insects with which it literally vies in point of numbers. The ravages committed by the locust, whose desolating visits have been the theme of naturalists and historians in all ages, have too probably been witnessed by the majority of my Indian readers ; but Africa, more especially the northern parts of it, would appear to be a quarter of the globe even more frequently and more severely subjected to the scourge of their inroads than Asia. Often have the lands on the frontier of the colony been totally laid waste by their migratory swarms, which, as usual, have been followed by all the horrors of famine ; whilst to the wandering Bushman, who has neither flocks nor herds to perish for lack of nourishment—no garden nor corn-fields of which to lament the devastation, the intrusion, so appalling to the grazier and agriculturist, proves a source of joy rather than of sorrow. Following up their devouring hosts, he feeds

* *Anglicé*, Locust-bird.

upon them as they advance, and preserving also a large quantity for future emergencies, finds in the insect army a ready and ample compensation for the wild game which has been compelled to abandon the ravaged pastures of the wilderness. Their hereditary enemies are also numerous; almost every animal, domestic as well as wild, contributes to their destruction—fowls, horses, oxen, sheep, and antelopes, alike swallowing them with the greatest avidity.

The night of the 17th was rainy and tempestuous; and the lions, never failing to take advantage of such an opportunity, prowled round the camp, roaring in concert with the sighing of the reeds, which so alarmed the cattle that they thrice broke loose, and were recovered with difficulty. There was nothing, however, to prevent our resuming our journey in the morning, the thirsty earth having completely absorbed the deluge that had fallen. Our road lay across a plain, with isolated groves of acacia, and we frequently passed over a solid pavement of granite. Visiting the scene of the gembok's humiliation, and searching amongst a low belt of wooded hillocks, which skirted a part of the road, I found a fine fat eland, which I drove into the plain, and, assisted by Richardson, brought up to the waggons, and then despatched, the caravan being immediately halted. We frequently afterwards adopted this plan, which saved the trouble of carrying the meat from a distance; and the unfortunate animal once blown, was much more manageable than a Smithfield ox.

Andries having donned his best apparel, here proposed to proceed on horseback to Mosega, in order to apprise the king of our approach—an offer which we gladly accepted. From this point, the summits of distant ranges of hills could be distinguished, across extensive plains covered with grass waving to the breeze, which stretched away to the northward and eastward, far as the eye could reach. On the left, the

low range of hillocks, already noticed, terminated at some distance in several detached hills—some conical, others table-topped—the white slabs on the sides of these strongly contrasting with the black charred bushes which grew amongst the crevices. A large portion of the country had been set on fire a few weeks before, in order to clear off the withered grass, and the bountiful thunder-clouds having caused the young green blades to make their appearance, large herds of game had been attracted to the spot. At the gorge of these hills was an extensive line of pit-falls, into one of which a hartebeest, whose leg I had broken, fell as I was riding him down — my horse being nearly engulfed in a second, at the same moment. During the day I killed another Impofo, which actually measured nineteen hands two inches at the shoulder, and was even more remarkably unwieldy than any we had hitherto seen.

Our road was now sometimes over a rocky pavement, at others over ground which threatened the destruction of the waggons, large stones more than a foot in height, offering sharp sides and projecting points, were firmly fixed in the ground, and added to careless driving, threw the vehicles from side to side with a violence that shook every spoke. About 4 o'clock we halted at the Mimori River, only five miles from Mosega. A chain of lakes to the left of our camp contained a herd of wild buffaloes,* whose formidable heads, resembling masses of rock, were protruded from the water amid waving sedges, the whole of their bodies being immerged. I wounded one, which I attempted to ride down; but the sharp-pointed stones cutting the shoeless feet of my horse to pieces, I brought him back to the waggons dead lame.

* *Bubalus Caffer*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

CHAPTER XI.

ARRIVAL AT MOSEGA, THE CAPITAL OF THE CHIEF
MOSELEKATSE.

LATE in the evening we were agreeably surprised by the auspicious arrival of four Matabili warriors from Mosega, bringing a civil message from the deputy-governor, who, in the absence of His Amazooloo Majesty, and of his prime-minister Kalipi, had been apprized by Andries of our advent. Tall, straight, well-proportioned, and of regular features, these men, although of very dark complexion, were far superior in appearance to any tribe that we had hitherto seen. Their heads were shaven, and surmounted by an oval ring attached to the scalp; a large perforation in the lobe of one ear receiving a small gourd snuff-box. Their dress consisted of a leathern girdle, with a few strips of cat-skin attached to the front and rear; and each was armed with two short javelins, and a knobbed stick used for throwing. We made them heartily welcome to our fireside—filled their stomachs with beef, and their boxes with snuff, and left them making their nests among the sheltered bushes on the river bank. A strong disagreeable wind setting in, completely destroyed the fire; and after we had retired, it increased to such a perfect hurricane that sleep was out of the question. Our waggon was carefully closed and drawn up under the shelter of a superb grove of trees; yet the bitter blast that howled without, cut so keenly through the blankets, that it penetrated even to the marrow of our bones. I wrapped my sheep-skin coverlet closer about me, without

any sensible advantage; and my companion, after successively inducting himself into every article of wearing apparel upon which he could put his hand, still declared himself as cold as ice.

At daybreak the mercury in Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at forty-four degrees, yet to the bodily feelings, the air was still much colder than we had felt it when down to eighteen degrees. We crossed the deep sedgy stream of the Mimori, and ascending to a higher level, were presently met by his Excellency the Deputy-Governor, a tall athletic savage of commanding appearance, blind of the left eye. His attire was of the nature already described, and saving that he was unarmed, differed in no respect from that of his attendants. A general greeting and hand-shaking ensued—the snuff-box circulated briskly, and we all became capital friends.

Smoking is not a fashionable vice amongst the Matabili, but all classes are passionately addicted to snuffing—indeed the sharing the contents of your box with a stranger, is the greatest compliment that can be paid to him. The mode of taking it is not unworthy of notice. One-half of the powder having been transferred to the palm of the hand, by means of a small ivory spoon, which is usually hung round the neck, the recipient leisurely seats himself under a convenient bush—drawing every grain into his nostrils at once, with an eagerness which, although followed by a copious flood of tears, proves the extent of the enjoyment afforded. Worse than barbarian would that man be esteemed, who would wantonly interrupt a social party so employed.

After travelling about five miles, over undulating downs, covered with luxuriant grass, we descended into a lovely and fertile valley, in form resembling a basin, of ten or twelve miles in circumference, bounded on the north and north-east by the Kurrichane range of mountains, and containing

CHAPTER XIV.

FROM MOSEGA TO THE KURRICHANE MOUNTAINS.

LEAVING the Mission-house on the 22nd October, and re-passing the town of Mosega, within the fence of which we saw Erasmus's captured waggons, our road wound for some distance, in a north-westerly direction, amongst numerous Matabili villages, having all the same form and appearance, though varying considerably in size and extent. A circular thorn fence, six or eight feet in height, with only one entrance, encloses a sloping area; around the circumference of which the dwellings or huts are constructed. The cattle are kept during the night in the space so surrounded. The domiciles are paltry low wigwams, of a circular form, having one small doorway directed towards the centre; it is of very narrow dimensions, barely affording space for a man to crawl through upon his hands and knees. Crowds of women and children poured down from each kraal as we passed, holding out their hands and then placing their noses in the hollow of the palm, snuffing and sneezing violently, as a hint that they required *Qui*, or snuff, for which, to them the greatest of all luxuries, they became as usual extremely clamorous. We saw comparatively few men, the larger proportion of the able-bodied being absent with Kalipi on the commando against the emigrant farmers. The Missionaries estimated this force to consist of near five thousand warriors.

On the north and north-east, the Kurrichane range of mountains rose in majestic grandeur, a great treat to us after the extensive unvaried flat over which we had travelled since

leaving Kuruman, and indeed almost ever since passing the Sneuwbergen. The cultivated land in all parts of the basin was extensive; and countless herds of sleek oxen were grazing on the slopes. Our one-eyed friend, the deputy-governor, who was exceedingly reluctant to leave such amiable society, had taken his seat on the fore-chest of the leading waggon, having first paid Cœur de Lion the compliment of removing his camlet cloak, and enveloping his own greasy person therein as a protection against the cold, which was far from moderate. The old man's elliptically crowned bald pate protruding above the high collar, contrasted with the grotesque solemnity of his deportment, had a sufficiently ludicrous appearance. Baba, the interpreter, had brought two horses, one of which he rode. Piet, who fancied himself at the point of death, had composed himself upon my cot, of which he held the monopoly for several days; and the two savages who had announced our advent to the king, accompanied us as guides, or more correctly speaking, as spies. These fellows rendered themselves particularly obnoxious during the whole journey, by their peremptory interference in our affairs, as well as by their offensive familiarity. They often clambered into our beds without ceremony, and obtruded themselves stark naked when least required.

We unyoked for breakfast on the bank of one of the numerous streams that here form the source of the Mariqua a river of which I shall have occasion frequently to speak. A spacious and level valley, hemmed in on three sides by the skirting hills of the Kurrichane range, was intersected by three or four of these rivulets, whose serpentine course could be traced by the sedges that rose high above their banks. As soon as the governor had completed his breakfast, and the waggons were ready to proceed, the extension of his excellency's greasy hand announced his intention of leaving us and returning to Mosega. A severe *pump-*

handling, and the presentation of two bunches of beads to himself, and a brass-wire collar to his little son, whilst it firmly cemented our friendship, terminated our acquaintance for ever, under a parting assurance, that he had made a favourable report of us to his royal master, who was, he said, "*Monanti, Monanti, Monanti,*" or in plain English, the most gracious of sovereigns.

As the waggons proceeded, we turned off the road in search of a rhinoceros, and speedily became so entangled in a labyrinth of thorn fences, newly constructed to entrap game, that we had great difficulty in extricating ourselves. Stiff thorn branches, too high to be surmounted, were firmly fixed in the ground, and so entwined amidst a dense grove of mimosas, that after fruitless endeavours to force a passage in various places, we found that we had ridden completely round the enclosure, to the point at which we had first entered.

In the course of two hours the waggons had reached the termination of the plain, and were beginning to ascend the ridge which bounds the valley of Mosega. We shortly afterwards entered a pass, or gap, which conducted us between two ranges of the Kurrichane hills; the slopes on either side were covered with stately trees, from which depended clusters of moss and festoons of various parasitic plants. The ground was broken and stony, and in parts abounded with deep holes. In the act of killing a sassaybe, my horse put his feet into one of these, and came down with frightful violence, cutting my knees and elbows to the bone, breaking his own nose, and, what was a far greater misfortune, and one that I had long anticipated, fracturing the stock of my only and especially favourite rifle. I could have wept, if the doing so would have availed anything. A strip of the sassaybe's hide rectified the damage, for the present at least; and having packed the flesh in the waggon, we continued wind-

ing among the hills, constantly assured by the guides that the kraal at which they had resolved we should pass the night, was close at hand, but still not reaching it until we had travelled full thirty miles from Mosega, by which time it was fairly dark. At last we perceived fires in the valley beneath us, and soon drew up under the fence of a little village, constructed as usual on a slope.

Scarcely were the oxen unyoked, when the clouds, which had been collecting for some hours, burst at once upon our devoted heads. Deafening claps of thunder pealed above us, preceded by forked and vivid lightning, which cast upon the surrounding landscape a lurid and almost incessant glare. The windows of heaven were literally opened, and a pelting pitiless deluge descended, which in an instant extinguished the fire, and put an end to all culinary operations. We, however, succeeded in obtaining a little milk from the village, and in a few minutes Morpheus strewing his poppies over us, we ceased to trouble our heads about the state of the weather, or our soaking supperless condition.

A tranquil morning succeeded the most tempestuous of nights. The inhabitants of the kraal were anxious that we should shoot a rhinoceros, which they pretended to have seen in a thick thorn jungle at no great distance; but although we sacrificed one-half of our raiment in the attempt to oblige them, the animal was no where to be found. The road still wound among the mountains; three hours' travelling brought us to a kraal at no great distance from the ancient town of Kurrichane, in which Mr. Campbell found the Baharootzi about ten years ago. This once populous city was destroyed by Moselekatse, and the inhabitants scattered in various directions. Here the guides declared it was the king's command that we should tarry until the following day, when he expected to see us. But as the royal

lodge was still far distant, we obstinately insisted upon continuing our journey after breakfast, so as to get clear of the hills in the course of the day; and were accordingly preparing to start when a herald, called in the Matabili language, *Imbongo*, a proclaimer of the king's titles, suddenly made his appearance outside the kraal, to give us a little insight into his Majesty's biography. Advancing slowly towards the waggons, he opened the exhibition by roaring and charging, in frantic imitation of the king of beasts—then placing his arm before his mouth, and swinging it rapidly in pantomimic representation of the elephant, he threw his trunk above his head and shrilly trumpeted. He next ran on tiptoe imitating the ostrich; and lastly, humbling himself into the dust, wept like an infant. At each interval of the scene, he recounted the matchless prowess and mighty conquests of his illustrious monarch, and made the hills re-echo with his praise. He was a brawny athletic savage, upwards of six feet in height, naked as he was born. Frenzied by his energetic gesticulations, the perspiration trickled from his greasy brow, and white foam descended in flakes from his distorted mouth, whilst his eye glared with excitement.

The road now became almost impassable—large trees overhung the way, and threatened the destruction of the waggon tents; we proceeded very slowly, and narrowly escaped being upset, the jungle becoming more and more intricate as we advanced. Game-traps and pit-falls were to be seen through every avenue, many of the thorn fences extending across the path, and impeding the waggons until cut away with the hatchet. A party of six natives had followed our tracks and volunteered to show a giraffe.* I emerged under their guidance from the forest we were threading, into a wide plain, on which I saw, for the first

* *Camelopardalis Giraffa*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

time, the footsteps of four of these gigantic quadrupeds, but no living objects, save a few sassybes, one of which I foolishly shot, when four of my savages immediately slunk behind to eat him. I was much struck with the *spoor* or track of the camelopard—it was different from everything I had seen or imagined it would resemble. The largest impression was eleven inches in length, of parallelogramatic form, tapered at the toe, and rounded at the heel. I felt singular satisfaction in finding myself at length treading on ground imprinted with the recent footsteps of that extraordinary animal.

I had by this time ridden far in advance of the waggons, and as night was fast closing around, I began to be apprehensive that I should have to bivouac in the bush. The savages appeared to contemplate the same contingency, and evinced a vast longing to join their companions, who had wisely remained with the flesh-pots. I gave them by signs to understand that I disapproved of such a measure, and we all pushed on as briskly as possible. A contumacious rhinoceros* was standing directly in our path, and, although hailed repeatedly, refused to make way. There was just light sufficient to admit of my discharging both barrels of my rifle into his unwieldy sides. Sneezing violently, and wheezing, he ran off in the direction we were taking, and presently subsided in the path. We approached him with caution, but he was dead. At the same moment a discharge of musketry, and a bright beacon fire bursting forth, directed our benighted steps to the encampment. It was at the termination of the forest, and not more than two hours' journey from the residence of the king.

* *Rhinoceros Africanus*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of South Africa.

CHAPTER XVIII.

DEPARTURE FROM KAPAIN, AND ARRIVAL AT THE
MARIQUA RIVER.

WE had been some time ready to depart on the morning of the 26th October, ere the king made his appearance. This he at length did, limping, and attended by the whole of his court. Andries, ever ready to create mischief, lost no time in spreading a report that he had overheard the discussions at a council held the preceding evening, when it had been determined to revoke the permission granted us to depart by the Vaal River—a measure to which the ministers were very averse. The chairs having been put away in the waggons, we conducted the king to his old seat on Richardson's bed. In the act of ascending to this post of honour, having to climb over the chest which contained my wardrobe, he opened it eagerly, and darting his hand into the medley, triumphantly clawed up a pair of thick shooting shoes, which, unfortunately fitting him exactly, I was compelled to make a sacrifice of, at the risk of returning bare-footed to the colony. He now stated for our information, that his lameness had been occasioned by the tightness of the shoes he had taken the preceding day, and obstinately worn until they had raised large blisters on the royal heels. Having desired an attendant to advance with a very handsome weasel-skin cloak, which I had seen him wearing the day before in the kraal, he invested me with the greasy robe, saying that I looked

very cold, and must keep it as a token of his friendship. A similar speech to Richardson was accompanied with a leopard-skin girdle. Determined not to be out-done in generosity, we presented him in return with a rich Persian carpet, which had formed the basis of my bedding, This being spread on the ground, had the desired effect of enticing him down from his seat, with the design of inspecting it narrowly, and we instantly gave orders to yoke the oxen, which had purposely been kept close to the wag-gons.

Having informed his Majesty that we were ready to start, and the whips being cracked, he accompanied us a considerable distance—at last stopping, and extending his hand, when a general leave-taking took place, the word "*Fellow! Fellow! Fellow!*" being repeated as before by each great man, the bystanders shouting "*Haiyah!*" He desired us to convey his *tumerisho* to the white king—to Sir Benjamin D'Urban, to whom he sent a special message—and to Dr. Smith, adding that Mohanycom would accompany us to the Vaal River—but that we must make haste back to the colony, lest the governor should think that he had slain us. Upon my repeating that I should shortly come again, bringing for him a double-poled tent, he replied that that was *mooe, mooe, mooe! monanti, monanti, monanti! tanta, tanta, tanta!* that we must bring him "everything," and take care to visit him viâ Mr. Moffat's station, and not by the Vaal River, lest mischief should befall us by the way.

We now paid and dismissed the interpreter, with a supply of provision for the road, and a note to Dr. Wilson, thanking him for Baba's services, and informing him of the complete success of our negotiations with the king. Upon this point we had certainly good reason to congratulate ourselves. Visiting this capricious savage as we had done,

at an inauspicious juncture, when he was embroiled with white men, and might not unreasonably have regarded us in the light of spies upon his land—a suspicion which the pusillanimous conduct of our Hottentots, and of Andries in particular, was calculated to inspire and confirm—we had had throughout a difficult and somewhat hazardous part to perform. The probabilities were in favour of our being detained, and were certainly greatly against our obtaining permission to make our exit by the hitherto proscribed route of the Vaal River, conducting, as it would, directly through the scene of his operations against the migratory farmers; but by closing our eyes upon passing events, and preserving throughout our intercourse with the despot a firm, conciliatory, and confiding demeanour—not only had we succeeded in convincing him of the honesty of our intentions—but now pursued our journey with every reason to believe in the good faith of his professions towards ourselves.

As we were now considered to be on terms of close intimacy with his Majesty, we had no danger whatever to apprehend from any of the native tribes, through whose territories we might have occasion to pass. All those that inhabit the country between the Vaal River and the tropic of Capricorn, were his tributaries, and the terror of his name filled the surrounding nations. None of his own subjects indeed would dare to refuse us assistance, without incurring the certainty of his summary vengeance.

Our course, in order to reach the Cashan range of mountains, where it had been resolved that our operations against the elephants should commence, was for the first three days a little to the southward of east. Mohanycom now armed to the teeth, had relinquished his appointment in the imperial household of groom of the bed-chamber, for that of guide. He had received in our presence, more than once

the most positive injunctions to accompany us wherever we pleased to go within the king's dominions, and not to return until he had safely conducted us to the Vaal River, and he had been further directed to obtain from one of the kraals on our route a subordinate captain named 'Lingap, to assist in protecting us. Mohanycom having accompanied Um'Nombate, when that minister visited the colony under Dr. Smith's escort (for the purpose of forming an alliance on the part of his Majesty with the Cape Government), could understand the general tenor of conversation held in Dutch, and could even express himself intelligibly. Andries could stutter tolerably in Sichuana, and possessed a smattering of Zooloo, and we thus hoped to be able to proceed without the aid of a sworn interpreter.

Owing to our unlooked for detention in the morning, we were glad to halt for breakfast after an hour's travel. Our long and wearisome marches through a parched and sterile country, in the course of which, as will have been remarked, our cattle were frequently deprived of all sustenance for many hours, had so reduced them in condition, that they could hardly support the weight of their own emaciated bodies. The last feed of corn was here divided amongst three of the horses that appeared most in need of it, the other half-starved wretches thrusting in their noses for a share, at a loss to understand why they should be excluded from so rare a feast.

Shortly after leaving Kapain, we observed a dog, with neatly trimmed ears and tail, following Mohanycom, who repeatedly endeavoured to drive him away, saying that he was the king's dog, and had been captured with Mr. Bain's waggons. Two messengers were speedily sent to bring back this pet, and his Majesty, unwilling to let slip so good an opportunity of asking for something, had desired them on no account to return without a fresh supply of

wax candles. Conceiving, however, that our compliance with this unreasonable request would but lead to further exactions, we excused ourselves, sending in lieu a tin mould and a bundle of cotton wicks, with abundant compliments, and brief instructions in the art of manufacturing "tallows" from the fat of the eland.

Having thus freed ourselves from the duns, it was discovered that the oxen had gone off in search of water—not one of the Hottentots having thought proper to remain with them, although positively enjoined to do so. Three hours elapsed ere they were recovered, and before we had proceeded many miles, the sheep were missed. Andries being immediately sent back upon horseback, found Frederick lying under a bush in a state of stupefaction, the consequence of his frequent libations to the jolly god. The sheep, as might have been expected, had availed themselves of his drowsiness to *levant*, but were traced up and recovered.

In spite of all these provoking delays, we contrived early in the afternoon to reach the Mariqua, about thirty miles below the point where it issues from the mountain chain. The approach to this small but beautiful river, is picturesque in the highest degree. Emerging suddenly from an extensive wood of magnificent thorn-trees, we passed a village surrounded by green corn-fields, and then descended by a winding path on to a lawn covered with a thick and verdant carpet of the richest grass, bounded by a deep and shady belt of the many stemmed acacia. These beautiful trees margined the river on either hand far as the view extended—and clothed with a vest of golden blossoms, diffused a delicious and grateful odour around. Single mo-kaalas, and detached clumps of slender mimosas, hung with festoons of flowering creepers, heightened the effect, screening with their soft and feathery foliage considerable portions

of the refreshing sward, across which troops of querulous pintadoes and herds of graceful pallahs* were to be seen hurrying from our approach.

As we threaded the mazes of the parasol-topped acacias, which completely excluded the sun's rays, a peep of the river itself was unexpectedly obtained. A deep and shaded channel, about twenty yards in breadth, with precipitous banks overgrown with reeds, was lined with an unbroken tier of willows. These extended their drooping branches so as nearly to entwine, had they not been forbidden by the force of the crystal current, which swayed them with it as it foamed and bubbled over the pebbly bottom. A plain on the opposite side, bounded by a low range of blue hills, was dotted over with mokaala trees, beneath which troops of gnoos, sassaybes, and hartebeests, were reposing, imparted to the sylvan scene quite a pastoral effect.

We drew up the waggons on a verdant spot on the river bank, at a convenient distance from an extensive kraal constructed on the slope. Although the sun shone, the cold occasioned by a dry cutting wind was scarcely to be endured, even with the assistance of a great coat; and the inhabitants being clamorous for food, I readily placed myself under the guidance of their chief with ten of his men, and diving into the heart of the extensive groves, soon furnished them with the carcass of a black rhinoceros upon which to whet their appetites. This huge beast crossed the river twice after being mortally wounded at duelling distance; and I was compelled, cold as it was, to wade after him through water reaching to my middle—following his trail by the blood, until from single drops, the traces became splashes of frothy crimson. Struggling

* *Antilope Melampus*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

to force his tottering frame through the tangled cover, the wounded monster at length sank upon his knees, another bullet from the grooved bore ending his giant struggles, while he was yet tearing up the ground with his ponderous horn.

CHAPTER XIX.

FROM THE MARIQUA RIVER TO TOLAAN, THE RESIDENCE
OF THE HEIR APPARENT.

AT daybreak the following morning, a large party of hungry savages, with four of the Hottentots on horseback, accompanied us across the river in search of elands, which were reported to be numerous in the neighbourhood. We formed a long line, and having passed over a great extent of country, divided into two parties; Richardson keeping to the right, and myself to the left. Beginning to despair of success, I had shot a hartebeest for the savages, when an object which had repeatedly attracted my eye, but which I had as often persuaded myself was nothing more than the branchless stump of some withered tree, suddenly shifted its position, and the next moment I distinctly perceived that singular form, of which the apparition had oftentimes visited my slumbers—but upon whose reality I now gazed for the first time. It passed rapidly among the trees, above the topmost branches of many of which its graceful head nodded like some lofty pine—it was the stately, the long-sought giraffe. Putting spurs to my horse, and directing the Hottentots to follow, I presently found myself half choked with excitement, rattling at the heels of the tallest of all the Mammiferes, whom thus to meet, free on his native plains, has fallen to the lot of few of the votaries of the chase. Sailing before me with incredible velocity, his long swan-like neck keeping time to the eccentric motion of his stilt-like legs—his ample black tail curled above

his back, and whisking in ludicrous concert with the rocking of his disproportioned frame, he glided gallantly along "like some tall ship upon the ocean's bosom," and seemed to leave whole leagues behind him at each stride. The ground was of the most treacherous description; a rotten black soil overgrown with long coarse grass, which concealed from view innumerable cracks and fissures that momentarily threatened to throw down my horse. For the first five minutes I rather lost than gained ground, and despairing, over such a country, of ever diminishing the distance, or improving my acquaintance with this ogre in seven-league boots, I dismounted, and had the satisfaction of hearing two balls tell roundly upon his plank-like stern. But I might as well have fired at a wall: he neither swerved from his course, nor slackened his pace, and had pushed on so far a-head during the time I was reloading, that after remounting, I had some difficulty in even keeping sight of him amongst the trees. Closing again, however, I repeated the dose on the other quarter, and spurred along my horse, ever and anon sinking to his fetlock the giraffe now flagging at each stride, until, as I was coming up hand over hand, and success seemed certain, down I came headlong—my horse having fallen into a pit, and lodged me close to an ostrich's nest, near which two of the old birds were sitting.

There were no bones broken, but the violence of the shock had caused the lashings of my rifle to give way, and had doubled the stock in half—the barrels only now hanging to it by the trigger guard. Nothing dismayed by this heavy calamity, I remounted my jaded beast, and one more effort brought me a-head of my wearied victim, which stood still and allowed me to approach. In vain I attempted to bind my fractured rifle with a pocket handkerchief, in order to admit of my administering the *coup de grace*

—it was so bent that the hammer could not by any means be brought down upon the nipple. In vain I looked around for a stone, and sought in every pocket for my knife, with which to strike the copper cap, and bring about ignition, or hamstringing the colossal but harmless animal, by whose side I appeared the veriest pigmy in the creation—alas! I had lent it to the Hottentots to cut off the head of the hartebeest. Vainly did I wait for the tardy and rebellious villains to come to my assistance, making the welkin ring, and my throat tingle, with reiterated shouts—not a soul appeared—and, in a few minutes the giraffe having recovered his wind, and being only slightly wounded in the hind quarters, shuffled his long legs—twisted his tail over his back—walked a few steps—then broke into a gallop, and diving into the mazes of the forest, disappeared from my sight. Disappointed and annoyed, I returned towards the waggons, now eight miles distant, and on my way overtook the Hottentots, who, smoking their pipes with an air of gentlemanly laziness, were leisurely returning, having come to the conclusion that “Sir could not catch the kameel,” for which reason they did not think it worth while to follow as I had directed.

My defeat did not cause me to lose sight of the flesh-pots. Any change from the monotony of an unvaried bread-and-meat diet being highly agreeable, I went back to the nest of the ostrich with a view of obtaining the eggs. So alarmed were the old birds by my unceremonious intrusion in the morning, that they had not returned. Twenty-three gigantic eggs were laid on the bare ground without either bush or grass to conceal them, or any attempt at a nest beyond a shallow concavity which had been scraped out with the feet. Having broken one, to ascertain if they were worth carrying home, a Hottentot took off his trowsers, in which (the legs being first tied at the lower

end,) the eggs were securely packed, and placed on the saddle. Although each of these enormous eggs weighs about three pounds, and is equivalent to twenty-four of the domestic fowl's, many of our followers could devour two at a single meal, first mixing the contents, and then broiling them in the shell. When dressed in more orthodox manner, we found them a highly palatable omelette.

Richardson shortly returned, having been engaged in deadly conflict with a rhinoceros. Aroused from a siesta by the smarting of a gun-shot wound, the infuriated animal had pursued his assailant so closely that it became necessary to discharge the second barrel into his mouth, an operation in the performing which the stock was much disfigured by the animal's horn. I employed the rest of the day in repairing my own weapon with the iron clamp of a box, binding it with a strip of green hide from the carcase of an eland.

There being no practicable road across the Mariqua within several miles of our position, we were compelled, on the 28th, to make one by paring down the steep banks; and even then, experienced great difficulty in towing our heavy vans to the opposite side by the united strength of the teams. The descent was almost perpendicular, requiring both wheels to be locked: the bed of the river, covered with loose stones, was too confined to admit of the oxen acting in concert:—and the current, straitened by the narrowness of the channel, was rapid, and rose to the floors of the waggons.

Shortly after we had crossed, a large mixed herd of sassaybes and quaggas, alarmed by the sudden appearance of our cavalcade, charged past me so close, that one of the latter fell at my feet at each discharge of the rifle. Several savages had followed us to obtain a supply of dried meat and assist in hunting; but although they were

greatly delighted at this performance, it was not until an unwieldy white rhinoceros* had bit the dust, that they were perfectly satisfied. Smacking their thick lips, patting their stomachs, and repeatedly exclaiming "*Chikore, Chikore,*" they pointed out this huge beast standing stupidly under the shade of a spreading acacia, I crept within thirty yards before firing, but it was not until he had received six two-ounce bullets behind the shoulder that he yielded up the ghost—charging repeatedly, with his snout almost touching the ground, in so clumsy a manner, that it was only necessary to step on one side to be perfectly safe.

This grotesque-looking animal, which in many points bears a ridiculous resemblance to, or rather is a gross caricature upon, the "half reasoning elephant," is upwards of six feet high at the shoulder, its shapeless head exceeding four feet in length. It is the larger, but less ferocious, of the two species of African rhinoceros, neither of which is clad in a panoply of plate armour like their Asiatic brethren; they have in lieu, tough hides an inch and a half in thickness, of which the whips known at the Cape under the denomination of *Sjamboks*, are usually manufactured. Both have double horns: those of the black species are short, and sometimes nearly of equal length—whilst the anterior horn of the white rhinoceros is upwards of three feet in length, the second being a mere excrescence. These animals may be readily approached within a few yards, against the wind, and being heavy and inert, their attacks are easily avoided.

Rejoining the waggons to breakfast, we found many savages assembled from neighbouring kraals, clamorous for snuff. One old lady inhaled it in large quantities, and

* *Rhinoceros Simus*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

without wasting a single grain, by means of a long tube of wood, the ends of which were respectively applied to her nose and to the back of her hand on which the powder was placed.

The country through which we passed this day was more thickly wooded than any we had seen since leaving Kurrichane: and I for the first time observed several pit-falls constructed for the purpose of taking the rhinoceros. They differed from others in being dug singly instead of in groups—very deep and large—at the extremity of a narrow path cut through the bushes, and fenced outside with thorns—a sharp turn leading directly upon the trap, so that an unwieldy animal, being driven furiously down the avenue, could have no chance of avoiding the snare. Many skulls and bones of these huge beasts were lying at the bottom of the sepulchres that had swallowed them up alive.

After travelling upwards of fifteen miles, and passing three or four very large kraals, we arrived at the Tolaan River, a deep, narrow, and rocky channel, containing several extensive pools—the hollowed banks bearing testimony to the depth and rapidity of the current at certain seasons. The bed was perfectly dry where we crossed, but covered with huge fragments of granite, which threw the waggons from side to side with frightful violence—and, added to the almost perpendicular character of the banks, rendered the passage extremely perilous. We halted on an isthmus, formed by a double bend of the river; a grove of large acacia trees proving an agreeable shelter, and rendering the spot delightful. Here we were visited by Moselekatse's son, an aristocratic and intelligent lad, fourteen or fifteen years of age. His dress consisted of the usual girdle with long fur streamers, and a chaplet of white beads bound about his forehead, to which were attached three tufts of clipped quills, resembling in size and shape the flower of

the African marigold, A lad of his own age attended him. The blood of the despotic sire flowing in the veins of the heir apparent to the throne of the Matabili, his first step was to deprive Mohanycom of a clasp-knife that we had given him, which he immediately hung about his own neck, with a look of absolute superiority hardly to be expected from such a youth.



THE WHITE RHINOCEROS

H. G. HARRIS

day had been very sultry, and our two dogs, nearly blind from thirst, ran down the steep bank to the water's edge, into the jaws of an enormous alligator. One of them returned immediately in a state of great alarm. Suddenly a splash was heard, and bubbles of blood rising a minute after, too truly told what had been the fate of his unfortunate comrade. Not content with depriving us of our valued four-footed companion, the alligators quitted their watery homes during the night, and ate up a portion of the leather of the waggon furniture, besides the shoes of our followers. These scaly monsters are very common in many of the African rivers, and this was not the only occasion on which we suffered from their ravages. We frequently killed some of an immense size.

About sunset an unwieldy white rhinoceros approached the waggons, evidently with hostile intentions. There being neither bush nor hollow to conceal my advance, I crawled towards him amongst the grass, and within forty yards fired two balls into him. He started, looked around for some object on which to wreak his vengeance, and actually charged up, with his eye flashing fire, and gore streaming from his mouth, to within an arm's length of me. Crouching low, however, I fortunately eluded his vengeance, and he soon afterwards dropped down dead.

Thus far on our journey we had pursued a partially beaten track, dignified by the Hottentots in colonial phraseology with the name of a road, though since leaving Kurichane, it had consisted merely of the faint vestiges of the traders' waggons, which "few and far between" had traversed it—and even these could only be discovered by a practised eye. But from our entrance into the hills this morning, all traces had disappeared, nor did we again see the tracks of a waggon for several months, until we had crossed the river Vaal on our return to the colony. Thus

left to ourselves, matters resumed a smoother aspect, and the dread of Moselekatse appeared to have forsaken the Hottentots, leaving behind it, like an intermittent fever, an interval of tranquillity, which lasted for some time.

CHAPTER XXII.

RHINOCEROS AND WILD BUFFALO HUNTING ALONG THE
CASHAN MOUNTAINS.

LEAVING the waggons to proceed to the ground where our operations against the elephants were to commence, I went with 'Lingap to the carcase of the antelope I concealed yesterday, near which I killed two females of the same species. I believe I may with safety assert that I am the only European that ever shot a water-buck. This noble antelope is about the size of an ass, and of somewhat browner colour. The hair is coarse, like that of the Indian Rusa stag, and in texture resembles split whalebone. The appearance of the male animal is stately; the eyes are large and brilliant; the horns ponderous and beetling, three feet in length, white, ringed, and placed almost perpendicularly on the head, the points being curved to the front. A mane encircles the neck, and an elliptical white band the tail, which is tufted at the extremity. The female is similar, but hornless, and rather smaller. The flesh of both is coarse, and so highly ill savoured that even savages are unable to eat it. On cutting off the head, the effluvia literally drove me from the spot. Mr. Steedman had the merit a few years ago of bringing this antelope under the observation of the scientific world, and Dr. Smith brought down other two specimens with the late expedition.

On the bank of the river I observed the perfect skeleton of an elephant. Near to it 'Lingap suddenly stopped, and pointing with his assagai to a bush a few yards off, whispered "*Tao*," and I immediately perceived three lionesses

asleep. Ensconcing himself behind his shield, he made signs to me to fire, which I did into the middle of the party, at the same moment springing behind a tree which completely screened me. Thus unceremoniously awakened, the three ladies broke covert, roaring in concert, and dashed into the thick bushes, while we walked as fast as possible in the opposite direction. In the course of a few minutes we heard several discharges of musketry, and an infuriated rhinoceros, streaming with blood, rushed over the brow of the eminence that we were ascending, and was within pistol shot before we were aware of his approach. No bush presenting itself behind which to hide, I threw my cap at him, and 'Lingap striking his buckler and shouting with stentorian lungs, the enraged beast turned off. I saluted him from both barrels, and he was immediately afterwards overturned by a running fire from the Hottentots, every one of whom I now saw had left the waggons at the mercy of the oxen, conduct for which we reprimanded them severely, threatening to withhold further supplies of ammunition.

Three hours' travelling between two ranges of the Cashan mountains, brought us to the Ooli river, a pretty little stream, upon the further bank of which we halted. A party of savages joined us, having feasted heartily upon the gnoo killed yesterday; and as we did not require their services, we sent them to eat up the rhinoceros, with injunctions to return in the evening. The banks of the Ooli are precipitous, and clothed with extensive mimosa groves, abounding with wild buffaloes, pallahs, and guinea-fowl.* We made a large bag of the latter, and obtained a supply of ostrich eggs. In order to drive the elephants into the plain, preparatory to hunting them the next day, we set fire to the grass, and moved the camp to a more secure position, where the savages, who had returned, assisted in fortifying our stockade against the lions.

* *Numida Meleagris.*

At daybreak the following morning, we crossed an extensive valley which skirts the mountain range, passing the ruins of several stone kraals, which in former times served to confine the cattle of numerous Bechuana tribes then living in peaceful possession of the country. These crumbling memorials now afford evidence of the extent to which this lovely spot was populated before the devastating wars of Moselekatse laid it waste, and indicate also a refinement in the art of building that I had not met with before. Our guides eagerly plucked several plants of tobacco that grew wild about the enclosures, drying them for the manufacture of snuff. Soon afterwards we entered a gorge of the mountains, and began to ascend. The ravages of elephants were here still more conspicuous, and footsteps of the preceding day were numerous. We paused on the mountains to admire the stupendous depth and formidable character of the ravines and chasms, which have been scooped out by the mighty torrents of water that roll down during the rainy season, with fury irresistible, uprooting ancient trees, and hurling into the plain below huge masses of rock, which, once put in motion, bound from ledge to ledge until they reach the bottom of the valley. Nearly all the rivers in this part of Africa take their source in the Cashan range. It divides the waters that flow to the eastward into the Mozambique Sea, from those that run to the westward into the Atlantic Ocean; and the country on both sides being abundantly irrigated, is far better calculated both for grazing and cultivation than any part of the district that we found the Matabili occupying. The fear of Dingaan, however, has led them to neglect it, and to establish themselves in a more secure position. A gigantic savage of a subordinate tribe of the Baquaina, a conquered nation to the northward, here accidentally joined us. He was a perfect ogre in dimensions, six feet four inches high, and stout in proportion. From him we learned

that there was a large herd of elephants on the opposite side of the mountains, out of which he had speared a young one the day before. We proceeded under his guidance, and threading a pass in the mountains formed by the dry channel of a ravine, through which a waggon might be brought with little difficulty, sat down to breakfast by a refreshing mountain rill. A large colony of pig-faced baboons* shortly made their appearance above us, some slowly advancing with an inquisitive look, others deliberately seating themselves on the rocks, as though debating on the propriety of our unceremonious trespass on their domains. Their inhospitable treatment at length obliging us to make an example, we fired two shots among them. Numbers assembled round the spot where the first had struck, scraping the lead with their nails, and scrutinizing it with ludicrous gestures and grimace. The second, however, knocked over one of their elders, an enormous fellow, who was strutting about erect, laying down the law—and who, judging from his venerable appearance, must have been at least a great grand-sire. This national calamity caused incredible consternation, and many affecting domestic scenes. The party dispersed in all directions, mothers snatching up their infants, and bearing them in their arms out of the reach of danger with an impulse and action perfectly human.

Conducted by an elephant path, we descended through the forest to a secluded dell on the northern side of the range. Beyond, the whole plain was studded with detached pyramidal stony hills, amongst which we could perceive the extensive remains of cattle enclosures and ruins, similar to those we had passed in the morning, testifying of "cities long gone by." The tracks of the elephants leading back again to the mountains, we re-ascended by a steep path considerably to the westward of the defile through which we

* *Cynocephalus Porcarius*.

had come, and, on arriving at the summit, perceived our waggons, like small white specks, in the distant valley. Bare and sterile rocks occupy the highest elevation of these mountains, commanding an extensive view, and forming a strong contrast with the middle and lower regions, so thickly covered with verdure and forests, the latter chiefly occupying the ravines. Having reconnoitred the whole country with a telescope without being able to discern the animals of which we were in quest, we descended by a steep foot-path, the face of the mountain being strewn with round white pebbles. Near the summit grew a venerable mimosa, which completely overshadowed the path, and a little on one side of it we observed a large heap which had been formed by each passenger contributing one of these pebbles as he passed. Our savages added their mite, simply picking up the nearest, and casting it irreverently towards the hill. This being the only approach to external worship or religious ceremony that we had seen, we naturally became very inquisitive on the subject, but could elicit no satisfactory information. Mohanycom said it was "the king," from which very sapient reply we were left at liberty to conclude, either that the tumulus was a monument of respect to royalty, or that they had been engaged in an idolatrous rite. The former is the most probable, for, amongst the Matabili, the reigning monarch, whilst he absorbs all their praises, is the only deity. He it is, in the opinion of this benighted race, that "maketh the rain to fall and the grass to grow, that seeth the evil and the good, and in whose hands are the issues of life and death." They have no idea of a Creator, so far as we could learn, or knowledge of a future state; nor could we ascertain that by the term "king," they ever referred to any being beyond the despot who presides over their mortal destinies.

On reaching the foot of the mountains, we found a portion

of the skull of the elephant's calf that our colossal savage friend had destroyed the day before. It was all that the hyænas had left of the little that he had considered too hard for his own digestion. The tracks of the drove had gone eastward over country where we had already hunted, and as it waxed late, we made the best of our way to the camp. I shot two quaggas for our savage allies, who returned during the night laden with flesh, and bringing with them a wild hog* that they buried in the morning in a porcupine's earth, to which it had been driven by their dogs.

The grass on the opposite side of the mountains having been burnt, we resolved, by the advice of the natives, to skirt them on the south side for a day or two. As soon as it was light, I set out with Mohanycom, and killed a spotted hyæna† that had been attracted with many others by the smell of the pork to our camp. I was glad to have my revenge, for the vagabonds had annoyed our cattle all night long, moaning funereally in concert with the dismal yelling of jackals,‡ and roaring of lions, with whose melody our only surviving dog never failed to chime in. The sole of my shoe coming off, during the hot pursuit of a water-buck, whose leg I had fractured, I had the felicity of completing the animal's destruction barefooted, and afterwards running about two miles over sharp flint stones to overtake the waggons, which had crossed four inconsiderable mountain streams, and were entering a field of tall reed-grass, that waved above the heads of the oxen. An immense white rhinoceros suddenly started from his slumbers, and rushed furiously at the leading waggon, crushing the dry reeds before him, and alarming the cattle by his loud snorting and hostile demonstrations. A volley, however, cooled his courage, and he retired to a suitable bush, where we despatched

* *Sus Larvatus.*† *Hyæna Crocuta.*‡ *Canis Mesomelas.*

him. Three more rhinoceroses were added to the list on our way to the Massellan river, which flowing through the mountains, joins the Lingkling, a tributary to the Limpopo.

Although said to be very expert in following the tracks of wild animals, the Hottentots are far less skilful than the Asiatics, and I not unfrequently eclipsed them myself. Piet was the most accomplished in wood-craft, and besides being possessed of considerably more nerve, was the only one of our followers upon whom I could depend for any assistance in the field. The rest were ready enough to go out, that they might obtain a supply of ammunition, and gain a pretext for evading their other duties; but their natural indolence extending itself even to their recreations, they never hesitated to abandon me at their convenience, in order to divert themselves with the more common species of game, which could be circumvented with little exertion. The savages never accompanied us beyond the carcase of the first large animal slain, upon which having gorged to repletion, they fell fast asleep over the fire.

On the 5th November, we followed the traces of elephants along the side of the mountains for miles, through stupendous forests, all the Hottentots excepting Piet dropping in the rear in succession, either to solace themselves with a pipe, or to expend their ammunition upon ignoble game. Time not permitting us to continue the search, we descended into a valley, bent upon the destruction of a roan antelope,* a large herd of which rare animals were quietly grazing. A pair of white rhinoceroses opposed our descent, and being unwilling to fire at them, we had some trouble in freeing ourselves from their company. A large herd of wild swine,† or as Indians term it, a *sounder* of hog, carrying their long

* *Aigocerus Equina*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

† *Phascochærus Africanus*.

whip-like tails erect, then passed in order of review, and immediately afterwards two bull buffaloes were observed within pistol shot. It was a perfect panorama of game; I had with great difficulty restrained Piet from firing, and was almost within reach of the bucks, when a Hottentot suddenly discharging his gun put every thing to flight. The buffaloes passed me quite close on their way to the hills. I fractured the hind leg of the largest, and mounting my horse, closed with him immediately, and after two gallant charges performed upon three legs, he fell, never to rise again. This was a noble specimen of the African buffalo, standing sixteen hands and a half at the shoulder. His ponderous horns measured four feet from tip to tip, and like a mass of rock, overshadowing his small sinister grey eyes, imparted to his countenance the most cunning, gloomy, and vindictive expression. The savages instantly set to work upon the carcass with their teeth and assagais—Piet providing himself with portions of the hide for shoe soles, and of the flesh, which, though coarse, is a tolerable imitation of beef.

From the summit of a hill which commanded an extensive prospect over a straggling forest, I shortly afterwards perceived a large herd of buffaloes, quietly chewing the cud beneath an umbrageous tree. Creeping close upon them, I killed a bull with a single ball, but the confused echo, which reverberated among the mountains, alarming the survivors, about fifty in number, they dashed panic-stricken from their concealment, ignorant whence the sound proceeded; and everything yielding to their giant strength, I narrowly escaped being trampled under-foot in their progress. We moved five miles to the eastward in the afternoon, stopping to take up the head of the buffalo, which Andries could with difficulty lift upon the waggon. Myriads of vultures, and the clouds of smoke which arose from the fires of the giant and his associates, directed us to the spot. In

commemoration, I presume, of the exploits of Guy Fawkes, they had kindled a bonfire, which bid fair to destroy all the grass in the country, the flames fanned by the wind already beginning to ascend the hills. Nothing can be conceived more horribly disgusting than the appearance presented by the savages who, gorged to the throat, and besmeared with blood, grease, and filth from the entrails, sat nodding torpidly round the remains of the carcase, sucking marrow from the bones, whilst their lean, famished curs were regaling themselves upon the garbage. Every bush was garnished with flaps of meat, and every man had turned beef-butcher, whilst swollen vultures* were perched upon the adjacent trees, and others yet ungorged were inhaling the odours that arose.

The sun set upon us with every demonstration of rain. The night was dark and gusty. Thunder pealing amongst the mountains, and vivid flashes of forked lightning presaged a coming storm; fortunately, however, it expended its fury in the hills, and only visited us with a few drops. Before going to bed, I had been gazing for hours upon the singular and sublime effect produced by the extensive and rapidly spreading combustion of the grass. A strong southeasterly wind setting towards the hills, was driving the devouring element, with a loud crackling noise, up the steep grassy sides, in long red lines, which, extending for miles, swept along the heights with devastating fury, brilliantly illuminating the landscape, and threatening to denude the whole country of its vegetation. Suddenly the storm burst above the scene. The wind immediately hushed; a death-like stillness succeeded to the crackling of the flames. Every spark of the conflagration was extinguished in an instant by the deluge that descended, and the Egyptian-like darkness of the night was unbroken even by a solitary star.

Vultus Fulvus, and *Vultus Auricularis*: White and Black Aas-vogel of the Cape Colonists.

CHAPTER XXIII.

ELEPHANT HUNTING IN THE CASHAN MOUNTAINS.

BEFORE daybreak the following morning it was discovered that the oxen, having been alarmed by lions, had made their escape from the pound. A party was despatched in pursuit of them, and we proceeded into the hills to look for buffaloes. The thunder-storm having purified the atmosphere, rendered the weather delightfully cool, and a deep wooded defile which had not been approached by the conflagration of the day before, was filled with game that had fled before the flames. A rhinoceros was killed almost immediately, and before we had reloaded, a noble herd of nearly one hundred and fifty buffaloes was perceived on a slope overhanging a sedgy stream. Having crept within five-and-twenty yards, we despatched two bulls before the alarm was spread. Crashing through the forest, they overturned decayed trees in their route, and swept along the brow of the opposite hill in fearful confusion, squeezed together in a compact phalanx, and raising an incredible cloud of dust to mark their course. We mounted our horses, and, after sticking some time in the treacherous mud of the rivulet, gained the opposite bank, and brought two more to bay, which were despatched after several charges. Our savage friends, still torpid from their yesterday's feast, had not made their appearance; we therefore despatched Claas, after breakfast was over, to bring in some marrow-bones, in the act of collecting which delicacies, he was put to flight by a lion that jumped out of a bush close to him,

and did not leave him time to think of his gun. After some hours, however, he mustered courage to proceed with a large party to recover it.

Early in the afternoon the Hottentots returned with the oxen, and we proceeded without loss of time to the eastward, following the course of the mountains through very high grass, and passing between two conical hills of singular appearance, which stood like sentinels on either hand. After crossing six inconsiderable streams, we with some difficulty gained the vicinity of a remarkably abrupt opening in the range, which through a telescope appeared to afford a practicable road to the northward. Both our waggons stuck fast in the Sant river, and were with difficulty extricated by the united efforts of the teams. The heat was intense, not a breath stirred, and heavy black clouds fast collecting bade us prepare for a deluge. We therefore formed the camp in a sheltered and elevated position, under the lee of a high stone enclosure, which only required the entrance to be closed with bushes to make a secure pound for the cattle. Scarcely were these arrangements completed, when a stream of liquid fire ran along the ground, and a deafening thunder-clap exploding close above us, was instantly followed by a torrent of rain, which "came dancing to the earth," not in drops, but in continuous streams, and with indescribable violence, during the greater part of the night; the thunder now receding and rumbling less and less distinctly, but more incessantly among the distant mountains — now pealing in echoes over the nearest hills, and now returning to burst with redoubled violence above our heads.

"Far along

From peak to peak, the rattling crags among,
Leapt the wild thunder, not from one lone cloud,
But every mountain soon had found a tongue."

The horses and oxen were presently standing knee deep

flexible, may be dragged from the ribs in strips like the planks from a ship's side. Of these are manufactured a superior description of *ejambok*, the elastic whip already noticed as being an indispensable piece of furniture to every boor proceeding on a journey. Our followers encumbered the waggons with a large investment of them, and of the canine teeth, the ivory of which is extremely profitable.

Of all the mammalia, whose portraits, drawn from ill-stuffed specimens, have been foisted upon the world, the *Behemoth* has perhaps been the most ludicrously misrepresented. I sought in vain for that colossal head—for those cavern-like jaws, garnished with elephantine tusks—or those ponderous feet with which “the formidable and ferocious quadruped” is wont “to trample down whole fields of corn during a single night.” Defenceless and inoffensive, his shapeless carcass is but feebly supported upon short and disproportioned legs, and his belly almost trailing upon the ground, he may not inaptly be likened to an overgrown “prize pig.” The colour is pinkish brown, clouded and freckled with a darker tint. Of many that we shot, the largest measured less than five feet at the shoulder; and the reality falling so lamentably short of the monstrous conception I had formed, the “river horse,” or “sea cow,”* was the first, and indeed the only South African quadruped in which I felt disappointed.

The country now literally presented the appearance of a menagerie; the host of rhinoceroses in particular, that daily exhibited themselves, almost exceeding belief. Whilst the camp was being formed, an ugly head might be seen protruded from every bush, and the possession of the ground was often stoutly disputed. In the field, these animals lost

* The Hippopotamus is termed by the Colonists *Zehoe*, or Sea-Cow, the least applicable designation perhaps, not excepting that of the *River-Horse*, that could have been conferred.

no opportunity of rendering themselves obnoxious—frequently charging at my elbow, when in the act of drawing the trigger at some other object—and pursuing our horses with indefatigable and ludicrous industry, carrying their noses close to the ground, moving with a mincing gait, which ill-beseemed so ungainly and ponderous a quadruped, and uttering, the while, a sound between a grunt and a smothered whistle. In removing the horn with an axe, the brain was discovered, seated in a cavity below it, at the very extremity of the snout—a phenomenon in the idiosyncrasy of this animal, which may in some measure account for its want of intelligence, and piggish obstinacy; as well as for the extraordinary acuteness of smell with which it is endowed. Irascible beyond all other quadrupeds, the African rhinoceros appears subject even to unprovoked paroxysms of reckless fury; but the sphere of vision is so exceedingly limited, that its attacks, although sudden and impetuous, are easily eluded, and a shot behind the shoulder, discharged from the distance of twenty or thirty yards, generally proves fatal.

On our way from the waggons to a hill, not half-a-mile distant, we counted no less than twenty-two of the white species of rhinoceros, and were compelled in self-defence to slaughter four. On another occasion, I was besieged in a bush by three at once, and had no little difficulty in beating off the assailants. Wild buffaloes, too, might often be seen from the waggons. Riding up a narrow defile, flanked by steep banks, I one morning found myself suddenly confronted with the van of a vast troop of these formidable animals, which were ascending from the opposite side—their malevolent grey eyes scowling beneath a threatening brow. Unable to turn they must have charged over me, had my horse not contrived to scramble up the bank; from the top of which I fired both barrels into the leader, a ponderous bull, whose appearance stamped him father of the herd. Falling on his

knees, the patriarch was instantly trampled under foot by his followers as they charged, bellowing, in close squadron, down the declivity, with the fury of a passing whirlwind, and making the woods re-echo to the clatter of their hoofs.

In the vegetable world, a great variety of novel and interesting forms grace the banks of the Limpopo, but the airy acacia is still pre-eminently beautiful. Green and shady belts, bedizened with golden blossoms and purple pods, or fringed with the cradle nests of the pensile grosbeak, extend on either side—their mazes being intersected by paths worn by hippopotami during their nocturnal rambles. The recesses of these fairy groves, ringing with “wood-notes wild,” are the favourite haunts of many forest-loving antelopes. The graceful pallah, with knotted and eccentrically inflected horns of extraordinary proportions, is found in large families. Shy and capricious in its habits, the elegance of its form, and the delicate finish of its limbs, are unrivalled. The usual succentorial hoofs are wanting, but the hind legs are furnished with remarkable cushions of wiry hair, which occur in no other species, and remind us of the heels of a Mercury. This favoured spot, too, is a chosen resort of the majestic water-buck, which I now found might be ridden down with facility; a discovery that enabled me to obtain many splendid specimens. This rare and remarkable animal, which has been already described, is never found at a distance from the banks of tropical rivers, in the waters of which he delights to plunge.

Another rare species—the roan antelope, or bastard gemsbock—is an inhabitant of the elevated downs and ridges about the source of this river, and, being utterly destitute of speed, may be ridden to a stand-still without difficulty. This most imposing animal, which charges viciously when unable to continue its flight, is the size of a large horse; and, excepting the head and tail, which are jet black, is

uniformly of a delicate roan colour. It is heavily built, and has an upright mane, long asinine ears, and robust scimitar-shaped recurved horns. Here, too, I first met with, and slew, the koodoo.* Majestic in its carriage, and brilliant in its colour, this species may with propriety be styled the king of the tribe. Other antelopes are stately, elegant, or curious—but the solitude-seeking koodoo is absolutely regal! The ground colour is a lively French grey approaching to blue, with several transverse white bands passing over the back and loins; a copious mane, and deeply fringed, tricoloured dew-lap, setting off a pair of ponderous, yet symmetrical, horns, spirally twisted, and exceeding three feet in length. These are thrown along the back, as the stately wearer dashes through the mazes of the forest, or clammers the mountain side. The old bulls are invariably found apart from the females, which herd together in small troops, and are destitute of horns.

Every open glade abounds with the more common species of game, such as the brindled gnoo, hartebeest, sassaybe, and quagga, together with the ostrich and wild hog; the tusks of this latter most hideous animal attaining in some instances to an enormous size, although its stature is insignificant. Among the sedge-grown rivulets, the riet-buck is common; and the mountain range and its grassy environs are the resort of six smaller species of antelope, hitherto unnoticed in these pages; viz., the klipspringer, rhee-buck, roe rhee-buck, or nagor, ourebi, steenbuck, and duiker,† of each of which I obtained several specimens. Although described in the Appendix, the remarkable character of the first two demands further notice; the klipspringer, which is closely

* *Strepsiceros Koodoo*. † *Oreotragus Saltatrix*, *Redunca Capreolus*, *R. Lalandii*, *R. Scoparia*, *Tragulus Rupestris*, and *Cephalopus Mergens*. Delineated in the Portraits of Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa.

allied to the chamois of Europe, and coney-like, has its house on the mountain-top, being furnished with singularly coarse brittle hair, imparting the appearance of a hedge-hog; whilst the fur of the rheebeck again, is of a curly woolly nature, resembling that of the wild rabbit.

Excepting the garrulous guinea-fowl, which usually abounded in the vicinity of wood and water, and whose grating cackle might here be nightly heard as it ascended the trees to roost, feathered game was comparatively scarce throughout our journey. Occasionally, however, and here in particular, we found two species of the bustard, or *paow* of the colonists—two of the floricorn or *koraan*—with four distinct kinds of partridge. To these, nevertheless, I had little leisure to attend, my time being fully occupied from dawn until dark, in the pursuit of, to me, far more attractive objects.

In the extensive and romantic valley of the Limpopo, which strongly contrasts with its own solitude, and with the arid lands which must be traversed to arrive within its limits, Dame Nature has doubtless been unusually lavish of her gifts. A bold mountain landscape is chequered by innumerable rivulets abounding in fish, and watering a soil rich in luxuriant vegetation. Forests, producing timber of the finest growth, are tenanted by a multitude of birds, which, if not universally musical, are all gorgeously attired; and the meadows throughout are decked with blossoming geraniums, and with an endless profusion of the gayest flowers, fancifully distributed in almost artificial parterres. Let the fore-ground of this picture, which is by no means extravagantly drawn, be filled in by the animal creation roaming in a state of undisturbed freedom, such as I have attempted to describe, and this hunter's paradise will surely not require to be coloured by the feelings of an enthusiastic sportsman, to stand out in prominent relief from amongst the loveliest spots in the universe.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

RETURN TO THE SOUTHWARD FROM THE TROPIC OF
CAPRICORN.

ALTHOUGH hunting the Camelopard, we continued to advance to the northward, by marches of ten and fifteen miles each day, over extensive rugged tracts, strewed with numerous stone walls, once thronged by thousands, but now presenting no vestige of inhabitants. Wherever we turned, the hand of the destroyer was apparent :

"The locusts' wasting swarm,
Which mightiest nations dread,"

is not more destructive to vegetation than he has been to the population of this section of Southern Africa. We frequently travelled for days without meeting a solitary human being—occasionally only falling in with the small and starving remnant of some pastoral tribe of Bechuana, that had been plundered by Moselekatse's warriors. These famished wretches, some of whom had been herding the king's cattle during the absence of Kalipi's commando, hovered around us, disputing with vultures and hyænas the carcasses we left, which they devoured with such brutish avidity as scarcely to leave a bone to attest the slaughter.

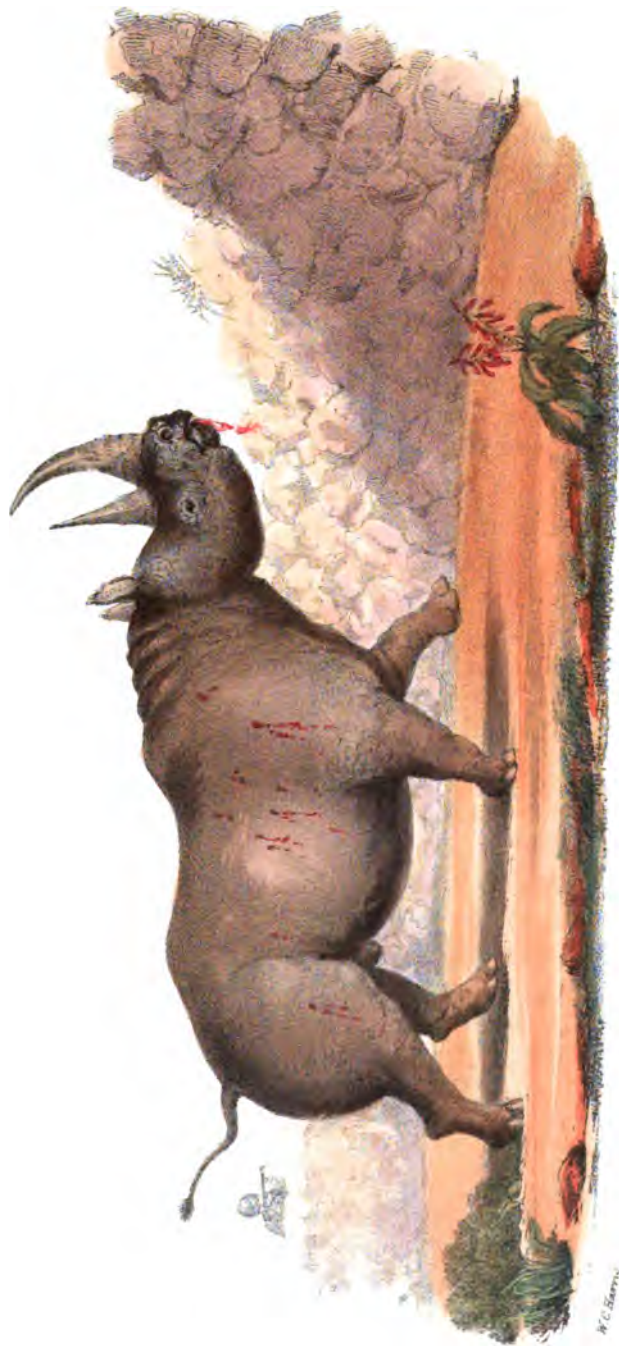
The moon was full on the night of the 23rd, and a spotted, or "laughing" hyæna, superior in size to the largest mastiff, was shot through the head, by the clear light it afforded, as he was in the act of skulking under the sheep-pen. The

great muscular power of this animal, which is called by the colonists "the wolf," renders it exceedingly formidable; the difficulty of determining the sex being the most remarkable feature it possesses. On the 27th we again encamped on the banks of the Limpopo, in which a bull-buffalo was shot as it was swimming across. Few other sporting incidents occurred of an extraordinary character, except the death of a very large black rhinoceros, which, being pent up in an old stone enclosure, forming a *cul de sac*, the entrance to which I closed up, received no less than twenty-seven shots before it fell, dyed with crimson gore, and embossed with the white foam that rage had churned around its chaps. A troop of brindled gnoos, being pursued by another of these animals, dashed into a narrow defile in the hills, at the outlet of which, having stationed myself, I disposed of two with each barrel.

As we approached the junction of the Mariqua with the Limpopo, in about latitude 24 10', bushes usurped the place of trees; the country daily became less inviting, and the game in consequence less and less abundant, although a supply was still always to be obtained. The few inhabitants that we now met with refused to hold any communication with our escort—seating themselves at a distance, and declining the proffered snuff-box. These men were the wreck of the Bakone or Baquaina, once the most powerful and prosperous of the Bechuana nations. Conquered by Moselekatse, however, and Caama,* their king, having been slain, they fled to this part of the country, and are now reduced to an extremity of misery and want, little short of actual starvation—the emaciated forms of many too plainly testifying to their precarious means of subsistence.

The obtaining of information relative to the country and inhabitants had uniformly been attended with much diffi-

* King Hartebeest.



THE BLACK RHINOCEROS

W.C. SERRA

culty; but our guides, who had evidently received instructions from the king to entice us as far as possible from the scene of contention with the emigrant boors, in the hope of eventually inducing us to return by Kapain, instead of by the Likwa, being now apprized of our intention of discontinuing our journey northward, brought seven savages who volunteered information regarding the *great inland lake*, and even proposed, for a suitable remuneration in beads, to accompany us thither as guides. They stated that this vast fresh-water sea, towards the discovery of which, geographical attention has long been directed, and the existence of which was first fully established by Dr. Smith's expedition, might easily be reached from our present position in *two moons*, through the country of the Bukaws; a small intervening desert tract being passable at this season, the recent heavy rains having filled the pools upon which the supply of water depends. Nothing could be more tantalising than this proposal, made at a time when our oxen were in such superb condition, our supplies abundant, and our followers in better heart than usual; but knowing from experience how little reliance can be placed upon a savage's estimate of distance, we were not without reasonable apprehensions of being detained beyond the Bukaws until after next rains, and thus exceeding our leave. All circumstances but this, conspiring to favour both the successful continuance of our journey, and the discovery of the "great water,"—it was with feelings of no ordinary regret and disappointment, that we felt ourselves thus compelled to return, at the very moment when a prize of such value appeared actually within our grasp.

Although not more than fifty miles to the south of the tropic of Capricorn, we did not find the heat by any means oppressive; a circumstance which was of course in a great measure to be attributed to the prevalence of rain. After the thunder-storm which usually ushered in the night, the mor-

nings had been always remarkably cool; and even during the middle of the day the range of the thermometer in the waggons had rarely exceeded 85°. Before turning to the southward, we crossed the Limpopo, and made an excursion of forty miles to the north-eastward, on horseback, with a design of determining the course assumed by this interesting feature in the geography of Southern Africa. So far as it was possible to comprehend the descriptions given by savages, which are not the clearest in the world, this river, after being joined by another, called the Clabatz, or Balapatse, which rises in the Mural mountains, turns suddenly through that chain, and flows into the unexplored country of the Babariri, towards Delagoa, distant probably about three hundred and fifty miles. This account is in a great measure confirmed by information given me by David Hume, an exceedingly clear-headed, observing traveller, who has made several enterprising journeys into the interior, in quest of the gold-mines said to exist in the country of the Bakalaka. By whomsoever it may eventually be traced, therefore, the Limpopo will in all probability be found identical with the *Manice*, the river which was surveyed by Captain Owen, from its embouchure in Delagoa Bay, as far as latitude 25° 21' south, and longitude 32° 52' east.

For the satisfaction of those of my readers who take an interest in the geography of the African quarter of the globe, it may be proper here to state, that with a view of ascertaining our position on the map, I adopted the very simple, but excellent method pursued by Burchell, during his travels. The exact distance passed over each day was calculated by a table, computed from the circumference of the larger waggon-wheel, multiplied by the number of revolutions performed per minute; the time that the vehicle was actually in motion being carefully noted by an inside passenger, as well as the course by compass. This plan, with

occasional correction from the now broken pocket sextant, had determined our position in so level a country with sufficient accuracy. Rude as it may appear, few inland portions of this vast continent have been surveyed by a more scientific process; and during the early part of our journey, especially while travelling between known points, I had frequent opportunities of satisfying myself of its practical correctness.

Judging, therefore, from a minute daily register kept throughout our journey, we must now have been about the tropic, our distance to the north of the known latitude of Mosega being upwards of one hundred and fifty miles. We retraced our steps on the 1st December, the previous night having been passed at a kraal of starving Baquaina, for whom we had killed a rhinoceros. Fearful indeed was the uproar that attended the division of the carcase—a large party of ladies, possessing remarkably slender wardrobes, rushing forth like witches, and leaving nothing in the course of a few hours but a pool of blood.

Thus far we had been treated by the guides with tolerable civility. No sooner, however, had we turned to the southward than they began to evince the greatest impatience at their detention, complaining loudly of their limited rations of snuff and bread, and insolently urging our return to the Cashan mountains with all expedition, upon the plea that the king would be displeased at our making so long a stay; his Majesty having, they said, instructed them that we were only to hunt during one moon. Knowing this to be false, we continued hunting giraffes, and paid little attention to their remonstrances; but on arriving opposite the scene of the Griqua defeat, we were joined, on the 6th, by four Matabili warriors from Kapain, who stated that they had been following our waggon-tracks, by command of the king, for ten days past, in order peremptorily to direct our return

5. *Hyæna Fusca*. The Fuscous Hyæna. Strand Wolf of the Cape Colonists.

Usual height at the shoulder about two feet four inches; much lower behind. Extreme length about four feet ten inches. Hair very long and shaggy on the upper parts of the neck, back, and tail. General colour reddish grey, brindled with brown and black stripes and spots. Extremities yellowish, with deep black transverse bands. Tail twelve inches; black, with red hairs towards the tip.

Female similar.

Less abundant than the preceding, but common.

6. *Hyæna Venatica*. The Wild Dog. Wilde Hond of the Cape Colonists.

Height at the shoulder under two feet; rather lower behind. Length about four feet three inches. Form slight; muzzle pointed. Ground colour of the hair sandy bay, or ochreous yellow, irregularly blotched and brindled with black and variegated spots of exceedingly irregular shape. Face, nose, and muzzle black. Tail bushy like that of a fox, divided about the middle by a black ring, above which the colour is sandy, and below white.

Hunts in large organised packs.

Order. PACHYDERMATA.

Genus. ELEPHAS.

7. *Elephas Africanus*. The African Elephant. Oliphant of the Dutch Colonists. Maclou of the Matabili.

Male attains the height of twelve feet at the shoulder; droops behind. Extreme length between eighteen and nineteen feet. Skin black, rough, and nearly destitute of hair. Tail short, tufted at the end. Head rounder, forehead more convex, and ears much larger than in the Asiatic Elephant. The latter extremely flat reaching to the legs, and overlapping each other on the top of the

neck. Five toes on all the feet. Tusks arched; between eight and nine feet in length, and weighing one hundred pounds. Female upwards of eight feet; usually provided with tusks about four feet in length. Mammæ two, placed between the fore legs.

Gregarious in large troops. Common in the extensive plains and forests of the interior.

Genus. HIPPOPOTAMUS.

8. *Hippopotamus Amphibius.* The Hippopotamus. Sea Cow, or Zeekoe of the Cape Colonists. Imfoobo of the Matabili and Kafirs.

Between four and five feet high at the shoulder, and from ten to eleven feet long. Body ponderous and shapeless; legs very short, terminating with four toes. Head thick and square, muzzle broad; eye very small, placed in a prominence; ears small, round, and approximated. The upper incisors and canine teeth greatly developed; the latter forming tusks. Skin rough, hard, and very thick: entirely destitute of hairs, a few scattered bristles on the lips, ears, and tail, excepted. General colour pinkish brown, with freckles on the flanks and belly. Tail twelve inches.

Female smaller. Mammæ two.

Amphibious. Inhabits the rivers and lakes of the interior.

Genus. Sus.

9. *Sus Larvatus.* The Wild Hog. Bosch Vark of the Cape Colonists.

Height at the shoulder about two feet four or five inches. Extreme length between five and six feet. Four toes on all the feet, the two middle ones only touching the ground. Nose elongated, and cartilaginous. Canine teeth very strong; those of the upper jaw projecting horizontally, those of the lower, upwards. A tuberculous excrescence, covered with coarse hair, upon the chaffron. Colour dirty brown. Bristles very long, especially on the neck and back. Tail slightly tufted, and upwards of a foot in length. Mammæ twelve.

Gregarious. Inhabits the plains and forests.

Genus. PHACOCÆRUS.

10. *Phacochærus Africanus*. The African Boar. Vlacke Vark of the Cape Colonists. Ingooloob of the Matabili.

Height at the shoulder about two feet six inches. Colour reddish brown. The top of the head, upper part of the neck, shoulders, and back, covered with long rigid bristles; those on the top of the head diverging like the radii of a circle. Canine teeth very large and long, and directed upwards. Head extremely large, and muzzle very broad. A large fleshy wen behind each eye, and a prominent warty excrescence on each side of the muzzle, between the eye and tusks. Eyes small and sinister. Tail tufted with bristles; twenty inches in length, straight and thin.

Gregarious. Inhabits the plains and forests.

Genus. RHINOCÆROS.

11. *Rhinoceros Africanus*. The African Rhinoceros. Rhinoster of the Cape Colonists. Chukuroo of the Matabili.

Upwards of six feet high at the shoulder, and about thirteen feet in extreme length. Body very robust and clumsy. Legs short and small, each with three toes. Head long and large. Eyes small and lateral. Snout hooked, and resembling that of a tortoise: armed with two horns* on the muzzle, placed one behind the other; the anterior usually from one to two feet long; the posterior generally small, but capricious—in some specimens attaining the same, or nearly the same length. Ears pointed, small, and approximated. Skin naked; very thick, rugous, and knotty, but without plaits or folds. Colour brownish black. Tail about two feet long, laterally compressed at the end, and furnished with a few bristles.

Female similar, but smaller. Mammæ two. Very common in the interior.

* The horns of no two specimens of this animal that came under my observation were exactly the same. Disease or accident not unfrequently renders the anterior horn the shorter of the two.

12. *Rhinoceros Simus*. The White Rhinoceros. Witte Rhinoster of the Cape Colonists. Chicore of the Matabili and Bechuana.

Six feet six or eight inches high at the shoulder, and above fourteen in extreme length. Head four feet long. Muzzle truncated, upwards of eighteen inches in breadth; furnished with two horns placed one behind the other as in the last species; the anterior robust at the base, tapering, and about three feet in length; the posterior a mere excrescence, five or six inches long. Ears pointed and approximated, placed on the neck. A square lump immediately behind them. Eyes very diminutive and lateral. Legs short and straight, terminating in three toes. Tail about two feet long, compressed and bristled at the extremity. Hide very rough and knotty, extremely thick, with folds and plaits about the neck. Colour varying; usually dirty brownish white.

Female similar, but smaller. Mammæ two. Very common in the interior, after passing Kurrichane.

Genus. Equus.

13. *Equus Zebra*. The Zebra. Wilde Paard of the Cape Colonists.

About four feet high at the shoulder, and eight feet two inches in extreme length. Shape light and symmetrical. Legs very slender. Feet small, terminating in a solid hoof. Head light and bony. Ears and tail asinine; the latter blackish, about sixteen inches long, and tufted at the extremity. Ground colour of the hair white. The whole of the body, neck, head, and legs, covered with narrow black bands, placed wider or closer together; the upper ones connected with the dorsal line, but not extending over the belly, or inside of thighs. Mane erect and bushy, alternately banded white and black. Two transverse black bands on the ears. Brown stripes on the face terminating in a bay nose. A bare spot a little above the knee on all four of the legs.

Female with two inguinal mammæ.

Gregarious. Found within the Cape Colony. Inhabits mountainous regions only.

14. *Equus Burchellii*. Burchell's Zebra. Bonte Quagga of the Cape Colonists. Piitzi of the Bechuana and Matabili.

Male four feet six inches high at the shoulder, and eight feet six inches in extreme length. Body round. Legs robust. Crest arched and surmounted by a standing mane, five inches high, banded black and white. Ears and tail equine; the latter thirty-five inches long, flowing and white. Muzzle black. Coat short and glossy. General ground colour of the head, neck, and body, sienna, capriciously banded with black and deep brown transverse stripes forming various figures, and unconnected with the dorsal line, which widens towards the croup. Belly and legs pure white. Bare spots above the knees on the inside.

Female an udder with four mammæ.

Inhabits the plains of the interior beyond the Gareep in immense herds.

15. *Equus Quagga*. The Quagga. Quagga of the Cape Colonists.

About the height of Burchell's Zebra, but of a more robust form. Ears and tail equine, as in the preceding; the former marked with two irregular black bands. Crest very high, surmounted by a standing mane banded alternately brown and white. Colour of the head, neck, and upper parts of the body, reddish brown, irregularly banded and marked with dark brown stripes, stronger on the head and neck, and gradually becoming fainter until lost behind the shoulder. Dorsal line broad; belly, legs, and tail, white.

Female similar. Mammæ four.

Still found within the Cape Colony. Inhabits the open plains south of the Vaal River in immense herds.

Order. RUMINANTIA.

Genus. CAMELOPARDALIS.

16. *Camelopardalis Giraffa*. The Giraffe. Kameel of the Cape Colonists. Intootla of the Matabili.

In stature the tallest of mammiferous animals. Adult male twelve

feet high at the shoulder, and eighteen at the crown of the head. Legs slender, seven feet in length. Feet terminating in a divided hoof. No succentorial hoofs. Body short. Withers elevated, a scanty, upright, rufous mane extending along the whole neck. Back oblique. Tail thirty four inches long, terminating in a tuft of bristly black hair about the same length, which reaches to the hocks. Head light and tapering, thirty-four inches long; provided with osseous peduncles (common to both sexes) covered with a hairy skin, and terminating in a tuft of black hair. A tuberculum on the chaffron. No muzzle. Upper lip entire, hairy and pointed. Eyes large and melting. No lachrymary sinus. Ears pure white, and ample. Callosities on the breast and knee. Tongue very long, pointed, and flexible. General colour deep sienna, with large angular ferruginous spots, variously disposed over the whole; each spot darker in the centre. Belly and cheeks white, with dark blotches.

Female sixteen or seventeen feet in height at the crown, of a dirty white colour, with pale ferruginous spots as in the male. Mammæ four.

Gregarious in small troops. Inhabits the great plains of the interior.

Genus. Bos.

17. *Bubalus Caffer*. The African Buffalo. Buffel of the Cape Colonists. 'Neaat and Bokolokolo of the Matabili. Naari of the Bechuana.

Adult male about five feet six or eight inches high at the shoulder, and upwards of twelve feet in extreme length. Structure extremely powerful. Body ponderous. Neck short. Breast and shoulder deep, and slightly dewlapped. Back straight and hunchless. Limbs short and solid, terminating in a divided hoof, which is nearly circular. Succentorial hoofs very long. Tail three feet long, terminating in a tuft of coarse black hair, which reaches below the hocks. Head short, and small in proportion to the animal's bulk. Eyes small and sinister, overshadowed by rough and ponderous dark coloured horns, nearly in contact at the base, spreading