

## MISCELLANEOUS.

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### I.—*Report of the Expedition for exploring Central Africa, under the superintendence of Dr. A. Smith. (Abridged.)*

It is generally known that, in 1834, an association was formed at the Cape of Good Hope for the purpose of exploring Central Africa; by whose direction was organized an expedition placed under the immediate superintendence of Dr. Andrew Smith, well-known as an able naturalist, who was accompanied by several volunteers, zealous in the cause of discovery. The expedition, which was on a large scale, consisting, it is said, of about fifty persons, one hundred and fifty head of cattle and horses, and, perhaps, twenty waggons, started from Graaf Reinet on the 12th August, 1834, and returned in the beginning of the present year. Immediately on its arrival a report of its proceedings was laid before the Association; and as the results, in a geographical point of view, are valuable, and likely to lead the way to yet farther discoveries, we consider it of sufficient importance to give an abridgment of the whole report.

Leaving Graaf Reinet, the party travelled, by moderate stages, till they reached the Nu Gariep, or Black River, the southern branch of the Orange River, and thence to Philippolis, a missionary station, about twenty miles beyond it: here they found that, owing to the excessive draught, it would be difficult to procure cattle fit for draught, or to find subsistence for them in crossing the dried-up plains towards Lattakoo. Dr. Smith decided, therefore, to proceed to the eastward, and examined the undescribed tribes and country towards the sources of the Caledon River. He proceeds:—

“ On the 10th September we left Philippolis, and four days moderate travelling brought us to Verhuil, a French missionary station. The population here consists of 6000 persons, chiefly driven away from their native country by wars or by want. On the 23rd we continued our journey and reached the Caledon River. Where we first saw it, which was several miles above its confluence with the Nu Gariep, or Black River, it was a stream of considerable size, little inferior as to the quantity of water it contained to the Black River itself. Our course from thence was nearly parallel with it, though generally at a considerable distance either on the one side or the other. In proportion as we receded from Philippolis, in the same proportion did vegetation improve, and by the time we arrived towards the higher parts of this river every plain was found to be covered with a conti-

nuous sward of most luxuriant grass, which continued to the very limit of our journey in that direction. Water was also found in much greater abundance, and the number of small limpid streams which occurred gave an agreeable and interesting character to the country, as well as a degree of comfort, which we had not experienced since leaving Graaf Reinet.

" Previous, to arriving at the French missionary station, Moriah, we passed to the north of the Kous Mountains, which form a part of the high belt that divides Cafferland from the Bechuana country.

" On approaching the territory of the Bashootoo, the character of the country began to change, the low primitive hills which in the district of Philippolis were only in a very few instances found to be surmounted by a capping of sandstone, rose to a greater height, and were almost invariably so covered. The surface of the flats, which in the former district either consisted of a firm ferruginous clay or of the bare primitive rock, was here either a mixture of vegetable mould and ferruginous clay, or of a silicious or a coarse-grained sandstone. Small trees and brushwood, neither of which had been seen in any quantity since leaving Graaf Reinet, began to clothe the ravines and breaks in the hills; whilst Proteas and a variety of other dwarf trees skirted the bases of some of the more considerable ones, and reminded me strongly of the country about Platte-kloof, in the district of Swellendam. Near this spot we ascended one of the highest hills in the district, and obtained a distant view of the high mountain range already mentioned, when speaking of the Kous Berg, and which is known to the colonist by the name of " Witte Bergen." Travelling, which to this point had been attended with but few difficulties, as far as regarded the road, now became irksome, in consequence of the rugged and broken nature of the sandstone over which we had frequently to pass; we could no longer, as formerly, proceed from point to point almost in direct lines, precipices and broken ground stood between us and our object nearly in every direction, and rendered our path so intricate, that neither by the direction we had received from the natives, nor by the assistance of our interpreter, who had formerly visited Moriah, could we ascertain its position, till after halting and sending out men to examine the country. By that means it was discovered that the site of the Mission was at no great distance, and that by immediately proceeding we would reach it before dark the same day, viz., the 12th of October. There we found a large substantial stone house, and the Rev. Mr. Cassilis, the only white inhabitant of the place, ready and delighted to receive us.

" From him we learned that the abode of the principal chief of the tribe was at some considerable distance to the eastward, but that his son was present on the station, and that he had despatched a messenger to inform his father of our approach, so that we might expect a visit from him in a few days. The situation of Moriah is very picturesque, and its inhabitants, as well as those in other parts of the country, observe considerable caution in guarding against attacks from enemies. They had all placed themselves in situations where they

could not be assailed on all sides, and where an assault from any quarter could not be effected without considerable inconvenience and exertion. To such precautionary measures they have been driven, from having so long been subjected to the ravages of the tribes which have been expelled from their native country by the successful arms of Chiaka. The people resident at this station may amount to about 300, and are all under the immediate government of the oldest son of Moshesh, the present king of the tribe. On the afternoon of the 14th, the latter arrived on horseback, accompanied by several mounted attendants, and on approaching our camp all, excepting himself, dismounted and fired a salute. He then advanced towards our tents, where he alighted with ease and freedom, offered his hand, and in other ways evinced indications of friendship and marks of great delight. A very trifling degree of physiognomic knowledge was required to generate the most favourable impressions as to this individual, and all of his proceedings whilst we were in his country went to justify the high opinion formed of him at first sight. The candour he evinced, and the freedom with which he talked of the early and present history of his tribe, particularly of its manners, customs, superstitions, &c., proved sufficiently that he had either never suffered under the same mental degradation as the majority of savage rulers, or that he had made a considerable advance in knowledge, and got rid of many of the vile trammels which corrupt the ideas and vitiate the imagination.

“ Here I met with the first instance that has ever occurred to me of the principal chief of a clan condescending to furnish information on every subject desired. Persons of the rank in question are generally ready and willing to state their complaints and grievances, but to touch upon any thing beyond those will be found sufficient to drive them from your society. Moshesh stated that the Bashootoo were originally Baquaina, and that they left the country of their forefathers in consequence of oppression and poverty. Their present country is the third which they have occupied since they became emigrants: in their first movement, they approached the Ky Gariep, or Likwa; in their second, they proceeded towards the sources of the Caledon; and in the third, to which they were compelled, by their inability to compete with the successive attacks of the Amahlubi, Amanguau, and Balkokwa, they arrived at their present residence. Their language is the Sichuana, with a few trifling variations—the origin or import of the national name could not be discovered.

“ The necessary acknowledgments having been made for the obligations here conferred on us, we proceeded on the 25th of October in the direction of Lishuani, a Wesleyan establishment under the superintendence of the Rev. Mr. Edwards, and reached it on the 29th. There we found the principal remnant of the Griquas, who formerly acknowledged Barend Barends as their chief, now under the rule of Peter David.

“ From Lishuani we proceeded on the 4th of November in an easterly direction, and on the 6th arrived at another Wesleyan sta-

tion, under the care of the Rev. Mr. Jenkins. The inhabitants of this establishment belonged to the tribe of Ky Kora, or Great Corannas, who had lately removed thither from the Hart River, in search of a better dwelling-place.

“ From Umpakwani Messrs. Archbell and Alison accompanied us to the Mantatees, and about ten in the evening of the 7th November the waggons arrived under the hill where the principal chief of the tribe was residing. Those two gentlemen, together with myself, rode on in advance of the waggons, and took up our position at a small house which had been built for the abode of Mr. Alison. From thence we despatched a message to Ciconiæli, requesting an interview, and an answer was received some hours afterwards, to the effect that he would shortly be with us. When he arrived I found his appearance calculated to excite unfavourable impressions, in the same degree at least as that of Moshesh was to produce the opposite. He expressed satisfaction with our visit, but an evident suspicion lurked within him, as was naturally to be expected, since he was doubtless conscious of the estimation in which he was held, and of the crooked policy which he was notorious for practising.

“ On adverting to the history of his tribe, he betrayed the reluctance already remarked as characteristic of the majority of savage chiefs; what information he furnished was actually wrung from him, and he took the first opportunity of avoiding the inquiry. His mother, on the other hand, resembled Moshesh, and it was from her principally that we obtained the knowledge we possess of the nation.

“ Whilst residing on the Namahari River it was known by the name of Baklokwa, or Bakora; but on flying from thence and coming in contact with the Bashootoo and other Bechuanas, when it was under the government of Mantatee, they characterized the tribe by the name of its leader, and ever since it has been better known by the term of Mantatees than by the one it originally possessed.

“ The descent of the Baklokwa could not be traced, owing in some measure to their ignorance of its ancient history, but principally, I am inclined to believe, to their pride. A mere allusion to the probability of their being a portion of an older community, was opposed with all their energies, and invariably led to the assertion, that they were from the beginning as they now are, unconnected with any other people. The entire of the country towards the sources of the Ky Gariep or Vaal River, was some time ago inhabited by tribes resembling them in manner, customs, &c.; but they would not admit their derivation from any of them, nor did they demand for themselves the honour of having given birth to any separate community. Their dress and war implements are the same as those which were in use among the tribes more to the eastward.

“ The Baklokwa, like the Bashootoo, principally reside upon the tops of the hills, and the one upon which we found Ciconiæli was better adapted for defence than any we had previously seen. It could be readily ascended only by one narrow foot-path, which, towards the top, passed between perpendicular rocks only a few feet apart. There

they have a wicket door of great thickness, and over it the space between the rocks, to a considerable height, is closed by a wall of stones.

" On the 8th we proceeded to the eastward, in order to ascertain the sources of the Caledon, which were represented as being about fifty or sixty miles distant in the high mountain range, which now lay about thirty miles to the southward of us. On approaching it we found the information we had received to be correct, and that it issued from the mountains by two principal branches.\* It was during this part of the journey that the accident occurred to Captain Edie, which eventually deprived the expedition of his services. From the sources of this river we found it impracticable to proceed farther in an easterly direction, without first returning nearly to the residence of Ciconiæli; and even after that we could only have travelled north-east, in consequence of the course of the mountains, which would have carried us directly to the spot where Peter David, only a few weeks before, lost his waggons. Though there appeared no actual reason for our contemplating a like misfortune, yet a probability existed that some unpleasant collision might unavoidably happen, which would at least have the effect of seriously impeding our future operations. Umsiligas, it was known, had declared that he only regarded those persons as his friends who approached him from the direction of Kuruman; and as it was desirable that we should not appear enemies, our duty was self-evident. As soon, therefore, as Captain Edie was in a state to travel, we moved in a south-west direction towards the range already mentioned, and on reaching it ascended one of its highest peaks, from whence we enjoyed an extensive view towards the north, but a limited one to the other quarters, arising from our position being upon the northern limit of a belt of broken porphyritic mountains, at least thirty miles in breadth, and in which are situated the sources of the Nu Gariep, or Black River. Our movements in this district were greatly retarded by the heavy falls of rain that almost daily occurred, and which more than once flooded the rivers.

" On the 24th November we re-crossed the Caledon nearly opposite to Lishuani, and from thence directed our course towards Thaba Uchhu, a large Bechuana station, where the remnants of various disorganized tribes had been collected by the Rev. Mr. Archbell. The principal chief was a Baralong, and the greater number of the inhabitants were also of that nation. At a little distance from this establishment a considerable body of Corannas reside, under a chief of their own, who, to secure the friendship and countenance of the Missionary, has appointed one of his most prudent and influential men to live near to him. To the north and north-east of this station we

\* As far as we can trace Dr. Smith's route on our maps, these sources of the Caledon must be in about 29° 50' S. lat., and long. 29° E.—or 100 miles due west of Port Natal. If so, Captain Allan Gardiner, R.N., in his late journey from the eastern coast, must have reached within about ten miles of the route of Dr. Smith's party,—viz., the eastern part of the Quathlamba range, from eighty to one hundred miles west of Port Natal.—E.P.

found the remnants of the Lihoya, a tribe which some considerable time ago emigrated from the north of the Vaal River. They are of the Bechuana family, and since the death of their principal chief one portion has become tributary to Ciconizeli, and the other to Moshesh. After acquiring considerable information at Thaba Unchu, relative to the Baralong and the tribes which formerly occupied the country towards the sources of the Likwa, or Vaal River, particularly those of the latter, which approached Latakoo in 1823, and were defeated by the Griquas, we left it on the 4th of December, and directed our course towards Philippolis. During this stage we crossed the Vaal, Modder, the Black Modder, and the Riet Rivers, and came in contact with several hordes of Corannas, all of whom seemed ready and willing to supply information, and were zealous beyond measure in recommending themselves and criminating their neighbours. Over the more sterile parts of this district are dispersed a number of petty lawless hordes, each under some notorious robber; and it is by their proceedings principally that the peace beyond our northern frontier is so constantly disturbed. One of the most prudent and courageous of these, Jan Bloom, is an illegitimate son of a late colonial farmer, who will long be remembered by the Bechuana, in consequence of the serious evils they experienced at his hands, even whilst he was a subject of the Cape government. On arrival at Philippolis our prospects appeared favourable, rains had fallen in abundance towards Latakoo, the oxen left in charge of Mr. Kolbe were in good condition, and nothing operated to prevent our immediate advance except some repairs which were required for the waggons. These were completed with as much expedition as possible, so that by the 26th of December we were on the road to the Vaal River, which we reached on the 6th of January, 1835, and, to our great mortification, found it flooded, and likely to be impassable for many days. Thus far a number of Griquas belonging to Philippolis accompanied us, and amongst others the late worthy old chief Dam Kok, who, out of anxiety to forward our views, remained till the 14th, and only then left under an idea that a considerable delay would yet be unavoidable. On the 16th a report was brought that the river was again upon the rise, which induced me immediately to determine by actual experiment whether or not it could be crossed; with that view a waggon was emptied without delay, sent in and conveyed to the opposite side without accident or serious difficulty, though the water reached fully half-way up its sides. The result encouraged to further attempts; the stores, &c., were raised to a height beyond the reach of the water, and though one waggon was overturned, yet we succeeded in getting all over before dusk, and placed in a position where we felt no further anxiety about the state of the river.

“ From this point Latakoo was to be reached by one of two routes, and as it was probable that the western one would necessarily be that which we should have to travel on our return to the colony, the eastern one was now preferred. Our course for some days was close to the river, and in that time we came in communication with Motibe

the proper chief of Latakoo, who, with a party of his subjects, had removed here some years ago, to escape the attacks of the Corannas and Griquas, which had proved so harassing to them in their native country. A considerable number of inhabitants were dispersed around his residence, all of whom, owing principally to the barrenness of the country, were miserably poor. Notwithstanding such was their condition, it was pleasing to observe that the seeds of civilization which had been sown amongst them at Kuruman were still in activity. The thirst for instruction manifested by the younger classes exceeded any thing I had yet witnessed, and the number of young men which were neatly clothed in jackets, &c., principally of leather, was strikingly great in proportion to the population. They refused to trade with us for any article which was simply ornamental, and inquired after nothing but what was calculated for purposes of clothing. The chief himself is in his dotage, filthy and indolent to an extreme, and apparently indifferent either to his own situation or that of his people.

“ After leaving Motibe, we travelled in an easterly direction to the spot where the Hart River terminates in the Ligua\* ; and from thence our course was along the banks of the former, until we arrived at the road which leads to Bootschap, the late station of the Griquas now resident at Lishuani. Here we left the river, and took the direct road to Latakoo, which now bore from us to the west of north. For the first two days the country kept gradually rising, but afterwards continued nearly of the same level till we reached Kuruman; and wherever rocks appeared, they were found to consist of a fine crystallized, bluish-white limestone. The greater part of the country in question is covered with a dense brushwood, and has from time immemorial been one of the favourite haunts of the Bushmen. In former days, water existed throughout this district in tolerable abundance; but at present the number of springs is comparatively small, and even those, according to the statements of the natives, are diminishing in strength, and they are thus brought to anticipate the period as not far distant when necessity will force them to seek another abode.

“ On the 30th January we reached Kuruman, and were met at some little distance from the station by the Rev. Mr. Hamilton, who informed us of the serious indisposition of the Rev. Mr. Moffat, and of his great anxiety to see me. On visiting him, which was done without delay, I found him suffering from a severe bilious attack, which appeared to have been occasioned by over-exertion in the printing-office. In spite of the sickness, he, with a zeal characteristic of his character, immediately entered into our views, and furnished a detailed account of the misfortunes which had befallen Mr. Bain and his attendants. He appeared to anticipate little danger from our visiting Umsiligas, and declared himself ready and willing to accompany us, should he recover before we started. Upon mentioning to him the circumstances under which the soldiers had been granted, and the nature of our general instructions, he united with me in regard-

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\* Likwa, or Vaal River, probably, of our maps.—Eu.

ing it desirable to open at once a communication with the Matabili, which would enable us to judge of their feelings, and discover if that part of the interior could be visited without a probability of secret opposition or open violence. To accomplish this, two messengers were immediately engaged, and despatched to Mosiga, with strict injunctions to proceed with all possible haste, and return without delay.

" Shortly after our arrival at Kuruman, our oxen began to suffer from a disease which the natives call *quatsi*, and before we were able to attempt a removal from thence, nearly twenty had died. The complaint, it was stated, occurs almost every year in this district, and its attacks are extended to man as well as to the lower animals. On the appearance of the complaint amongst the cattle, blood-letting is usually resorted to by the more intelligent of the natives; and the propriety of the practice was evident, from the inflammatory character of the symptoms.

" This unexpected sickness delayed our advance towards the country to the westward, which was meditated on the departure of the messenger, and did not permit us to move till the 25th of the month. On that day we set out, with four waggons and the best of our oxen, and on the 28th, after having passed some large kraals of Batlapi, Baralong, and Batlaroo, we reached Tsining. From this place, a range of high hills was observed to the westward; and as it was desirable to visit it, the arrangements rendered necessary by the scarcity of water were made, and a party, consisting of ten persons, started on the 2nd of February. After three days' travelling, during which both men and oxen suffered severely from thirst, we arrived at a small pond immediately at the base of the mountains, early on the morning of the 4th, and in the afternoon of the same day ascended one of the highest peaks, whence we enjoyed an extensive view towards the north, north-west, and west. The southern extremity of the Kalahari desert was from that distinctly seen, and appeared almost a perfect flat, densely covered with brushwood, through the foliage of which plots of a yellowish-white sand could here and there be clearly observed. On returning to the waggon, some natives belonging to the Batlaroo tribe were discovered, who stated that they had only a few days before left the desert, owing to the total want of water, and that they would be under the necessity of remaining here till rains should fall, though, by doing so, they would in all probability lose what little property they possessed, it being a custom amongst the more wealthy of the tribe to attack and plunder the wandering poor wherever they find them. The return journey was attended even with more inconvenience than the outward one; what little water was left on the latter had nearly disappeared, and only in one situation was the quantity found sufficient for our wants. In the neighbourhood of that pool were congregated a number of Bechuana, and it was really painful to observe the horror they manifested on seeing our oxen make such free use of its contents; they declared that upon it their existence depended, and should it be consumed, many of them must inevitably die from thirst. The determination of these people showed



most wonderfully the power of habit: almost all of them were in a state of starvation, and entirely depending upon chance for the means of support; yet they preferred such uncertainty, to becoming the slaves or servants of the more wealthy members of the nation who were resident at the Upper and Lower Kuruman. They urged, in answer to my importunities, directed to induce them to alter their manner of living, that they had from childhood been accustomed to it, and therefore could not abandon it for one which I might conceive would be more comfortable.

“ On returning to Tsining, it was determined that we should visit Mirribin and Chue, two places from which the Kalahari have at times been entered. Soon after starting, we came in contact with the sand-flats which form the borders of the desert, and over those we travelled with great difficulty, till we reached the former station. The sand extended everywhere to a great depth, and bore upon its surface a scanty covering of brushwood and dwarf mimosas. Before reaching Mirribin, both men and oxen were completely exhausted from want of water: the latter, in addition to the necessary halts, had passed twenty-three hours actually in the yokes without ever having had an opportunity of satiating thirst, or more than simply moderating hunger. Under the circumstances, it was interesting to observe the mixture of beings which were, almost in a moment, vigorously engaged in drinking from the same pools.—a mixture which arose from our people being disinclined to protract the terrible sufferings of the oxen.

“ Here we found a small community of Baralongs, trusting entirely for support to the spontaneous productions of nature. On questioning them relative to the desert, all unanimously declared that it was utterly impossible at the time to travel in it; and even the offer of a gun, which is of all things the most valued, could not command a guide. All spoke with horror of what they had once experienced in it, and to a man affirmed that they would sooner suffer death than attempt it again. The only point now remaining to be attempted was Chue, which we reached after travelling for seventeen hours without water; and the information we there obtained was equally unsatisfactory.

“ Here we ascertained that the country had, within the last five years, been getting gradually drier, and that, at the period when they left it, not a drop of water was anywhere to be found. From the tops of some hills to the north of our encampment, we obtained a view of a considerable tract of this barren waste, which was said to differ in no way from the broad belt beyond it, except in being less densely covered with bush: the sand is continuous, and in places raised into ridges; the bush is low and intertwined; so that travelling in straight lines is impossible; nay, even the erect posture requires occasionally to be exchanged for the knees, in order to avoid the lowermost branches.

“ Having completed our inquiries at Chue, and having reason to expect the return of the messengers, we started for the Motito, by way

of the Mashua River; and, after experiencing privations similar to those already mentioned, we found ourselves at the residence of the Rev. Mr. Lemo, on the evening of the 17th of March. The climate of this part of South Africa must, in the course of the last fifty years, have undergone a great change, as, within the memory of persons yet living, sea-cows inhabited the Kuruman River, where it is now without a drop of water, and numerous dry channels exist elsewhere, which once formed the beds of respectable streams.

“ On arriving at Motito, we found that the messengers had passed on their way to Kuruman, with a friendly invitation from Umsiligas, and a Litabili guide to conduct us to his country.

“ As all our wants had been supplied, we left Kuruman in company with our new guide on the 30th of April, and Motito on the 15th of May.

“ Whilst at the latter, awaiting the arrival of Mr. Moffat, Mohura sent an order to our interpreter to return to Kuruman, and a message to me, declaratory of his intention to prevent our proceeding to Umsiligas. The poor man seemed to fear non-compliance with the order of his chief; but on being directed to deliver my answer—namely, that if he (Mohura) was able to effect his purpose by force of arms, he might prevent us, but not otherwise, he seemed more at ease, and decided upon remaining, at least for a time.

“ After leaving the neighbourhood of Latakoo we met with few inhabitants till we reached the country of the Matabili, distant about two hundred miles in a north-east direction. In former days this intervening district was inhabited by Batlapi and Baralong; but at present it is only the resort of the poor of those tribes, and of the Baharootzi. It may be said to consist almost of one extensive flat, which, during and for some time after the rainy season, is thickly covered with luxuriant grass; but at other times is barren and, except in a few places, nearly destitute of water. When within a moderate distance of the Molopo, we despatched messengers to inform Umsiligas of our approach, and to state that we should remain at that river, which is considered the western boundary of his territory, until we should receive further information. On the third day after our arrival, and whilst I was absent to examine the source of the river, a chief and three attendants reached our encampment, with a request that we would immediately proceed to Mosiga, where the king would be delighted to receive us. With this invitation we readily complied; and, towards noon of the 2nd of June, descended into a fine valley or basin, bounded on the north and north-east by the Kurrichaine range, and which, previous to its occupancy by the Matabili, formed the principal residence of the Baharootzi tribe. Here, as we had been given to understand, whilst at the Molopo, Umsiligas awaited us; but scarcely had we halted, before it was discovered that he was yet considerably in advance, though in what direction was not to be ascertained. In our way to a convenient halting-place we passed several large kraals, out of which rushed great numbers of men, women, and children, each more anxious than another to see the waggons and the

people. Their near approach, however, was prohibited: strict orders had been given that nobody was to approach the party; so that when any such attempt was made, a word from the chief, or a shower of stones from his attendants, soon placed all spectators at a respectable distance. A similar system, though not always equally rigid, was observed during our residence in the country; and more than once, when I urged our guard to permit individuals to gratify their curiosity, it was stated to be impossible, because the positive orders of Umsiligas were, that we should in no way be incommoded by his 'dogs.' The day after we arrived at Mosega, Kalipi, the chief, who had met us at the Molopo, called at the waggons on his way to the king; and, after being absent two days, returned, bearing the congratulations of his Majesty, and a request that we would, with all possible speed, proceed to his kraal.

"Our road, for the first two days, wound between the ranges of the Kurrichaine hills, and carried us past several kraals, at which were abundance of cattle, but few inhabitants.

"On the night of the 8th of June we halted on the banks of the Marikwa River, a little below where it issues from the mountain chain. From this place it was wished, by Kalipi, that Mr. Moffat should proceed in advance of the waggons, they being not more than sixteen or eighteen miles from the residence of the chief. To this our worthy friend readily consented; and, long before we were prepared to move, he and the Matabili who accompanied him were out of sight. The country passed this day was, in general, closely covered with bush: and at one place the road skirted the remains of a very large Bamaliti kraal, which had, many years ago, been destroyed at the instigation of, and by the personal assistance of, Conrad Buys, a man who, by his abominable and unprincipled conduct, entailed more suffering upon the native tribes of South Africa than can easily be described.

"The first kraal we approached, was stated to be that of which we were in quest, and though it was little calculated to impress us with the idea of its being the royal lodge, yet, the appearance of Mr. Moffat in the distance, soon satisfied us that Umsiligas was there, and a farther proof was immediately given by his own actual appearance in front of the door, ready and anxious to acknowledge us as we passed to a halting-place. Curiosity, as well as etiquette, required that we should not be slow in paying our respects, so the moment the waggons were placed in their proper position, we proceeded to the kraal with Mr. Moffat as lord in waiting. On entering we found Umsiligas seated on one side of the cattle kraal, with our messengers and a number of petty chiefs immediately around him, and at a distance was a guard of about fifty or sixty of his warriors. As we approached he stood up, offered his hand to each in succession, and uttered repeatedly, but indistinctly, *goeden dag*. It having been understood that nothing in the form of seats would be offered us, Mr. Moffat and myself took care to be provided with stools, but the others of the party, who disregarded that precaution, found it necessary to squat

themselves upon the dry cow-dung. For some minutes after the ceremony described, a perfect silence prevailed, during which time the chief was not inactive with his eyes, and whenever they met those of any of the party, he smiled with apparent satisfaction. After this, orders were issued to several individuals present, and almost instantly a portion of the breast of an ox, finely stewed, and contained in a wooden dish, was placed in the middle of the group, and several calabashes well filled with what he called his beer were carried to him, and set at his feet. The interpreter was now desired to request us to eat, an invitation which we did not require to have repeated. To supply knives, not being regarded as a part of *his* duty, Mr. Bell immediately made up the deficiency by producing one, which performed the dissection well, and soon enabled each to fill his hand with a mass of well-cooked meat. After eating was concluded, the chief drank a large cupful of beer himself, and then handed one to each of us, in succession, and had we been as anxious for repetitions of the dose as he was to supply them, some at least would have found difficulty in reaching the waggons.

“ During the time we were thus employed, he put a variety of questions both to Mr. Moffat and myself, more especially as to what was the news from the white people; and having satisfied himself on the points which seemed to interest him most, the conversation began to flag, and we embraced that as a favourable opportunity to depart to the waggons. He was not long in returning our visit, and but little longer in being firmly located on Mr. Moffat's bed, a position he seemed greatly to admire, and which he loved, because on it, said he, “ sleeps his father Amachoban.” Nothing could exceed the respect shown by him for Mr. Moffat, a circumstance which was particularly pleasing to me, inasmuch as I knew it was most abundantly merited. Scarcely a day passed after this, without one or two visits, and we were kept from dying of *ennui* by the shouts and songs of the mob, which always accompanied him to and from the waggons.

As little could be obtained here which was calculated to forward the objects of the association, I informed the king, as soon as it appeared prudent, that our wish was to visit, in the first instance, the country towards the sources of the Likwa, and that we hoped to secure guides and an interpreter from him. On this occasion he, for the first time, declared his great anxiety to forward our views, and immediately stated, that whatever we required in the way of men, should be in readiness. By this time our provisions were rather low, and it became highly desirable to procure some corn, which was only likely to be effected through Umsiligas,--Mr. Kift therefore consented to remain with Mr. Moffat, in order, if possible, to procure what was necessary, and with him we left two waggons, two men, and about thirty of our worst oxen.

“ On the 16th of June, the day appointed for our departure, the Matabili destined to accompany us were present at the kraal, where they received most minute instructions as to their duty, and were told

that if anything befel us whilst under their charge, they should as certainly be killed as Um'Nombate, who was present, was then living.

"Our course, in order to accomplish the meditated journey, was nearly south-east, and the road lay over a rugged and broken country, between two ranges of hills, which rendered travelling difficult and tedious. For some days after starting, we passed occasionally kraals well stocked with cattle, but for a long time before turning back we saw nothing but the remains of stone walls of great extent, which, in former times, had confined the cattle of the various Bechuana tribes, then living in the peaceful possession of that country. Everywhere, during the outward journey, we found a fair supply of grass and an abundance of water; the sources of most of the rivers in that direction being in the range immediately to the north of us, which divides the waters that run to the eastward from those that flow to the westward. The scenery here surpassed anything we had yet seen, and, judging from all appearances, the country was much better calculated for grazing and cultivation than any portion of the district we had found the Matabili occupying; indeed none of them hesitated in acknowledging that, and stated that the fear of Dingan alone had led them to neglect it.

"On reaching the Oori River, which is fed by many fine streamlets from the range already mentioned, we were told by the guides, that beyond it water was very scarce, indeed seldom to be found within a great distance, and that it would be quite impossible to advance farther with oxen. This information I received with suspicion; yet the anxiety evinced by the guides, that Umsiligas should understand that they had afforded it, gave so much the air of truth as did not warrant me in persisting to oppose their recommendation, which I afterwards ascertained to be judicious at the time. Though they stated that the same obstacles existed to our farther advance beyond the Cashan range of mountains, which lay immediately to the north of us, yet, from its not being desirable to return by the road we had just travelled, I determined upon crossing it, and then deciding as to the course which ought to be pursued. From the position we were then in, passing the range could only be effected by one road, and that with difficulty, owing to the quantity of bush and the number and size of the stones, yet with caution it was effected, and we were again able to reach the Oori before dark, and to encamp for the night on its eastern banks, about four miles to the northward of the mountain.\*

"From our new position almost nothing of the neighbouring country could be seen; and though fears were expressed that water could not be procured on the higher grounds visible to the eastward, yet the advantage to be obtained from reaching them was more than sufficient to warrant the risk and induce us to proceed. Beyond the Oori, travelling proved very fatiguing to the oxen, owing to the nature of

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\* The expedition appears here to have crossed Messrs. Scoon and Luckie's route in 1829.—ED.

the soil, which will be afterwards described, and had we not been so fortunate as to discover a sufficiency of water towards evening, they would scarcely have been able to have returned next day to the river to drink. This day's journey brought us to within a moderate distance of one of the highest points of the Cashan mountains, from whence, we were told, the country in all directions was to be seen to a great distance. To that we repaired on the following day, and soon found our information to have been correct, and that our waggons were near to the site of the last battle fought between the forces of Umsiligas and Dingan, towards the sources of the Umpiban. Detached hills and mountain ranges of moderate height, separated from each other by extensive intervening flats, bounded the only very extended view which we here enjoyed, namely, the one to the north-east and east. In those directions little wood was seen, and that little was towards the bases of the hills. The soil of such of the flats as we were able to visit was of a blackish colour, highly porous or honey-combed, and into it the feet sunk deeply in walking—characters which indicated the gentle slope that here existed, and afforded evidence of the course by which the rain waters commonly disappear.

“ Various reasons rendered it necessary that we should see Mr. Moffat previously to his return to Kuruman; and as the day fixed for that event was approaching, I found it imperative to rest satisfied with the distance we had reached in this direction, and to return to the place at which we had arranged, previous to starting, that he should meet us.

“ Having adopted a new route for our return, our first movement brought us back to the Oori, but considerably to the north of where we last left it, and there we found a party of natives belonging to a subordinate tribe of Baquaina, under a chief named Mutsili, whose usual residence was on the Umpiban, now about a day's journey to the north of us. From this point the Oori ran nearly in a north-west direction, and for some days, as long as it kept that course, we travelled along its banks; but, upon its inclining more to the north, and entering a range of high mountains where the flies which prove so destructive to cattle exist in great abundance, we left it in order to keep the road which would bring us to the point where Mr. Moffat was to await our arrival.

“ The second day after this, we passed the site of the battle fought between Barend's Griquas and the Matibili, and the appearances yet to be seen told in the strongest terms what must have taken place. The slope upon which it occurred was still actually white with the bones of men and horses; and the remnants of guns, saddles, jackets, hats, &c., proved what must have been the fate of many a Griqua.\*

“ On leaving the kraal where, by appointment, we met Mr. Moffat, our course was directed to the Marikwa, and from the point where we reached it we travelled along its banks to where it joins the Oori

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\* The expedition appears to have here reached the longitude of 28° 50' E., in the parallel of 25½° S., about 200 miles in a direct distance from Delagoa Bay.—*Ed.*

and forms the Limpopo. Much of the country on both sides of that river is thickly covered with high bush, which, here and there, impeded our progress and seriously injured the canvass of the waggons. The road in several places was rugged, and the ranges of hills through or over which we had occasionally to pass affected the waggons considerably, and led to several serious accidents, which, however, were rendered comparatively unimportant from our possessing in the party the means of effectually remedying them. On arriving in about latitude 24. 30, we found ourselves upon the northern limit of the Matabili territory, and at the last kraal of Umsiligas in that direction, which kraal was inhabited principally by Bechuana of conquered tribes under a Matabili chief. For some distance after passing this outpost we met with poor natives in considerable numbers, near to the river, all of whom acknowledged themselves as tributary to the Matabili, and even wore to a certain extent their dress.

“ They all appeared in a very dejected state, which was not to be wondered at, considering they were almost perishing from starvation. As we advanced, the number gradually diminished, and eventually not a human being was to be seen. This occurrence led us to fear that one of the most desirable sources of information was now out of our reach; but after travelling three days farther it was again available. Here we met with the surviving portion of the Baquaina nation, which had formerly held a high rank amongst the Bechuana tribes. This tribe, after having defended itself against the Mantatees, who were defeated at Old Latakoo, eventually sunk under the power of Umsiligas, and became tributary to him; in which condition it continued till he put to death the principal chief, when every individual with one accord fled from the country they were then occupying, and established themselves in their present position, where they now live in terror of the Matabili.

“ The Baquaina entertain a marked aversion to the Matabili, and were the first Bechuana whom I saw treat our guides with indifference and contempt. They were suffering much from hunger, and the necessity of constantly residing in the thick bush rendered it difficult for them even to pursue the game which, under circumstances like theirs, forms the principal means of existence. To construct snares, or to cultivate ground, was also inconsistent with their safety, inasmuch as either the one or the other was well calculated to discover their haunts. The people of this tribe seemed to feel their destitute condition more than any we met during the whole journey, which was owing, probably, to their having formerly stood highest in point of rank, having by universal consent been admitted to have first issued from the great cave out of which, in their idea, the various Bechuana and Bushmen tribes proceeded at the beginning of the world. From them we obtained much interesting information relative to the interior, which would be out of place to notice here. It may, however, be remarked, that two of the most important points established through them were,—first, the existence of a large fresh-water lake at a great distance to the northward; and secondly, the occurrence

of a scattered Hottentot population, not only over all the neighbouring districts, but as far as, and even beyond, the lake, and that, in the latter position, tribes resembling to all appearance the Corannas, and speaking a similar language, existed yet in a state of independence, under chiefs of their own nation. The statements made in regard to the lake were vague and unsatisfactory on every point, except as to its existence,—on that no discrepancy occurred,—the appearances of the water during stormy weather were so naturally detailed, and the form of the boats, and the method of making them 'walk,' so minutely and clearly described, as proved at once that all must have actually seen what they attempted to picture. On the subject of the direction and distance, little could be ascertained with certainty,—some stated it bore north-west from us, others north-east; some that they could reach it in three weeks, others that it would require three moons. If it be kept in view that almost no two of our informants reached it from the same place, and perhaps not one without wandering and halting amongst the intermediate tribes, it will be evident that none of them were fitted to form a correct estimate either of the actual distance or direction. There can be no doubt, however, that we were still far from it, as one of our own men, who had been there, and who is a resident of Kuruman, declared that we were at a much greater distance from it than from Latakoo.

" By the time we reached the Limpopo river our oxen were very much reduced in condition, from the want of sufficient food; and grass fitted for the use of cattle had nearly disappeared: circumstances which rendered our position particularly unfavourable. To have advanced without consideration might have left us a wreck in the desert; and to have returned without ascertaining if better prospects were not before us, might and would have exposed us to just reproach, especially as there was still in this vicinity what absolute hunger would induce the oxen to consume in sufficient quantity to subsist upon. A span of the best oxen were therefore immediately selected, and a small party with one waggon proceeded to discover, if possible, the most judicious course to pursue. After travelling four days in a north-east direction near to the river, and to a point where it turned to the south-east, without any signs of improvement, nay, I may safely say, with every symptom, if possible, of increasing sterility, we halted near to a kraal of Baquaina, to discover if it were not possible to cross from thence to the Baka hills, where we had been told there were both water and grass in abundance.

" Having found from experience that direct questions are often not well calculated to elicit the truth from savages, I determined here to wait, and see if some circumstance might not occur which would enable me to obtain the information we wanted, without making it appear our principal object. That soon happened, for scarcely had the natives joined us before they began to beg for food, and entreat that we would shoot some game for them, as, according to their own expression, they were dead from hunger. I immediately told them we were ready to do that, if they would accompany us on our journey,



which remark caused joy to beam in every countenance, as they took it for granted we intended to follow the river. Upon understanding, however, that such was not our meaning, their disappointment was extreme, and all declared it perfectly impossible to cross at this season to the Baka, as not a drop of water was to be found before arriving at the mountains, which would be six days' journey for us: and, in further proof of the difficulty and danger of the undertaking, they stated that two members of their own community who had lately arrived from thence were quite exhausted from thirst, though they had carried with them several large horns filled with water. Having ascertained this much I began to question them, and the following was the result, viz. :—During the rainy season the journey could be accomplished without difficulty, but at present it was impracticable. In former times it had been customary to pass during the whole year, but then large pits existed into which the rain-water flowed, and remained during the dry season; but since the Matabili have been in the country it has been an object to render communication as difficult as possible, and therefore every artificial reservoir has been either intentionally or accidentally destroyed.

“ With such apparently unprejudiced evidence before us, it would have been courting misfortune to have attempted the crossing of the country with oxen in the condition in which ours were, and highly unjustifiable, as our success had hitherto been such as to warrant a hope, that, if we reached the colony without any serious accident, further exertions would be made under circumstances calculated to produce a result very different from what we could now with reason anticipate. As soon then as the necessary observations were made, in regard to the surrounding country, we moved back to the other waggons, for the purpose of returning to Mosiga. In one excursion we left the river and travelled to a distance of some miles beyond the tropic, where, from the top of one of the highest trees, we could just faintly discern the summit of the Baka hills, due north of us. In every other direction the country between the eye and the horizon appeared nearly flat, and densely covered with brush-wood; and, if we are to believe the natives, the districts beyond the range surveyed exhibited nearly similar characters, particularly those to the east and north-east.\*

“ On reaching the position where we left the principal portion of the party, we found two of the oxen dead, and the others not at all improved, indeed the reverse, as was almost to be expected, considering the quantity and quality of the grass. Under these circumstances instant removal to a better provided district became a point of the greatest importance, and led us at once to proceed on the way to Mosiga. On beginning to work the oxen, we soon found they were not able to travel more than two or three hours each day, which dis-

\* By the Missionary Register of 1834 it appears that Mr. Huine has reached two days' journey beyond the Baka Hills, and found many well-disposed tribes, who obtained European goods from the Portuguese, and who spoke the Sichuana language.—Ed.

covery made me for the first time feel perfectly satisfied that I had acted judiciously in not extending the journey. In our return we passed over the site of the town in which Mr. Campbell found the Baharootzi, nearly on the top of Kurrichaine, and soon after leaving it we were delighted by the arrival of four spans of oxen, sent by Messrs. Hamilton and Edwards, to supply the place of such of our own as were unable to convey the waggons over the hills which lay between us and the head-quarters of Umsiligas.

“ On our starting, Umsiligas accompanied us for a short distance, conversed freely on the pleasure he had experienced from our visit, and added, that as we had not accomplished our object of visiting the ‘*great water*,’ we must go home in peace, and return again, when he would take care we should see it.

“ Between the Molopo and Graaff-Reinet, we travelled, of necessity, principally during the night, and but little occurred which requires notice on the present occasion. It would be unjust, however, to pass over the visit to Griqua Town, considering that much calculated to promote our object was obtained there. Waterboer, the chief, was particularly kind and communicative; so that, by his able assistance, we added much to the previous information we possessed, both in relation to the Griquas and Bushmen.

“ During the return journey a considerable number of oxen died from absolute exhaustion, and eleven, which were unable to proceed, were left between the Vaal River and Graaff-Reinet, with instructions to send them on to the latter, should they eventually recover.

“ To Algoa Bay it was perfectly impracticable to proceed with our own oxen,—a circumstance which rendered it necessary to provide other means for transporting the collection, the expenses of which will appear in the general account.

“ The importance of the services which were rendered by the various Missionaries we visited, will, ere this, have been apparent; yet, comparatively speaking, but a small proportion of their real utility has been noticed, from the necessity of abstaining, on the present occasion, from particular details. To all of them I consider the Association to be deeply indebted for whatever degree of success has attended the exertions of the expedition, and to Mr. Moffat especially, for the friendly reception and kind treatment which we experienced from Umsiligas. To the general activity and good feeling of the majority of the members of the party itself I am bound to attribute, in a great measure, the fortunate result of the enterprise; and should it ever be my good fortune to obtain leave to proceed on another journey of the kind, I should be delighted to have with me nearly all of the individuals of the late party, and more than delighted to have those gentlemen, the fruits of whose talents are manifest in 497 beautiful drawings.

“ Having now given a general outline of the proceedings of the expedition, I shall sum up concisely what appears to me to have been some of the principal results:—

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“ 1st. It has put us in possession of much information respecting many tribes even hitherto unknown to us by name; and has enabled us also to extend very considerably our knowledge of those which had previously been visited, by having brought us in immediate connexion either with them or with persons who could furnish information regarding them. With members of twenty-seven tribes we have actually communicated, and of sixteen others we have obtained indirect information.

“ 2ndly. It has enabled us to ascertain the geographical position of many places previously doubtful; to lay down the sources and courses of various rivers which run to the eastward; and otherwise obtain what will considerably add to the utility of our maps of South Africa.

“ 3rdly. It has enabled us to extend considerably our knowledge of natural history, not only by the discovery of many new and interesting forms in the animal kingdom, but also by additional information in regard to several previously known; and has put us in possession of a splendid collection, which, if disposed of, will in all probability realize a sum more than equal to the expenses which have been incurred:—

- 150 Skins of new or rare quadrupeds,
- 3379 Skins of new or rare birds.
- 3 Barrels containing snakes, lizards, &c.,
- 1 Box containing insects,
- 1 Box containing skeletons, &c.,
- 3 Crocodiles,
- 2 Skeletons of crocodiles,
- 23 Tortoises, new or rare,
- 799 Geological specimens,
- 1 Package of dried plants.

“ 4thly. It has enabled us to ascertain that the Hottentot race is much more extended than has been hitherto believed, and that parties or communities belonging to it inhabit the interior as far, at least, as the inland lake, which we were told is not less than three weeks' journey to the north of the Tropic of Capricorn.

“ 5thly. It has made us aware of the existence of an infinity of misery in the interior with which we were previously unacquainted—a circumstance which, in all probability, will lead eventually to the benefit of thousands, who, without some such opportunity of making known their sufferings, might have lived and died even without commiseration.

“ 6thly. It has enabled us to establish a good understanding with Umsiligas, and insure his services and support in the further attempts which may be made to extend our knowledge of South Africa, which, without his concurrence, could never be well effected from the Cape of Good Hope; and—

“ Lastly. It has furnished a proof that the plan upon which the Association proceeded was calculated to accomplish the objects it had in view, and has given reason to believe that a party similarly equipped, when assisted by the knowledge we now possess, may, with proper regard to the seasons, penetrate far beyond the latitude of

23. 26. (our northern limit), and with a termination equally fortunate as that of the late undertaking."

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[At a general meeting of the Members of the Association, held at Cape Town on the 19th of March, 1836, Sir John Herschel in the chair, it was resolved unanimously,—

"That the only adequate thanks which can be rendered to Dr. Smith are, that he be requested to undertake the next expedition."]

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It is to be hoped that the important geographical information obtained will soon be made public.

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II.—*Notice of the Chronometric Expedition of Lieutenant-General Schubert, executed in 1833, to determine the Longitude of the most important Points on the Coast of the Baltic.* Communicated by M. Kupffer, Mem. Ac. Scien. St. Petersburg, Corr. Mem. R.G.S. of London.

By order of the Emperor, a steam-boat and fifty-six chronometers were placed at the disposal of Lieutenant-General Schubert, Directeur des Dépôts de Cartes de l'État-Major et de l'Amirauté, for the purpose of visiting, during the summer of 1833, the most important points of the Baltic, and of determining their longitude. That a great number of points might be visited during the short period of the northern summer, observers were sent beforehand to the various points, to determine the time, by means of transit and other instruments, which give the time with great precision. By these means, General Schubert had only occasion to stop at each point the time necessary to compare the chronometers with the astronomical clock there established, of which the rate was very exactly known by prior and subsequent observations, and was not obliged to wait for fine weather at each place.

He was thus enabled, in one summer, to make the circuit three times of all these points.

To give still greater extent to the undertaking, the Russian Government entered into communication with the Governments of Prussia, Denmark, and Sweden, who, on their part, also sent observers to the most important points of their territories washed by the Baltic. It is thus that Stockholm, Altona, and Lubeck have been comprised in the chain of points of which the longitude has been determined by this expedition. The results which have been obtained are shown in the following tables.