

ORATIO LATINA
DE
PROMONTORIO
BONAE SPEI

1767

GYSBERT HEMMY



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DE
PROMONTORIO BONAE SPEI
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

A LATIN ORATION
DELIVERED IN THE HAMBURG ACADEMY,
10 APRIL 1767

BY
GYSBERT HEMMY
FROM AFRICA

TRANSLATED AND EDITED BY
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WITH ADDITIONAL NOTES BY
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CAPE TOWN
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INTRODUCTION

The *Oratio* delivered by Gysbert Hemmy at the Hamburg Academy in 1767, and printed later in that year, is probably the first published account of the Cape of Good Hope by a Cape-born man. The copy from which the facsimile in the present work has been reproduced has been in the possession of the South African Library, Cape Town, for many years, and was displayed at the Van Riebeeck Tercentenary Exhibition organized in the Library in 1952.¹ So far as is known the *Oratio* has not been translated before, and it might not have been translated at all had Professor G. S. Nienaber not brought it to the attention of his colleague at the University of Natal, Professor K. D. White, who has turned it into colloquial English and added a number of explanatory notes. Professor Nienaber has also added some notes on linguistic matters, and the present writer some notes on historical matters.

Gysbert Hemmy was born at the Cape on 19 June 1746.² His father, Otto Lüder Hemmy (1710-1777) of Bremen, had arrived at the Cape in 1740 as a sergeant in the service of the Dutch East India Company. He rose to be Book-keeper in 1742, Adjunct Fiscal³ in 1748, a member of the Council of Policy in 1769, and Secunde in 1773. In 1743 he married Elizabeth le Fèvre, daughter of Gysbert le Fèvre of Overschie in Holland; their eldest son, Johann Anton, was born in 1744 and Gysbert two years later.

¹ It is described in the Catalogue of that Exhibition, *South Africa in print*, Cape Town, 1952, on p. 39. The title-page is reproduced opposite p. 53.

² These biographical details are derived from Dr. J. Hoge's *Personalia of the Germans at the Cape, 1652-1806* (Archives Year Book, 1946), pp. 145-6.

³ Hoge (op. cit.) states that Hemmy became Fiscal in 1760. There is however an interesting commentary on this in the dedication of Gysbert Hemmy's *Oratio* (not reproduced in the present work), which is inscribed: 'Parenti suo optimo ac dilectissimo Ottoni Lüdero Hemmy Curatori Fiscii in Promontorio bonae spei de Illustri Societate Indica Orientali praeclare merenti.' At the end of the work there is printed a *corrigenda* note referring to this passage, 'post verba: Curatori Fiscii, addatur: Adjuncto' perhaps inserted at the parental behest. See also the deposition quoted below.

Otto Hemmy was clearly a person of consequence at the Cape.⁴ In accordance with the custom of the time, the second son was sent to Europe to study the liberal arts and the law. According to records at the Johanneum School, Hemmy reached Hamburg in April 1763, and there is a deposition in the Cape Archives dated 5 January 1765 and signed by Otto Hemmy (described as 'ondercoopman & adjunct fiscaal') assigning his minor son Gysbert to the guardianship of 'de Heeren Jan Coelesten Hemmy, Frans Adam Carelson en Matthias Knibbe, kooplied', all of Amsterdam.⁵ The first two of these are mentioned in the dedication of Gysbert's *Oratio* of 1767. The deposition also mentions that Gysbert was at that time at the House of the Principal of the 'Latynsche Schoole' in Hamburg, Johannes Martin Müller, one of the two Müllers to whom Gysbert pays tribute in the closing passage of his *Oratio*.

The circumstances in which Gysbert prepared and delivered his address on the Cape are not known; he was possibly encouraged to do so by his Amsterdam uncle, Jan Coelesten Hemmy, and by his father, with an eye to increased trade. Whatever his motives it seems that on leaving the Latin School at Hamburg he went on to pursue legal studies in the United Netherlands, for there is still extant in the South African Library a copy of the printed *Dissertatio juridica inauguralis* which he presented to the University of Leiden *pro gradu doctoratus* on 17 September 1770.⁶ It was printed by Elias Luzac at Leiden in the same year, and its subject, the validity of the evidence of Ethiopians (?Africans), and of Chinese and other pagan peoples in the East Indies, shows that he already had thoughts of Company service, possibly in the East. The dissertation is for the most part a jejune piece of work for the modern reader, and is chiefly of interest for the light it sheds firstly

⁴ Hoge (op. cit.) quotes E. Moritz (*Die Deutschen am Kap*) as saying that Hemmy farmed Alphen 'where Sparrman was for some time tutor to his children'. In his separately published *corrigenda*, however, Dr. Hoge points out that Sparrman was tutor not to the children of Hemmy, but to those of Johann Friedrich Kirsten, who was the owner of Alphen in the 1770's.

⁵ CA. Test. CJ 1089 (2620): 2.

⁶ *De testimoniis Aethiopum, Chinensium aliorumque paganorum in India Orientali. Lugduni Batavorum, apud Eliam Luzac, 1770.* 67 pp. It is dedicated to Willem V, Prince of Orange and Nassau. I am indebted to Mr. J. P. Nowlan of the staff of the South African Library for assistance in translating part of this dissertation. Inquiries from the Prosecretaris of the Senate of the University of Leiden have failed to elicit any further biographical data about its writer.

on the author himself and secondly on his changing views on primitive society.

In the *Preface* to his dissertation of 1770, Gysbert Hemmy apologizes for not having delved deeper into the subject of his thesis, in which he says he was encouraged to persevere by his father; but 'my father has called me back'—to the Cape, which he may have reached in 1771. In the fifth and last chapter of his work, Hemmy deals with the validity of evidence given by the Hottentots of the Cape of Good Hope: 'let us then, since this is my father's wish and command, satisfy his desire and ask whether and to what extent the evidence of Hottentots is of value in a trial'. It is apparent from what follows that between 1767, when he delivered his *Oratio*, and 1770, the date of his dissertation, his views on the Cape have developed.

The *Oratio* is based almost entirely on two sources, both readily available in Hamburg: Peter Kolb's *Caput bonae spei hodiernum*, first published by Monath in Nuremberg in 1719, and subsequently translated into Dutch, French and (in somewhat garbled fashion) into English;⁷ and the German version of Astley's and Prévost's collected travels based on many earlier accounts. For nearly forty years Kolb was accepted as the great authority on the Cape, and it was not until the publication of the *Journal historique* of the Abbé de la Caille in 1763 that doubts were expressed about his authenticity. At that date, wrote G. M. Theal, 'Kolb ceased to be a standard author, which was an enormous gain to students of Cape history',⁸ but this, like some other statements by Theal, should be regarded with reserve. Indeed, the modern trend is towards a revaluation of Kolb's work, often to his advantage.

However that may be, Hemmy's own reliance on Kolb must have been a little shaken, for he goes on to say: 'It is said that there were at

⁷ *Naaukeurige en uitvoerige Beschryving van de Kaap de Goede Hoop*, 2 vols. Folio. Amsterdam, 1727; *Description du Cap de Bonne Espérance*, 3 vols. 12mo. Amsterdam, 1742; *The Present State of the Cape of Good Hope . . . Done into English by Mr. Medley*, 2 vols. 8vo. London, 1731. P. C. Monath, who published the 1719 folio edition (very successfully) at his own expense, also published a quarto edition in German in Frankfurt and Leipzig in 1745, embodying part of the preface from the French edition. The only modern study of Kolb and his work of any substance appears to be the monograph by Georg Mairoser published as a supplement to the *Jahresbericht der Kgl. Kreisrealschule*, Nuremberg, 1900-1.

⁸ Quoted in Mendelssohn's *South African bibliography*, 1910, I, 434.

one time different tribes of Hottentots and historical writers have much to say about the wars that took place between them (whether these writers are telling the truth or not is an open question). See the Abbé de la Caille's *Journal historique du voyage fait au Cap*, p. 264.⁹ After referring to the well-known accounts of the Hottentots as a lazy and feckless people, he goes on to say that 'for a considerable time now many of the Hottentots have become accustomed to hire their services to Christians for a fixed time in return for wages, and to live with the Christians. By this daily intercourse their barbarous manners have disappeared, their minds have been improved, they have taken to laborious work and are beginning to judge between right and wrong in their actions and to live according to the dictates of conscience and law.' 'Bearing all this in mind it would seem fair to ask: whether these Hottentots (in so far as they are good citizens, good men and known for their good behaviour) may be allowed to give evidence in a trial.' After submitting arguments against this proposition he goes on to say that 'it is a very dangerous practice to pass judgment on the intelligence, judgment and conscience of other men (much less on peoples one does not know and who speak a language unknown to one) because the faculties of men are adjusted to their manner of life. . . . If the Hottentots have intelligence and judgment proportioned to their needs and can discern and devise what will be useful to themselves and their flocks, who, I ask, will dare to reproach them for not being skilled in agriculture, architecture or astronomy? . . . If Newton had been born in Sinu Soldaniae⁹ he would have thought much like the Hottentots, and if some Hottentot had happened to be born in England at that time he might have excelled by far the most outstanding men in Mathematics, Philosophy and Astronomy.' He concludes that the evidence of the Hottentots may be accepted as valid.

Whether these revolutionary ideas were acceptable to his father is not known. It is possible that Gysbert changed his mind about returning to the Cape, certainly to settle, and he probably decided to use such influence as he could command in the Netherlands to enter the Dutch East India Company's service; for in the *Naamboek*¹⁰ of the Company's

⁹ Saldanha, the early name for Table Bay.

¹⁰ *Naamboek van de Wel-Edele Heeren der Hooge Indiasche Regeering . . . zoo als dezelve onder ultimo December 1786*, Batavia, Pieter van Geemen, n.d., p. 14.

Batavian officials relating to the end of the year 1786 his name is given as having joined the service in 1780: he is recorded as being momentarily 'buiten emplooi'. Moreover, in the copy of the *Naamboek*¹¹ relating to the end of the year 1790 which is preserved in the South African Library, the entry 'buiten emplooi' has been scored through (p. 15); and so has the entry on p. 13 indicating the occupant of the post of Groot Winkelier at Batavia, Jan Louis van Nimwegen, against whose name is written in manuscript the word 'obit'. On the opposite interleaved blank page is written in by hand: Mr. Gysbert Hemmy, 1780: Groot Winkelier, 1791.

Of his subsequent life, little is at present known,¹² but it does not seem likely that he returned to the Cape, for having achieved a substantial position in the Company's service elsewhere, he would have had no need to do so.

Nevertheless one may well imagine that he always remembered with affection his birthplace the Cape of Good Hope, which he was moved to describe, in the motto printed beneath his drawing of Table Bay¹³ on the title-page of the *Oratio*, in the following terms. '*Ille terrarum mihi praeter omnes Angulus ridet*'—'This corner of the world smiles for me above all others'.

D. H. VARLEY

¹¹ *Naamboek . . . December 1790*, Batavia, Pieter van Geemen, n.d., pp. 13, 15.

¹² According to one source Hemmy was later 'Vice-Gouverneur in Pata ia' (*Album Johannei*, hrsg. von W. Puttfarken. T.2, Schülerverzeichnis 1732-1802, Hamburg, 1933, nr. 2853). A later note says that he was actually the Commissary of the Deposit- and Loan Bank in Batavia. For this and other information I am indebted to Bibl.-Amtmann Kayser of the Staats und Universitäts-Bibliothek, Hamburg. Thanks are also due to the Senior Archivist, Cape Archives, and his staff, and especially to Dr. A. J. Boëcken.

¹³ The engraver Franz Nikolaus Rolffsen (1719-1802) was a well-known Hamburg artist and craftsman.

TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

The Latin text of the present edition is reproduced without alteration from a copy of the original text printed at Hamburg in 1767, and now in the possession of the South African Library, Cape Town. Proper names occurring in the body of the text have been retained in the original Latin or Portuguese form in which they appear. In Hemmy's notes the more familiar form of Kolb has been preferred to the original form Kolbius.

The *Oratio*, as befits its title, is written in vigorous, idiomatic Latin; the author's style has been founded on good classical models, and the translator's task has been an easy one compared with that of the translator of Ten Rhyne and Grevenbroek. There is no trace here of dictionary Latin, and there are no far-fetched literary or mythological allusions to bedevil the text. The peroration is pompously Ciceronian, but the body of the *Oratio* is almost entirely free from those baroque extravagances of style and curiosities of diction which characterize eighteenth-century Latinity at its worst.

Much of the description of the Cape and its surroundings, though felicitously phrased, is commonplace enough, while the historical account of the discovery and occupation is no more than a competent and readable digest of a well-known story. This is quite in keeping with the author's purpose, which is to acquaint the leading merchants of a great trading city with the commercial possibilities of the region. The most interesting sections are those which deal with the enterprising activities of van Riebeeck as Commander, and with the manners and customs of the Hottentots; Hemmy's comments on the austere standard of sexual morality maintained by these primitive people, based as it is on custom, not on any legal code, will remind the classical reader of similar passages in the *Germania* of Tacitus; the Hottentots, like the German tribesmen of much earlier times, and in another land, impressed the European traveller with their open-handed hospitality.

In attempting to identify the types of rare animals, birds, fishes and snakes referred to in the text, the translator has, in one or two instances,

resorted to intelligent guesswork where the diligent inquiries of his scientific colleagues have failed to produce certitude. Grateful acknowledgement is here offered to a number of colleagues and friends at the University of Natal and at the Natal Museum for illuminating several dark places in this portion of the text.

K. D. WHITE

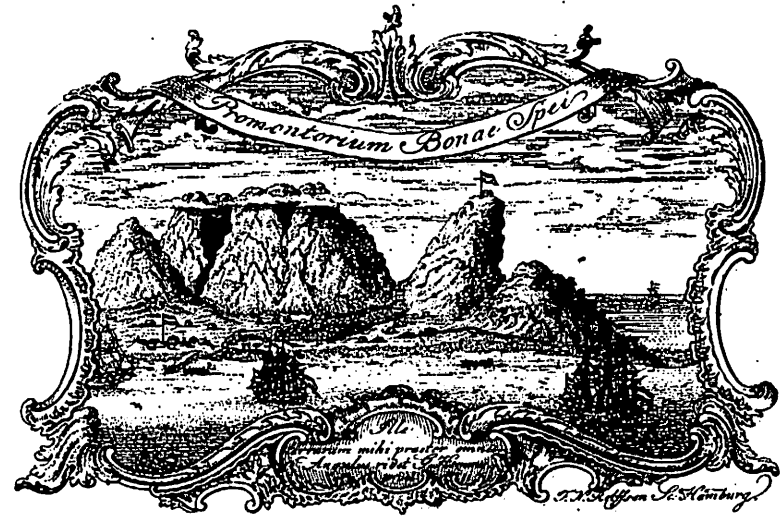
ORATIO LATINA
DE
**PROMONTORIO
BONAE SPEI**

IN SCHOLA HAMBURGENSE

D. X APRILIS MDCCLXVII.

PUBLICE RECITATA

GIESBERTO HEMMY, Afro.



HAMBURGI.

LITTERIS DIETERICI ANTONII HARMSSEN.



Auditores omnium Ordinum
Honoratissimi!



Inter omnes partes mercaturae cum exteris populis & nationibus Indica primum & praecipuum locum sine dubio obtinet.

India quidem, quamdiu propter crudelitatem incolarum adiri non poterat, Europaeis maxime ignota erat. Id tamen ex veterum Graecorum & Romanorum scriptis innotescebat, Indiam admodum foecundam, & thesauris natu-



rae large esse praeditam, ut vix ulla alia regio orbis terrarum cum illa dignitate & abundantia possit comparari. Virgilius croci & eboris mentionem facit:

Nome vides croceos ut Tmolus odores

India mittit ebur?

Horatius Indiam opulentam & divitem appellat. Silius Italicus vero incolas hujus regionis vocat odoratos, sine dubio ob odores & aromata, quae inde in Europam deferuntur. Et cui reliqui pretiosi proventus hujus magnae terrae sunt incogniti? Quae regio auri, argenti, margaritarum, gemmarum, arborum, animalium, & naturae miraculorum fertilior est? Non igitur est, quod miremur, follers ingenium Europaeorum tandem tot tantisque periculis laboribusque superatis cursum per vastissimum mare invenisse, & negotiationem in India constituisse. Quo facto, Europa plane aliam multoque meliorem speciem induit. Erat enim haec negotiatio fere fons inexhaustus, ex quo maxima emolumenta redundabant. Europaeis apud potentissimos Orientis populos maximam gloriam comparabat. Erat cum propagatione christianae religionis inter barbaras gentes juncta. Augebat copias navales. Locupletabat regna & respublicas Europaeorum. Exacuebat artes & scientias. Praeterea multis Europaeis in condendis tot coloniis ad potentiam viam muniebat. Quid multa? Dabat Europae, scientiis atque mercaturae novam quasi vitam, quam nunquam

sine



sine hac consecuta esset. Sed nunquam, ut ego quidem arbitror, haec ipsa in Indiam negotiatio & navigatio tantum gradum perfectionis attingere potuisset, nisi Lusitani & Batavi rectum cursum juxta promontorium bonae spei & totam Africam detexissent. Vos, spectatissimi Auditores! hac in re plane mihi assentiemini, si mihi pace vestra hujus promontorii, quod summi numinis providentia patriam meam esse voluit, brevem descriptionem delineare licuerit. Adhibebo omnem diligentiam, ut favorem vestrum, si minus elegantia Orationis, certe tamen fide & brevitate mereri possim.

Promontorium bonae spei descripturus, praecipue duo momenta dilucidabo, quae attentione vestra, Spectatissimi Auditores! indigna non videbuntur. Primum vobis naturam & conditionem hujus celebris promontorii ostendam. Deinde historiam faustae detectionis illius & emolumentorum, quae inde in illustrem societatem indicam redundarunt, breviter delibabo. Promontorium bonae spei in ora Caffraeae situm est. Antiqui incolae erant Hottentottae, quod nomen ab insolente lingua, qua glorientibus gallis Africanis similes sunt, acceperunt. Hoc genus hominum est salubri corpore, velox pedibus, impatiens laborum: plerosque senectus dissolvit, nisi qui aut telis aut bestiis intereunt. Colore fusci potius sunt, quam nigri. Sunt quidem proceri, sed macilentissimi,

lenti,



lenti, & tamen tam robusti, ut bovem cursu concitatum retineant. Habent pulchros, sed stillantes oculos, depressas nares & ora foetida. Dentes illorum candidi sunt, instar eboris. Digni unguiculis, ut unguibus aquilarum instructi. Surae graciles, pedes parvi. Capillus lanæ similis, & dependentibus coralliis, variis crepitaculis, plumbo cyprio & orichalco ornatus est. Plurimi nudi incedunt, aut pellibus ovillis, quas Kroffen appellant, pro vestibus utuntur, vrenda autem praecinctorio, quod Kul-Krofs dicitur, obvelant. Mulieres longis mammis praeditae sunt, quas trans humeros jactare & infantibus praebere possunt. Corallium maximum illarum ornamentum est. Faciem & corpus suum unguento ex adipe, butyro & fuligine facto contra ardorem solis inungunt. Aliqui cruda, reliqui semicocta carne animalium vescuntur & horum viscera per dentes trahunt. Tabacum & vinum adustum in deliciis habent. Saepe mutua inter se laeti convivium agitant & ad concentum instrumenti musici, cui nomen est Gomgom, satis commode saltare didicerunt *). Nec civitates, nec domus habent, sed aut in tenuibus tuguriis habitant, aut catervatim vagi & palantes ex uno in alium locum migrant. Nec adeo stupidi sunt, nec

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*) Hoc instrumentum est ferreus aut ligneus arcus modo plexis intestinis ovillis, modo nervis intentus, quo applicato raucos quosdam & inconcinnos sonos eliciunt. Mulieres ollam fictilem laevigata pelle ovilla inductam instar tympani pulsant.



a cultu religioso plane alieni *). Leges quidem scriptas ignorant, sed tamen perfidiam, adulterium, incestum, & caedem exosi naturalem legem in ipsorum corde scriptam esse testantur. Beneficentia & hospitalitate in cives suos & peregrinos multis Christianis antecellunt. Inprimis justitiae servan-

*) Iuvat hic observationem a dilectissimo fautore mecum communicatam apponere: Errant, inquit, qui Hottentottas supremi Numinis plane ignaros esse somniant. Agnoscunt enim Deum Deorum eumque beneficentissimum beatissimumque supra lunam in illustri loco degere existimant. Interrogati vero, cur nullo ipsum cultu prosequantur? Reponunt: *Hunc invisibilem Deum, quem GOUNJA TEKQUOA vocant, majorem suorum delictis graviter offensum tantas eorum posteris tenebras offudisse, ut, quid esset & qua ratione coli deberet, adhuc minime constaret.* Tamen hoc adeo incognitum numen sub specie lunae tamquam Dei visibilis multis gestulationibus venerantur. Cum enim luna se curvare coepit in cornua aut plenum orbem implevit, omnes cujusvis Krallae, i. e. pagi incolae conveniunt, dies noctesque saltando transigunt, & tandem complois levatisque in sublime manibus hoc inconditum carmen canunt: *Musfibi, Arze, Senibar, Eaze, Chornquakaba, Cbori, Ounqua*; id est: Faxis, ut adfatim mellis habeamus. Faxis, ut armenta pabulo & lacte abundant. Denique saltando, cantando gesticulandoque fatigati pro more suo in genua subsidunt, capita manibus sustentant & paulatim requiescere videntur. Mox alacres exsultant atque cantu suo *Ho, Ho, Ho, Ho*, totam hanc sollempnitatem finiunt. Praeter lunam etiam insectum quoddam scarabaeis simile religiose colunt, cui & Diabolo, quem *Touquoa* nominant, averruncandi mali causa sacrificia offerunt. Conferatur Kolbii Promontor. bonae spei hodiernum pag. 410 seqq. & *Samml. aller Reisebeschreibungen*, Tom. V. 174.

B



servandae exercendaeque admodum tenaces sunt. Tinnulae rationes nullam apud eos vim habent ad persuadendum, multo minus rabulae jus torquentes inter ipsos inveniuntur. Litigantes ipsi suas causas perorant, iudices cognoscunt & subductis rationibus decidunt*). Aurum & argentum in pretio non habent, sed simplicius antiquiusque permutatione mercium utuntur. Constant e septem variis nationibus, quarum quaeque regulo suo gaudet, quem aeneo diademate a Batavis donatum *Konquer* vocant. Prima *Gunjemans* complectens non longe a promontorio abest. Hi aut illustri societati, aut civibus servitia praestant, aut etiam a rusticis & colonis in agricultura adhibentur. Altera silvas & cavernas montium incolens de eo vivit, quod mansuefactis Hottentottis, quibuscum continua bella gerunt, eripiunt. Tertia Macqua minor, quarta Macqua major, quinta Kricqua minor, sexta Kricqua major appellatur. Macqua & Kricqua vocabula sunt regem aut ducem significantia. Septima denique Cafreiiis hominum omnium crudelissimis atque ipsis adeo Hottentottis infensissimis absolvitur**). Quae nationes etsi fere

con-

*) Vid. *Samml. der Reisebesch.* Tom. V. 178.

***) Sequutus sum in describendis diversis Hottentotarum nationibus auctores der allgemeinen Weltgeschichte Tom. XXVI. S. 447. Kolbius septemdecim nominat, nempe Gunjemans, Kachoquas, Suffiquas, Udiquas, Chirigiquas, Namaquas, Attaquas, Chorogauquas, Koopmanns, Hessaquas, Sonquas, Dunquas, Damaquas, Gauriquas, Houteniquas, Chumtours



continuis bellis implicitae sunt: tamen non permittunt, ut una plane pessundet, verentes, ne aequilibrium potentiae pereat.

Maxime Hottentottae societati Batavorum addicti injuriis ceterorum expositi sunt. Simulatque autem in periculum incidunt, ne a ceteris subigantur, duce quodam cum parva manu ad promontorium se conferunt. Dux cum proceribus Gubernatorem auxilii petendi causa adit, sceptrum manu tenens, illudque coram Gubernatore protendens. Quod si Gubernator recusat, ille a societate acceptum sceptrum ad pedes ejus abjicit, sermone Batavorum dicens: *Vor my niet meer Compagnie Hottentot*; id est, nolo amplius Hottentottarum societatis esse. Sed plerumque voti sui compotes ad patrios lares redeunt. Ea est indoles incolarum harum regionum, a quibus Europaei promontorium bonae spei & circumjacentem regionem justissimo emtionis titulo acquisiverunt*). Terra, in qua hoc promontorium deprehenditur,

B 2

ers & Heykoms. At omnes hac sub generaliore, quam allegavimus, descriptione, comprehenduntur.

*) Hottentottae supra dicto Kolbio a Judaeorum gente originem suam traxisse videntur. Neque desunt argumenta, quae huic conjecturae insigne pondus addunt. Est illorum pervulgata traditio de primis gentis suae parentibus *Nob* & *Hingnob*, quos olim per fenestram & januam in hunc terrae tractum venisse tradunt. Sunt celebrata illorum factificia, quibus prava quaevis corrigere atque Deorum sibi gratiam conciliare

con-



tur, & aëris salubri temperie, & copia omnium rerum, partim ad necessarios usus, partim ad commoditates & oblectationes vitae humanae pertinentium amoenissima est. Cingitur quidem altis praeruptisque montibus, quippe qui e faxis in altum exstructis & superimpositis constare videntur. Sed cum montes ipsi, tum inter illos diffusae valles, herbarum, plantarum, florum, frugumque fertiles, & pecori inservientes. Inter montes partim montes tigrum, qui non a tigribus, quarum receptaculum olim fuisse dicuntur, sed a maculis viridibus nomen habent; partim mons tabulatus, qui in vertice tabulae planae similis &, quod signum imminētis aquilonis haberi solet, nonnumquam candida nube tectus est; partim mons leonum, qui exigua depreffione saxorum

a

contendunt, unde illa *Andersmacken* dicuntur. Sunt denique multifariae consuetudines, quas antiquis Judaeis imprimis in usu fuisse constat. Cum uxoribus suis levissimis de causis divortia faciunt. In jungendis matrimoniis interdictos cognationis gradus nunquam migrant. Primi-genii filii in paterna hereditate praecipuis prae reliquis liberis praerogatiuis gaudent. Mulieres partum enixae aut menstruo sanguinis profluvio adfectae immundae habentur, nec maritis ullam cum ipsis consuetudinem habere licet. Carne suilla aliisque cibis, quibus Judaeis vesci nefas est, se abstinent, spurcitia fordibusque Judaeos superant. Et quis dubitare potest, quin sollemnis illa sinistri testiculi exsectio, qua sacerdotes eorum, quos Suri vocant, & puberes mares & novos maritos initiant, imitationem circumcisionis judaeae redoleat? Conf. Kolbii *Descript. & Samml. der Reisebesch.* Tom. V. ubi caerimoniae uberius enarrantur.



a monte tabulato disjunctus est. Hic autem non solum a leonibus olim hic saepe commorantibus, sed etiam a specie sua, humi jacentem & exserto capite raptum aucupantem leonem oculis subjiciente, nomen ducit, & a quo adventus navium ex specula observatus, exploso tormento sublatoque vexillo incolis indicatur. Est denique & mons Diaboli, quem ventosum quoque dicunt, unde ventus euronotus saepe mari & terra magnam stragem edens oriri dicitur. Circa urbem viridissima pascua, amoenissimae vineae & foecundissimi horti conspiciuntur. Nunc duorum tantummodo hortorum mentionem movebo, forte in toto terrarum orbe pulcherrimorum. Unus, cujus condendi celeberrimus chirurgus Johannes de Ribekius fundamentum posuit, & qui hortus illustris societatis appellatur, circiter ducentos passus a castello abest. Hunc procurrens e monte tabulato limpidissimus torrens circumfluit eumque ductis per illum alveis rigat. Hic ex omnibus mundi partibus excellentia poma atque hortensia invenimus. Mala, pira, castaneae, mala aurea, mala chinensia, Pompelmusae, mala japonica, fici, uvae varii generis, mala granata, persica & pruna damascena, & oculos & gustum oblectant. Et quam latus mihi campus aperiretur, si varia genera olerum, melopeponum, cucurbitarum, lactucarum, aliarumque plantarum enarrare vellem? Alter vulgo, das runde Buschlein dictus & in regione,

B 3

quae



quae nunc terrâ nova appellatur, obuius, non minus procreandis arboribus & plantis foecundus est. Non longe ab eo villa illa celebratissima Constantia a Gubernatore Steelio constituta abest, ubi ex vitibus rhenanis mirabili quadam mutatione generosissimum vinum producitur.

Oppidum ipsum firmo validoque Castello in tabulati montis valle insigni pulchritudine & elegancia est constitutum multisque sumtuosis aedificiis ornatum. Abundat omnibus rebus, quae adventantibus navibus & civibus usui sunt, nec sine injuria de magno pretio rerum venalium aliquis conquiri potest. Confines Hottentottae boves, oves & porcos, rustici & coloni frumenta, hortensia & legumina, silvae feras, Oceanus & terrae continentis flumina pisces ad satim suggerunt. Quaecunque autem aliae partes mundi propria gignunt, navibus advehuntur, nec dubito, quin in visceribus montium excellentissima metalla adhuc irreperta delitecant. Neque desunt rationes, quae hanc conjecturam affirmant *). Facies urbis hinc atque inde diversa & jucunda est. Plateae ad lineam factae a littore usque ad magnum hortum illustris societatis pertinent. Inter adjacentes montes occurrunt & amoenissima prata, ubi multi greges, multaque boum armenta salubribus herbis & limpida aqua nitescunt, & fructuosi campi, qui aestate variis frumentis flavescens pulcherrimum oculis prospectum suppeditant. Etsi
aqui-

*) Hoc argumentum copiose excussit Kolbius l. c. pag. 226 sqq



aquilonis vehementia fructibus saepe nocet, tamen salubritas aëris & foecunditas fundi calamitatem abunde compensat. Agrum conjugatis bovis arant, qui, ne alucinentur, a duce funiculo cornibus alligato ducuntur. Sed maturae fruges mergitibus in orbe collocatis a conjunctis bovis aut equis in area teruntur. Verum, quod hoc promontorium omnibus memorabile facit, est insignis ille atque omnium sermone celebratus portus centum prope navium capax. Sinus pulcher & ovalis. Crepido autem novem milliaria ambitu suo complectitur. Medium sinus instructum est munito validoque castello quinquangulari, cujus unumquodque propugnaculum viginti grandioris ponderis tormentis defenditur. Hoc autem castellum insigne est & munitionibus & contiguis aedificiis, in quibus Palatium illustris Gubernatoris, Nosocomium, spatiosa mercium recondendarum horrea & armamentaria splendidam speciem exhibent. Sed quando orationem meam finirem, si quaevis commemorabilia hujus Promontorii describere conarer. Possem rariorum animalium, inprimis Cynocephalorum, Bubalorum, Chameleonum, Alcium, onagrorum, Elephantorum, Capreolorum moschi, Leopardorum, Pantherarum, Lynxium, Ichneumonum, Rhinocerotum, Tygridum & aliorum mentionem facere. Possem praeter alias aves de Aquilis, quae hic Strundvögel nominantur, de ossifragis, de merulis versicoloribus, de Motacillis, de Coeruleis, de avibus Canariis, de Falonibus, de
Pha-



Phasianis, de Struthionibus, de Gallis Africanis, de Cocothraustibus, de gruibus, de Pavonibus & Pelecanis varia auditu non inamoena vobiscum communicare. Possent quoque monstra marina nempe Delphinos, leones marinos, carcharias, phocas, Lupos marinos, torpedines, nec non chrysones, pisces alatos, Aboadors nominatos, congros, cephalos, pagros, gammaros, conchilia, cochleas & stellas marinas commemorare. Possent denique amatoribus rerum naturalium varii generis insecta praecipue Aspides, Dispades, Presteres, Cobras de capello, Cerastras, pulices marinos, mures aquaticos, locustas, Scarabaeos, Scorpios, Cossos, & Curculiones vivis depingere coloribus. Sed haec & multa alia silentio praetereo, ad alteram partem orationis meae, brevem Historiam detecti hujus promontorii continentem, me conversurus.

Lusitani primi ausi sunt Africam circumnavigando rectum in Indiam cursum peruestigare. Rex Johannes secundus, felicitatem Portugalliae quaerens, & virtutum suarum causa Princeps Perfectus nominatus, demandavit hanc expeditionem praefecto classis Bartholomaeo Diazio, cujus rei nauticae peritiam aliquoties jam exploratam spectatamque cognoverat. Is anno millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo sexto vela ventis dabat, sed oborta saeva tempestate ad hoc promontorium delatus illud nave frumentaria amissa Cabo Tormentoso, id est, promontorium impetuofum vocabat.



bat. Tunc indignatio classiariorum, verentium, ne majores adhuc molestiae impenderent, illi necessitatem imponebat, Lisbonam revertendi. Ibi mense Decembri anno millesimo quadringentesimo octogesimo septimo adveniens statim regem de sua expeditione & praecipue de difficultatibus hoc promontorium superandi accurate edocuit. Rex autem momentum hujus detectionis ex litteris Covillani cognoscens Cabo da bonna Esperanza, id est, promontorium bonae spei nominabat, quod nomen etiam hucusque retinuit. Nunc enim sibi rectam viam in Indiam apertam, & secundum iter sine mora suscipiendum esse perspiciebat. Sed cum in eo totus esset, ut hoc magnum civibusque suis tam salubre consilium perficeret, magno moderatori mundi illum rebus mortalium eripere placuit. Regnum ipse legitima prole destitutus multis animi dotibus ornato principi Emanueli relinquebat, qui secundo anno imperii sui verno tempore quatuor naves, nauticis, tormentis bellicis aliisque rebus necessariis instructas apparari jussit. His Don Vasquezus, alias Vasco de Gama, Vir ad hanc expeditionem aptissimus praeerat. Nono die mensis Julii vela solvit, & vicesimo Novembris ad promontorium bonae spei adpulit, sed ibi non commoratus versus Mozambicam, Mombazam, Melindam, oras Malabaricas & Insulam Angedivam cursum

sum suum direxit atque inde reparatis navibus in Europam re-
navigavit. Post faustum ejus in patriam reditum sanctioris
consilii administri Regem Lusitaniae unanimes orabant, ne ul-
lis sumtibus parceret, quibus nova classis ad suscipiendum
novum iter compararetur. Haec ex tredecim tam longis,
quam parvis navibus constitit, eique praetor Petrus Alva-
rezius Capralius praefectus est. Quo extincto Don Vasquez
de Gama iterum, post hunc Franciscus Albuquerque impe-
perium suscepit. Sed omnes hi classium praefecti promon-
torium occupare non ausi, sed aqua & alimentis instructi in
Indiam cursum persecuti sunt. Quid? quod adeo primus re-
gis Vicarius & Indiae Praefes, Franciscus Almeyda, multis
in India rebus praeclare gestis, ad hoc promontorium na-
vem appellens, jurgio inter barbaros & milites exorto telo
venenato hic est transfixus, & cum illo simul undecim Cen-
turiones & septuaginta quinque nautici interierunt. Sed
Portugallici hanc mortem civium suorum modo barbaris
perquam terribili ulciscuntur. Nam post aliquot annos
reversi, tormentum pulvere nitrato & glandibus plumbeis
sartum in terram exposuere, & simulantes, se injuriae illa-
tae oblitos esse, blando alloquio Hottentottis persuadebant,
ut illud funibus promoverent. Quibus trahere incipienti-
bus, pone sequens tormentorum vibrator fune incendiario
pulve-

pulverem nitratum accendit, & inter eos magnam stragem
edidit. Qui incolumes evasissent, praecipiti fuga salutem
petebant. Omnibus autem tantus terror incutiebatur, ut
ad hodiernum usque diem omne tormentorum & sclopeto-
rum genus, quod *pu makum guttis* appellant, vehementer aver-
sentur. Sed & tunc Portugallici opportunam occasionem
promontorium occupandi dimittebant. Cum vero anno
millesimo sexcentesimo in Hollandia initium Indicae merca-
torum societatis factum esset, etiam hoc promontorium na-
vibus Hollandicis semper pro receptaculo erat, ubi aqua &
aliis rebus necessariis instruebantur. Quo consilio semper
vallum struentes barbaris aditum ad tentoria & naves suas
intercludebant. Quin etiam certo loco quadratum lapidem
relinquebant, in quo nomen cujusvis adventantis navis, tri-
rarchi & nobilissimorum vectorum, nec minus tempus ad-
ventus incisum erat. Litterae autem in plumbea atque fer-
rumine obducta theca loco nauticis noto recondebantur.
Hoc modo promontorium usque ad annum millesimum sex-
centesimum quinquagesimum perlustrabant. Tum vero
cum annua classis ex India redux supra dicto consilio hic ap-
pulsam aliquamdiu consisteret: inter alios Hollandicus Chi-
rurgus, cui nomen erat Johanni de Riebeckio, homo multo
rerum usu insignis, hoc temporis intervallum haut neglexit,
quo



quo hoc promontorium, & quid ferre posset & quid ferre recusaret, & qua in re illustri societati usui esse posset, magna cum cura exploraret. Qui simulac incolumis in Hollandiam pervenerat, societati illustri & coram & litteris sententiam suam aperiebat, quomodo hoc promontorio maximo cum usu uti possent. Consiliis ejus comprobatis, statim quatuor naves apparabantur atque societatis curatores Riebeckium, quem classicae ob singularem ejus prudentiam praeficere non dubitaverant, locum occupare, & ejus tuendi causa munitum castellum aedificare jusserunt. Auspicatissimus vero eventus Societatis Proceribus aperto erat argumento, se commodis societatis multo melius consuluisse, quam si in deligendo praetore multarum imaginum, aut externae duntaxat dignitatis rationem habuissent. Nam quum anno millesimo sexcentesimo quinquagesimo secundo ad promontorium vento secundo appulisset, sua comitate & beneficiis Hottentottas brevi adeo sibi devinxit, ut non solum ab ipsis armenta porcos & oves, sed etiam tractum quendam, ubi cum civibus suis commode habitare posset, pretio constituto emeret. Quo impetrato statim quadrangulum castellum exstruebat, domicilia & horrea mercatoria aptabat, agrum colebat & hortos instruebat. Quibus ex animi sententia compositis, societati suasit, ut coloniae huic agro imponerentur. Itaque
brevis



brevi tempore quatuor coloniae nempe *Capica*, *Stellenboschia*, *Drakensteinia* & *Waveria* condebantur. Ad hoc primi coloni ad obtinendos fines pecunia, frumento omnique necessaria supellectile sunt instructi. Mulieres, quae initio deerant, ex orphanotropheis Amstelodami, Rotterodami, & alibi florentibus sortiebantur. Quid? quod illustres societatis Indicae Antistites fines suos emendo aliud adhuc territorium Mosambicam inter & promontorium bonae spei situm, mirum in modum proferebant, judicia publica ordinabant, & illustrem, qui toti Promontorio & ejus coloniis praeesset, Praesidem reliquosque administratos, qui fisci, qui rei mercatoriae, qui administrandae justitiae, qui decidendarum litium, qui matrimoniorum & pupillorum, qui reddituum sacrorum atque aliarum rerum ad cultum divinum pertinentium, qui denique rei militaris ac tormentariae curam agerent, constituebant. Praeterea praefectos provinciales deligebant, qui causas minoris momenti inter colonos dirimerent atque illorum saluti & incrementis quavis ratione consulere. Inprimis singularis illa illustris societatis providentia, quam in instituendo cultu Dei sacro & templis tum in ipso promontorio, tum in pagis colonorum aedificandis adhibuit, digna est, quae summis laudibus efferatur.

Possem de his aliisque momentis, in primis de eximiis nonnullorum Praefectorum aliorumque Societatis Administratorum meique ipsius dilectissimi Patris promeritis uberius



commentari. Sed verens, ne vestra, Auditores! patientia abuti videar, oratiunculae meae vela contraho. Quod superest Deum immortalem ardentissime imploro, ut cunctae Batauorum Reipublicae ejusdemque Celsissimo Gubernatori Hereditario, Serenissimo Principi Arausionensi, ut Florentissimae Societati Indicae ejusque Illustribus Curatoribus, ut Amplissimo meique Amantissimo Promontorii Praefecto Tullbachio reliquisque de Societate bene merentibus Administris, ut dilectissimae familiae meae tanto temporis ac locorum spatio a me disjunctae, ut cunctis meis Cognatis, Fautoribus & Amicis tum in ipso Promontorio, tum in Hollandia, tum denique in Germania obviis, ut Reipublicae Hamburgensi, alteri meae Patriae nunquam obliviscendae omnibusque de ejus salute augenda sollicitis ordinibus, ut praecipue huic scholae ubivis locorum atque adeo in Africae partibus maxima cum laude celebratae, ut duobus Mülleris celeberrimis, Doctoribus meis ob innumerabilia in me collata beneficia omni reverentiae, pietatis & perpetuae memoriae cultu devenerandis, atque reliquis hujus Lycei Praeceptoribus clarissimis, ut denique humanissimis carissimisque Commilitonibus & amicis omnia prospere atque feliciter evenire quam clementissime jubeat.

A LATIN ORATION
 CONCERNING THE
 CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

PUBLICLY DELIVERED
 IN THE HAMBURG ACADEMY
 ON THE TENTH DAY OF APRIL 1767

BY
 GYSBERT HEMMY
 FROM AFRICA

PUBLISHED BY
 DIETRICH ANTONIUS HARMSSEN
 OF HAMBURG

Illustrious representatives of all ranks!

Among all the areas of trade with foreign peoples and nations India undoubtedly holds the leading position. Yet India was largely an unknown land to Europeans during the period when she remained inaccessible owing to the barbarity of her inhabitants.

The one outstanding fact which became familiar through the Greek and Roman writers was that the soil of India was unusually fertile, and that she was so richly endowed with natural resources that scarcely any other region on earth could compare with her in point of rank and wealth:

'Dost thou not see how Tmolus sends her
saffron perfumes, and India her ivory?'¹

Horace describes India as opulent and wealthy.² Silius Italicus actually calls the inhabitants of this region 'scented',³ doubtless on account of the perfumes and aromatic spices which are imported into Europe from that area. Everyone is familiar with all the other valuable products of this mighty land. No territory produces such an abundance of gold, silver, pearls, precious stones, trees, animals and wonders of nature. It is not surprising, therefore, that the inventive genius of Europeans has at length succeeded in overcoming the great and manifold dangers of the task, and has found a route to India through perilous seas, and set up a trading organization there.

With the accomplishment of this task, Europe has put on a new and far more splendid appearance. For this commerce with India became an almost inexhaustible spring, from which the greatest benefits have flowed. It enabled Europeans to win great renown among the peoples of the East; it was bound up with the propagation of the Christian religion among the barbarian peoples; it gave rise to an increase in naval strength, enriched the kingdoms and republics of the continent, and stimulated the development of the arts and sciences. A further result was that the founding of numerous colonial settlements opened new avenues to power for many Europeans. In a word, the discovery of

India gave new life to Europe, to science, and to commerce, a life that would never have been within her grasp save for that discovery. But in my opinion this maritime commerce and traffic with India would never have reached such a high level of achievement if the Portuguese and the Dutch had not discovered the direct route round the Cape of Good Hope, and opened up the whole of Africa. You distinguished gentlemen to whom I have the honour of addressing myself will agree wholeheartedly with this contention, if you will permit me to give you a cursory description of this Cape, which the highest Providence has given me as my native land.

It will be my earnest endeavour to win your approval, if not by the elegance of my speech, at least by its truth and its brevity.

In embarking upon a description of the Cape of Good Hope, illustrious Sirs, I shall elucidate two aspects of great importance which I believe you will find worthy of your close attention. First I shall set before you the natural situation and the condition of this famous Cape. Thereafter I shall briefly touch upon the story of its happy discovery, and of the advantages which have accrued therefrom to the famous India Company.

The Cape of Good Hope is situated on the coast of Caffreria.⁴ The ancient inhabitants were the Hottentots, a name which was given to them from their outlandish language, which makes them resemble clucking African hens.⁵

This race of men has a good physique, is swift of foot, and averse to hard labour: the majority of them succumb to old age, except those who fall victims to weapons or wild beasts. In colour they are dark rather than black. They are tall and thin, yet so powerful that they can withstand the charge of an ox in full career. Their eyes are beautiful but watery, their noses flattened, their breath foul-smelling. Their teeth are ivory-white. Their fingers are equipped with little talons, like the claws of eagles. They have graceful ankles, and small feet. Their hair is like wool, and is adorned with pendants of coral, and numerous types of trinkets, made of lead, copper and brass. The great majority of them go about naked, or wearing sheepskins, which they call 'Krossen',⁶ and which they wear instead of clothing; their private parts they cover with a loin cloth, known as the Kul-Kross. The women have pendulous breasts, which they can throw over their shoulders and offer to their

babies. The chief ornaments of the women are in the form of beads. To protect themselves against the heat of the sun they anoint their faces and bodies with an unguent made of animal fat, butter and soot. Some of them live on the raw flesh of animals, the rest eat it half-cooked, dragging the flesh through their teeth.

Tobacco and mulled wine they regard as great delicacies. They are fond of feasting and merrymaking, and they have learnt to be quite adept at dancing to the accompaniment of a musical instrument known as the Gomgom.* They have no tribal organization,⁸ and no houses, but either live in flimsy huts, or wander about in scattered bands, migrating from place to place.

They are not unintelligent, nor are they complete strangers to religion.** They have no knowledge of any written laws, but at the

* This instrument⁷ consists of an iron or wooden bow, sometimes strung with the woven intestines of sheep, sometimes with sinews, by plucking which they produce some raucous and inharmonious sounds. The women beat on a clay jar over (the mouth of) which a smoothed sheepskin is stretched like a drum.

** I have pleasure in inserting at this point an observation passed on to me by a dear friend and patron.⁹ Those who foolishly suggest that the Hottentots are entirely ignorant of the supreme Deity, he writes, are in error. For the Hottentots recognize a God of gods, regarding him as most beneficent and blessed, and believing him to dwell in a bright region beyond the moon. When asked why they do not honour him with any worship, they reply: 'that this invisible deity, whom they call GOUNJA TEKQUOA,¹⁰ was so grievously offended by the misdeeds of their ancestors that he cast such a cloud of darkness over their descendants that up to the present they are entirely at odds as to his nature, and the manner in which he ought to be worshipped.' However they worship this utterly unknown deity in the shape of the moon, with many gestures, as if he were a visible deity. For whenever the moon begins to take on a crescent shape, and when it has reached the full, all the inhabitants of every Kraal, that is the dwellers in the village, assemble, spend days and nights dancing, and finally, clapping their hands and raising them aloft, they sing this primitive song: 'Mutshi, Atze, Senihar, Enze, Choraquakaha, Chori, Ounqua'; that is: 'Make us to have abundance of honey. Make our herds abound with food and milk.'¹¹ Then, exhausted by dancing, singing and gesticulating, as is

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same time their hatred of treachery, adultery, incest and murder proves that natural law is graven in their hearts. In charitable deeds and hospitality to fellow-members and to foreigners they are superior to many Christians. Above all, they are particularly scrupulous in keeping faith and practising justice.¹⁵

Showy arguments carry no weight with them, still less can one find among their ranks any pettifoggers who twist the law. In litigation they plead their own cases, which are heard by judges and decided by argument.* They set no value on gold and silver,¹⁶ but employ barter according to the simple usage of ancient times.

They are made up of seven different nations, each of which rejoices in its own princeling, to each of whom the Dutch have presented a bronze crown, and who bear the name of 'Kinquer'.¹⁷ The first tribe comprising the Gunjemans lives close to the Cape. These folk furnish slaves for the service of the Honourable Company or for private citizens, or find employment with the farmers and settlers as agricultural labourers. A second group, inhabiting the forests and mountain caves, lives by plundering the civilized Hottentots, with whom they are in a constant state of warfare. The third, fourth, fifth and sixth tribal groups are called Macqua minor, Macqua major, Kricqua minor and Kricqua major respectively. Macqua and Kricqua are terms signifying king or leader. The seventh group consists of the Caffres, who are the cruellest of men and are the implacable enemies of the Hottentots.**

their custom they fall down on their knees, hold up their heads with their hands, and appear to rest for a time. After that they leap up with renewed vigour, and bring this whole celebration to an end with their song of 'Ho, ho, ho, ho'.

Apart from the moon they also worship an insect resembling a scarab, to whom, together with the Devil, whom they call Touquoa,¹⁸ they offer sacrifices for the purpose of driving out evil. The reader may compare Kolb, *Promont. bonae spei hodiernum*.¹⁹ pag. 410 seqq., and *Samml. alter Reisebeschreibungen*,¹⁴ Tom. V. 174.

* Vid. *Samml. der Reisebeschr.* Tom. V. 178.

** In describing the different tribes of the Hottentots, I have followed the authors of *Die Allgemeinen Welthistorie*, Tom. XXVI. p. 447. Kolb names 17, namely the Gunkemanns, Kachouas, Suffiquas, Udiquas, Chirigriquis,

(Continued on next page)

These tribes, though involved in endless warfare, do not however allow any single tribe to be utterly destroyed, for fear that the balance of power may be upset. Those Hottentots who have been made bondmen of the Dutch Company are a prey to the attacks of the rest. But as soon as they are faced with danger, they send a small picked body to the Cape under a Chief. The Chief, accompanied by the leading men of the tribe, approaches the Governor for assistance, holding a sceptre in his hand which he stretches forth in the Governor's presence. Should the Governor reject his plea, he throws down the sceptre which he has received from the Company, at the Governor's feet, saying in the Dutch language: *Vor my niet meer Compagnie Hottentot*: that is, I no longer wish to be a member of the Hottentot society.¹⁸ In most cases, however, their request is granted and they return to their ancestral homes. Such then is the character of the inhabitants of these regions, from whom the Europeans have, by fair purchase,¹⁹ acquired the Cape of Good Hope and the adjacent territory.*

Namaquas, Attaquas, Chorogauquas, Koopmanns, Hessaquas, Sonquas, Dunquas, Damaquas, Gauriquas, Houteniquas, Chumtouters, and Heykonis. All these, however, are included in the more general description which I have given above.

* The above-mentioned Kolb is of the opinion that the Hottentots are descended from the Jews.²⁰ There is no lack of evidence to add considerable weight to this conjecture. There is the widespread tradition among the Hottentots concerning the first parents of their race, *Nob* and *Hingnob*,²¹ who, according to their belief, arrived in this region of the earth through a window and a door. There are their well-known sacrifices, through which they strive to correct anything that is evil, and win for themselves the favour of the gods. Hence these sacrifices are called *Andersmacken*.²² Finally there is a great variety of practices which are known to have been especially common among the Jews. They divorce their wives for the most trifling causes. In marriage they never depart from the forbidden family relationships. In the inheritance of the property of their father, firstborn sons enjoy a position of special privilege in comparison with the other children. Women who have just given birth, or are menstruating, are regarded as unclean, and their husbands are not permitted to have any relations with them. They abstain from eating pork and other food which

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The region in which this Cape is to be found is particularly favoured by the healthy temperature of the air, and by an abundance of those things which provide for man's essential needs and also of those things which enhance the pleasures of living. The Cape is surrounded by lofty and precipitous mountains, which give the impression of being constructed out of stones raised aloft and piled one on top of the other. But the mountains themselves, and the valleys which lie scattered amongst them, are rich in grasses, plants, flowers and crops, and offer good pasturage for cattle. The mountains include the Tiger Mountains, which derive their name not from tigers which are said to have had their lairs there long ago, but from the bright green spots on their slopes, and Table Mountain, the summit of which resembles a flat table, and which is often covered with a white cloud, usually regarded as the sign of an approaching storm.

They also include the Mount of Lions, divided from Table Mountain by a narrow neck of rock. This mountain however takes its name both from the lions which often inhabited the area in olden days, and from its appearance, which presents to the eye the shape of a lion reclining on the ground and lying in wait for its prey with outstretched head. From this peak, the arrival of ships is observed from a look-out point, and communicated to the inhabitants by the firing of a gun and the raising of a flag. Finally there is Devil's Peak, also known as Windy Peak, whence they say the south-east wind arises, often bringing great destruction on sea and land. Around the city verdant pastures, delightful vineyards and fertile gardens can be seen. I shall now undertake to mention only two of these gardens, which are perhaps the most fertile in the world. One, whose foundations were laid by the celebrated surgeon, Jan van Riebeeck, and which bears the name of the illustrious Company, lies about two hundred paces from the Castle. A stream of

Jews are forbidden to eat; in squalor and uncleanness they surpass the Jews. There is no doubt that the practice of excising the left testicle, which is carried out by their priests, known to them as 'Suri', as a form of initiation both for males at puberty and for newly-married men, suggests imitation of the Jewish rite of circumcision. Compare Kolb, *Descript. & Samml. der Reisebeschr.*, Tom. V, where these ceremonies are described in more detail.

very clear water rushing down the slopes of Table Mountain flows through the garden, and irrigates it by means of channels cut through it. Here we find the choicest fruits and garden produce from every quarter of the globe. Apples, pears, chestnuts, golden apples,²³ chinese apples, pamplemousse, japanese apples, figs, many varieties of grapes, pomegranates, peaches and damsons delight the eye and the palate. And how broad a field of description would open out before me should I desire to tell of the various kinds of vegetables, marrows, gourds, lettuces and other plants. The other garden, commonly known as Rondebosch, and situated in the district now called 'Terra Nova',²⁴ is just as fertile for the propagation of trees and plants.

Not far from here lies the famous Constantia estate established by Governor 'Steehus',²⁵ where from a remarkable transplanting of vine stocks from the Rhineland a truly noble wine is produced.

The city itself has been established with a strong and well-fortified castle in a valley of Table Mountain of singular beauty and distinction, and has been adorned with many magnificent buildings. The town is well supplied with everything needed either by passing vessels or by the inhabitants, nor can anyone justifiably complain of the high prices of goods offered for sale. The neighbouring Hottentots bring in quantities of oxen, sheep and pigs, the farmers and settlers supply a profusion of corn, garden produce and vegetables, while the ocean and the adjacent streams provide fish in abundance. Whatever specialities are produced in other parts of the earth are brought in by ship, and I have no doubt that in the heart of the mountains lie hid veins of valuable metals, which have up to now remained undiscovered. There are sound arguments to support this conjecture.*

The aspect of the city, both from the landward and the seaward, is varied and pleasing. Between the nearby mountains are luxuriant meadows, where numerous flocks of sheep, and herds of cattle, grow sleek on health-giving pasture and clear water, and there are fertile plains, which in summer-time turn golden with different kinds of corn, providing a glorious sight to the eye. Although the crops are often damaged by the violence of the north-east gales, yet the salubrious air and the fertile soil amply compensate for such disasters.

* This line of argument has been fully treated by Kolb, l.c. p. 226 sqq.

The fields are ploughed by pairs of oxen, which are guided by a leader holding a rope attached to their horns, to prevent their straying from the furrow. But when the crops are ripe, the sheaves are arranged in a circle and the grain is threshed on the threshing floor by yokes of oxen or by horses.

But the feature of the Cape which remains in the memory of all (who have seen it) is the famous harbour, whose praises have been universally sung, and which can accommodate well-nigh a hundred ships. The beautiful bay is oval in shape, and its encircling rim extends over a distance of nine miles. The centre of the harbour is furnished with a strongly fortified and powerful castle, five-cornered in shape, each of its projecting battlements being defended by twenty heavy cannon. The castle is remarkable for its fortifications as well as for the adjacent buildings, amongst which the Palace of the distinguished governor, the Infirmary, and the spacious warehouses and arsenals make an impressive picture. But if I were to attempt to describe all the memorable features of the Cape, my speech would have no ending. I could mention the rare animals, especially the baboons, the red hartebeeste,²⁶ the chameleons, the elands,²⁷ the quaggas,²⁸ the elephants, the blue antelopes, the leopards, the lions, the lynxes, the ichneumons, the rhinoceroses, the wild cats, and other species. In addition to other birds I might pass on to you a great variety of interesting information concerning the eagles,²⁹ which are known here as Strundvögel, the lammergeyers, the variegated bee-eaters,³⁰ the wagtails, the blue jays,³¹ the Cape canaries, the falcons, the francolins, the ostriches, the guinea-fowl, the hooded finches, the blue cranes, the peacocks³² and the pelicans. I could also describe to you the marvellous marine creatures, especially the dolphins, the sea-lions, the sharks, the elephant seals, the sea-wolves,³³ the sting-rays, the flying fishes, the fishes known as Aboadors,³⁴ the conger eels, the chrysones,³⁵ the mullet, the stumpnose, the crayfish, the conches, the sea-snails and the starfish.

Finally, for the benefit of nature-lovers I could depict in all their vivid colours the various kinds of insects, especially the vipers, puff-adders,³⁶ the presteres,³⁷ the cobras, the horned vipers, the sand-fleas, the water-rats, the locusts, the dung-beetles, the scorpions, the tree-larvas, and the weevils.

But these topics and many others I pass over in silence, for I now

propose to turn to another section of my speech, which contains a short account of the discovery of the Cape.

The Portuguese were the first to trace out a direct route to India by circumnavigating Africa. King John II, who was bent on seeking prosperity for Portugal, and whose virtues won him the title of the Perfect Prince, entrusted this voyage of discovery to his captain of the Fleet, Bartolomeo Diaz, whose nautical skill had, to the king's knowledge, been proved and tested many times over. Diaz set sail in 1486, but when he reached the Cape, a terrible storm arose, and having lost a food-ship he gave to the Cape the name of Cabo Tormentoso, that is, the Cape of Storms. Then the angry mood of his seamen, who feared that even greater hardships were in prospect, forced him to return to Lisbon. Arriving there in the month of December, 1487, he at once informed the King about his expedition, making particular mention of the difficulties involved in rounding the Cape. The King, however, realising from Covillanus³⁸ dispatches the importance of the discovery (of the Cape), gave to it the name of Cabo da bonna Esperanza, that is, the Cape of Good Hope, the name which it has retained to this day. He now realised that the direct route to India had been opened up, and that a successful voyage thither must be undertaken without delay. But while he was completely immersed in the scheme, whereby he might bring to fruition a plan so important, and so advantageous to his people, it pleased the great Ruler of this world to remove him from the gaze of men. John himself was without legitimate issue, and he bequeathed his kingdom to the Prince Emanuel, a man endowed with many intellectual gifts. The latter, in the spring of the second year of his reign, ordered four ships to be fitted out, manned and provided with guns and all other necessary equipment. The fleet was commanded by Don Vasquezius, otherwise known as Vasco da Gama, a man eminently suitable for such an expedition. He set sail on the ninth day of July, and put in at the Cape on the 20th of November; he did not stop there, however, but set his course for Mozambique, Mombaza, Melinda, the Malabar coast, and the island of Angediva.³⁹ There he refitted, and sailed back to Europe. After his successful return to his native land, the members of the Sacred Council unanimously requested the King of Portugal to spare no expense in fitting out a new fleet to undertake a fresh expedition. This fleet, consisting of 13 long ships of

small tonnage,⁴⁰ was placed under the command of the praetor, Petrus Alvaresius Capralius. On the death of Capralius, the command was for the second time undertaken by Don Vasquez da Gama, and after him by Franciscus Albuquerque. None of these commanders, however, ventured to take possession of the Cape, but after taking on water and provisions, pushed on to India.

Franciscus Almeida, the King's Viceroy, and Governor of India, put in at the Cape after a distinguished career in India; there, after a quarrel had broken out between the barbarians and his soldiers, Almeida was pierced by a poisoned arrow, eleven of his officers and seventy-five sailors perishing with him. But the Portuguese avenged this murder of their countrymen in a way which completely terrorised the barbarians.⁴¹

Returning a few years later, they set up on the ground a gun filled with nitrate powder and lead bullets, and, pretending that they had forgotten the wrong done to them, persuaded the Hottentots with honeyed words to move the gun with ropes. As they started to drag it along, the master gunner, following behind, set the gunpowder alight with a fuse, causing great destruction in their ranks. Those who escaped with their lives ran helter-skelter for safety. All of them, however, were so paralysed with fear, that to this very day they have a violent aversion to any kind of artillery or cannon, which they call *pu makum gutts*.⁴² On that occasion too the Portuguese let slip a favourable opportunity of occupying the Cape. However, when in the year 1600 the Company of Indian Traders was established, the Cape continued to be used as an anchorage for Dutch shipping, where they could take on water and other necessary supplies. With this aim they always constructed a barricade to deny the natives access to their tents and their ships. Furthermore, they used to leave a square block of stone in a definite spot, on which were inscribed the name of any ship arriving, together with the names of the captain and of passengers of noble rank, and the time of their arrival. Letters were hidden in a lead-lined chest covered with cement in a place known to the sailors.⁴³ In this way they continued to pass the Cape up to the year 1650. In that year, however, the fleet on its way back from India put in at the Cape, according to the policy mentioned above, and remained there some little time. Among their number was a Dutch surgeon, Johannes de Riebeckius, a man of great

experience in affairs. He took the opportunity provided by this interval to make a thoroughgoing survey of the Cape, estimating what could be grown and what could not be grown there, and considering how it could be made profitable to the illustrious Company. Arriving safely back in Holland, he made his opinions known to the illustrious Company by interview and by letter, explaining to them how they could put the Cape to profitable use. His plans were approved, and four ships were immediately fitted out, and the Directors of the Company, who, because of his remarkable foresight, had no hesitation in appointing him to command the little fleet, instructed him to occupy the place, and to build a well-fortified castle for its protection. The highly successful results of the venture offered clear proof to the Directors of the Company that they had done much greater service to the interests of the Company by this decision than if they had been guided in their choice of a commander by considerations of high rank or outward prestige. Sped by favourable winds, van Riebeck arrived at the Cape in 1652; in a short time his charm of manner and the benefits he conferred on them so won over the Hottentots to his side that he was able to buy from them, at an agreed price, not only cattle, pigs and sheep, but a piece of land where he and his compatriots could settle in comfort.⁴⁴

When this request had been granted, he at once set about building a square fortress, began constructing dwellings and warehouses, cultivating the soil and laying out gardens.

When these tasks had been completed to his satisfaction, he persuaded the Company to establish colonies on this piece of land. Thus in a short time four colonies were established, namely Capica, Stellenboschia, Drakensteinia and Waveria. To this end the first settlers were provided with money, corn and all necessary furniture for the purpose of gaining a firm hold on the territory. The initial shortage of women was met by sending out girls, selected by lot, from the flourishing orphanages at Amsterdam, Rotterdam and elsewhere.⁴⁵ All that remains is to describe how the distinguished Directors of the India Company, by the purchase of additional land, situated between Mozambique and the Cape of Good Hope, secured a remarkable extension of their territory, how they set up Courts of Justice, and appointed an eminent Commander to govern the entire Cape and its colonies, together with a staff of adminis-

trators to take charge of the treasury, of trade, of the administration of justice, of the settlement of disputes, of marriage and education, of church revenues and other matters pertaining to religion, and of military affairs and ordnance. In addition they chose provincial prefects to settle minor disputes among the settlers and to promote their security and advancement in every possible way. Above all, the great foresight of the Company, as displayed in the establishment of the worship of God and in the building of churches both at the Cape itself and in the villages of the settlers, deserves the highest praise.

On these and other important topics, especially on the outstanding services of many of the Commanders (*Praefecti*) and other Administrators of the Company, I could discourse at greater length. But I fear that I may impose upon your patience, Gentlemen, and therefore I shall draw in the sails of my little speech. It now remains for me to invoke, with all my heart, the blessing of everlasting Providence upon the entire Republic of Batavia, upon His Excellency the Hereditary Governor, His Serene Highness the Prince of Orange,⁴⁶ the Illustrious India Company and its Noble Guardians, the most noble Governor of the Cape, and my very dear friend, Tulbagh,⁴⁷ and all the other Administrators who have served the Company so well, upon my dear family separated from me by such an expanse of time and space, upon all my relatives, supporters and friends at the Cape, in Holland and in Germany, upon the State of Hamburg, my other never to be forgotten Fatherland, upon all those groups (*ordines*) who have been concerned with the advancement of her welfare, especially upon this Academy,⁴⁸ whose name is renowned in all parts of the world, and especially in Africa, upon those distinguished men, the two Müllers,⁴⁹ my learned Teachers, men to be revered by the exercise of all reverence, devotion and undying memory for the innumerable benefits they have showered upon me, and upon all the other illustrious professors of this Academy, and finally upon my most generous and beloved fellow comrades-in-arms and friends, that in His great mercy He may order all things to a prosperous and happy issue.

NOTES

Numbers relate to those in the English translation.

- ¹ Virgil: *Georgics*, 1. 56-7.
 - ² Horace: *Odes*, III. xxiv. 2.
 - ³ Silius Italicus: *Punica*, xvii. 647.
 - ⁴ Caffraria: 'land of unbelievers', described by Jodocus Hondius in his *Klare Besgryping van Cabo de Bona Esperanca* (1652) as follows: 'Caffraria heeft desen naam bekomen van weghen het volk, omdat sy sonder Wet ofte Godsdienst leven.' His source was Luis del Marmol Caravajal (1593).
 - ⁵ De Beaulieu (1620) and Olafsson (1623) inform us that *hautitou* and *hottentot* were the words used in the song-dance of the aborigines, and Tavernier (1649) applied the name to the people themselves. Thus the words of the song were transferred to indicate the singers. From 1652 onwards the Europeans and the Hottentots themselves adopted this nomenclature. For a full discussion of this interesting subject see G. S. Nienaber, 'Oor die herkoms van die woord *Hottentot*' in *Standpunte*, Nuwe Reeks, nos. 11 & 12 (April-May and June-July, 1956).
 - ⁶ The word *Krossen* was adopted by Afrikaans, English and other languages as the technical name for the cloak which is here described, made of prepared skins, mostly of sheep. In addition to this cloak the women wore a loin-skin called *kuit-kaross*, and the men a covering of the penis called *kul-kaross*, *kuit* (calf of leg) and *kul* (penis) being Dutch words.
 - ⁷ The usual Hottentot name for this stringed wind instrument is *gora*. For further particulars and illustrations of the instrument, see Percival R. Kirby's *Musical instruments of the native races of South Africa*, Oxford University Press, 1953 (1934), chapter 8. Kolb has an illustration on Plate XVII (p. 526) of the 1719 folio.
 - ⁸ *Civitates*: not cities, but tribes, as commonly used by Roman writers about primitive tribal communities, e.g. by Caesar of the Gauls.
 - ⁹ The 'dear friend and patron' has not been identified.
 - ¹⁰ *Gounja Tekquoa*: Many early writers commented on the dancing, singing and general merrymaking indulged in by the Hottentots at new moon and full moon. Kolb 'says that the Cape Hottentots looked on the Moon as their visible God, which they called *Gounja*, or Great Chief' (I. Schapera, *The Khoisan peoples of South Africa*, Routledge, 1930, p. 375). *Tekquoa* appears to be a corruption of the name of the well-known rain-god, *Tsui//Goab*. For a full discussion of Hottentot beliefs see Schapera, op. cit., ch. 13.
 - ¹¹ *Mutschi, Atze, Senihar, Enze, Choraquakaha, Chori, Ounqua*. This dance song appears in Kolb's 1719 folio as follows: '*Mutschi Atzé*, das ist: Seyd gegrüset oder willkommen / *Senihar eatzé*, das ist, Mache / dass wir viel Honig bekommen mögen; *Choraquakaha chori Ounqua*, das ist: Mache / dass unser Vieh zu fressen bekommen möge / und viel Milch gebe' (p. 411). It is apparent not only that Hemmy or his printer have taken liberties with the phrase as quoted by Kolb (e.g. *Enze* for *eatzé*), but that it has been freely rendered into Latin from the German. As Professor J. A. Engelbrecht points out, the text has no words corresponding to that for honey (Hott. *danib*) or milk (Hott. *daib*), although Professor G. S. Nienaber thinks it just conceivable that *Senihar* is a corruption for the Nama *danixa*, meaning 'rich in honey'.
- The phrase *Mutschi Atzé* is given in recognizable variations by later writers, such as Büttner (c. 1712), 'Moutsi, good day' (68a); Valentijn, writing of 1714, gives '*Mutze Atze*: Zyt gegroet' (108b); and Thunberg, describing events of 1772-3, offers '*KoA MOTSCHI*, good morning' (II, 86), and on the preceding page, '*GoI MOTSKI*, good evening'. On the other hand Professor Engelbrecht very tentatively suggests the reading: '*Mülse*, || *khitse*, See thou, O Moon!'

Choraqua apparently has reference to the people (-*kwa*) of Chora, reputed ancestor of the tribe of the Kora or Korana. *Chori* may stand for *Xuri* (*Xudi*), goods, possessions, including herds of livestock. Witsen, in his word-list published in 1691, gives 'hory, beesten in't gemeen, bestiae in genere' (Ludolf, appendix, p. 227 s), and Kolb himself gives the word as *horri* in his own word-list (p. 360). It seems fairly certain that *chori* here connotes 'cattle in general'.

As for *Oumqua*, Professor Engelbrecht suggests that this may be an attempt to render *ūkwā*, foods. Witsen renders 'Eten, edere' in Hottentots as *ou* (Ludolf, appendix, p. 4), and Kolb gives *Ederel Ouge|essen* (p. 361). W. H. I. Bleek interprets the Cape Hottentots *oumqua* as meaning 'food' (*Comparative grammar of South African languages*, Cape Town, 1862, pt. I, p. 309). Lichtenstein (1803-6) mentions that the Kora word for food in general is *i'uhnkōa* (*Archiv*, p. 315). The -*qua* is plural.

A passable translation of the sentence might be: (O Moon!) we salute you! May you give us an abundance of honey, herds, cattle and food!

- ¹² *Touquoa*: see note 10 above.
- ¹³ The reference is to the folio edition of P. Kolb's *Caput bonae spei hodiernum* published by Monath in Nuremberg, 1719. There is an engraving which depicts moon-dancing facing page 410 (plate X).
- ¹⁴ The full title of this work is: *Allgemeinen Historie der Reizen zu Wasser und zu Lände, oder Sammlung aller Reisebeschreibungen . . .*, Leipzig, 1747-74. 21 vols. The first seven volumes are taken from Astley's *New general collection*, and all the rest, except vols. 9 and 14, from Prévost d'Exiles' *Histoire générale des voyages*.
- ¹⁵ *justitiae servandae*. . . These words of praise are in striking contrast to the reports of earlier travellers; cf. the vitriolic outburst of Ten Rhyne, *Schediasma*, chapter xv, init., 'these lawless barbarians' (*Early Cape Hottentots*, ed. Schapera, Van Riebeeck Society vol. 14, 1933, p. 127). Was the romantic conception of the 'noble savage' already beginning to make headway against the life of primitive man as 'nasty, brutish and short'?
- ¹⁶ *aurum & argentum in pretio non habent*: so Tacitus of the Germans (*Germania*, 5), adding the characteristic comment that he cannot be certain whether this has been due to the mercy or the anger of the gods.
- ¹⁷ *Kinquer*: this word seems to have been rendered in a distorted form. Perhaps it is the same as Nama *|khu-khoib*, rich man, which appears in Witsen's list as *k'koeguaē*, 'princeps seu Dominus regnans'.
- ¹⁸ *Vor my niet meer Compagnie Hottentot*. Hemmy's rendering, 'I no longer wish to be a member of the Hottentot society' appears to be ambiguous. The context makes it clear that 'Compagnie' refers to the Hottentots who were bondmen or hangers-on of the Company; a better rendering would be: 'I do not wish to be a "Company Hottentot" any longer.'
- ¹⁹ 'Every tribe appears to have had its own territory, into which strangers might not intrude for hunting or grazing without first obtaining leave. . . This land was exploited on equal terms by all the members of the tribe. It could under no circumstances become the property of an individual, nor was it held to belong to the chief; and it was generally regarded as inalienable. In the early Cape Records several instances are noted of land having been "sold" to the colonists by Hottentot chiefs; but it is more than probable that such "sales" were looked upon by the Hottentots themselves not as an alienation but as the granting of usufruct, and the "purchase price" as analogous to tribute paid for this use' (Schapera, *Early Cape Hottentots*, p. vii).
- ²⁰ In his *Early Cape Hottentots* (p. v) Professor Schapera notes that many of the early writers believed that the Hottentots were descended from or considerably influenced by the Jews or other Semitic peoples, but that this theory has no solid foundation in
- fact. In this respect Hemmy is merely echoing Kolb. His remarks on the ritual of *Suri* are also based on Kolb; for the erroneous belief that 'all males that are born are immediately at birth deprived of one testicle' (Ten Rhyne), see the authoritative note by Schapera, op. cit., pp. 142-3n. Hemmy's own knowledge of Jewry was probably confined to conditions in Hamburg where, in effect, the Jews were more tolerantly treated than in many parts of Europe.
- ²¹ *Nob & Hingnob*: J. G. Grevenbroeck, in his *Gentis Hottentotten nuncupatae descriptio*, after referring to the Hottentots' Supreme Being, named *Khourrou* or *Thikkwa*, goes on to say that 'by this Supreme God were created *Noh* the first man and *Hingnogh* his wife' (*Early Cape Hottentots*, p. 193).
- ²² In his Englished version of Kolb's work, Medley has the following to say of *Andersmaken*: 'Every Change of Abode and Condition and every signal Event of Life the *Hottentots* accompany with Offerings or Festivities; and never undertake any Thing they conceive to be of importance without the previous Celebration of certain Solemnities. For these Ceremonious Acts, all of which I take to be of a religious nature, the *Hottentots*, soon after the Settling of the *Dutch* among them, adopted the *Dutch* term *Andersmaken*, i.e. to alter for the better. . . They seem to intimate a Change of Life by it, or, as we say, the Turning over a new Leaf (*The present state of the Cape of Good Hope . . . by Peter Kolben . . . Done into English by Mr. Medley*, London, 1731, I, 112-13).
- ²³ *mala aurea*, etc.: the identification of these fruits is no easy matter. It is well known that the general term *malum* covered cherries and pears as well as apples; *malum chinense* may well be a cherry; *malum japonicum* is probably the kumquat, while the romantic-sounding *malum aureum*, reminding the reader of the Golden Apples of the Hesperides, may be a citrus fruit, or a variety of apple with yellow, variegated leaves.
- ²⁴ *terra nova*: the reader scarcely needs to be reminded that the whole area of which Rondebosch originally formed a part was known as *Nieuwe Land*.
- ²⁵ *Gubernator Steelsius*: evidently an error for Simon van der Stel (1639-1712), Governor of the Cape from 1691-9 and the founder of Constantia, whose wines became world-famous in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.
- ²⁶ *bubalorum*: probably the red hartbeeste. Farrington (Ten Rhyne, in *Early Cape Hottentots*, p. 101) translates this word as 'buffaloes', which may be the animal referred to.
- ²⁷ *alcium*: certainly not 'elks' (so Farrington, loc. cit.); probably the eland, the largest antelope then found at the Cape.
- ²⁸ *onagrorum*: there are no wild asses in South Africa. The animal referred to is almost certainly the extinct quagga (*equus quagga*). Ten Rhyne's *agrestes equi* are probably quaggas.
- ²⁹ *Aquilis, quae hic Strundūgel nominantur*: the black eagle or Witkruisarend (*Aquila verreauxi*).
- ³⁰ *merulis versicoloribus*: probably the European bee-eater.
- ³¹ *caeruleis*: the only bird known at the Cape with a preponderance of sky-blue colouring is the blue jay (*Coracias garrulus garrulus*).
- ³² *pavonibus*: Kolb has 'der Pfau', clearly meaning 'peacock', and says that he does not know where it originated (1719 edition, p. 218). Buffon, in his *Histoire naturelle des oiseaux*, Paris, 1771, vol. II, p. 294, remarks that it can scarcely be doubted that the peacock mentioned by Kolb, which he said resembled closely those well known in Europe, had been brought to the Cape by European voyagers returning from the East. The bird depicted in Kolb's engraving as 'Indian: Pfau' resembles a peahen. It has been suggested that Hemmy may have been referring to the giant bustard (*Ardeotis kori kori*), which Sclater mentions as being sometimes called the Gompcock (gompaauw) (*The fauna of South Africa*, IV, 308-11; also J. Vincent, *Checklist of the birds of South Africa*, 1952, p. 22).

- ³⁵ *Lupos marinos*: if this is not another traveller's tale, there may be confusion with the sea-lion already mentioned, which is the most common kind of seal to be found in Cape waters: the elephant-seal is a very rare visitor. References to 'zeewolven' and 'zeehunden' are frequent in the records of early Dutch navigators visiting these waters, e.g. Houtman (1595-7).
- ³⁶ *Aboadors nominatos*: probably the albacore, or yellow-tail, described in Medley's version as 'tunnecys'.
- ³⁷ *chrysones*: the only fish known in these waters which has sufficient gold coloring to merit the description is the bronze bream.
- ³⁸ *Dispades*: from the Latin *dispandere*, to puff or stretch out. Probably the puff-adder.
- ³⁹ *presteres*: There are numerous references in classical sources to a snake bearing this name ('that which sets on fire'); the bite is said to cause intolerable thirst and enormous distension of the body of the victim. No known African snake produces such terrifying effects; the ringhals, as the only dangerous snake not mentioned elsewhere in Hemmy's list, might be suggested.
- ⁴⁰ Covillanus: Pedro da Covilhã was the commander of an expedition dispatched from Lisbon in 1487 to reach Africa and India by the Mediterranean and Arabian route. 'He outlined the geography of the coast of South-East Africa, and gave it as a definite fact that it was easy to navigate from the seas of Guinea to the coast of Sofala and the Great Island of the Moon (Madagascar)' (E. Axelson, *South-East Africa, 1488-1530*, London, 1940, chapter III).
- ⁴¹ Angediva: an island near Portuguese Goa where the first Viceroy, d'Almeida, built a fort in 1505.
- ⁴² *ex tredecim tam longis, quam parvis navibus*: literally, 'as long as they were small'.
- ⁴³ The death of d'Almeida is described in a well-known passage by João de Barros (see Axelson, op. cit., pp. 114-15). The story of the revenge taken by the Europeans occurs in Kolb, but is not fully authenticated.
- ⁴⁴ *pu makum gutts*: 'things that make boe'. The 'boe' or 'pu' is onomatopoeic for the explosive sound, retained in Nama as *!awu-s* for 'gun'.
- ⁴⁵ For a good account of these 'post office stones' see *Inscriptions left by early European navigators on their way to the East*, 3rd ed., Cape Town, South African Museum, 1950. 47 p.
- ⁴⁶ See note 19 above.
- ⁴⁷ The number of orphan-girls who arrived under this scheme has probably been exaggerated; they are now thought not to have exceeded twenty in all.
- ⁴⁸ William the Fifth, Prince of Orange and Nassau (1748-1806). His father died when he himself was only 10 years of age, and he did not succeed to the Principality until 1766, a year before the delivery of Hemmy's *Oratio*. He married Princess Wilhelmina of Prussia in October 1767.
- ⁴⁹ Ryk Tulbagh, familiarly known as 'Father Tulbagh', was Governor of the Cape from 1751 till 1771.
- ⁵⁰ The Johanneum Academy at Hamburg was founded in 1529 by the reformer Bugenhagen. It still survives as the Gymnasium at Maria-Luisen-strasse 114.
- ⁵¹ Johann Samuel Müller (1701-73) was Rektor of the Johanneum from 1732 to 1773. Johann Martin Müller (1721-81) was Konrektor from 1754 to 1773, and Rektor, 1773-81.