

NOTES OF TRAVEL

IN

# SOUTH-WESTERN AFRICA.

BY

C. J. ANDERSSON,

AUTHOR OF "LAKE NGAMI," "THE OKAVANGO RIVER," ETC., ETC.

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appreciate the rich and abundant stores of specimens he had brought home with him from the wilds of Africa.

“In the following year he returned to the Cape, and accepted an appointment as superintendent of the mining operations of the Walwich Bay Mining Company. These proving unsuccessful, the engagement was soon broken off, and Mr. Andersson, his passion for travel and adventure still strong upon him, resolved on another expedition into the Interior. His friend, Mr. Green, having failed in an attempt to reach the Cunené—the boundary river between Ovampoland and the Portuguese possessions—he determined to repeat the effort, and to trace the river to its supposed source eastward toward Lake Ngami. Instead of the Cunené, he struck upon the Okavango, a river flowing eastward; and here it was he encountered a ferocious rhinoceros, which thrust its horn into his thigh, inflicting a gashing wound, which kept him months a helpless cripple in his tent. On his return to Otjimbingue he wrote an account of his journey, which was soon afterward published in a handsome and most interesting volume, entitled ‘The Okavango.’ Shortly after this he arrived in Cape Town, and in 1861 married the sister of Mr. Atchison, the Secretary of the Post Office, and with her proceeded to Otjimbingue, in Damaraland, where he had accumulated a considerable amount of property, and where he intended settling down in lucrative trade, supplying the elephant-hunters with the stores they required, and forwarding cattle and ivory to Cape Town in return. For some time this went on successfully, and large herds of cattle were sent down to Namaqua-

land, and across the Orange river. Then came the unfortunate and miserable war between the Damaras and Namaquas, in which Mr. Andersson felt that the latter were the assailants, and in the wrong; and living as he did among the Damaras, with all the chivalry of his nature, he devoted himself to their cause, and finding them to be cowards as they were, he himself became their chief and leader in the war. The natural result was embittered hostility against him by the Namaquas; so that the herds of cattle which he was then forwarding through their country to the colony were stopped, seized, and confiscated. This was heavy loss enough, but worse followed.

"In an attack by the Namaquas upon his own station of Otjimbingue he led the repelling party; and in the heat of the conflict found himself deserted by the cowards for whom he had ventured all. He was shot down by a bullet, which smashed his leg, and it was almost by a miracle that he escaped with his life. By the careful attention of his devoted wife, and the missionaries, and though last, not least, Mr. Baines, the artist, who happened to be then at Otjimbingue, he survived this wound; but when he returned some nine months afterward to Cape Town, it was only to find himself pronounced, by the surgeons whom he consulted, a cripple for life. During his long stay as an invalid here, at the residence of his brother-in-law, he devoted the weary hours to the composition of a work which he fondly hoped would prove the crowning triumph of his career. This was an elaborate and scientific description of the Birds of South-West Africa, the materials for which in his possession were of the richest and most