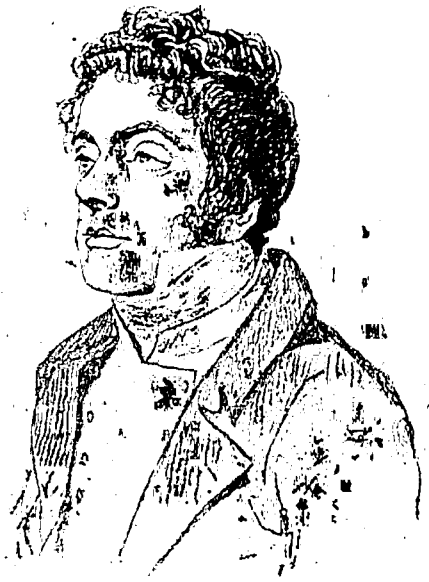

WILLIAM J. BURCHELL
1782–1863

From the drawing by J. Sell Cotman
By courtesy of the Victoria & Albert Museum

TRAVELS IN THE INTERIOR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

BY

WILLIAM J. BURCHELL

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WITH SOME ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AND
WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
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INTRODUCTION

I

Burchell's *Travels* has long been very highly esteemed. Sir Roger Murchison, President of the Royal Geographical Society, referred to it in 1863 as 'among the classics of English travel, from its simple, vigorous, and truthful style'; Mendelssohn described it as 'the most valuable and accurate work on South Africa published up to the first quarter of the nineteenth century'; and Theal praised it even more generously as 'one of the most trustworthy and valuable books ever issued upon South Africa'.[1]

These tributes were not inspired so much by Burchell's achievement as an explorer. Although his map and records show that he travelled farther north than any of his predecessors, his published narrative relates mostly to regions that were already well known, except for the route between Klaarwater (Griquatown) and Graaff-Reinet; and hazardous though that portion of his journey was, he had more to fear from the Bushman inhabitants than from physical obstacles. But his descriptions of places and scenery are generally more careful and comprehensive than found in anything previously written, the very detailed meteorological data and compass bearings that he recorded are unequalled in the travel literature of South Africa, and his extensive accounts of social conditions among the European and Native peoples are of lasting value to the historian. The superb illustrations, all made by himself, supplement admirably the information given in the text; it is, indeed, largely for their beautiful coloured plates that his volumes are now so eagerly sought and so highly prized by collectors of Africana.

Burchell's scientific fame rests rather upon his work as naturalist and collector. Although he 'endeavoured to extend his researches to whatever appeared likely to afford interesting information' (*i.* 5), his training and experience had qualified him specially in the fields of botany and zoology. The enthusiasm with which he observed, recorded, and collected, is evident enough from the pages of his book; and his great *Catalogus Geographicus*, in which he systematically listed plants according to the place and date of their discovery, has been termed the first of its kind.[2] He returned to England with more than 63,000 objects 'in every branch of natural history', including over 40,000 botanical specimens, 120 skins of quadrupeds 'comprising 95 distinct species', and 265 different kinds of birds.[3] Very many of these

[1] R. Murchison, '(Presidential) Address', *J. roy. Geogr. Soc.*, vol. 33 (1863), p. cxxiv; S. Mendelssohn, *South African Bibliography* (1910), vol. I, p. 224; G. M. Theal, *History of South Africa 1795–1834* (1891), p. 436.

[2] Helen McKay, 'William John Burchell', *S. Afr. J. Sci.*, vol. 33 (1937), p. 347.

[3] The quotations are from p. 8 of an undated pamphlet entitled *A List of Quadrupeds brought by Mr. Burchell from Southern Africa and presented by him to The British Museum on the 30th of September*, 1817 (printed by A. Spottiswoode, London). His gift consisted of 43 skins, 'more than half of

were entirely new, and the scientific names by which they are now known commemorate the greatness of his contribution to our knowledge of the South African fauna and flora. Among his more conspicuous discoveries were the White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*), the species of zebra known after him as *Equus* (*Quagga*) *burchellii*, and several species of antelope, including the blue wildebeest and tsesseby. He was one of the earliest, if not the first, to suggest the establishment of what are now the famous National Botanic Gardens at Kirstenbosch, in the Cape Peninsula (*i.* 23); and, another illustration of his scientific versatility, it was also he who coined the term *steatopyga* nowadays used by physical anthropologists to denote the characteristic protuberance of the buttocks in Hottentot women (*i.* 155).

The general reader, however, will probably find more interesting material in Burchell's accounts of the various peoples inhabiting South Africa. As he mentions, one of his main objects in his travels was to investigate 'man in an uncivilized state of society' (*i.* 5). Unlike Le Vaillant, he had no romantic illusions about 'the noble savage', nor, on the other hand, did he share Robert Moffat's opinion that a description of Native manners and customs 'would be neither very instructive nor very edifying'.[1] He classed himself, rather, with those who 'visit a foreign land that they may view and contemplate the human character in some new light; and that, by tracing the gradations and shades of notions and ideas, through the various customs of different nations, and even to their first feeble source in uncivilized life, they may better understand themselves, and learn by the comparison, to form a juster estimate of that society which more immediately surrounds them, and to which they more properly belong' (*ii.* 252). He could not resist speculating, from his observations, on such topics as liberty (*i.* 293, *ii.* 27), the origins of the different forms of government (*ii.* 384 ff.), and the dubious effects of trying to convert Native peoples to Christianity (*i.* 80 f., 160 f.). But the observations themselves are always objective and authentic; time and again, for example, he notes but refuses to vouch for a statement that he could not confirm at first hand. How earnestly he sought to ensure accuracy is shown also by the efforts he made to learn both Dutch and the language of the 'Bichuana' (BaTswana); his remarks on the value of being able to converse directly with all classes of the population (*i.* 15 f.) are as relevant to-day as when they were first written.

Nevertheless, despite the many and varied details that he gives about the life of the Bushmen, Hottentots, and 'Bachapin' (BaTlhaping), Burchell has definite limitations as an ethnographer. His descriptions of subsistence activities, dwellings, dress, decoration, weapons, implements, etc., are on the whole very good, and his references to the diffusion of such cultural items are of great historical value. But his observations on social and political systems and on ceremonial usages are disappointingly inadequate, and provide far less information to the modern anthro-

which number were unique specimens, and the greater part with entire skulls' (*loc. cit.*), and their subsequent neglect by the Museum authorities upset him greatly (see below, *i.* 267, *ii.* 240).

[1] R. Moffat, *Missionary Labours and Scenes in Southern Africa* (1842), p. 249.

pologist than do the works of his contemporaries Lichtenstein and Campbell. It is true, as he maintains (*ii.* 383), that the investigation of such topics requires both more time and a better knowledge of the language than he commanded, but this in itself should have prevented him, for example, from writing so mistakenly and with such prejudice about the religion of the BaTlhaping (*ii.* 387 ff.). He was by no means unique in the attitude he adopted towards 'heathen superstitions', but it is certainly inconsistent with his usual tolerance and scientific caution.

In one respect, however, he far surpasses any other writer of his time. He is outstandingly successful in describing the character, both of individuals and of peoples generally. His passing comments on the Hottentots and the BaTlhaping vividly and accurately emphasize traits that are still observable even to-day, his contrast between the two peoples shows much insight and shrewdness of judgment, and his estimate of the Bushmen is as notable as was his own ability to gain the confidence of those dreaded little hunters. His verbal sketches of his Hottentot servants, of individual Bushmen, and of the Tlhaping noblemen with whom he had so much trouble in 'the affair of the gun' (*ii.* chap. xv), are among the most effective passages in his book, and do more to help us understand such people than would have been achieved by a bare catalogue of their tribal manners and customs. He was obviously interested in his fellow-creatures as human beings, and not as mere ethnic specimens, and, although unashamedly proud of being an Englishman, tried to be sympathetic and tolerant towards those of alien stock. One of the rare instances where he faltered is found in the delightful juxtaposition of two entries in his General Index: 'Taste of different nations, not to be condemned', is followed immediately by 'Taste, disgusting depravity of'.

Burchell is equally enlightening about the European inhabitants of South Africa. He indicates admirably the differences in mode of life between the residents of the Western Cape and the semi-nomadic pastoralists of the interior, whose state of civilization he reveals in many instructive and usually entertaining passages. Some of his individual characterizations are memorable: the taciturn horseman and shepherd at Ongeluk's river (*i.* 157 f.), the ungracious people at Jacob van Wyk's (*ii.* 75 ff.), and the good-hearted 'Nieukerk' (van Niekerk) family (*ii.* 86 ff.), and, above all perhaps, the two itinerant tutors (*i.* 143, *ii.* 82 ff.), who almost inevitably bring to mind Olive Schreiner's *The Story of an African Farm*. At times he is critical, as when discussing the treatment of Native servants, but he never condemns undeservedly. He stresses the generous hospitality long noted as a characteristic of the Boer, and if, as occasionally happened, he met with a churlish reception, he is careful to emphasize how exceptional it was. 'I cannot', he says (*ii.* 69), 'allow the unfavorable qualities of an individual, to be adopted as the *general character* of the Dutch colonists, any more than I would admit selected examples of individual worthiness, to be taken as specimens of the whole colony. Of the latter, I know many: of the former, I wish that I knew none.' He also makes some very pertinent comments on missionary activity, which are reinforced by his descriptions of the

settlements at Genadendal (*i.*, chap. v) and at Klaarwater (*i.*, chap. xv). He obviously disapproved of the policy followed by the agents of the London Missionary Society, and he was certainly unfortunate in his experiences both with the white missionaries at Klaarwater and with the two converted Hottentots whom he was induced to employ at Graaff-Reinet.

Of Burchell himself, as revealed in his book, Professor H. C. Notcutt wrote: 'The story of his travels in South Africa is told modestly and with great restraint, but it becomes clear, as one reads it, that he was a man of outstanding personality, meeting difficult situations with courage and resourcefulness. . . . The impression that grows upon one the more one gets to know about him is that of a man of rare quality, with a powerful physique, a fine and penetrating intellect, a strong and most attractive character.'[1] He was also cultured and sensitive, fond of society but well able to divert himself in relative solitude. His book not merely displays his proficiency in many spheres of knowledge and art; it is also written with a grace and balance that make it a pleasure to read.

II

William John Burchell was born on 23 July, 1781, at Fulham, London, where his father was 'a well-to-do nurseryman'.[2] Little has been recorded of his childhood and youth, except that he was sent to a private boarding-school (Raleigh House Academy) at Mitcham, in Surrey, that at the age of about thirteen he was already interested in botany, and that, 'when fifteen years old, he received instruction in landscape drawing from a distinguished teacher, Merigot.'[3] He seems to have had altogether a very good education, for it was reported of him in 1806 that he was qualified to teach not only 'ancient and modern languages, but the science of mathematics in its various branches and the art of drawing'.[4] After leaving school he did not enter a University; but he is known to have worked for a while at Kew, and in 1803 he was elected a Fellow of the Linnean Society.

At the end of 1805 Burchell went to St. Helena, for reasons that are still obscure.[5] Soon after his arrival, the Governor successfully recommended him to the East India Company for temporary appointment to the vacant post of schoolmaster. 'He is', the recommendation read in part, 'a Proficient in Natural History, and an expert Botanist with a competent knowledge of Chemistry; and I am assured that his

[1] *Selections from . . . Burchell* (1938), p. 176. Burchell, in fact, was short (five feet four) and slight of build (cf. Poulton, p. 58), which may partly explain why he was so anxious to impress the BaTlhaping with his strength (*ii.* 316 f.)

[2] The biographical details given below are derived mainly from the following: E. B. Poulton, 'William John Burchell', *Addresses and Papers read at the Joint Meeting of the British and South African Associations for the Advancement of Science* (Johannesburg, 1905), vol. III, pp. 57–110; Helen M. McKay, (a) 'William John Burchell in St. Helena, 1805–1810', *S. Afr. J. Sci.*, vol. 31 (1934), pp. 481–9; (b) 'William John Burchell, Scientist', *ibid.*, vol. 32 (1935), pp. 689–95.

[3] Helen McKay, *The South African Drawings of . . . Burchell*, vol. II (1952), p. xv; cf. McKay (1935), p. 689; Poulton, *op. cit.*, p. 59.

[4] McKay (1934), p. 482.

[5] Cf. McKay (1934), pp. 481 f.

moral conduct is correct and his manners are mild and unassuming.'[1] He subsequently received an official appointment as botanist, and in that capacity not only did much research 'into the natural productions of the Island', but also experimented with the growing of coffee and cotton.[2] During this time, he suffered a personal tragedy. Before leaving England, he had become engaged to be married. His parents disapproved of the match, but ultimately relented, and early in 1808 his fiancée sailed to St. Helena to join him. On the voyage she changed her mind, and agreed to marry the captain of the ship instead.[3] Burchell remained a bachelor for the rest of his life.

In 1810, disagreement with a new Governor about the conditions of his work led Burchell to resign from his post, and in October he sailed for the Cape of Good Hope. As early as 1806 he had met General J. W. Janssens and Dr. M. H. C. Lichtenstein, who were returning to Holland from the Cape (where, in 1805, Lichtenstein had accompanied an expedition to the BaTlhaping) and from whom he now received some useful letters of introduction; he had also been in regular correspondence with Rev. C. H. F. Hesse, the Lutheran minister at Cape Town, who afterwards became an intimate friend; and there is some evidence that at the beginning of 1810 he had been unofficially offered the post of 'Botanist to the Cape Colony', which, however, did not materialize.[4] The reason he himself gives in his book for going to the Cape was that he wished to explore 'the less frequented or unknown parts of Africa, for the purpose of becoming acquainted with its inhabitants, and of increasing my own knowledge by the addition of whatever facts I might have the opportunity of observing' (*i.* 15); but in a letter written to his mother from Cape Town, on 29 May, 1811, he mentions also the hope of being able to reap financial benefit from the collections that he proposed to make.[5]

As stated in his opening chapters, Burchell landed at Table Bay in November 1810, and after spending a few months in the vicinity of Cape Town he started his inland trek in June, 1811. His account of his travels stops at Litakun (Takoon on modern maps) in August, 1812, but he remained in South Africa for three more years. He first proceeded a short distance beyond Litakun to Chue (Heuningvlei), but then had to turn back because his men refused to go any farther. It was during this trip that he made what Poulton terms 'the greatest zoological discovery of his life', the white rhinoceros.[6] From Litakun he travelled again to Graaff-Reinet, by a more easterly route than he had formerly taken; there he met the missionary John Campbell, who was journeying to Klaarwater, and to whom he was able to give some useful advice.[7] He then went south-east to the mouth of the Great Fish River,

[1] McKay (1934), p. 482.
[2] *Ibid.*, pp. 483–6.
[3] Poulton, *op. cit.*, pp. 60 f.
[4] *Travels*, *i.* 14; McKay (1934), pp. 486–7, (1935), p. 691.
[5] See below, Vol. II, Appendix I, p. 423 f.
[6] Poulton, *op. cit.*, p. 89.
[7] 'April 31st (*sic*), 1813 . . . Glad was I to find that Mr. Burchel, who lately returned from making botanical researches higher up the interior, was not gone; but had kindly postponed his

visited Grahamstown, and finally made his way leisurely through the coastal districts back to Cape Town, which he reached in April, 1815.

After returning to England (he sailed from Cape Town in August), Burchell spent several years in arranging his collections and writing the account of his travels. In 1819 he gave evidence before the House of Commons Committee on the Poor Laws (he described himself there as 'following no profession'), and advocated the planting of a British settlement along the eastern borders of the Cape Colony.[1] He followed up his proposals by publishing, in August of that year, a small pamphlet entitled *Hints on Emigration to the Cape of Good Hope.* This was contemptuously noticed in *The Quarterly Review* by an anonymous writer (said to have been Barrow), and Burchell replied in a four-page 'vindication' appended to most (but not all) copies of Volume I of his *Travels.*[2] It may well be, as Poulton suggests, that the various sarcastic remarks he makes about Barrow's own writings on the Cape (*i.* 54, 242, 299; *ii.* 78) were inspired partly by this controversy.

departure in expectation of my arrival. He was the first person who travelled direct from Graaf Reynet to our missionary station at Klaar Water, beyond the Great River, by which route he thought we might accomplish the journey in a month. He returned by another road, which would require two months, but he recommended the shortest, as one of his people had consented to be our guide, and he advised us to use the utmost caution in guarding our cattle while travelling among the bushmen, as they murder only for the sake of cattle, and should they observe us to be off our guard, they would make attempts to obtain them . . . Mr. Burchel favoured us in the evening with his company, when he also communicated much interesting intelligence from the interior of Africa; in return for which, I related to him the news of European affairs.' (J. Campbell, *Travels in South Africa* (1815), pp. 170–1).

It is regrettable that Burchell had subsequent reason to accuse Campbell of very sharp practice: see below, *ii.* 173, footnote, to which Burchell added in pencil, in his corrected copy, 'vide Frontispiece to *Campbell's Travels in South Africa*'. As Poulton mentions (*op. cit.*, pp. 70 f.), the illustration appropriated by Campbell appears, not as the frontispiece to his book, but as Plate VII (opposite p. 221).

[1] *Parliamentary Papers*, 1819 *Vol. II. No.* 529 (*Report from the Committee on the Poor Laws*), pp. 27–32.

[2] Poulton, *op. cit.*, pp. 73 f.; McKay, 'A note on Burchell's "Hints on Emigration",' *Africana Notes and News*, vol. II (December, 1944), p. 22.

The notice in *The Quarterly Review* (No. 43, November 1819, p. 209) read as follows: 'Mr. Burchell, it seems, travelled far into the interior, and passed some years among the natives who dwell beyond the pale of the Cape government; and we are only surprised that, under such circumstances, his book should contain so scanty a portion of actual information. He was, we understand, a "culler of simples", and he certainly seems to have culled little else. The settlement which he recommends lies behind the Sneuberg, on or about the Sea Cow river, and on some of the branches of the Orange river. To this point, and farther, the colony may one day advance, but certainly will never begin there. Mr. Burchell might as well talk of planting a settlement behind the Himalaya mountains. He means well, however; but we do not see that his book can be of any use to those who are about to emigrate.'

In reply, Burchell's publishers issued a short advertisement of his pamphlet: 'Mr. Burchell has lately returned from the Cape of Good Hope, where he has spent five years in travelling in various directions through that Colony and in parts of the Interior of Southern Africa never before explored by any traveller. His only object was scientific research, and the obtaining of a correct knowledge of the nature of the country and of its inhabitants. These Hints contain the most recent and authentic information relative to the subject, notwithstanding the arrogance and wilful misrepresentations of the Quarterly Review; and when the Public shall have discovered who that reviewer is, they may then be enabled to see through his motives. That part of the Colony called the Zuureveld, and in which the present settlers are to be located, was first pointed out as the most eligible spot for emigrants, by the writer of the "Hints" in his evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons during their last session. This pamphlet, which is the only original publication (from actual knowledge of the country,) on Cape Emigration, contains information and practical hints of considerable importance.'

In 1825, the year following the publication of Volume II of his *Travels*, Burchell sailed, via Lisbon, to Brazil.[1] There he spent nearly five years, three of which were devoted to exploring the interior. He never published a detailed account of those travels, and his journals seem to have been lost, but some idea of what he accomplished can be gathered from a letter that he wrote in November, 1830 (after his return) to his friend Sir William Hooker:[2]

'At Santos I remained three months, and then proceeded and took up my station in a solitary hut in the midst of forests at the foot of the great range of mountains [Sierra da Cubatão], for the purpose of exploring them at leisure. My next station or headquarters was at the city of S. Paulo, nearly under the tropic of Capricorn, where I remained about seven months, extending my excursions in various directions. Having there purchased a troop of mules and engaged the requisite muleteers, I travelled northward, and finally took up my station at the city of Goyez, being the first and only Englishman who has entered that province. There I passed the rainy season of 1827, and made large collections, being detained there nine months owing chiefly to the difficulty of finding the means of conveyance for my baggage. At length resuming the road, and still continuing northward, I reached, in November 1828, Porto-Real, on the great river Tucantins. Here I remained till the proper season for embarking, and, descending the stream, at all times rendered dangerous by numerous rocky falls, rapids and whirlpools, I made considerable collections on ground over which no scientific explorer had ever passed. I completed a survey of the whole length of this voyage, fixed by numerous astronomical observations. Finally, I arrived at the city of Para in June 1829, and, while waiting till February for a convenient opportunity of embarking for England, added largely to my collections both in zoology and botany. . . . Of insects I found from sixteen to twenty thousand specimens (at a guess). Of birds I shot and preserved 362 species. In the other classes a proportionately smaller number.'

Burchell returned to England in March, 1830. The remaining years of his long life were spent in relative obscurity at Fulham, where he devoted himself almost entirely to the laborious task of arranging and classifying his collections. In 1834 the University of Oxford conferred upon him the honorary degree of D.C.L., but except for this he seems to have been neglected by the scientific world, and never received the recognition to which some of his friends thought that he was entitled.[3] In March, 1863, at the age of nearly eighty-two, he died by his own hand. Poulton suggests that 'the close of the long labour upon his collection was indirectly the cause of the state of his mind. . . . It was manifestly impossible, when he was over eighty, to undertake an entirely new line of work, which, moreover, could not be even begun without the co-operation of other naturalists, the very men whose companionship he had shunned for the long years in which he was resolutely working upon his collections.'[1] Sir Joseph Hooker, however, believed that 'He could not make up his mind either to publish his own labours or to let others do so, or join him in the work. This and the reproaches of a sensitive mind and highly strung nervous system in a shy man of great mental power and resources, coupled with the memory of great deeds as a traveller, collector, artist, musician and scientific investigator, may well have led to despondency and suicide.'[2]

[1] Poulton gives no reason for the journey; Mrs. McKay says merely that 'Burchell accompanied an embassy' (1935, p. 693).
[2] Quoted by Poulton, *op. cit.*, pp. 96 f.
[3] Some details are given by Poulton, *op. cit.*, pp. 99 f.

III

Travels in the Interior of Southern Africa was originally published in two quarto volumes, the first in 1822 (pp. viii+(4)+582, with 10 coloured plates, 50 vignettes, and a large folding map), and the second in 1824 (pp. (4)+648, with 10 coloured plates and 46 vignettes). They were priced at four and a half guineas each, and were issued in editions of 750 and 500 respectively. Burchell received £1,500 for the work, but himself 'contributed the cost of ten woodcuts in the second volume. The plates and woodcuts cost nearly £500 in the first and over £250 in the second volume.'[3] The book was never reprinted in full, and it is now 'extremely scarce, many copies having been broken up in the middle of the nineteenth century for the plates'.[4] A much-abridged version, mainly for use in schools, was issued by the Oxford University Press in 1938 (fifth impression, 1951).[5]

Internal evidence suggests that Burchell contemplated a third volume, dealing with his travels after he left Litakun in August, 1812 (e.g., *ii.* 108, 129). If he ever wrote it, which is extremely improbable, the manuscript has disappeared, as have the original journals that he kept, except for a small note-book covering the period 3 August—2 September, 1812.[6] This is now in the library of the Hope Department of Entomology, University Museum, Oxford, to which Burchell's entomological collections and manuscripts were presented by his sister after his death. His 'herbaria and botanical notes and drawings' went to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.[7] His other drawings (landscapes, portraits, etc.), including the great majority of those made in South Africa and South America, are now in the Gubbins Trust Collection, Library of the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and some of them have been reproduced in two volumes edited by the late Mrs. Helen Millar McKay.[8] Mrs. McKay, who was a devoted student of Burchell's life, also published

[1] *Op. cit.*, p. 110.
[2] Quoted by Poulton, *loc. cit.*
[3] Poulton, *op. cit.*, p. 61, citing information received from the publishers.
[4] Mendelssohn, *South African Bibliography* (1910), vol. I, p. 224.
[5] *Selections from Travels in the Interior of South Africa.* By William J. Burchell. Edited by H. Clement Notcutt. Pp. xii+180; frontispiece and map.
[6] Poulton, *op. cit.*, p. 58.
[7] Poulton, *op. cit.*, pp. 62, 94, 95, 99; McKay, 'William John Burchell: Notes on his Catalogus Geographicus and Herbarium of South African Plants', *S. Afr. J. Sci.*, vol. 33 (1936), pp. 346–50.
[8] *The South African Drawings of William John Burchell. Collotype reproductions with descriptive notes.* Volume I (1938): *The Bachapins of Litakun* (21 plates); Volume II (1952): *Landscape Sketches* (22 plates). Johannesburg: Witwatersrand University Press (Gubbins Trust Publications).

several important papers on various aspects of his travels and scientific work, including a very meticulous reconstruction of his route in South Africa,[1] and is known to have had in preparation a full-scale biography.

In the present edition, virtually the whole of Burchell's *Travels* has been reprinted verbatim. The only major omissions are: (a) the four-page 'vindication' of his *Hints on Emigration*, which was appended to Volume I of the original, but is missing from some copies, and (b) 'The Itinerary, and Register of the Weather' appearing at the end of each volume (I., pp. 555-73; II., pp. 601-10). Both of these, it was thought, are nowadays of insufficient general interest or importance to justify their inclusion. Burchell's very detailed and large map of South Africa as known in his time, and the accompanying 'Remarks on the map; and geographical observations' (Volume I., pp. 575-82), have also been omitted, their place being taken by two specially-drawn maps designed to show the main features of his route. The text of the narrative itself has been left unaltered,[2] with all Burchell's idiosyncrasies of spelling and punctuation; and, apart from the omission of a few entries referring to the 'Itinerary' and 'Remarks on the map', the two Indexes are also his own (except for the changes in pagination necessitated by the difference in format between the original and the present editions). On the other hand, two new lists of *Errata* (one for each volume) have been added.[3] These contain all the corrections made in manuscript by Burchell himself, for a possible second edition, in a copy of his book now in the Library of the Hope Department of Entomology at Oxford; and although most of them are relatively trivial, a few reflect important stylistic or factual changes. Other additions are the original publishers' prospectus for Volume II., and copies of four letters written by Burchell to relatives or friends and dealing with his South African travels.

The illustrations include all those published in the original edition, with the exception of four large folding plates;[4] a portrait sketch of Burchell, drawn in 1816

[1] A comprehensive list is given in the obituary notice of Mrs. McKay by P. Freer, *South African Libraries*, vol. 20 (1952), pp. 53-4. In addition to the papers already cited above, mention may be made of: 'Wm John Burchell, Botanist', *J. S. Afr. Bot.*, vol. 7 (1941), pp. 1–18, 61–76, 115–30, 173–86; and 'Sketch map of Burchell's trek', *ibid.*, vol. 9 (1943), pp. 27–78.

[2] Except for the omission of a very few remarks and footnotes relating to the Itinerary, map, and certain plates.

[3] The lists of *Errata* separately printed in the original volumes have been incorporated into the main text.

[4] In consequence, the plates included in the present edition have had to be numbered differently from those in the original. The changes involved are as follows:

Volume I	*Volume II*
Old Pl. 1 *omitted*	Old Pl. 1 = new Pl. 1
2 = new Pl. 1	2 = new Pl. 2
3 = new Pl. 2	3 = new Pl. 3
4 = *omitted*	4 = Frontispiece
5 = new Pl. 3	5 = new Pl. 4
6 = new Pl. 4	6 *omitted*
7 = new Pl. 5	7 = new Pl. 5
8 *omitted*	8 = new Pl. 6
9 = new Pl. 6	9 = new Pl. 7
10 = new Pl. 7	10 = new Pl. 8

by J. S. Cotman, has also been added as a frontispiece to Volume I. Some of the vignettes are of the same size as in the original, but the great majority have been reduced (in the proportion of $5\frac{1}{4}''$ to $4\frac{1}{8}''$); this should be borne in mind, in view of Burchell's occasional text references to his drawings of plants, animals, or implements.