

TRAVELS  
IN THE  
*INTERIOR PARTS OF AFRICA,*  
FROM THE  
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE TO MOROCCO,  
THROUGH  
*Caffraria, the Kingdoms of Mataman,  
Angola, Bahahara,*  
AND  
*From thence across the Great Desert of Sahara,*  
AND  
*The Northern Parts of Barbary.*

PERFORMED DURING THE YEARS 1781 AND 1797.

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By CHRISTIAN FREDERIC DAMBERGER.

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*Translated from the German,*  
And Embellished with Three Coloured PLATES,  
and a Correct MAP.

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1801.

that it was merely an excursion of pleasure to Blettenberg-bay, for which I had my master's permission. He pressed me to stay, and I continued with him three days; at the end of which time he permitted me to depart, sending a slave with me as protection, and to convey my baggage to the estate of a M. Spiltler, which was situated on the Salt-river, about three miles from Satini-bay. From hence, after having taken some refreshment, I pursued my way through woods and trackless wilds, in order to avoid inhabited places. When in want of food I visited the fields and pastures where slaves were employed, and purchased it of them. The small rivers which crossed my path I could pass without danger, most of them being dried up.

M. Vaillant has asserted, that this part of the country is much infested with wild beasts, of which he himself met with an extraordinary number: now, to those who are the least acquainted with the place, it must plainly appear, that the planters being so numerous there, and using such constant exertions to exterminate those foes to man, this assertion of M. Vaillant must therefore be totally void of foundation. I will here offer a few observations on the subject of those planters, and then resume the narrative of my travels.

In money the planters of the Cape of Good Hope do not abound; their riches consisting chiefly in cattle and slaves. Of the latter every description of planters, even the most inconsiderable, possess at least ten each; which, on their first forming a settlement, are furnished them by the company; they paying annually, for the space of five years, ten guilders for each slave: if they wish to make them their own private property, they must pay two hundred Dutch guilders for each; and they are allowed ten years to make this payment, which they may do either in money or in products of their plantations. Most of these colonists spend much of their time in the chase of wild beasts. Four pounds of powder, and a proportionate quantity of shot,

shot, is allowed them annually by the company, besides a bounty for the skin of each of those animals, which they deliver to them in the following proportion :

				<i>Rix-dollars.</i>	<i>Gilders.</i>
For an elephant	-	-	-	3	0
— a rhinoceros	-	-	-	2	12
— a camel	-	-	-	2	12
— a wild buffalo	-	-	-	1	18
— an elk	-	-	-	2	12
— a lion	-	-	-	1	12
— a tyger	-	-	-	1	0
— a zebra	-	-	-	1	0
— a wild boar	-	-	-	2	0
— a goat	-	-	-	0	6
— a wild dog	-	-	-	0	16
— a tyger-cat	-	-	-	0	12
— a hyena	-	-	-	1	12
— a camelopard	-	-	-	2	0

They find it more advantageous, however, to dispose of those skins to the traders on board ships, who pay higher prices for them. It has been remarked by hunters, that many of the wild animals of this country change their haunts either at the coupling season, or when there happens to be a scarcity of water. But it is certainly an unfounded assertion, that herds of hundreds of them together have been seen; unless this account refers to a particular species of animal called the calitz.

The unbeaten-track which I now pursued was tremendous, fatiguing, and almost impassible from the scattered fragments of rocks, the tangled thickets, and abrupt precipices, which alternately presented themselves. Yet through this path M. Vaillant endeavours to persuade us he passed with his caravan ! I will, however, venture to contradict the assertion ; nay, I will go further, and pronounce that he has never been there. The whole tract of country of which I have spoken, and with which he pretends to