



T H E
F A R M E R ' S M A G A Z I N E. vol. 4

J U L Y, 1779.

pp. 193-202

Anonymous.

A DISSERTATION on the Progress and present State of
AGRICULTURE. [Continued.]

African Husbandry.

THERE still remains a part of the western coast of Africa to be considered; a part inhabited by a very different people, and governed in a very different manner. Strangers at once to the arts of civil life, and to the customs of the negroes, they continue in a kind of patriarchal government, and a few itinerant families form a nation.

C A F F R A R I A.

This vast tract of country is situated between Cape-Negro on the western coast of Africa, in 15 degrees 30 minutes south latitude, and the river del Spiritu Santo, or Manica, on the eastern coast of this vast continent, in the latitude of 25 degrees south. The Cape of Good Hope forms the southern extremity of Caffraria.

The air is very hot, and would be suffocating, if the heat were not mitigated by the winds which blow continually from the southern ocean. Violent storms also frequently arise, which, though they render the coast very dangerous, are absolutely necessary to the health of the inhabitants, who are always afflicted with pains in the head, if there happens to be a calm of any long continuance. The soil in the vallies is in general fertile, but there are very few vegetable productions peculiar to this country: The fruits and plants of the Torrid Zone, as well as those of Europe, flourish exceedingly, and in the Dutch company's settlements at the Cape all kinds of

fruits, cabbages, cauliflowers, potatoes, and other garden stuff and roots are found in great plenty; together with pine-apples, oranges, lemons, grapes, melons, &c. Every cottage has its vineyard, which yields wine enough for the family. They sow all manner of grain, oats and lentils excepted: in December it is all ripe, and then they begin their harvest. In January they tread out the corn in the fields, and by the latter end of February it is all housed. The inland parts of the country are said to be filled with woods and forests.

The animals found there are lions, tygers, leopards, elephants, rhinoceroses, elks, zebras, or wild asses, monkeys, and other animals. A particular kind of eagles, called dung-birds, are found here. They will attack a horse or a cow in great flights, and, making a hole in the belly of the beast, with their beaks and talons, perfectly scoop out the inside, leaving only the bones and hide.

Caffraria is in general a mountainous country; but the three principal eminences are in the neighbourhood of the Cape, and called the Table-hill, Lion-hill, and Wind-hill, which is likewise called the Sugar-loaf mountain, from its form. On the top of Table-hill, which is the highest of the three, are several fine springs of water, clear as crystal, and of an exquisite taste. On ascending this mountain, the eye is delighted with the view of its fertility, and every part of it is adorned with the most stately trees, while its top and sides are enamelled with a variety of flowers, the beauty and fragrance of which, according to Kolben, exceed any produced in Europe. Lion-hill is separated from Table-hill by a valley, and on it a hut is erected for the shelter of two centinels, who are always posted there to give notice to the fort at the Cape, when a vessel is making for the harbour. Wind-hill is the lowest of the three, being shaped like a sugar-loaf, and abounds in excellent pasture. There are no navigable rivers in this country; but the brooks and rivulets, which descend from the mountains, tend greatly to the fertilization of the land.

The inhabitants of Caffraria, known by the name of Hottentots, are of a middling stature, with small limbs, but very seldom deformed. They esteem a flat nose as one of the essential parts of beauty; and therefore, as soon as a child is born, they break the gristle of its nose. Their eye-brows are large, their eyes black, their lips thick, their hair short, black and curled, like that of negroes, their teeth remarkably white, and their complexion rather tawny than black; but, in order to darken it, they besmear their bodies all over with grease and
foot,

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M D C C L X X V I I I .