

Thomas Meilly October 2^d - 1790

TRAVELS

INTO THE

INTERIOR PARTS

OF

A F R I C A,

BY THE WAY OF THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE;

IN THE YEARS 1780, 81, '82, 83, 84 AND 85.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF M. LE VAILLANT.

D U B L I N:

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FOR CHAMBERLAINE & RICE, P. BYRNE, J. MOORE,
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M, DCC, XC.

my she goats was so severely wounded, that I was obliged to kill her: this indeed was a real loss. I regretted her much, for she was about to bring forth young.

The weather at length changing, we quitted our lake; and about noon, after crossing two rivers, the great and the little *Swaar-Kops*, I ordered my oxen to be unyoked on the banks of the latter. Having observed the prints of some animal's feet with which I was not acquainted, my people, to whom I shewed them, assured me that they were not those of the rhinoceros. Whilst my camp was arranging, I followed these traces; but night coming on made me lose them, and I returned without having seen any thing. On this river, which was pretty considerable, we found another horde of savages. The kraal was composed of nine or ten huts, inhabited only by fifty or sixty persons at most. These people advised me not to cross the river *Bossiman*, which passes near this place: they said it would be much better to turn off to the left, and to push farther into the interior part of the country, to avoid a numerous troop of Caffres, who often alarmed that canton, and carried fire and sword along with them; that nothing was seen every where around but disorder and pillage, fields ravaged, and habitations laid waste and reduced to ashes; that the proprietors, to avoid sudden and certain death, had abandoned their possessions, dragging behind them a few feeble remains of their flocks; and that, in a word, I ought not to approach the country of *Caffraria*. So alarming a caution, I must own, at first startled me a little: I immediately assembled my people, and we deliberated what plan it would be most prudent to pursue. I was very desirous of sounding the disposition of every

pieces about two inches square. They are sometimes six feet in length, and when cut out a weight is suspended at their lower extremity, to make them dry sooner. A round form is then given them by beating them with a mallet, observing to make them taper to a point at one of the ends. Those which are made smaller for riding have this advantage over those of Europe, that they never break, especially if from time to time care be taken to moisten them with a little oil.

The skin of the rhinoceros is employed for the same purpose; the inhabitants of the Cape give it the preference (though a whip made of this is far from being equally solid as that made of the other), because it is capable of receiving a finer polish, has the beautiful colour of horn, and becomes almost as transparent.

With regard to the planters, who have no taste for elegance, and who prefer the useful to the agreeable, they employ only the former. Both indeed, are sold at a very high rate, as the animals which furnish the materials for making these whips are no longer found in the colonies, and those individuals who sometimes penetrate farther are not always certain of meeting with them.

The skin, however, of these animals cannot be better employed. It has a great resemblance, if we except its thickness, to that of the hog; and the hippopotamus approaches very near to that animal. To persons not previously informed, their fat would appear to be entirely the same; and, if that of the hippopotamus could be salted with all the precautions necessary, it might be preferred with more justice; as in all the colonies it is reckoned very wholesome. The people of the Cape

<i>English Names.</i>	<i>Dutch Names.</i>	<i>Hottentot Names.</i>
The Elephant	Oliphant	Λ—Goap
The Rhinoceros	Renoster	∨—Nabap
The Hippopotamus	Zee-Koe	∨—Kaous
The Giraffe	Kameek-Paerd	Δ—Na-ip
The Buffalo	Beuffle	Λ—Ka-ooop
The Pafan	Gems-Bock	Λ—Kaip
The Koedoe	Coudoe	∨—Koudou, or Gaip
The Bubale	Harte-Beest	Δ—Kamap
The Zebra	Welde-Paerd	∨—Kouarep
The Quaga	Quaga, or Welde Ezel	∨-Nou ∨-Kouarep
		+
The Hare	Haaze	Δ—Ou-amp
		+
A Marmot	Das	∨—Ka oump
The Wild Boar	Welde-Varke	∨—Kou-Goop
The Ant Bear	Erd-Varke	Λ—Goup
The Porcupine	Yzer-Varke	∨—Nou ap
A Dog	Hond	Λ—Harip
Dogs	Honden	Λ—Harina
A Rat	Rott	Douroup
A Bat	Vleer-Muyfe	Λ—Nouga-Bouroup
A Lion	Leuw	Gamma
A Tiger	Tyger	Garou-Gamma
		+
A Tiger Cat	Tyger-Kat	Λ—Ou amp
The Hyæna	Wolf	Λ—Hirop
The Wild Dog	Welde-Hond	Δ—Goup
The Jackal	Jakals	Λ—Dirip
The Horse	Paerd	Aap
A Bull	Beull	Karamap
A Cow	Koe	Goumas
An Ox	Ofs	Goumap
A Sheep	Schaap	Goou
A Goat	Bock	Bri-i
A She-Goat	Gytt	Tararé bris
A Bird	Voogel	Δ—Kanip
The Bustard	Trap-Gans	Δ—Ou ip
The French Field Duck	Kor-Haan	Λ—Haragap
A Pheasant	Fefant	Koa Koa, or ∨--- Kabos
A Martin	Welde Swaluw	Λ—O-atfi Λ-nam- bro
A Partridge	Patrys	Λ—Ouri-Kinas A Quail

country of Caffraria ; and we had entirely lost sight of those rich pastures, and those majestic forests, over which our eyes had wandered with so much delight. Rocks piled on each other and parched sands every day succeeded those beautiful views, under forms always more hideous. We found ourselves every where hemmed in by mountains, the sides of which were inclined in a most fantastical manner, while their peaked summits, suspended over our heads, filled the mind with that profound terror, which is the consequence of discouragement, and which awakens the most dismal remembrance. Those of Snew-Berg, at the bottom of which we now were, rose very far above the rest ; and winter, seated on their summits, seemed to dispute with the sun the sovereignty of these dismal regions.

At it was my intention to climb and traverse a part of this famous cordillera, though I knew that the Boihmen had, like the lions, established their haunts in it, and as I was desirous of securing myself from any surprize by either, I fixed my camp in an open spot, and fortified it in the best manner I could.

Having seen the traces of a rhinoceros, my ancient ardour for hunting was again revived, and I promised a handsome reward to the first of my people who should procure me one of these monstrous animals ; but neither of us were so fortunate, for we saw no farther appearance of them. I however unexpectedly fell in with a small flock of eight elks, none of which species I had ever killed, and pursuing them briskly, I shot one dead on the spot. Dr. Sparmann has given a very accurate description of this animal, which the savages name kana. It is entirely different from the elk