

exchange ; but these are rarely brought out again into circulation : vessels are supplied with fresh provisions, live-stock, salt, and other articles of out-fit, giving, in return, fire-arms and all other European articles. Sandal wood, pearls, and mother of pearl, the produce of these islands, are frequently purchased for the China market. It is probable that the *Russians* will in future derive from hence the principal supplies for their settlements on the *Fox* islands, and north-west coast of *America*, and even *Kamschatka*. Whilst the author was with the *Russians*, it seems it was in contemplation to establish a settlement at one of these islands, though this project was afterwards abandoned ; and it is obvious that at no very distant period, these islands must become objects of great importance to *America*. Provisions, from the frequent arrival of ships, are not cheap.

“ There is no regular armed force, except about fifty men of the guard, who constantly do duty about the king's residence ; twenty mounting guard each day, armed with muskets and bayonets : in their exercises, rapidity is more regarded than precision. All the natives are trained to arms, and are bound to attend the king's person in his wars. Although he is anxious to induce white people to remain, no encouragement is given to deserters ; nor are those who wish to depart detained. In 1809, says *Campbell*, the king seemed about 50, stout and well made ; the expression of his countenance agreeable ; mild and affable in his manners, and appeared to possess great warmth of feeling ; and though a conqueror, is very popular amongst his subjects : he has amassed by trade a considerable store of goods, and treasure in dollars. He encourages his subjects to make voyages in the ships which touch at the island ; and many have been to *China*, and even to the United States, and has amongst the natives many good sailors. His residence was built in the European style. He had two wives, and was about to take a third.”

We shall conclude our extracts from this book, with the following description of the author's journey to take possession of his farm. “ We passed by foot paths winding through “ an extensive and fertile plain, the whole of which is in the

“ highest state of cultivation ; every stream was carefully embanked to supply water for the taro beds ; where there was no water, the land was under crops of yams and sweet potatoes ; “ the roads and numerous houses are shaded by cocoa nut trees, and the sides of the mountains covered with woods to “ a great height ; we halted two or three times, and were “ treated by the natives with the utmost hospitality. Fifteen “ persons with their families resided on my farm, and they “ cultivated the ground as my servants ; there were three “ houses on the property, but I found it more agreeable to “ live with one of my neighbours, and get what I wanted “ from my own hand.”

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ART. VII. *Notice respecting Travels towards the Interior of South Africa, in the years 1811-1815.* By William John Burchell, Esq.

We are fortunate enough to be able to lay before our readers a short sketch of the very interesting Travels of Mr. Burchell, who has lately returned to this country.

IN June 1811, Mr. Burchell left Cape Town, and travelled in a north-easterly direction, and on the 3d of August passed the last habitation at that time occupied by the colonists ; and the Zak river, the boundary of the colony, in the beginning of September ; and having escaped an attack from a kraal of Caffres, crossed the Orange river, called Gariep (i. e. *river*) by the Koraquas. On the 30th he arrived at a village named Klaarwater, where some missionaries have resided for several years, with a considerable number of Hottentots, of a mixed race, the greater part of whom had formerly emigrated from the colony. Here it was necessary to remain some time to recruit the strength of the oxen, which had become consider-

ably reduced by want of water and fit pasture. During his stay he made an excursion up the "Tky Gariep, or Yellow river, a branch of the Orange or Great river; but on making preparations to resume his travels further into the interior, he discovered that such of his men who had entered into his service at Cape Town, as belonged to the missionary station, were unwilling to accompany him further than the town of Litáakoon, giving as their reason, that as Dr. Cowan and his party, among whom were two Hottentots from Klaarwater, had set out on a similar expedition three years before, and had not been heard of (and therefore was most probably murdered), they did not consider it safe to venture beyond that town. Mr. Burchell found it impossible by any offers of high wages or promises of reward, to persuade a single Hottentot belonging to this place to join him. Thus situated, he had no resource but to return into the colony, where Hottentots might be found less timid, or less acquainted with the supposed melancholy fate of Dr. Cowan. For, having two waggons, it was quite impossible to manage them with only three men, which were all that could be induced to continue their services, and one of those was disabled.

Graaf Reinets appearing by the maps to be the nearest point where assistance could be obtained, he resolved upon attempting to reach it; but as the country to be passed through was a tract which had never been before explored, and as the missionaries were averse to the opening a communication between their village and the colony, many difficulties, arising both from the nature of the country and the inhabitants, were suggested; and it was not without much persuasion and some management on the part of Mr. Burchell, that he procured six people to accompany him on that journey, in addition to two of his own men.

Having previously ascertained by astronomical observations the bearing of Graaff Reinets, and leaving one of his men in charge of his waggons, he set off on the 24th of February, 1812; his party consisting of six Hottentots, a Bushman, and a Bachapin, mounted on oxen, himself on horseback. Having crossed the Orange river by swimming, they proceeded

by the direction of the compass through a country of varied surface inhabited by tribes of Bushmen, who, without suspicion, allowed them to enter their kraals or villages, and in several instances afforded them essential assistance. On this journey, Mr. Burchell observes, he had "the good fortune, not enjoyed perhaps by any former traveller, to be admitted into their domestic circles without reserve, and had frequent opportunities of observing their real character."

On the 25th of March he arrived at the village of Graaff Reinets, and by means of the acting Landdrost (to whom he presented the papers with which he had been furnished by the Colonial Government), succeeded, after a delay of a month, in hiring seven Hottentots. These, however, with one exception, proved to be a worthless set; and although this was at the time suspected to be so, he was foiled in procuring better. Returning by the same route, he met with the same friendly reception from the natives. By hunting, they supplied themselves with food: travelling the whole of the day, and when towards evening they met with water, there they halted for the night, under shelter of some tree or bush; though even this protection was not always to be procured.

On the 21th of May he reached Klaarwater, and spending nearly a fortnight in preparing the waggons and making some arrangements necessary for so long a journey, resumed his course towards the interior.

Mr. Burchell was the only European or white person in the expedition; consequently the whole care of planning its daily progress, and conducting it, devolved on him; and he was compelled to be incessantly on the watch for its safety, and give orders for the smallest movement; his men seeming to have taken a resolution not to render him the slightest assistance. The party consisted of ten Hottentots, and an interpreter, whose mother was a Koraqua and father a Bächapin; and they had two waggons drawn by oxen, three horses, and a number of dogs. They advanced but slowly, much time being occupied at different places in making observations, and in preparing and disposing of the collections of the preceding day.

→ The productions of this part of the country, both in zoology and botany, were very different from what are found within the colony: such were the manis; a new species of rhinoceros; several of the dog genus and of the feline tribe; a lynx; many of the genus viverra; a hedgehog, several of the murine kind; the camelopardalis; five antelopes, one of the horse genus, &c. Of birds, a great number were found peculiar to the northern side of the Orange river, amongst which an otis and a mycteria were most remarkable for size. Several new lacertæ and testudines were found; and a great variety of serpents. Of new fishes, only a silurus and two cyprini, were observed in the rivers. Many curious insects were collected. In botany, the face of the country had no resemblance to that of the more southern regions. The surface of this part of Africa was more flat than mountainous; and when mountains occurred, their strata were, in the greater number of instances, horizontal. In some places granite was observed. The plains often appeared to be of boundless extent, of an uninterrupted level, and frequently destitute of water. The soil was generally a red sand, clothed chiefly with tall grass (the verdure of which was but of short duration), relieved by clumps of acacia, tarchonanthus, &c. In one part of these plains is an immense forest, the extent of which is unknown to the Bâchapins, who are that tribe of Bichuânas inhabiting Litâakoon. It is composed chiefly of Acacias of various sorts, with sometimes Zizyphus, Royena, Tarchonanthus, Terminalia, and some others; is inhabited by elephants and giraffes in great numbers, two species of rhinoceros, and a kind of buffalo, and many other large animals.

On the 13th of July they arrived at Litâakoon (or rather, as Mr. Burchell observes, Litâakun, according to the system of orthography adopted for the Sichuâna language), the chief town of the Bâchapins, where Mattivi, the king or chief, received them favourably. Here Mr. Burchell found it necessary to remain till the 27th of September, in order to complete his observations; but being constantly surrounded by the natives, who, by their incessant begging and importunities, scarcely allowed him time for rest, and who, uninvited,

assisted in the consumption of his provisions, he was obliged during that period to absent himself on a hunting excursion, as well as to lay in a stock of dried game, as to get some respite from the fatigue of gratifying the curiosity of these people, and to record and arrange all he had been enabled to observe.

During this stay he was employed in drawing portraits of the natives, views of the town, learning their language, which is spoken by all the surrounding tribes, observing their customs, and collecting whatever was to be found in the environs. Litâakun contains about eight hundred houses and nearly five thousand inhabitants, and Mattivi's government extends over all the surrounding country in different directions for several days journey. Both the chief and his people were very adverse to Mr. Burchell's forming any acquaintance with the tribes beyond them, and even hinted that he would not be allowed to travel in that direction. However, on persisting in his resolution of advancing towards the interior, he met with no positive opposition, though the fears which the accounts instilled into the minds of his men were in the end the means of his being obliged to return.

From this time the timidity of his people was every day a cause of fresh vexation and difficulty, and even of danger; and the various means they tried to induce him to return to the Cape were not to be overcome, but by shewing the utmost resolution not to be diverted from pursuing the plan originally laid down. Their misconduct increased daily, neglecting their duty, and doing every thing to discourage him from proceeding; and it was only as it were by main force, that he got them on as far as the borders of the Karrikarri country. There their fears rose so high that they declared their intention of turning back, and leaving him, if he persisted in advancing. Unable any longer to contend with a timidity against which reasoning produced no effect, Mr. Burchell was compelled at this point to terminate his progress no toward. He remained, however, three weeks, still hoping that some circumstances might arise to favour his penetrating further. During that time he made excursions

in various directions, and was visited by the Barólongs as well as by the Bakárrikarri, from whom he obtained some information respecting the countries and people beyond. He found that place to be in a parallel of latitude one degree north of Litáakun.

On the 27th of October, a day of rejoicing for his men, he reluctantly turned his course southward, and travelling over plains of sand, in which much was suffered from the heat, the thermometer being between 90° and 100°, and from the scarcity of water, they reached the town of Patáni, inhabited by a tribe of Bichuánas called Bamuchárs.

After a short stay they resumed their journey, and travelling five days, halted near the old deserted Báchapin town on the Krúmani river, where they remained stationed for a month, for the purpose of hunting such animals as were wanting to the collection, and for collecting whatever subjects of natural history could be obtained in excursions in the neighbourhood. This being accomplished, the party quitted the Báchapin territory, and passing the Kambámi mountains, fell into their former track. At one place they were obliged to take prisoners and disarm a party of Bushmen of a hostile tribe.

On their return to Klaarwater, they learnt that the people of that place had attacked and dispersed a kraal of Caffres, who being thus irritated, were supposed to be lying in wait for Mr. Burchell's party, to plunder him of his ammunition. After repairing the waggons he hastened to cross the Orange river, which being full, much time was spent in constructing rafts. In swimming them over, he was assisted by the Koraquas (called also Koras and Koronas), who reside on its banks.

By following their track through a more eastern country than that through which he at first travelled to Graaff-Reinet, he followed the course of the Nú-Gariép, or Black river, and at the same time escaped the Caffres, who were lying in wait for them on the Brack river. The Nú-Gariép is nearly as large as the Orange river, into which its waters are discharged. Mr. Burchell is the only person who has traced the course of this stream from its junction with the Gariép. During the preceding part of the journey they sub-

stituted themselves by hunting, living entirely on animal food, dried in the sun. During the latter part of this journey the game became scarce. On the 11th of March 1813, they found themselves within the colonial boundary, at its north-east point, on the Zeekoe river; and on the 31st they arrived at Graaff-Reinet, where most of the men were exchanged for others; and after repairing the waggons, and decreasing their load by sending off part of the collection direct to Cape Town, he resolved, instead of proceeding thither himself, to explore the whole length of the colony; and taking the road over Bruyntjes-Hoogte to the Boshberg, descended the Great Fish river (which separates the Boers from the Caffres) as far as its mouth. Nearly four months and a half were employed in examining the country between Graaff-Reinet and the mouth of the river. From thence to the Drosdy of Uitenhage six weeks more were consumed. When arrived there, the waggons were found to be so much over loaded, that there was no room for further collection, and a favourable opportunity offering, the greatest part was shipped at Algoa bay, and sent to Cape Town.

Having exchanged most of his Hottentots for others, he left Uitenhage on the 26th of January 1814, and arrived at Plettenbergs bay in April. As the beautiful Auteníqua country, and the immense trees of its forests, had never been sufficiently investigated by a naturalist, four months and a half were found to be scarcely enough for this delightful task; and the labour required for its accomplishment was more than repaid by the rich harvest he reaped. At George's Drosdy the Hottentots were again exchanged, and the adjoining range of mountains ascended and examined, as it was at different times at other places. Mossel bay was next visited; and on the 6th of January 1815 he reached Zwelendám, where, by the authority of the Landdrost, a fresh party of Hottentots was obtained. Thence the road through Genadendal, the Nieuw Kloof, and Stellenbosh, conducted Mr. Burchell to Cape Town on the 13th of April, 1815.

During the whole journey of nearly four years, he never, except in three instances, slept in a house. The result of his

travels is an addition to the knowledge of a part of Africa not before explored, and an investigation of many parts already known, and made more at leisure than by former travellers, and under circumstances more favourable for permitting an undisguised view of their inhabitants: multiplied observations, both geographical and astronomical, from which a correct map of his track may be expected: above five hundred sketches and drawings, the subjects of which are landscapes, portraits, natural history, &c.: very large collections in natural history, comprising a hundred and twenty skins of quadrupeds, amongst which are a male and female camelopardalis, and many animals hitherto undescribed: five hundred and forty birds of two hundred and sixty-five different species: above seventy amphibia: about two thousand five hundred insects, the number of distinct species of which is not yet ascertained: an herbarium in particularly fine preservation, amounting to above forty thousand specimens, including the duplicates, the number of species contained in which is not at present known: geological and mineralogical specimens, &c.: together with various implements and dresses belonging to the natives.

We understand it is Mr. Borehell's intention to communicate the result of his labours to the public, giving the narrative part of his travels separate from that relating to natural history; which latter he intends to divide into distinct works, accompanied by figures of most of the subjects described,

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ART. VIII. *An Account of a new Species of AGAVE, from the "Biblioteca Italiana." Milan, 1816.*

IN the number for last January of the Italian Journal with the above title, we find the history of an interesting and undescribed plant, which flowered in 1815, for the first time in Europe, after having been cultivated in various gardens on the Continent for at least twenty years past. The author of

the account is Signor Giuseppe Tagliabue, superintendent of the Duke of Litta's garden at Lainate, near Milan. He has made the plant the foundation of a new genus, to which he has affixed the name of his patron in whose garden it blossomed; and, as we think, has in this instance evinced more gratitude than botanical discernment. In our view, the plant is palpably an AGAVE, and not in want of a new generic establishment for its introduction into any general system. Indeed the only feature adduced by Signore Tagliabue to discriminate it from AGAVE, is, the turning or rolling back of the segments of the corolla. This very character, however, occurs in an established species of AGAVE, viz. the *yucca folia* of Redouté's Liliacées, see plates 328 and 329. But if the case had been otherwise, a feature of this nature could never serve, even during the present rage of reducing genera, singly and unaccompanied by any remarkable difference elsewhere, as the foundation of its separation from a genus with which it agreed in the other characters, especially while that genus was far from being overstocked with species. Signore Tagliabue has taken the pains in this account to tell us how his newly created LITTEA may be distinguished from some other genera of older date, as *Lanaria*, *Aletris*, *Furcraea*, *Feltheimia*, *Hyacinthus*, *Sansevieria*, &c. with any of which, in our apprehension, it never could be in the slightest danger of being confounded.

The species is presumed to be native of South America, and to have found its way into Italy through Lisbon. The caudex or trunk of the specimen described was, in Milanese measures, a yard high and seven inches thick; the leaves about one yard long; the flower-stem eight yards and two inches high; the flowers, of which 1482 were counted, about an inch in depth. The technical description we shall subjoin nearly as we find it; adding the essential generic and specific characters, necessary on its transfer to its present place.

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*Class and Order.*

HEXANDRIA MONOGYNIA.

ASPHODELI. *Jussieu gen. plant.*

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