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MANUAL

SOUTH AFRICAN GEOGRAPHY,

FORMING

A COMPANION TO THE MAP OF SOUTH AFRICA TO
16° SOUTH LATITUDE.

INTENDED FOR THE

USE OF THE UPPER CLASSES IN GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS
AND CANDIDATES FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE.

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how universally it was distributed. At the present day, however, they are almost extinct in the Cape colony; a few, however, exist in the dense forests lying east of the Knysna and Plettenberg's Bay, and also in the rugged jungles of the Kadouw bush, between the Zumburg mountains and the Sunday's River. These are, we believe, the only two colonial localities in which they are still found. The Fish River bush was formerly a very favorite haunt of theirs, but after the war of 1836, being much disturbed, they appear to have migrated in a body through the Buffalo forests and across the Great Kei into the almost inaccessible thickets east of the Umzimvobo, near the Natal frontier, where they are still numerous. Traces of their old paths and heaps of their gigantic bones are still commonly found in the thickets of the Great Fish River bush. We have to travel a long way north before we again meet the elephant, into the country north-east and north-west of Lake Ngami, from whence, after heavy rains, they migrate into the wooded plains of the Kalihari, and they are often met with by hunters from the west coast. The little-known regions on the eastern coast, called Solala, likewise abound with very large elephants. None are met with in the Free State, and in the Transvaal Republic they have nearly been all extirpated.

336. *The Rhinoceros (Rhenoster of colonists)*.—There are, at least, four distinct species of the rhinoceros found in South Africa, namely:—(1) the *Rhinoceros Africanus*, or bicornis (the boreli of the Betjouanas), is the common black rhinoceros, once common in the immediate vicinity of Cape Town, with two horns of unequal length; (2) the *Rhinoceros keiloo*, or black rhinoceros, with two horns of nearly equal length; (3) *Rhinoceros simus*, or common white rhinoceros, called mohohoo by the natives; and (4) the kababa (*Rhinoceros Oswellii*), or long-horned, white rhinoceros, the most rare of all. The last rhinoceros killed in the Cape colony was an old male who was shot in 1853 on the Coega or Grassridge, near Port Elizabeth; another was killed, in 1842, near the Ecca Valley, in Lower Albany; and these, we believe, were the last survivors of the once numerous Chikooroo. They are still very numerous in the north-eastern parts of Great Namaqualand, the northern parts of the Kalihari and Betjouanaland, and the country along the Limpopo, but are no longer to be met with in the Free State, Kafirland Proper, or Natal, west of the Utugela River. Messrs. Oswell and Varden, in one year, killed no less than eighty-nine of these

animals, north of the Vaal River, and C. J. Andersson, in his journey from the west coast to Lake Ngami, dispatched nearly two thirds of this number. The rhinoceros must once have been very numerous in the colony, judging from the number of hills, rivers, fountains, &c., designated after it. Its favorite food is the spekboom and euphorbium. The last rhinoceros killed in the Free State was so far back as 1842.

337. *The Hippopotamus (Zeekoe of colonists)*.—The hippopotamus is still numerous in all the rivers which intersect the sea-coast of Kaffraria, from the Keiskamma to the Zambezi, although, probably, the march of civilization in British Kaffraria has disturbed them in the waters of that district. The last, in the western part of the Cape colony, was killed in the Berg River, two years ago, and its remains now form one of the most striking specimens of the Cape Museum. An immense old male was killed, in 1850, by Lieutenant McPherson and Dr. Barclay, of the ninety-first regiment, near the mouth of the Keiskamma, and its head now graces the Medical Museum at Chatham. They were, up to 1848, numerous in the Great Fish River, and a few still may be found in the unfrequented "gats" and reaches of that stream, between Trumpeter's and Kafir Drifts. In the lower parts of Orange River they are still numerous, and they abound in vast numbers in the Leambye, Chobe, Tonka, and other rivers of the Ngami region.

338. *The Buffalo (Bos Kafir; Buffel of colonists)*.—Except in the great forests of the Knysna division, the Kadouw bush, and the Fish River thickets, the buffalo no longer is to be found within the colonial boundary, and will probably not be met with south of the Vaal or west of the Umzimvobo River. In 1842–3–4, we have often met a small herd that frequented the country between the Koomes and Fort Brown, in Albany, and once saw a shaggy old bull grazing quietly with a span of bullocks, only a few hundred yards from the military post at Frazer's Camp. The favorite habitat of the buffalo, at present, appears to be the thorny thickets of Damaraland and the woody hills of the Limpopo and its tributaries. They are seldom seen on the naked plains of the Free State, as they prefer a wooded and bushy country.

339. *The Giraffe (Camelopardis—Kamel of colonists)*.—That this animal was found south of the Orange River within the last century we have abundant proof in the pages of La Vaillant, Paterson, and others, although it could not have been very common, as few colonial localities are named after