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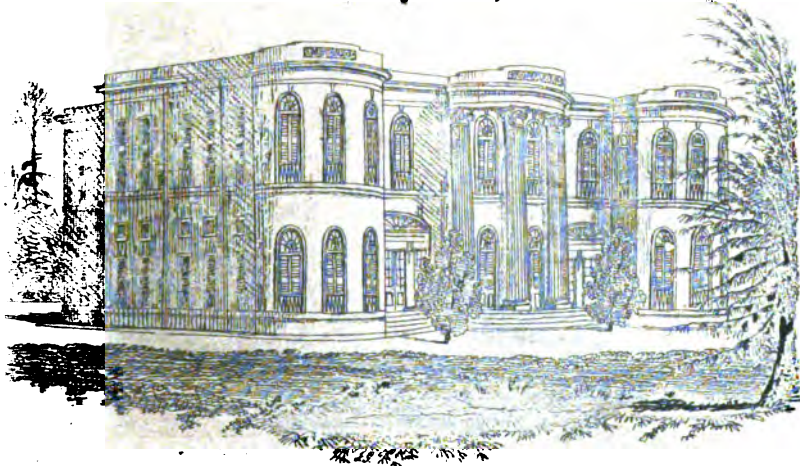
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ficiently great elevation, the argument founded on the unhealthiness of the country would not of course be applicable to them. But no proof has been adduced before the Committee, of their existence ; no veins have yet been traced in these mountain masses, and Lieutenant Nicolson rests his assertion on the vague report of a native, communicated to him in a letter.

“ The Committee on mature consideration of all points and guided more particularly by the conviction on their minds of the usual unprofitableness of speculations in gold mines, derived from a careful perusal of various works on the subject, do not feel justified in recommending the adoption of Lieutenant Nicolson’s suggestion.”

On receipt of this report the Government, under date 25th October, 1833, ordered the search for gold to be abandoned—a resolution which was approved by the Court of Directors with the following pithy, addition, “ that if the Government had directed these inquiries to be made before they authorized the commencement of any operations, a considerable expense would have been saved to them.”

VII. *Notice of an Expedition into the interior of Southern Africa, by MR. OSWELL and CAPTAIN VARDON, with a sketch of the course of the Limpopo, and a Figure of a supposed new species of Rhinoceros.*

We have much pleasure in presenting our readers with the accompanying sketch-map, for which we are indebted to Mr. Oswell of the Civil Service, showing the extreme points to which he penetrated in the course of two expeditions into the interior of South Africa made in search of game in 1845 and 1846. On the first occasion accompanied by Mr. Murray, he reached the *Bakaa* mountains and returned by the valley of the *Limpopo*. This line nearly coincides with the track of Mr. D. Hume in 1830. In his next journey he was joined by Captain Vardon, and they together explored the course of the *Limpopo* to a greater extent than had been done by any previous travellers. Mr. Oswell was at first led to suppose that the stream pursued a more northerly course, [indicated by the red line in the map,] and he had placed their turning point in the *Lingwapa* mountains somewhere between the 20th and 21st° S. Lat. But subsequent consideration and the result of a communication from Mr. Living-

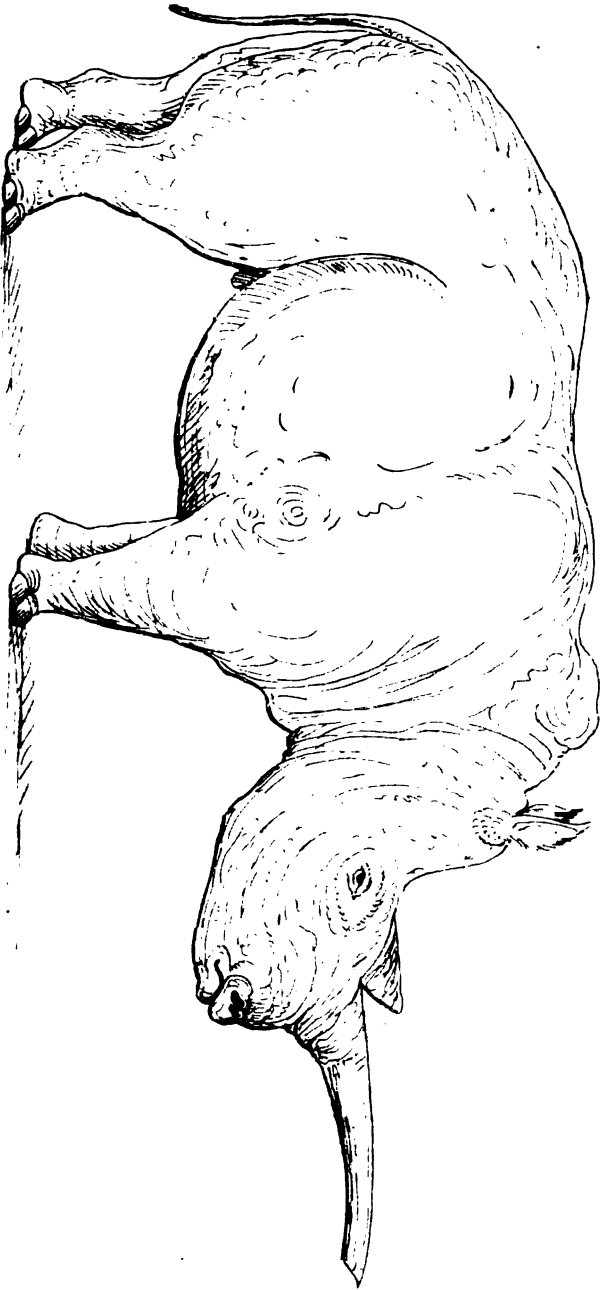
stone, the enterprising Scotch Missionary in *Caffraria*, induced him to exhibit the direction of the river as it now stands. "This sketch" observes Mr. Oswell "is not supposed to be strictly accurate. We "laid down the course of the river *Limpopo* as correctly as we could "from the tops of hills, &c., with a compass, but having no other "instrument we are aware that many errors may have crept in and "only hope that others, more carefully provided, may some day or "other give the world a better. The present will at all events "serve to show the wanderer in these parts, where water may be "obtained at a distance from the river and information such as this "even, is not to be despised in Africa."

The *Bekaa* and *Bamungwatoro* tribes, whom Mr. Oswell visited in his first excursion, mentioned three other people as living to the north of them, viz. the *Makalakka*, *Mancupani* and *Mashuna*. They were also familiar with the existence of the great Lake and had frequently visited it. They described it as lying in a W. N. W. direction from their location, at a distance of 12 or 14 days journey for a man on foot, (which would be about 300 miles,) or a month with a waggon.

Mr. Oswell adds with reference to the sketch-map, "The lines dotted and plain mark the track of the waggons, but the country was well quartered on horseback for 40 or 50 miles on either side. The *Limpopo* is supposed to reach the sea at or somewhere a little to the North of *Delagoa Bay*."

It was on the banks of the *Makóhwé*, an important tributary of the *Limpopo*, that the travellers first met with the singular animal of which we have given the accompanying figure, the fidelity of which is attested by Mr. Oswell. He describes it as resembling generally the white Rhinoceros (*Rh. Simus*) "except in the formation of the horn, which is longer, much straighter and curved, though but slightly, in exactly the contrary direction: the two specimens of the horn which we brought from the interior, are abraded at the points, on the lower sides, probably from coming in contact with the ground whilst the animal is feeding. When running at speed also or when alarmed, it carries the head very low, as do likewise the other species, and the horn then standing nearly straight out from the nose with a trifling curve downwards, may occasionally strike or rub against the inequalities of the ground."

"From the circumstance of the *Quebaba* being found in the same



Pennington, 1885.

neighbourhood, and from its general resemblance to the White Rhinoceros, we at first supposed the peculiarity of the horn to be merely a malformation, but the fact of five having been seen, two of which were shot,—of the *Bechuana* who inhabit the country in which the specimens were obtained, knowing the animal well under a distinct name, and describing it as frequently to be met with, though by no means so common as the other kinds,—together with the circumstance of its being unknown to the south of the Tropic, though the common white Rhinoceros is there found in abundance,—caused us to change our opinion and to consider it as certainly a distinct species." The name *Quebaba* is that by which the *Bechuana* distinguish it from the common white species which they designate *Chakuru*,—the *Mahuhu* of the *Matabili*. Concurring in opinion with Mr. Oswell, that the above facts render the existence of the *Quebaba* as a distinct species, highly probable, we have named it provisionally after its discoverer *Rhinoceros Oswelli*.

In the same neighbourhood they fell in with a most destructive species of Gaddy, which stung the cattle and horses to madness, and in many instances produced such painful sores, as to occasion the death of the poor animals.

We hope to be able to add some farther details of this interesting expedition on a future occasion from Captain Vardon, who has kindly promised to send us a communication on the subject.

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VIII. *Memoranda regarding a Boring executed on the Sea Beach, at Madras, in the Months of July, and August, 1845, under the orders of the Pier Committee. By T. G. TAYLOR, Esq.*

Wednesday, 16th July, 1845.—A convenient site was selected nearly opposite the Master Attendant's Office at about 30 yards from the margin of the sea and at about 10 feet within the bulwark; this part of the Beach was found to be 13 feet above the lowest low water level and $8\frac{1}{2}$ feet above the highest spring tides.

First day, 10 feet. Thursday, 17th.—Commenced boring, and on leaving off in the evening found the depth attained to be 10 feet, the soil was dry and extremely uniform in its composition, being ordinary

sand during the day, one small sea shell and two agate pebbles were met with.

Second day, 13 feet 6 inches. *Friday, 18th.*—The sand was found to be moist at the commencement, and to be freely mixed up with water as the boring proceeded, so that much time was lost in baling out the accumulating water with the water cylinder. Notwithstanding which a depth of 13 feet 6 inches was arrived at by the evening.

Third day, 17 feet 6 inches. *Saturday, 19th.*—On commencing operations this day, there was four feet of water in the hold, by reason of which, the auger, although penetrating to a depth of from 12 to 14 inches at each boring, nevertheless, on being brought to the surface, was found to contain but a very inconsiderable quantity of sand; and on being again lowered, 12 out of 14 inches before *apparently* gained was now necessarily lost. It would in fact appear, that the auger although well adapted to boring, was, nevertheless under the present circumstances, not well fitted for removing the sand excavated; a vigorous application of the water cylinder, however, enabled us by the evening to arrive at a depth of 17 feet 6 inches. The soil both to-day and yesterday was extremely uniform, being a coarse sea sand, with here and there one or two minute pieces of broken shell. The borer, from the commencement had been continued in action until the force of four men was insufficient (by reason of the depth attained) to produce further movement, until in fact the auger became *jammed*;—this uniformly occurred after excavating from 12 to 14 inches.

Fourth day, 23 feet, 0 inches. *Monday, 21st.*—We had now eight feet of water in the hold: hitherto the auger had been accompanied in its downward progress by 2 nine inch protecting cylinders of Iron (placed end on end,) each of 9 feet in length; these being very heavy, a small force only had been necessary in addition to their own weight to make them keep pace with the auger, but we now begin to find that increased depth renders this a matter of difficulty—by the evening we had arrived at a depth of 23 feet; but the protecting cylinders had *stuck fast*. The soil,—ordinary coarse sea sand, towards evening was distinguished by being mixed up with minute glittering particles (probably Mica.)

Fifth day, 24 feet 3 inches. *Tuesday, 22nd.*—We had now 12½ feet of water in the hold—continued hammering—lowered the pro-