

THE  
QUARTERLY REVIEW.

SEPTEMBER & DECEMBER,

1812.

VOL. VIII.

London:

*Printed by C. Roworth, Bell-yard, Temple-bar; for*

JOHN MURRAY, 50, ALBEMARLE STREET:

SOLD ALSO BY

PARKER, OXFORD; DEIGHTON, CAMBRIDGE;

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD, EDINBURGH;

AND J. CUMMING, DUBLIN.

1813.

us! Within these hallowed walls, on the very spot where we are now assembled, the Fathers of our Reformed Church resisted the power and malice of their persecutors, and bore resolute testimony to "the truth, as it is in Jesus." Within the precincts of our University, they sealed that testimony by their blood. Men indeed they were, not exempt from the weakness and imperfections of their nature: but they were men, second to none, whom Almighty God ever sent in his mercy to bless a favoured land, either in natural ability; or in acquired learning; or in the Christian graces of humility and meekness; or in the patience, wherewith they investigated the truth; or in the fortitude, with which they defended it, through disgrace and tribulation; during temptation and persecution; amid imprisonment, in the flames, and unto death. May God Almighty give us grace to serve him faithfully, as they did; to tread steadfastly in their footsteps; and to "bear up the pillars" of that Church, of which they laid the foundation.'

In this prayer we are persuaded that a large majority of those would heartily concur, who yet may not agree with Mr. Mant in all his points of doctrine. Notwithstanding the eye of suspicion with which they are commonly viewed, we believe them to be cordially attached to the establishment; not only because their own interests are inseparably connected and interwoven with it, but because they devoutly consider it as the best and purest part of that true and catholic Church, which it is their duty to enlarge and their pride to defend. They value, and most justly value it, as having preserved this kingdom, under God, by the persons whom it has nourished and instructed, comparatively free from the religious and moral corruptions which deform the features of too many European nations: they venerate, and justly venerate it, as the shield which has turned aside the shafts of infidelity, and repelled the assaults of avowed opposition: and we rely confidently on their assistance, if occasion should unhappily call for it, in defending this safeguard of our national security from the hands of the enemy.

---

ART. VI. *Travels in Southern Africa in the Years 1803—1806.*

By Henry Lichtenstein, Doctor in Medicine and Philosophy, and Professor of Natural History in the University of Berlin; Member of several learned Societies, &c. &c. Translated from the original German, by Anne Plumptre. London. 1812.

IT was said long ago by Aristotle, 'that Africa was always producing something new.' We may still say the same; for if it yields no other novelty, it is at least abundantly productive of new books. A barren nook of the southern extremity of this huge continent

continent has furnished even our humble collection with near forty volumes, twelve of which are goodly quartos; and we verily believe that, without taking into account a number of Dutch folios, '*dick as all dis cheese*,' we could enumerate as many more. Yet the laborious countryman of the indefatigable Grævius, in addition to the ponderous quarto now before us, threatens to increase the heap by three more volumes of the same size and on the same subject, which he thinks it necessary to mention 'for the benefit of those who may purchase this first volume.' (Pref.) Nay a fifth, 'being the account of our sea voyage,' is advertised in a note (p. 3.) with a hope that it will be 'useful to future voyagers:—useful, we suppose, to instruct them how to effect a Dutch passage from the Texel to the Cape of Good Hope in five months, which other navigators generally make in two.

The present volume is a probationary one, and Mr. Lichtenstein has therefore, wisely enough, put forth his whole strength upon it: he has not only laid under heavy contributions Kolben and Vailant, Sparrman and Barrow, the last of whom serves as his general text-book, but he has enlisted into his service the journal of the Governor-General Jansens, the digested observations of Mr. Commissary-General De Mist, Alberti's account of the Kaffers, recently published in Holland, and the information gleaned from the missionary Van der Kemp, who resided some time among these people. Yet with all this host of auxiliaries, Mr. Lichtenstein has contrived to make just as dull and uninteresting a volume as we have yet been doomed to wade through. The southern extremity of Africa is, in one respect, but a barren subject for 'a member of several learned societies;' it exhibits no traces of a cultivated race of men; no remains of ancient monuments; not a vestige of the arts of civilized life. In wild and uncultivated nature it is, however, abundantly rich; and here it affords endless opportunities, and an infinite variety of subjects, to exercise the talents of a 'doctor of physic and philosophy,' and to employ the zeal of a 'professor of natural history in the University of Berlin,' both for the instruction and amusement of those who are doomed to stay at home.

Mr. Lichtenstein, we think, has completely failed to effect either the one or the other. If it were not for a box of 'Halle's medicines,' which he purchased at the Cape, and a glass of '*pulvis antispasmodicus*' which he gave to a woman in hysterics, with an assurance that the boors are mighty fond of '*essentia dulcis*,' by which, we suppose, is meant either treacle or sugarcandy, we could not possibly have discovered that he had taken out a medical diploma. We beg pardon—he has made at least one discovery in pathology, which must be exceedingly consoling to dram-drinkers; this

this is, that the stone in the bladder, which is a common complaint among the Dutch boors, is to be ascribed solely to 'the want of spirituous liquors!' We are the more desirous of bringing forward this important discovery, as his fair translator, in admitting the *novelty*, seems inclined to doubt the '*reasonableness* of the cause assigned.' (p. 88.) Be this as it may, 'the physician of the commissary-general' tells us, with much complacency, how he drew after him the Dutch farmers, 'as if he were able to perform like miracles with those recorded by the Evangelists.'

Of his philosophical acquirements, moral, physical or experimental, the book affords but little elucidation; and we almost regret, though at the expense of a sixth quarto, that he did not, as he had once intended, furnish us with 'a sketch of his history,' that the 'reader' might be acquainted 'with his modes of thinking.' A note, however, of three lines has given us some incidental information on this point. 'Colonel Gordon, who signed the capitulation for the surrender of the Cape, was a professed adherent of the Orange party. A few days after, this *otherwise* upright man, made a public confession of his error to the world by destroying himself.' Here is more 'philosophy' than an ordinary reader may at the first glance perceive. Colonel Gordon was governor of the Cape, a man of universal benevolence, extensive charity, and remarkable for his attention and hospitality to strangers. The capitulation, which, as governor, he was called upon to sign, was more favourable to the vanquished than could have been hoped for in the distracted state of the colony, with so large a force before it; it secured to the inhabitants their laws, their religion, their property, and, what it ought not to have done, it guaranteed the paper currency with which their friends the French had inundated them. Yet, because Colonel Gordon was a faithful subject of the sovereign to whom he had sworn allegiance, he was guilty of a crime, it seems, which could be expiated only by self-destruction!

Though Mr. Lichtenstein assures us, we know not why, that 'he never had any temptation' to swerve from his 'undeviating adherence to truth,' (p. 3,) he has often been tempted to 'set down' things which betray rather too much credulity for a 'doctor in philosophy.' Thus he meets with a Malay slave of 120 years of age, with another of 107, and a third above 100. (p. 168.) He is assured by experienced hunters, and he believes them, that in the forests of Sitsikamma there are elephants *eighteen feet high*, which run in troops of 500! He sees a vagabond colonist seven feet high, 'the living figure of a Hercules, the terror of his enemies, the hope and support of his friends.' This favourite of Mr. Lichtenstein, who had been outlawed by the Dutch, was one of the 'warmest patriots, and opposers of the Orange principles,' (p. 210,) and

and he hated the English to the doctor's heart's desire. He believes, too, that the English spent *sixteen millions sterling* on the Cape, yet left it in a ruinous condition! (p. 42) and he was present when a hunting party brought home the flesh of 'seventeen elands, from seven to eight hundred pounds a piece,' (about *thirteen thousand* pounds,) in a single waggon! (p. 97,) &c.

We apprehend that Doctor Lichtenstein was made 'Professor of Natural History in the University of Berlin,' in consequence of a box of insects presented to that learned body; for we find nothing in his book which indicates the slightest knowledge of the science. He sometimes, indeed, talks of birds and butterflies, but whenever he ventures upon a *name*, he is almost sure to blunder. The common sea-gull, (*larus canus*,) which he saw in the inland arm of Saldanha bay, he misnames the *diomedea exulans*, the great albatross, at least five times the size of the sea-gull, and met with only on the wide ocean. (p. 45.) He makes the klipspringer, the greisbek and the duiker, three distinct species of the antelope, to be one and the same animal, (p. 72,) and the little antelope (*pygmæa*) he confounds with the *orebi*. He saw also, what no human being besides ever saw, the *cervus elephus* or red-deer, close to Swellendam. (p. 165.) Now it happens, that, as neither of the Americas furnishes a single species of the antelope tribe, none of the stag kind has yet been discovered in the south parts of Africa, and it is even doubtful whether this whole continent ever produced a single species. The little spotted hog-deer is a native of Java, Sumatra, and the oriental islands, and not of the Cape, as some have erroneously supposed. In no department of natural history has Mr. Lichtenstein brought forward a new object; nor can we discover any of that 'important information' of which, he tells us, (Pref. 5,) he 'obtained in his first journey no inconsiderable stock.' Indeed, had Mr. Lichtenstein been gifted to the extent implied by his many titles, he was so overlaid with the 'train of followers,' and the baggage which 'the rank and dignity of Mr. Commissary-General de Mist' was supposed to demand, as to be utterly incapacitated from exploring the country. This *expedition de parade* consisted of de Mist and his son, a lieutenant, an ensign, and a corporal, with seven dragoons, a serjeant, twelve hottentots and four slaves, a surgeon, (besides the doctor,) a clerk, a steward of the household, two gentlemen of the bedchamber, a French-horn-player, and a courier; and, to crown the whole, Miss Augusta de Mist, the commissary's daughter, a young lady of nineteen, in whom was 'a singular union of feminine softness and tenderness of heart;' she was accompanied by another young lady of the Cape, and two female servants. It was not very discreet, we think,

think, in the commissary-general, to carry this paragon of 'feminine softness' into the midst of a horde of brawny Kaffers, who stalk about in perfect nudity:—but bashfulness and modesty are no features of the female character, in the 'new morality' of the German school.\*

Thus encumbered, we could pardon the want of ability to collect, and even of capacity to communicate—but the insufferable vanity, not merely shewing itself 'obliquely through all the efforts to preserve an appearance of modesty and humility,' (Pref. 1.) but the lumbering German vanity, which, with the most undisturbed placidity, describes its own leaden labours as 'better than any preceding ones,' and as 'correcting whatever has been erroneously represented by other writers,' is too contemptible for indignation, and too stupid for amusement.

We never were more at a loss, than on the present occasion, to convey, in any reasonable space, an intelligible account of the volume before us, 'since (as the author justly observes) no travels into the interior of Africa resemble it in any way.' (p. 7.) It would answer no good purpose to trace his route (without any map to guide us) across the open plains of Africa, from Brakkefontein, where the water was bad, to Hartebeest-krall, where it was no better; from an *Ausspannplatze* to *Neiwe-jaarsdrift*, and from *Hermannuskraal* to *Modderfontein* in *Agterbruintjeshoogte*: nor would it afford our readers much amusement to hear, that *Schalk-vandermerwe's* grandmother was an orphan from the *Weeskammer*, sent to the Cape 'to promote population;' or that *Zwellendam* is derived from *Swellengrebel*, and ought to be spelt with an S. We shall therefore, as the best service which we can render them on the present occasion, employ a few pages in gleaning from those 'other authors' whom Mr. Lichtenstein affects to despise, a concise and rapid sketch of the principal objects likely to engage the attention of an intelligent traveller in the southern extremity of Africa; taking Mr. Lichtenstein along with us, and suffering him to tell his own story whenever he has any thing worth communicating. At the same time we must premise that this probationary volume carries us no farther than *Graaff Reynet*, to which place the grand expedition of the commissary-general proceeded through the most frequented districts of the colony, and consequently the least likely to afford any thing new.

---

\* General Jansens, the year preceding, travelled among the hostile Kaffers, attended only by his private secretary and half a dozen dragoons; and his observations form the best portion of Mr. Lichtenstein's book. Jansens was born a gentleman, and bred a soldier. Mr. Commissary Uitenhage (for we are told *De Mist*, Belg. *dung*, is his title,) was bred an attorney; at the French revolution he became a patriot, deserted his sovereign, and had precisely Mr. Lichtenstein's 'modes of thinking.'

If from the southern extremity of Africa, which on the old charts appears to terminate, improperly, in an angle, we proceed in an easterly direction about 500 miles, and northerly about 220 miles, we shall have the two sides describing the irregular parallelogram which constitutes the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. It comprehends, therefore, a surface of about 110,000 square miles, over which is spread a population, not much exceeding 65,000 persons. Of these, about 25,000 are whites, 25,000 slaves, and 15,000 Hottentots; the last mentioned, for any thing yet known to the contrary, being the original inhabitants of this part of Africa. Of this scanty population, the town of the Cape and its immediate neighbourhood contain at least 20,000, of whom about 3000 are whites, 4000 half casts of various mixtures, and 13,000 slaves.

Two chains of mountains of considerable height, lying parallel to each other in a direction of east and west, divide this territory into two portions of very different character. That part which lies between the first chain and the sea coast, and extends from the Cape to the Great Fish river, is generally rugged, broken into hill and dale, and intersected by numberless rivulets running in the bottom of deep ravines; the surface generally well clothed with herbaceous and frutescent plants; and, at the distance of about 200 miles from the Cape, the glens and chasms on the southern side of the mountains are thickly covered with forests of large trees, which continue with more or less interruption far beyond the eastern boundary of the colony. Those of largest dimensions and most common use are two species of yellow wood, (*taxus*,) stinkwood, (*quercus*,) ironwood, (*syderoxylon*) hassagai wood, (*curtesia faginea*,) and rood els, (*cunonia capensis*.) But besides these are a multitude of beautiful trees, not yet classed. On the hills and rugged plains are the most shewy productions in the vegetable world, the large and elegant tribe of *proteas*, and the beautiful and ever varying heaths, (*erica*,) of the latter of which not fewer, we believe, than 300 different species have been discovered and described. Almost as numerous, and far more diversified, are the families of *geranium* and *mysembryanthemum*, of *gnaphalium*, *xeranthemum*, and other genera allied to the everlastings, the multitude and brilliancy of whose flowers dazzle while they delight the eye. In this tract are also found the various species of the gaudy aloe, but particularly that (*perfoliata*) from which the drug is extracted: these, with the *crassula*, the *cotyledon*, and the *salsola*, the latter of which yields a potash used in making soap, the *diosma*, *polygala*, *cliffortia*, *brunia* and *myrica*, whose bunches of berries are coated over with a thin pellicle of wax—are the leading genera which clothe the surface, but do not cover it; for it is charac-

characteristic, we believe, of the whole continent of Africa, that even in the most fertile and luxuriant parts of it, the earth is only partially covered; there being no such thing, in fact, as what we call *turf* or green sod. It would be endless to enumerate the products of the vegetable kingdom—but it is impossible to overlook the more humble tribe of liliaceous plants which, for their exquisite fragrance and boundless variety of shape and colour, stand unrivalled in any other part of the globe. The *amaryllis*, the *gladiolus*, the *ixia*, the *moræa* and *iris* are the most conspicuous; but the lowly oxlip, (*oxalis*,) the star-flower (*hyopsis*) and *lachenalia*, springing out of a naked, and almost impenetrable surface of clay, command attention by their lively and brilliant hues, exhibiting sometimes all the colors of the rainbow in a single flower.

Between the first chain of mountains, and the second, is a vast extent of country known by the Hottentot name of Karroo,—an unbounded waste of dreadful uniformity, except where broken by a few straggling hills of schistus or slate, rising, like little volcanic cones, out of a naked surface of clay, whose tinge is that of a dull ferruginous brown. All traces of animated nature are obliterated from this dreary solitude; and the withered remains of the few succulent plants, sparingly scattered over the surface, crackle under the feet, and seem, from the faint and feeble traces of vegetable life, to maintain a perpetual struggle for existence. If, however, some partial thunder-storm should burst upon this desert, the bulbs begin to swell, and the leaves to push through the moistened clay; the *melilotos* creeps along the surface, the ice-plant glistens in the sun, and the *hemanthus* spreads with wonderful rapidity its broad leaves along the ground, as if to throw a protecting cover over the little moisture the earth had received, and to defend it from the sun. Mr. Lichtenstein crossed a narrow arm of this Karroo, and as his description of it is among the happiest of his efforts, it is fair to give him the full benefit of it.

‘ As soon as, in the cooler season, the rains begin to fall, and penetrate the hard coat of earth, these fibres (of roots) imbibe the moisture, and, pushing aside the clay, the germ of the plant, under their protection, begins to shoot. As by successive rains the soil gets more and more loosened, the plants at length appear above it, and in a few days the void waste is covered with a delicate green clothing. Not long after, thousands and thousands of flowers enamel the whole surface: the mild mid-day sun expands the radiated crowns of the mysembryanthemums and gortinia, and the young green of the plants is almost hidden by the glowing colours of their full-blown flowers, while the whole air is filled with the most fragrant odour. This odour is more particularly delightful when, after a calm day, the sun declines, and the warm breath of the flowers rests quietly on the plain. At this time the whole dreary desert is transformed into one continued garden of flowers; the colonist,



colonist, with his herds and his flocks, leaves the snowy mountains, and descending into the plain, there finds a plentiful and wholesome supply of food for the animals, while troops of the tall ostrich and the wandering antelope, driven also from the heights, share the repast, and enliven the scene.

But, how soon is the country again deprived of all its glory it scarcely continues more than a month, unless late rains, which must not often be expected, call forth the plants again into new life. As the days begin to lengthen, the revived power of the mid-day sun checks once more the lately-awakened powers of vegetation. The flowers soon fade and fall, the stems and leaves dry away, and the hard coat of earth locks up the germs till the time arrives for the return of the rains; the succulent plants alone still furnish food for the herds and flocks. Soon the streams begin to dry, the springs scarcely flow, till at length the complete drought compels the colonists to seek again their more elevated homes; yet even then they quit the plain with reluctance, and the flocks, accustomed to endure thirst, still linger behind, feeding on the succulent plants which afford at once food and drink, and are particularly salutary to those that bear the wool. Every day, however, the Karroo grows more and more solitary, and by the end of September it is wholly deserted. The hardened clay bursts into a thousand cracks, which evince to the traveller the vast power of the African sun. Every trace of verdure is vanished, and the hard red soil is covered over with a brown dust, formed from the ashes of the dried and withered plants.—(p. 124.)

About the meridian of the Cape point the two chains of mountains above mentioned approach each other, and taking a northerly direction, parallel to the sea coast, for about 180 miles, spread themselves out and melt away gradually into the general surface of the country, which, as we advance to the northward, becomes more and more sandy, barren, and desolate. The mountains are generally of sandstone, resting on a base of granite; the inferior hills of compact or slaty schistus, abounding with argillaceous iron-stone. Every where iron ores are abundant. In some places they are found in small regular cubes, in others in the shape of etites or eagle-stone, in nodules of various sizes, filled with an impalpable ocreous powder, of every shade of red, brown, and yellow, serving the farmers as paint.\* Silver and lead ores have been discovered to the eastward, and abundance of copper ores to the northward, whence are brought fine specimens of malachite, and the much admired stone of an apple green colour, called prehnite. Native

---

\* Two masses of what has been supposed native iron are described by Barrow. One of them being found on the summit of the Table Mountain, and containing about the same proportions of nickel as is found in those stones which are supposed to fall from the clouds, gave rise to an opinion, that the masses in question might have proceeded from the same source. We understand that both have been sent to Holland by Governor Jansens, but specimens of them are in England, and have been examined.

nitre.

nitre is very common in powder and in crystals, and traces of coal have been discovered not far from the Table mountain. No volcanoes have yet disturbed this southern corner of Africa, but hot springs are not uncommon, some chalybeate, some hepatic, and others apparently free from any extraneous impregnation. Several violent shocks of an earthquake have, however, recently terrified the inhabitants of Cape Town.

We find nothing very remarkable in the lower classes of the animal part of the creation. The dryness of the air, the want of water, and the general sterility of the surface, are unfavourable to the propagation of some of the disgusting and noxious insects which infest most warm countries. There are, however, many venomous snakes and scorpions, whose bite has sometimes proved mortal. Mr. Lichtenstein also mentions venomous spiders four inches in diameter; and he corroborates the opinion long entertained, of the fascinating power of snakes over the smaller animals. On a warm day, after a shower of rain, cameleons and other species of the lizard tribe, land tortoises of all sizes, and large beetles, (*scarabei*,) leave their haunts in swarms. But the great scourge of the country is the locust, which makes its occasional visits to this part of Africa. Mr. Lichtenstein speaks of 'the immeasurable trains of wandering caterpillars,' meaning the larvæ of those 'clouds of locusts' which Vaillant described as obscuring the light of the sun. No adequate idea can possibly be formed of the myriads of these animals, and their destructive powers; marching forward in columns, which cover many hundred square miles, they devour every leaf and every blade of grass, leaving the surface perfectly naked, and appearing as if swept with a broom.

In the sandy plains of Africa, where the successive rotting and reproduction of heaths and rhinoceros-bushes, (*seriphium*,) with which they mostly abound, have mixed with the sand a portion of light boggy earth, thousands of hillocks, from one to three feet high, arrest the attention, and impede the progress of the traveller. These cellular masses, constructed by the *termes*, or white-ants, answer to the farmer a double purpose; their fragments afford a fuel as good as turf, which Mr. Lichtenstein thinks burns the better for having some portion of the juices of the animal combined with the loam, and the insects and their larvæ are collected to feed poultry, upon which they speedily fatten. (p. 63.) But the most curious circumstance in the history of this extraordinary insect is its ephemeral existence in its perfect state, and its flight into the air. Such myriads ascend together that they resemble a shower of snow. Their fine subtle wings, slightly attached to the body, unable to bear the least breeze of wind, or even their own exertion, float about in the air, while the insect tumbles to the ground  
and

and creeps into the cracks and crevices of the earth, to avoid being devoured by its own young, in the ravenous state of larvæ.

Ascending in the scale of creation to the feathered tribe, barren as the country is, and apparently ill suited for supplying them with sustenance and shelter, we find no deficiency, in number or variety, from the largest species that exists, the tall ostrich, to the minute *certhia*, or creeper. The condor vulture is not uncommon. The *percnopteros*, or Egyptian vulture, most abundant; and all that Pliny has related of this bird, as to its sagacity in discovering carcases, seems to be perfectly correct. Should an animal die in the very midst of the most desert karroo, in less than half an hour there will be seen, high in the zenith, a number of minute objects, descending in spiral wheels, and increasing in size at every revolution, till, approaching the earth, they pounce upon the prey, which they tear in pieces, and devour with such greediness, that they are frequently unable to rise from the ground. Another vulture, the *serpenterius*, sometimes called the secretary-bird, (from a few quill feathers growing out of the head,) is worthy of notice. It is the avowed enemy of snakes, which it never fails to attack. Various kinds of eagles, kites, and crows, of bustards, grouse, and partridges, are inhabitants of the Cape. Guinea fowls abound there. The Numidian, the Virgin, and the Balearic crane, are not uncommon in the interior. The rose-coloured flamingos, drawn up and standing erect on the shores of the bays, look like regiments of soldiers; their wings are used by the colonists as fans to flap away the flies; and the solitary pelican is sometimes shot for the sake of the down which covers its sides. As an object of interest, the little cuckoo, (*indicator*,) which points out by its action and chirping noise the bees' nest, cannot fail to attract the notice of the traveller; and the elegant little honey bird, (*certhia*,) with its brilliant and iridescent plumage, perched on the petals of the vase-shaped corolla of the *protea mellifera*, will equally command his attention.

It is remarkable that, in the narrow compass of eight degrees of latitude from the Cape point, and in a tract of country of singular sterility, there should be found to exist the very largest as well as the most minute objects in almost every class of the animal world. Thus, as among the birds we had the ostrich and the creeper, so, among the quadrupeds, are the elephant and the black streaked mouse, (*pumilio*,) the one weighing 4000 pounds, the other about the fourth part of an ounce; the camelopardalis, of the astonishing height of seventeen feet, and the little elegant zenik, (*vivera*,) of three inches. Here too is the abode of the gigantic hippopotamus, more bulky though less tall than the elephant, and the two-horned rhinoceros, of the same ponderous sow-like formation. Of the thirty species of antelopes which have been described, the

colony of the Cape alone possesses eighteen. Here too are found the largest that exists, the eland, (*oreas*,) six feet high, and the smallest, the pigmy, or royal antelope, (*pygmaea*,) little more than six inches. The spring-bok, or leaping antelope, (*pygarga*,) may be met with in incredible multitudes, a single herd not unfrequently amounting to five thousand, and even more, when collecting to migrate from one part of the country to another. This part of Africa too abounds with the most powerful and most ferocious beasts of prey, as the lion, the leopard, the panther, and various species of the tiger-cat; but it is not infested with the striped tiger of India. The wolf, the hyena, and three or four species of jackalls are every where to be found. The *myrmecophaga*, or ant-eater, the iron-hog or crested porcupine, the viverra, which burrows in the ground, are equally common, as are also the *dipus*, or jerboa, nearly allied to the kangaroo, and several species of hares. In the woods and thickets are buffaloes; and the plains behind the snowy mountains abound with that beautiful animal the zebra, with the stronger and more elegantly shaped quacha, and whole herds of the singular gnoo, which is described as partaking of the nature of the ox, the horse, the antelope and the stag.

1 Numerous as the quadrupeds already known and described are in this portion of Africa, there is reason to believe that many others still remain to be discovered. In the short distance between the Orange River and Leetako, in the Boshuana country, Truter and Somerville procured four new species of animals. 1. The jeckloa, a very large species of rhinoceros, with two horns of nearly equal length. 2. The pallah, a species of antelope, somewhat resembling the spring-bok in the shape of its body and horns, but larger. 3. The takheitse, or wild creature, so named from its ferocity, though apparently partaking of the cow and the antelope. And 4. the kokoon, a large species of gnoo, from which, however, it differs essentially, by having a long flowing black mane, instead of one erect and trimmed, as is the case with the common gnoo; it is represented as having neither the speed nor the fierceness of the latter. Accurate drawings of all these have been made by Mr. Daniell.

From so many animals partaking, some of a double, and others a treble nature, it is not surprising that the ancients should have supposed that newly created species were perpetually springing up in Africa. 'Africa hæc maximè speetat, inopia aquarum ad paucos amnes congregantibus se feris. Ideo multiformes ibi animalium partus, variè fœminis cujusque generis mares aut vi aut voluptate miscentes. Unde etiam vulgare Græciæ dictum, semper aliquid novi Africam afferre.' Thus, according to Pliny's theory, the camelopardalis was the offspring of the panther and the camel; the leopard.

leopard, of the panther and the lion, and the hartebeest (*antelope bubalis*) of the buffalo and the antelope, &c. Later ages have detected the fallacy of this theory; we now know that, if a hybrid be sometimes produced, there the power of propagation ceases.

In the mountains of the Cape are numerous troops of that disgusting animal the dog-faced baboon, (*simia cynocephalus*) of whose systematic dexterity in robbing orchards Kolben has invented so many ridiculous stories, all of which Mr. Lichtenstein believes to be true, though 'somewhat exaggerated.' However humiliating to the human species, it cannot be denied that man forms the connecting link in the great chain of creation with the monkey tribe; and it is in this part of Africa where we shall probably find that variety of the species which comes nearest in contact with the ourang-outang. From this creature the miserable Bosjesman is scarcely otherwise distinguished than by his want of a hairy covering, and by possessing the organs of speech, which, however, he hardly knows how to use. 'The Bosjesman race,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, p. 56, 'is a tribe of savage Hottentots'—'they are *not* Hottentots,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, in page 116; 'they are, and ever have been, a distinct people, having their own peculiar language, and their own peculiar customs, if the terms *language* and *customs* can be applied to a people upon the very lowest step in the order of civilization.' We know perfectly well that they *are* Hottentots, and as Mr. Lichtenstein saw only an old woman and two men of this tribe, and all these within sight of the Table mountain, and has evidently not made up his mind on the subject, we must look to our own shelves for a sketch of these extraordinary beings.

Neither Bartholomew Diaz, who first discovered, nor Vasco de Gama, who first doubled, the Cape of Good Hope, nor any other Portuguese navigator down to 1509, had much communication with the natives. In this year Francisco d'Almeyda, viceroy of India, returning home after his quarrel with Albuquerque, landed at Saldanha Bay, (now Table Bay,) and, in a scuffle with the natives, was killed, with about seventy of his people. To avenge his death, a Portuguese captain, three years afterwards, is said to have landed a piece of ordnance; loaded with grape shot; as a pretended present to the Hottentots. Two ropes were attached to this engine; the Hottentots poured down in swarms; men, women, and children flocked round the fatal present like the Trojans round the wooden horse, 'funemque manu contingere gaudent.' The brutal Portuguese fired off the piece, and viewed, with savage delight, the mangled carcasses of the deluded people.

The Dutch were more prudent and more politic in their advances to the natives. They found them in possession of vast

herds of cattle, and discovered their irresistible propensity for brandy and tobacco, which they took care to gratify, till all the neighbouring tribes had been stript of their only means of subsistence, and reduced to the hard condition of guarding those herds and flocks of the new settlers which, but a little before, were their own property. Those tribes have long since disappeared, and we should now look in vain for a vestige of the Attaquas, Hessaquas, Houtiniquas, &c. in those districts of the colony which still bear their names. The Namaquas on the southern, and the Damaras and Koranas on the northern, bank of the Orange River are the only remaining tribes lingering on the skirts of the colony. Whether the Bosjesmans existed before the breaking up of the Hottentots, or in consequence of it, we can only conjecture; but that they are the real genuine unmixed Hottentots admits of no doubt. Hunger and cold, and every species of privation and distress, have cramped their growth, and dwindled them down to a stature the most diminutive probably of the whole human race; the middle size of the men being about four feet six inches, and of the other sex four feet; many are several inches below this standard. They are hideously ugly in shape and feature; the outline of the face triangular and concave; the cheek bones high; the chin sharp and prominent; the nose flat; the lips thick; the eye obliquely placed in the head, narrow, sunk, keen, and always in motion; the colour that of a withered tobacco leaf, concealed by a coating of dirt and grease, excepting in places where it may happen to be peeled off; their legs, thighs, and arms, are lean and withered, divested of all appearance of muscle; the joints large, and the belly protuberant; a Bosjesman is a true 'Pinch—a needy, hollow-eyed, sharp-looking wretch, a living dead man.'

His language is scarcely human, chiefly monosyllabic, and almost every syllable is forced out with a remarkable clacking of the tongue against the teeth or palate. This strange noise, which sounds like *hot* or *tot*, may probably have been the origin of the name conferred on them by the Dutch, by the frequent remark that every thing with them was *hot-en-tot*. The clothing of the men consists of the raw skin of a sheep, or goat, or antelope, to which the women add a belt of the same material; and to this is appended in front another piece of skin cut into narrow thongs, and affording but a partial covering to what they appear but little careful to conceal. They sometimes wear round their ankles twisted thongs of skin; bits of copper, or shells or glass beads round the neck, or dangling from the curling tufts of their greasy hair—hair, unlike that of any other human being, growing in little detached pellets on the scalp.

Every Bosjesman carries a small bow with a quiver on his back,  
filled

filled with poisoned arrows; these, when he sallies forth to fight or plunder, are stuck in a fillet of skin round the head; and he has generally thrust through the cartilage of his nose a piece of wood or a porcupine quill. If he is successful in carrying off any part of the cattle belonging to the colonists, the poor animals are hacked and tortured and deprived of life with savage cruelty. The whole horde feasts on the carcasses, surrounded by kites and vultures and the great carrion crow; and these birds are not unfrequently the means of discovering their retreats to the farmers. Failing in their attempts to plunder, they set out in parties to pursue the larger kinds of game; some drive them into narrow defiles, where others lie in wait to strike them with their poisoned arrows; and an animal once hit rarely escapes their indefatigable pursuit. Sometimes these animals are taken by digging holes in the ground and covering them with earth and grass. When all endeavours fail, they have recourse to the eggs or larvæ of ants, locusts, caterpillars, and other insects, with various kinds of bulbous and tuberous roots, mostly of a pungent and austere taste. When the rains have ceased, and the spring set in, they dance round a ring for several successive nights, tear their skin covering in pieces, and throw the fragments in the air.

The house of a Bosjesman is easily carried about with him. It is nothing more than a mat of rushes or long grass, bent between two sticks into a semicircular shape over a hollow in the ground, scooped out like the nest of the ostrich, in which he coils himself round when he lies down to sleep, like most of the quadrupeds; frequently his only abode is the shelter afforded by the rocks or caverns of the mountains.

Linnaeus has characterized the Hottentots as monorchides. They are not so by nature, though this kind of mutilation was unquestionably very commonly practised throughout the whole of the Hottentot nation. Frequent instances were seen among the Koranas by Truter and Somerville, and Kolben describes the process as an eye witness. This man, however, is rarely entitled to credit in any thing which he relates.

No plausible conjecture has yet been offered as to the origin of this extraordinary race of men, whose existence is confined to a narrow corner of Africa. Barrow has supposed a close resemblance in the shape of the face, and particularly in the eye, to the Chinese or Tartar countenance. The early Portugeeze writers mention a colony of Chinese in the neighbourhood of Soffala, and the natives of the interior of the great island of Madagascar are described in their stature, colour, and countenance, as a small race of Tartars resembling the Hottentots. Others have compared their manners and persons to the Pigmies and Troglodytes. Kolben as-

serts that they have a tradition (a *tradition* indeed !) of having been thrust upon the Cape promontory out of a narrow passage; and that as a *narrow passage* may either signify a *dovr-way* or a *window*, it could be no other than the *window* of Noah's ark out of which they crept; and this conjecture, he thinks, is almost reduced to a certainty by the circumstance of Noah's sons being fond of *dancing*, which is also a favourite amusement of the Hottentots. Kolben, like Lichtenstein, was a German 'doctor in physic and philosophy.' The boors of the Cape go a little higher in their account of the origin of the Hottentots, whose descent they derive immediately from Cain, whose *mark* they say the women still carry about them; and this they assign as an authority for 'lifting their hands against them.'

Bordering on the colony to the eastward, and in close contact with the Bosjesman Hottentots, is a race of men as little resembling them as the English resemble the Esquimaux. No two beings can differ more widely than the Hottentot and the Caffre. Thus, in that endless variety in which nature seems to have delighted more particularly in Africa, we discover in the human species the same extremes of beauty and ugliness, of symmetry and deformity, of high and low stature, which we have noticed to exist in other parts of the vegetable and animal creation. A Caffre is rarely to be met with under five feet eight inches in height; the middle size is close upon six feet, and instances of men approaching to the height of seven feet are not uncommon. They are well made and remarkably muscular; the joints of the body small and well turned; they are erect in their gait, and graceful in their motions; the colour of some approaches nearly to black, but is generally that of a true bronze; and so hard and firm are the muscular parts of the body that the lights may be seen to play on their naked limbs just as we catch them on a bronze statue. The head and features nearly resemble those of Europeans, with the exception of the lips, which are generally a little thickened, and the nose sometimes, but very rarely, somewhat flattened at the point. The head is covered with short curling hair, but not woolly like that of the African negro. 'The skull of the Caffre,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, 'is highly arched and well formed, his eye is lively, his nose not flat but sufficiently prominent, and his teeth of the most brilliant whiteness. They hold themselves exceedingly upright; their step is quick and dignified; their whole exterior denotes strength and spirit.' (p. 251.)

From the concurring testimony of travellers we may rather consider the Caffres as a half-civilized than as a savage race of men. That particular tribe, bordering on the Cape colony to the eastward, is named Kooßsas, and the country which they inhabit Ammakosina.



makosina. They are governed by a chief of the name of Gaika, who is invested with the sole and absolute power over the lives and property of about 20,000 souls. They dwell in permanent villages, consisting of forty or fifty huts each, placed near the banks of rivers for the convenience of water for themselves and cattle. Their huts are hemispherical, very closely watted and plastered, wind and water tight, and, on the whole, not uncomfortable; that of the king differs only in having the tail of a lion or panther stuck on the top of it. They have beds of skins, and stuffed cushions; vessels of earthen ware and of gourds; baskets beautifully woven of rushes, in which they hold their milk; they are clothed in skins well dressed, soft and pliant, and neatly sewed with the fibres of animal ligaments; the men in warm weather go perfectly naked, and their bodies are rubbed over with grease and red ocre. The women, at all times, are closely covered up from the neck to the ankles; and such is their sense of female decorum, that they will not even suckle their children, or draw up their mantle to cross a river, in the presence of strangers. They cultivate a species of millet, (*holcus sorghum*,) buck-wheat, and a bitter gourd resembling in its appearance the water melon; they are fond of animal food, but rarely kill their cattle, except on extraordinary occasions, as marriages or funerals, or being visited by strangers. Their chief food is thickened milk. A cup of milk, drunk by the bride from the bridegroom's cow, is the seal of the marriage contract. They are frugal, temperate, and cleanly both in their huts and persons; extremely hospitable; good humoured towards friends and strangers, but implacable to their foes. In their wars they are brave and resolute; their chief weapon is the hassagai, or a long spear with an iron lance-shaped head; and their defensive armour an oval shield, cut from the hide of an ox, sufficiently large to cover nearly the whole body. They also carry a weapon called the keri, being a stick of heavy wood with a clubbed head.

The Caffres are subject to few diseases. 'They never,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, 'have colds or catarrhs,' and 'they never sneeze, yawn, cough, or hawk.' (p. 259.) They practise bleeding, and have certain external and internal remedies; but they rely chiefly on appeasing the angry spirit which they conceive afflicts them with disease. Like all half-civilized people they are extremely superstitious. When rain is wanted, they have recourse to certain old women, who have the reputation of being witches; these ladies practise a number of ridiculous ceremonies in order to accomplish the purpose; if they succeed, their reputation is established, but if they fail they are expelled the society, and, in some cases, suffer death. The frequent prayers of the missionary Van

der Kemp, induced the Caffres to set him down as a magician; and, under the belief that he dealt with the evil spirit, he was once ordered to procure them rain within three days. The rain, luckily for him, happened to fall before the expiration of the time, which confirmed their opinion of his connection with the devil, in consequence of which they drove him out of their country; had he failed, he would most probably have been put to death.

The Caffres, like the Hottentots, are supposed to derive their origin from some far distant country. 'Perhaps,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, 'Mr. Barrow, who first suggested this idea, goes too far when he supposes the Caffres to have wandered hither directly from Arabia, and to be descendants of the Bedouin tribes. They appear to me of much more ancient descent; it is true that the practice of circumcision, some slight knowledge of astronomy, their superstition, and the faint traces to be found in their words and names of being derived from Arabic roots, may seem nearly to remove all doubt.' His own notion seems to be, that though of Asiatic origin, they first passed over to the northern coast of Africa, at some very remote period, where, in the neighbourhood of Egypt, they might have learned many regulations respecting uncleanness and purifications, which have certainly a remarkable resemblance to those of the Levitical law. But why not, like the Abyssinians, pass over the narrow mouth of the Red Sea to Adel, the natives of which are precisely the same people as the Koossas, and speak nearly the same language, but with a greater mixture of Arabic words? All the Caffre tribes that have been discovered work neatly in iron. One of them, particularly distinguished for this art, is named the *macquinas*, and *makini* (as Mr. Lichtenstein observes) signifies in Arabic *a worker of iron*. We have no doubt that all those tribes of people which inhabit the eastern coast of Africa, from the banks of the Great Fish River to the borders of the Red Sea, are, like the Abyssinians, of Arabic origin. All that have yet been visited have the same manners and customs, speak different dialects of the same language, but so as to understand one another. The language of the Koossas is represented as full-toned, soft and harmonious; the pronunciation slow and distinct. In the Appendix of Mr. Lichtenstein's volume will be found considerable information on this part of the subject, which he collected from Van der Kemp and others. We conclude our sketch of this interesting people with General Jansens' description of their young king, Gaika, whose personal and intellectual qualities were not wholly unknown to us.

'Gaika is one of the handsomest men that can be seen, even among the Caffres, uncommonly tall, with strong limbs, and very fine features. His countenance is expressive of the utmost benevolence and self-confidence,

dence, united with great animation; there is in his whole appearance something that at once speaks the king, although there was nothing in his dress to distinguish him, except some rows of white beads which he wore round his neck. It is not hazarding too much to say that among the savages all over the globe a handsomer man could scarcely be found. Nay, one might go farther, and say, that among the sovereigns of the cultivated nations, it would perhaps be difficult to find so many qualities united, worthy of their dignity. His fine, tall, well-proportioned form, at the perfect age of six-and-twenty, his open, benevolent, confiding countenance, the simplicity yet dignity of his deportment, the striking readiness of his judgment and of his answers, his frankness, and the rational views he took of things; all these properties combined are not often to be found among those, who, according to our commonly received opinions, have had infinitely greater advantages in the forming their persons and minds.' (p. 320.)

Of the Dutch colonists we shall say little. Those in Cape Town, and within the first range of mountains, are mostly in good circumstances, and live comfortably. The tramontane boors, scattered over a surface of 100,000 square miles, dwell sometimes at the distance of a day's journey from their nearest neighbour. A regular farm, of three miles in diameter, consisting of 5000 acres, pays an annual rent of about four pounds; a small portion only of this land is arable, and that portion rarely feels the ploughshare. A Dutch boor thinks not of bread. Mutton is to him what ale was to Boniface; he eats mutton, he drinks mutton, and sleeps upon mutton. Their stock is prodigious, and with common care might be increased to any extent. We find one boor in possession of 80 horses, 690 head of cattle, and 1470 sheep; another with 300 horses and 1600 sheep. In one district 22 families share among them 80,000 sheep, and a proper proportion of cattle and horses, (p. 92,) in another, 36 families have 100,000 sheep, besides horses, cows, and draught oxen. (p. 99.) The women appear to be as prolific as the cattle. 'Five couple,' says Mr. Lichtenstein, 'in the last three houses we visited, had 51 children living, besides 11 that had died;' and he adds, 'it is moderate to reckon ten children to each family.' (p. 113.) The immediate descendants of one man, 71 years old, amounted to 83. At a wedding, the nearest of kin to the parties, with their children and grandchildren, amounted to 170 persons; and a widow of 56 had 17 children, whose 'descendants exceeded a hundred souls.' (p. 172.) Yet with all this, the colony, after a possession of 200 years, is miserably peopled.

These boors have been represented by most travellers in an unamiable point of view. Barrow allows them the savage virtue of hospitality, but describes them as a lazy, revengeful, cruel people, and General Jansens does the same; but the former, in ascribing their

their vices to their intercourse with itinerant German schoolmasters, generally deserters from the ranks, has called down the wrath of Mr. Lichtenstein, who has scarcely proceeded beyond the smoke of Cape Town before he discovers the Dutch boors to be the mildest and most inoffensive of mankind, remarkably kind to their slaves and Hottentots, (p. 51,) without a fault except that of being too religious. (p. 140.) Having crossed the mountains, however, he forgets his former remarks, and finds that his virtuous boors *have a few trifling faults; for instance—'Selfishness, lawlessness, hardness, intolerance, and a thirst of revenge; the harshness with which they treat their slaves and Hottentots, and the bitterness and irreconcilable animosity with which they carry on their differences among each other, are the reigning vices in their characters.'* (p. 377.) Again, we find them exceedingly industrious, decent, and cleanly—of which the following extract may serve as a specimen. It describes but *part* of a Dutch boor's house, it is true, but it is a faithful and favourable picture of most of them.

'It was composed of the room at which we entered and a side chamber. The first was kitchen as well as parlour, but it was no more than twenty feet long, and fourteen broad, and in the chamber was a young woman, a relation of our hostess, then in the pains of child-birth. Our whole party, therefore, were to be stowed in the first room, for the rain grew every instant more and more violent, nor ceased till noon on the following day. Our presence was somewhat embarrassing to our busy hostess, who undertook the cooking herself, in which she was assisted by some half-naked female slaves. Two fresh-slain sheep hung near the fire-place, while other parts of the room were filled up with several vessels, a large chopping block, and a quantity of dry fire-wood. The whole household furniture consisted of two small tables, four or five chests, and half a dozen field-stools. In one corner was a sitting hen, in another a duck with her young ones; then there were some half dozen of dogs, who every now and then began barking terribly and ran out, returning all wet and dirty, and sprinkling the dirt all about, &c., (p. 227.)

The Moravian establishment at Bavian's Kloof has increased, by Mr. Lichtenstein's account, to nearly eleven hundred Hottentots. Two hundred houses and huts, with gardens to each, built in regular streets, with a very neat church at the head, give it the appearance of a large European village. The Moravian pastors, with their wives, live together in one large house; they have one common garden, well stocked, and kept in the highest order. One of them has the exclusive care of this garden, another superintends the smithery, in which various kinds of iron work are carried on, but particularly the manufacture of knives, in which several of the Hottentots are very expert; a third has built, and superintends, a water-mill, which grinds not only the whole of the corn for the establishment,

blishment, but also for many of the neighbouring colonists. Their great object is to inspire among their disciples a spirit of industry, with a feeling for the comforts which property can confer, and the benefits which arise out of civilized society; instilling at the same time into their minds a proper sense of religion.

‘In order to form a just estimate of the worth of these excellent men, their manner of conducting themselves towards the Hottentots must be seen; the mildness yet dignity with which they instruct them, and the effect which has already been produced in improving the condition of their uncivilized brethren, is truly admirable. No other punishment is known but being prohibited from attending divine service, or being banished the society. The highest reward of industry and good behaviour is to be baptized and received into the society—to the most distinguished among these, the still higher honors are granted of being appointed to little offices in the church, such as elders or deacons. The latter are also, from their diligence and industry, in the best circumstances of any in the community, and have houses, built by themselves, not at all inferior to those of the colonists on the borders. The men are clothed, like the peasants, in linen jackets and leather smallclothes, and wear hats; the women have woollen petticoats, cotton jackets with long sleeves, and caps.’ (p. 156.)

We must now give the contrast to this pleasing picture.

‘About a mile and a half eastward from the bay, (of Algoa,) a man, now near seventy years of age, by name Van der Kemp, has collected together between two and three hundred Hottentots, to whom he preaches the Gospel. If ardour in religion, amounting almost to bigotry, if self-denial, and a renunciation of social comforts, even of all earthly enjoyments, supported by a high degree of enthusiasm, and by very extensive learning—if these properties can render a missionary worthy of respect and esteem, then is Van der Kemp most truly so. Even the history of his early life must create a high degree of interest for him.’ (p. 235.)

Mr. Lichtenstein goes on to say, that in his youth he entered the army, but marrying beneath him, he quitted the service, studied physic, and was appointed army physician; that in crossing the Maese with his wife and children, the boat upset, and every soul perished except himself; that from this moment he abandoned the study of medicine for that of theology; that he studied the ancient and oriental languages; that he published some works in Holland, which did not succeed; that he came over to England in 1780, where he was more successful; was ordained at Oxford; went to the Cape in 1797, with a view of converting the Caffres; was driven away by them, as we have already mentioned; collected a body of Hottentots, in which he was assisted by an Englishman of the name of Read, and met with encouragement from the English government. These people were daily instructed in the precepts of

of the Christian religion. 'They could sing and pray, and be heartily penitent for their sins, and talk of the lamb of atonement, but none were really the better for all this specious appearance. No attention was paid to giving them proper occupations, and, excepting in the hours of prayer, they might be as indolent as they chose. This convenient mode of getting themselves fed attracted many of the most worthless and idle among these people, and all who applied were indiscriminately received into the establishment, being better pleased with leading an indolent life in Van der Kemp's school, than in gaining their bread by labour.' (p. 236.)

'It is scarcely possible,' (continues Mr. Lichtenstein,) 'to describe the wretched situation in which this establishment appeared to us, especially after having seen that at Bavian's Kloof. On a wide plain, without a tree, almost without water fit to drink, are scattered forty or fifty little huts, in the form of hemispheres, but so low that a man cannot stand upright in them. In the midst is a small clay hut thatched with straw, which goes by the name of a church, and close by, some smaller huts, of the same materials, for the missionaries. All are so wretchedly built, and are kept with so little care and attention, that they have a perfectly ruinous appearance. For a great way round not a bush is to be seen, for what there might have been originally, have long ago been used for fire-wood; the ground all about is perfectly naked and hard, trodden down, no where the least trace of human industry; wherever the eye is cast nothing is presented but lean, ragged, or naked figures, with indolent sleepy countenances. The support of the missionary institutions in England and Holland, the favor of the government, the chace, and the keeping a few cattle, the produce of which is scarcely worth mentioning, these are the means to which two hundred and fifty men have to look for their support.' (p. 238.)

Indeed the old missionary appeared to be quite as regardless of his own temporary concerns as those of his flock. His hut is described as totally destitute of comfort, and quite consistent with the negligence of earthly cares which he professes to teach. On visiting the party at Algoa Bay, he sat in an open waggon, drawn by four meagre oxen, in the hottest part of the day, without a hat, 'his venerable bald head exposed to the burning rays of the sun. He was dressed in a threadbare black coat, waistcoat, and breeches, without shirt, neckcloth, or stockings, and leather sandals bound upon his feet, the same as are worn by the Hottentots.' It seems that his companion Read, as a proof of his lowliness and humility, had married a young Hottentot; and shortly after his worthy colleague finished the career of his retrogression from civilized to savage life by following the example, and taking to himself a Hottentot girl of thirteen years of age, which in all probability hastened the termination of his earthly career, for he died soon afterwards.

Miss Plumtre appears to have executed her part of the work with

with sufficient accuracy; but it must have required nothing short of German patience and German drudgery to enable her to get through it. If Mr. Lichtenstein should put his threats in execution, we doubt whether even this lady will be desperate enough to undertake the task of translating all that he may think fit to write.

---

ART. VII. *Ex Tentaminibus Metricis Puerorum in Scholâ Regiâ Edinensi Provectorum electa, Anno MDCCCXII.*—  
Edinburgh, 1812. 12mo. pp. 116.

**A**MONG the minor excellencies of classical taste, in which our countrymen are indisputably superior to scholars on the continent, we are inclined to give the pre-eminence to their talent in the composition of Latin verse. To the general smoothness of Vida, Sanazzarius, and Fracastorius, and to their Virgilian harmony, has been added a virtue, perhaps the only one, in which they were deficient. Experience, and a nicer examination of metre, have long since established, even among boyish aspirants, that exception to a rule should be shunned; and that license, like the deity of the drama, should be resorted to only on unavoidable occasions. The Italian composers in Latin verse abound, however, with these barbarisms, not scrupling to admit the genitives in *ii*, to shorten the final *o*, whenever it may suit, to elide one diphthong before another; and having no regard for the quantity of the vowel at the close of the word preceding *s*, with a consonant.

But our business is at present with the moderns; and the analogy we wish to preserve abroad and at home, is between versifiers now living, or but lately deceased. We do not then hesitate to affirm, that there is in the Latin poetry, written and published among us, an easiness of thought and expression, and a cadence and metrical exactness, which has been in vain attempted on the continent, and even in the northern division of these realms. In this assertion we disclaim, as we despise, all nationality; with cheerful forgiveness for all the jeers which have heretofore been thrown out against our 'craft and mystery' of 'longs and shorts.' This point is to be argued, not by declamation, but by proof. A few words shall be dedicated to the support of our assumption, as far as regards all modern transmarine efforts in this department; and we shall then devote our animadversions to the examination of this attainment north of the Tweed.

The cause of a difference, which is we conceive evident to every scholar in the least acquainted with the productions of the continent, does not lie very deep. The mode of education must in all instances influence the taste; and where metre is made a branch of metaphysics, where the feelings are not carried along by the rhythm, the