

A
V O Y A G E
TO
C O C H I N C H I N A,

IN THE YEARS 1792 AND 1793:

CONTAINING A GENERAL VIEW OF
THE VALUABLE PRODUCTIONS AND THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF
THIS FLOURISHING KINGDOM; AND ALSO OF SUCH EUROPEAN
SETTLEMENTS AS WERE VISITED ON THE VOYAGE:

WITH SKETCHES OF THE
MANNERS, CHARACTER, AND CONDITION
OF THEIR SEVERAL INHABITANTS.

TO WHICH IS ANNEXED
AN ACCOUNT OF A JOURNEY,
MADE IN THE YEARS 1801 AND 1802,
TO THE RESIDENCE OF THE CHIEF OF THE
BOOSHUANA NATION,
BEING THE REMOTEST POINT IN THE INTERIOR OF SOUTHERN AFRICA TO WHICH
EUROPEANS HAVE HITHERTO PENETRATED.
THE FACTS AND DESCRIPTIONS TAKEN FROM A MANUSCRIPT JOURNAL.
WITH A CHART OF THE ROUTE.

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" — Hæc olim meminisse juvabit
" Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum
" Tendimus in Latium." —

ILLUSTRATED AND EMBELLISHED WITH SEVERAL ENGRAVINGS BY MEDLAND,
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AN
ACCOUNT
OF A
JOURNEY TO THE BOOSHUANAS.

After passing the Boundary of the Colony, the Strength of the Expedition is mustered—They meet with two Bosjesmen on the Desert—With a Dutch Boor and his Family—Pass the Karree-bergen, and meet a Party of armed Bosjesmen—Salt Lakes—The Gariep or Orange River—Horde of Kora Hottentots—Missionary Kicherer's Kraal—Contrast between the Gospel and the Moravian Missionaries—Bosjesmans—Several new Characters join the Party—The Iron Mountain—Effect produced on the Compass—Wild Buffalos—Giraffe or Camelopardalis—Source of the Kourmanna River—Arrival of a Party of Booshuanas from the King—Mimosa or Umbrella Tree—Arrival at Leetakoo—Interview with the Chief—Situation, Size, and Population of Leetakoo—Some Account of the Booshuanas, their Character, Possessions, Resources, Amusements, free and happy Condition, Origin, &c.—The Barroloos—Slavery unknown in the interior Parts of Southern Africa—The Palla Antelope—Face of the Country—Mimosas loaded with Nests of the gregarious Loxia—The Kokoon apparently a Species of Gnoo—A new Species of Quacha—Opinion of the Ancients respecting new Animals incorrect—Return to the Kourmanna River—A Lion shot while striding over a Hottentot—Booshuana Villages—Patanie—Abundance of large Game—The Takheitsé, a new Species of Antelope or Cow—Buffalo hunting—This Creature and the Elephant resent Injuries—

The latter supposed to bury their Dead—Giraffe hunting—A large Rhinosceros killed—Arrive at the Orange River, and skirt its Banks to the North-Westward—Pass several Kora Villages—Kok's Kraal—Extraordinary Character and Adventures of one Stephanos, a Polish Greek—Expedition against a famous Robber of the Name of Africaaner—Extraordinary Flight of Locusts—Critical Situation of the two Secretaries—Pitbing of Cattle—Decisive Experiments to prove the Fallacy of its being the most expeditious and least painful Mode of slaughtering Cattle—Return of the Expedition to the Colony.

“**H**AVING received from his Excellency Lieutenant-General Dundas, acting Governor and Commander in Chief of the castle, town, and settlement of the Cape of Good Hope, our credentials and instructions, examined the invoice of the several articles intended to be given in exchange for cattle, and arranged the contents of our six waggons, we this day,” says Mr. Truter, “the first of October 1801, commenced, under God’s good providence, our long and interesting journey.” After a minute detail of every particular circumstance that occurred and a relation of the ordinary events of such a journey; the names of the several farms and their occupiers where they halted for the night, or for obtaining refreshment or a change of draught oxen; the little interruptions and mortifications they met with, owing to the want of punctuality in the boors in bringing their fresh relays of oxen, to the breaking of axle-trees, yokes, and traces; the difficulty of ascending *Roode Sand Kloof*; the impracticability of passing the *Witsenberg* or *Mostaert Hoek*, which compelled them to take the circuitous route over the *Hex River Kloof* (in their progress through which, Mr. Truter observes, they crossed the rapid stream of the same name

rushing down its rocky channel no less than seven times); their passage of the *Bokkeveld*, and that corner of the Great Karroo or desert between it and the *Roggeveld*, where the absence of all human habitations compelled them to sleep for several nights in their tents and waggons; their ascent, from those plains, up the steep and lofty mountains called the *Roggeveld*:—after surmounting these and many other difficulties they arrived, on the evening of the 14th, on the south bank of the *Great Riet* river, opposite the *Bonteberg*, where they pitched their tents for the night, the weather being extremely cold, boisterous and rainy. In this river they caught an abundance of a particular species of fish, the flavour of which was tolerably good; but the bones being something of the same kind as in the herring, and the fish small, made it the less acceptable to hungry travellers. Here also, for the first time, they observed the fresh prints of the paws of a lion.

Pursuing their journey from hence, after crossing the river several times, they halted at a deserted farm house called the *Ganna-Kraal*, which place had previously been appointed as the rendezvous for the escort of boors that were summoned to attend the expedition, as well as for the relays of fresh oxen to draw the waggons over the desert. But having waited here for two days without receiving any intelligence either of the boors or the oxen, they resolved to proceed without them; and accordingly, on the 18th, after crossing the *Karree* river, which is here considered to be the boundary of the colony, they made a short day's journey and encamped

for the night near the *Brakke fontein*, where they presently had the great satisfaction to perceive, at some distance, a party of boors and Hottentots and cattle hastening towards them over the plain. Their joy, however, was of short duration, and followed by vexation and disappointment; for, on examining the oxen, the greater part were found to be very young, totally unaccustomed to the yoke, and not a single good team could be selected from the whole drove.

Determined, notwithstanding this grievous disappointment, to prosecute the journey they had undertaken, and being now advanced beyond the limits of the colony, it was deemed expedient, in the first place, to muster the party, to ascertain the strength of the expedition, and to prescribe certain regulations for their conduct, which were rigidly to be adhered to during the journey before them, whose distance and duration were equally uncertain.

The account of the whole expedition was found to stand as follows :

Mr. Truter, }
Mr. Somerville, } Commissioners.
Mr. Daniell, secretary and draughtsman.
Mr. Borchers, assistant secretary.
Mr. Scholtz, superintendant of the waggons.
Seven Dutch Boors, inhabitants of the Roggeveld.

Making in the whole twelve Christians.

24 Hottentots and *Bastard* Hottentots
 4 Slaves
 120 Draught oxen
 18 Saddle Horses, and
 20 Large muskets.

“ With the blessing of God,” observes Mr. Truter, “ we considered these our numbers and our means of defence to be fully sufficient for our protection and preservation ; and, confiding in his goodness, we launched upon the Karroo or desert plains on the 20th October.” Little occurred in their journey over these dreary solitudes to engage the attention, except their uncommon sterility, and now and then a few *quachas* or wild horses, a solitary *gemsbok*, an *eland*, a *hartebeest*, or a pair of ostriches, which might perhaps be observed grazing at a distance, or scouring away to avoid the party, when they happened to approach them unperceived. In the course of the third day they passed the ruins of an earthen building of considerable dimensions, surrounded by a number of demolished huts, which they were informed were the remains of an establishment attempted to be formed by the two gospel missionaries Kicherer and Edwards, under the direction of the society for sending missions into Africa and the East. Proceeding slowly till midnight, they halted on the bank of the *Sack* river, near which the next morning they observed another kraal or hamlet in ruins, where these missionaries had held a temporary residence. At this place two miserable looking wretches, of the tribe of men usually called Bosjesmen by the colonists, perfectly naked, and apparently perishing with hunger, advanced towards the encampment, and

accosted the party in a language wholly unintelligible; but the signs they made use of could not easily be mistaken. They gave them something to eat, which, with a little tobacco, had an instantaneous effect on their spirits, and caused them to dance for joy. They were just able to make the party understand that their names were *Jacob* and *Jeptha*, and that they had been disciples of the two missionaries above-mentioned.

Pursuing their journey over these dreary and desolate plains, where few living creatures except a *quacha*, a *hartebeest*, or an ostrich were occasionally seen browsing at a distance, the party arrived on the evening of the 23d at a brack or saltish river, where they pitched their tents for the night. Here they were again accosted by a solitary Bosjesman, who called himself *Wildboy*, indicating by signs, for not a creature could comprehend the meaning of a single syllable he uttered, that he was extremely hungry. Having ordered as much food to be given to him as was sufficient to satisfy the craving of his appetite, he stole away in the course of the night, and they saw no more of him.

At a little distance from the next halting place, the *Lion's fontein*, one of the party had the good fortune to shoot a *quacha* of a larger size than what any of the boors had ever recollected to have seen, of which Mr. Daniell made a very accurate drawing. It was the first wild quadruped they had procured. In the midst of so extensive and dreary a desert they were not a little surprized, though by no means an unusual thing, to meet with a Dutch boor of the name of *Kok*,

who, with a waggon and his whole family, his slaves, his Hottentots, his cattle and his sheep, was travelling leisurely from the Orange river towards the skirts of the colony. The disinclination of these people to establish themselves on a particular spot, and to live in any sort of comfort, is very remarkable, and can only be explained on the principle of an irresistible charm which unbounded liberty and unrestrained possession exert on the human mind, and which operates most powerfully on him who has never known the pleasures of social life. It is a well known fact, that numbers of the French officers in America, led by the impulse of this principle, retired into the Indian settlements, threw aside their clothing, painted and tatoed their bodies and became, in every respect, savages of a much worse description than the natives, by uniting with their new condition all the vices of civilized life. To rove about the desert wilds of Africa, to harass and destroy the harmless natives, to feast on game procured by their Hottentots, and to sleep and loiter away the day while jolting in his waggon, are to the Dutch boor among the most exquisite pleasures he is capable of enjoying. By indolence and gluttony, from the effects of a good climate and a free exposure to air, these people usually grow to a monstrous size; and if suffered to continue their present uncontrolled mode of life, they may ultimately give birth to a race of Patagonians on the southern extremity of Africa, not inferior in stature to their tall brethren on the opposite coast of America.

Continuing their journey on the 28th and 29th over a rugged country and a constant succession of hills, whose surfaces were strewed with a greater abundance of stones.

than of vegetation and on which two or three of their waggons broke down, they were under the necessity of halting on both nights, without finding the least grass or any kind of food for the cattle and without a drop of water. This hilly part of the country was called by the boors the *Karree bergen*. From the feet of these hills a plain of vast extent stretched out to the northward, of a nature altogether different from the Karroo desert over which they had just passed : the latter being a solid bed of clay on which little vegetation appears, except a few straggling weak and sickly succulent plants ; but the former was thickly covered with long withered grass. On the skirts of this plain our travellers observed at a distance a party of natives intending apparently to approach them. It consisted of eight persons, some partially covered with skins, and others naked ; but all of them armed with bows in their hands, quivers on their backs, and arrows stuck in a fillet bound round the head forming a kind of coronet. Having advanced pretty near the waggons they stopped short ; and on being beckoned to come forwards, they made signs, by pointing to the ground, that somebody should first go to them. Accordingly some of the party proceeded towards them, on which they betrayed evident marks of fear. They were presented with some lacquered brass medallions, a couple of grenadiers' caps, a few gilt rings, a little tobacco and, as they appeared to be greatly in want of food, with a whole sheep, which they immediately killed by cutting the throat ; and having divided it among them in shares as nearly equal as they could contrive, including both the skin and the entrails, they walked off with great satisfaction. Shortly after this three others of the same tribe made their appearance ; but all the endeavours of the

The near resemblance of some species of the animals of Africa to others, the participation of the same qualities or the same external form and appearance, the frequent introduction to Greece and Rome of animals that were unknown before, gave rise to the maxim that "Africa was always producing something new." And the reasoning employed for explaining this fertile source of novelty is recorded by Pliny in his Natural History. "*Africa hæc maximè spectat, inopia aquarum ad paucos annes congregantibus se feris. Ideo multiformes ibi animalium partus, variè faminis cujusque generis mares aut vi aut voluptate miscentes. Unde etiam vulgare Græciæ dictum, semper aliquid novi Africa afferre.*" Thus the leopard was supposed to be the mixed breed of a lion and a panther; the *giraffe*, of the camel and the leopard; the *quacha*, of the *zebra* and the ass. And although this opinion has long been set aside, and the fact fully established, that animals in a state of nature will never violate the laws of nature, and that, although hybrids are sometimes produced, no new race can be propagated even by the arts of domestication, the opinion was at least entitled to as much respect as the conjecture of a celebrated French naturalist, that the branching horns of the stag might originally have been produced by the new moulding of the branches of trees on which he feeds. Had this whimsical theory, worthy the adoption of the Darwinian doctrine, (stolen in fact chiefly from Buffon,) been actually realized, the scarcity of trees in Africa might be offered as a satisfactory explanation of the want of stags on this continent; not a single deer with branched horns being known to exist between the Mediter-

anean and the Cape of Good Hope, a tract of country embracing both the torrid and the temperate climates.

On the 14th the party struck off to the north-westward, travelling over a country tolerably well clothed with grass and frutescent plants, and abounding with *quachas*, *pallas*, *hartbeests*, and a great number of wild buffalos; and in the evening they arrived at a village of *Booshuanas*, consisting of about forty houses, situated upon the banks of the *Kourmanna* river, which as far as the eye could reach were beautifully skirted with large trees, the most remarkable and the most abundant of which was the mimosa of the *camelopardalis*. The following day they fell in with the missionary Edwards who, with his wife and family accompanied by his half-cast companion and assistant Jan Kok and a few Hottentot attendants, were rambling about the country, apparently without any determinate object. One of the Hottentots was still smarting under the recent wounds received from a lion, which he had the misfortune to encounter, and from whose voracious fangs his escape was little less than miraculous. Having observed the fresh traces of a lion's paws leading into the kraal where his master's sheep were pent up by night, the Hottentot had placed what the Dutch call a *stell-roer* or trap-gun in the passage leading into the kraal, with a view to destroy this nightly despoiler. The following morning, on going to the spot, he found the gun discharged and, from the quantity of blood sprinkled on the ground, concluded that the contents must have been lodged in the body of the animal. Following the traces of blood on the

ground, he incautiously approached too near to a neighbouring thicket, out of which, before he had time to present his musket, the wounded lion burst forth and, pouncing upon the poor Hottentot, laid him flat on the ground with a single pat of his paw. The royal brute bestrode the Hottentot with great composure and, as if conscious of having obtained his enemy within his clutches, seemed to be determined to prolong the sweet delight of revelling in his revenge. According to the poor fellow's statement, he pawed him just as a kitten is wont to play with a mouse; and that whenever he attempted to stir, he was sure to receive what the lion might consider a gentle tap, but which, however, generally carried away with it a piece of flesh. Both his arms, indeed, had been lacerated in a shocking manner by this lion's play, with which he continued to amuse himself and to torment his vanquished enemy for a considerable length of time, without the least apparent intention of speedily making a meal of him. The master of the Hottentot, having by accident discovered the traces of blood, followed them to the scene of action and, casting his eyes to the spot, saw with terror the critical situation of his Hottentot. He possessed, however, sufficient presence of mind to level his piece and, taking a cool and steady aim, he shot the lion dead upon the Hottentot; the skin of which he carried with him as a trophy of one of the most fortunate but critical shots that perhaps was ever made as, had he missed his aim, his own fate was involved in that of the Hottentot.

Continuing their journey along the banks of the *Kourmanna* river, they passed a succession of *Booshuana* villages, plea-

santly situated among groves of the umbrella-like mimosa. On every side was abundance of large game, as *pallas*, *springboks*, and ostriches whose eggs occasionally supplied them with an agreeable repast. On the 17th they arrived at the large village of *Patanie*, the residence of the *Boothuana* chief *Serakootie*, brother of *Moolihaban*. Having approached too near the town before they perceived that the waggons were passing over garden grounds and fields planted with corn, which was at this time a considerable height above the surface, they turned back and pitched their tents on the bank of the river. *Serakootie* presently came down to welcome their arrival; but while he endeavoured to express the pleasure he felt on the occasion, he could not forbear remarking that their having first advanced to the town and then retired to encamp at a distance from it seemed to betray a suspicion on their part, which was by no means favourable to the good opinion and confidence which he had hoped his brother's conduct would have inspired towards him. Their motive, however, was soon explained to his perfect satisfaction. He introduced the party to his family, which consisted of four wives and five children, loaded them with civilities during their stay, supplying the whole expedition with as much milk as it could make use of. The village was pleasantly situated on the rising banks of the *Kourmanna* river, which they now discovered to be a branch of the *Gariep* or Orange river. It consisted of about fifty houses, of the same kind, but not quite so well built, as those of *Leetakoo*.

A remarkable change of temperature took place during one of the days the party remained at this village. At three

o'clock in the afternoon the mercury of Fahrenheit stood at 97° in the shade; and the same evening, at eight, it was down to 62°. The weather was now generally too hot for the exposure and the exertion which hunting requires; but the larger kinds of game are at such times proportionably tamer, and they were not therefore prevented from continuing this diversion. In the neighbourhood of *Patanie* a party of sportsmen killed an old stallion and a mare of the large yellowish-coloured *quacha*, striped over the whole body, and precisely the same as that above described; which may be considered as a corroborative proof of this animal being a distinct species of the horse kind, and not merely a variety of the common *quacha*. The same party brought home also a couple of the *palla* antelopes.

On the 21st, as they proceeded on the journey, a large bull buffalo was shot near the waggons. The face of the country was now literally covered with game, among which a new and remarkable animal presented itself. The head resembled that of a cow, but the body and legs were those of an antelope. The *Booshuanas* called it the *Takheitsé*, or, as the Hottentots interpreted the name, the *Wicked Creature*. Being remarkably swift, they did not succeed in obtaining an individual of this species; but Mr. Daniell, it seems, took great pains to get near enough to one of them to make a drawing, of which he has given a representation in his valuable and interesting publication of African scenery and animals. It seems this creature is very dangerous to approach when wounded, and particularly so in the rutting season, when the *Booshuanas* are extremely careful not to

come too near them. They are represented indeed to be so wild and ferocious, that this people seldom venture to attack them like other deer with the *hassagai*, but take them generally by digging pits in the ground and covering them over with sticks and earth. This animal appeared to be near five feet high, the colour a cinereous blue, and shape not unlike that of the *Nil-ghau* of India, the *Antelope picta*. Its mane is black, long, and flowing over each shoulder; its beard is long and pointed; the tail short and naked; the horns from fifteen to eighteen inches long, pointing backwards, and bent into a circular curve, embracing about a fifth part of a whole circumference, annulated from the root to about two thirds of the length. Several of these horns were brought by the party to the Cape. The *Takheitsé* is generally found in pairs, and when disturbed they usually take to the wooded heights, which were here very finely covered with the common mimosa and that on which the *camelopardalis* feeds. Numbers of both kinds were loaded with the nests of the gregarious finch.

The woods and thickets being well stocked with buffalos, whose flesh is savoury and good and hide particularly valuable to the boors, as being the best and toughest for traces and other waggon furniture, a party went out with a determination to spend the day in the chase after these huge animals. They presently started a whole herd, and at the first volley succeeded in bringing down a large cow. The herd dispersing in every direction, three of an enormous size with a young calf were observed to rush into a thicket close to the spot where the waggons and the tents were placed. Daniell the secretary and Schultz the overseer of the waggons having marked the

exact spot where they had retreated for shelter and, thinking the opportunity too favourable to allow them to escape, crept close to the thicket with their dogs and their muskets. Schultz having the same day shot an ostrich had ornamented his hat with its waving plumes. Elate with the hope of success, he hastened without stopping towards the opening into which the animals had retired, when suddenly, and quite unexpectedly to him, a huge bull buffalo came rushing out of the thicket and, eyeing for a moment the white plume waving in his hat, bolted directly towards him. Schultz petrified with fear remained motionless on the spot; and the buffalo, taking him up on the points of his horns, tossed him over his head many feet into the air, from whence he fell among the branches of a thorny mimosa. Daniell, having observed the fate of his companion, had just time enough to escape a similar encounter by climbing into a tree. The buffalo being baited by the dogs, and observing the whole party coming up, thought fit to retire. Poor Schultz returned to the waggons, bloody, pale, and almost lifeless with terror; persisting, however, that he was not in the least hurt nor intimidated at what had happened; but while he was speaking he fainted, and it was several days before he recovered from the effects of his wounds and his fright. This, says Mr. Truter, was the last attempt he made to be thought a sportsman, having now learned by experience that it was not the province of every one to turn buffalo hunter.

On this occasion the buffalo, as well as the lion which bestrode the Hottentot, seems to have been actuated by a sense of injury and a spirit of retaliation. The elephant,

which is perhaps the mildest of all large animals, appears likewise, when provoked, to be more prone to resentment than those of the most ferocious disposition. Of the great sagacity and reasoning powers of this animal very extraordinary stories have been related, from the time of Pliny down to Buffon; some of which may perhaps be true, but many of them are notoriously false. An instance, however, of the vindictive spirit of the elephant occurred to some Dutch boors, who travelled to the eastward in search of the place where the Grosvenor Indiaman was cast away, which is remarkable in this respect, and the authenticity of which cannot be called in question. This animal, after having received into his body several large musket balls, and twice fallen on the ground, crept with difficulty into a thick thorny coppice. "Conceiving him to be done for," says Jacob Van Reenen, "Tjaart Vander Walt, Lodewyk Prins, and Ignatius Mulder, "rode up to the thicket; when, rushing furiously out from "his hiding-place, he lashed his proboscis round the body of "Prins who was on horseback, dragged him off to the "ground, and trod him to death; then driving one of his "tusks into his body, he threw him to the height of thirty "feet into the air. The other two dismounting hid themselves in the thicket. The elephant looking round him "and perceiving only the horse of Vander Walt began to "follow it, but, presently turning about, walked up to the "spot where the corpse of Prins was lying. At this instant "our whole party renewed the attack, when, after receiving "several bullets, he again escaped into the thicket. Thinking that we should now see no more of him, we began to "dig a grave for our unfortunate companion, when the "elephant, again rushing furiously upon us, drove the whole

“ party away, and remained triumphant over the dead body.
“ At the distance of an hundred paces Tjaart Vander Walt
“ put a bullet into his carcase, after which we all fired, when,
“ having staggered for some time, he fell to the ground and
“ was put to death by the Hottentots.” These natives pretend to say that whenever an elephant is provoked to kill his enemy, he tears the carcase in pieces and devours it: at least, such is their conclusion, as no vestige of the remains is ever found on the spot. Perhaps, however, it is more consistent to suppose that he carries it away to some place of concealment. It is a common observation that, numerous as these animals are in many parts of Southern Africa, neither the tusks nor any part of their skeletons are ever found above ground, which has led to the conclusion that the elephants must bury their dead. Vander Kemp is inclined to believe the fact to be true. One of his party having shot an elephant, they went the following morning with a view of taking out its tusks, when they found from fifteen to twenty of these animals busily employed in removing the dead corpse with their snouts.

On the 25th the expedition fell in with a party of Bosjesmans, accompanied by their women and children, who drove along with them a few small spotted goats. These were the first party of this wretched race of men they had met with who possessed any living property. They gave them, as usual, a little food and tobacco, when they proceeded quietly on their journey. As the part of the country they were now in was better covered than is commonly the case with good sweet grass, they determined to halt for twenty-four hours, in order to

refresh their way-worn cattle. And as the plains abounded with the *camelopardalis*, almost the whole party resolved to make a day's sport, in order to procure, if possible, one or more of these extraordinary creatures. In the course of the day they saw and chased a great number, some alone and others in herds of five or six; but all their exertions were in vain, and they were obliged to quit the field without killing a single beast, though several were supposed to be wounded. One of the party, however, shot a rhinosceros of an extraordinary size. It measured from the head to the root of the tail ten feet seven inches, and its height exceeded five feet six inches. But its size was less the subject of remark than the peculiarity of its horns, which were pretty nearly of the same length; whereas in the common rhinosceros of Southern Africa the upper horn is a mere stump of about six inches in length. This variety of the two-horned rhinosceros is called by the *Booshuanas* the *Jeckloa*, and the common kind, of which the party killed one the following day on the *Magaaga* or Iron Mountain, the *Mogoué*. Here also they fell in with several of the *Kokoon*, the *palla*, and the common *gnoo*, beside a number of *hartebeests* and *springboks*. *Quachas* and *eland*s were equally plentiful in this part of the country, of the latter of which three large bulls were shot by one of the Hottentots in the course of the day.

Keeping to the westward of their former track, and travelling over a country abundantly rich in almost every species of wild quadruped that frequents the plains of Africa, but almost destitute of a human being, except a few miserable Bosjesmen, who in parties of three or four, but never exceed-

ing eight, occasionally approached the waggon, and always with great timidity, they arrived on the 7th at a *Kora* village, on the northern bank of the Orange river, where they found these civil creatures, who had been apprized of their return, all collected and prepared with their pack oxen to give the expedition every assistance in its passage across the river. Here they again fell in with the missionary Kicherer, from whose opinion, corroborated by that of the *Koras*, they were induced to believe that by making a journey to the north-westward, along the banks of the river, of twelve or fourteen days, to the horde of a well-known character of the *Bastaard* race named Kok, they had a fair prospect of collecting a very considerable number of cattle. They therefore determined to make this deviation from the direct route and, if practicable, to return by the *Namaqua* country, along the western coast of Africa. In order, however, to lessen the consumption of provisions, and at the same time to get rid of a real incumbrance, they resolved to discharge from the service of the expedition all the Dutch boors which had joined them in the Roggeveld, and to depend in future entirely on the Hottentots. These boors had not been of the least service in any respect, from the first day they joined the expedition; but, on the contrary, were the cause of perpetual vexations. They were indolent, disobedient, refractory, and discontented; and so cowardly that, in the event of meeting with hostile tribes, they never could be looked on as any protection. They shewed even an aversion to their favourite occupation of shooting game, for no other reason but because they perceived it would be a gratification to the commissioners. As the absence of such people could neither

be attended with regret nor disadvantage, a sufficient portion of provisions to carry them across the Karroo desert into the Roggeveld was allotted to them, and they were finally dismissed from the employ of the commission.

It was not till the 28th January that the river had sufficiently subsided to allow the waggons to pass with safety; and they had scarcely reached the opposite shore till it again swelled several feet in depth, though not a shower of rain had fallen; and the current continued to flow with such violence that they had very little prospect of again speedily crossing it, which, however, was necessary to be done at this place, to enable them to proceed on their intended journey. The *Kora* Hottentots, therefore, set to work in felling down trees, for the purpose of constructing rafts to float over the waggons; and they were proceeding with great activity and considerable skill in forwarding these rafts, when a ford was discovered a little lower down the river. Here they effected a passage without accident; and before they reached the place of their destination, they were under the necessity of crossing this broad and rapid river not less than six times; the last of which they were in considerable danger of being swept away, by a sudden rise of the waters to the height of five or six feet.

A considerable variety of surface presented itself in the course of this journey, which was sometimes along the banks of the river, and at other times at a distance from it. The common mimosa was every where abundant; and some of these trees were so much loaded with the straw-built edifices