

TRAVELS

IN THE

INTERIOR

OF

SOUTHERN AFRICA,

BY

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VOLUME I.



WITH AN ENTIRELY NEW MAP, AND NUMEROUS ENGRAVINGS.

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the north-eastern angle of False Bay, whence it is readily supplied with excellent fish.

9th. After an early breakfast, we mounted our horses, and almost immediately commenced the ascent which leads to the pass called *Hottentot-Holland Kloof*. At the first part of it, the road is not very steep, but as soon as the traveller enters the hollow way of the *Roode Hoogte** (the Red Heights,) the difficulty of the ascent begins. This is a lower hill forming the foot of the mountain, and composed of a hard, barren, reddish, clayey, ferruginous earth, into which the road, towards its summit, is cut down to the depth of, perhaps, twenty feet. After this he has to climb the rocky mountain itself, and will not, without some surprise, behold loaded waggons ascending and descending so steep and frightful a road; nor will he, without a compassionate feeling for the oxen, witness their toil and labor, carried to the very utmost of their strength: sometimes encouraged by good words, at other times terrified into exertion by the blows of the *shambok*, the loud crack of the whip, the smart of its lash, or the whoop and noisy clamour of the boor and his Hottentots. All this cannot be entirely avoided; and it is alone the perilous nature of such passes, which reduces the boor to the necessity of acting with harshness towards these useful animals: in general, the farmer knows too well the value of his oxen, wantonly to ill-treat them. The danger in which both oxen and waggon are placed while passing the mountains, renders the utmost care and vigilance indispensable. For, should they become restive, and deviate from the proper road, or obstinately refuse to draw, the waggon would be thrown down the precipice, dragging them, and perhaps the driver also, along with it to inevitable destruction. We met several waggons coming down, all of which were heavily laden.

The *shambok*, here mentioned, is a strip, three feet or more in length, of the hide either of a hippopotamus or of a rhinoceros,

* Which words are, according to the Cape dialect, pronounced as an Englishman would read *Ro'ly Hoaghter*.

Rhinoceros) *river*. The animal from which it takes the name, is becoming every day more scarce in this part of the country, and indeed, is at present rarely to be met with. It is fond of inhabiting an open, dry country, such as this is, abundant in low bushes; but the advances of the colonists, and their destructive huntings, have alarmed, and driven, it more into the interior of the continent.

The inhabitants of this district, when in want of resin, use as a substitute, a gum which exudes from different species of shrubs*; which they therefore call *Harpuis bosch* (Resin bush). Of this gum, a considerable quantity might be collected.

In the evening we arrived at *Kuilenberg* (Pit Mountain), probably so named from some holes or hollows, where water may generally be found; for, in dry countries, any circumstance relating to water, is of sufficient importance to distinguish that place. Thus it is that the Dutch word *Fontein* is made such liberal use of in every part of the Colony: the Hottentot word *Kamma* (water,) is not less frequently found in the composition of the aboriginal names.

In taking possession of the farm-house here, we disturbed a number of sparrows † which are said to be a troublesome bird to farmers, and well deserving the name they have given it, of *Koornoreeter* (Corn-eater). It has very much the manners of the common domestic sparrow of Europe, and seems also to

* Species of *Othonna*, one of which is, perhaps, the *Othonna trifida* of Thunberg.

The botany of this day's journey was distinguished by

Relbania paleacea

Othonna trifida

Heliophila pubescens. C. G. 1334.

Mesembryanthemum campestre. C. G.

1340. Sesquipedale erectum. Flores

rosei. Affine *M. pulchello*, Haworthii.

Limosella cœrulea. C. G. 1341. Planta

pollicaris. Flos cœruleus

Trichonema tortuosa, B.

Grimmia campestris. C. G. 1344. 2.

Tortula recurvata. C. G. 1344. 4.

Hujus et precedentis, figuram dedit

† *Fringilla arcuata*

Hooker in opere suo pulcherrimo
de Muscis Exoticis.

Lanipila. C. G. 1336. Genus *Cotula*
affine. Nomen à *lana* et *pila*; ob
semina lanâ involuta, et in capitulo
spherico conglomerata.

Eriocephalus

Pteronia

Oxalis

Androcymbium

Tillæa

Erinus.

to interrupt the text, short descriptions of them are added in the notes. These descriptions, however, are not intended as specific characters, but are given merely as the more obvious or striking features, in order to convey to the zoologist or botanist some idea of the more remarkable objects. Neither was it thought requisite, in the present work at least, to adopt every innovation in nomenclature which, since the travels were commenced, these sciences have from time to time undergone. These collections consist of above sixty three thousand objects, inclusive of the duplicates, in every department of the science. Out of two hundred and eighty nine quadrupeds shot on the journey, a hundred and twenty skins, comprising eighty species, were preserved. The collection of birds contains two hundred and sixty-five different kinds. In addition to these results of the expedition, are about five hundred drawings, the subjects of which are landscapes, portraits, costume, zoology, botany, and a variety of other objects.

The author's views in travelling, were not confined to any particular class of observation. As it was general knowledge which he sought, so he has endeavoured to extend his researches to whatever appeared likely to afford interesting information ; but in a country still in a state of nature, and where art has done so little, the works of the creation, ever delightful to all but those of a corrupt and depraved mind, necessarily present themselves the most frequently to notice. In the second volume, however, the investigation of man in an uncivilized state of society, will be found to offer to the contemplation of the philosopher, a picture not altogether undeserving of attention, if the writer should be able by words to communicate to others those feelings which he himself experienced, and those impressions which his abode among the natives of the interior of Africa, has made upon his own mind.