

TRAVELS
IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA,

IN THE YEARS 1803, 1804, 1805, AND 1806,



BY

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UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN; MEMBER OF SEVERAL LEARNED SOCIETIES; AND
FORMERLY IN THE DUTCH SERVICE AT THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

TRANSLATED FROM THE ORIGINAL GERMAN,

BY

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pleased with this arrangement, as it gave me an opportunity of putting my various collections into some order, and of packing them more securely. The Commissary-general employed these hours of leisure in visiting some other places in the district, and went on the first of November, accompanied by some of his train, and the Field-Cornet Louw, to Oorlogskloof,* the abode of the latter, seven hours farther northward, on the bank of the greater Doorn-river. In his way he stopped at the houses of several persons lying at a short distance from the road; and notwithstanding the poverty that reigned among them, he was received every where by the owners with expressions of the greatest pleasure, and with all the politeness which their situations would admit of.

The evenings and nights that we passed here were very cold, and the thermometer sunk to 3° by Reaumur. One night there was a strong hoar frost, a thing never experienced at the Cape, even in the middle of winter: this is owing to the height of the country in these mountainous regions. In another part of my work, when my readers are made thoroughly acquainted with the nature of the country in all its parts, I shall take an opportunity of dwelling more diffusely upon the differences of the climate in different districts.

Our host remembered with much gratitude the excellent Thunberg, who visited him in the year 1775, and to whose cares and skill he owed the life of a son then very dangerously ill: the youth recovered entirely, and is still living. As a particular curiosity, he shewed us a goblet, made of the little horn of an African rhinoceros, which, as he assured us, had the property, if a liquid poison was put into it, of changing its nature entirely by a strong fermentation, which takes off the noxious quality, so that it may be drank without any danger. It was in vain that I endeavoured to persuade the worthy man how erroneous, and even dangerous, was such a belief: it seemed to be the universal popular creed, and was not to be shaken.†

* Oorlogskloof, the War-valley, so called because of a combat which once took place here with the Bosjesmans. This place is the most northern of the district. Directly beyond it begins the inhospitable country of the Namaaquas.

† In the first volume of a collection of travels published at Leipsic in 1748, it is said, that the Malays consider the rhinoceros as the female of the unicorn; and it is added that they value their horns very highly, as an antidote against all sorts of poison. It is very probable that this superstition was introduced into the colony of the Cape by the Malay slaves.

the colonists to be more diligent in seeking resources within themselves; that they must now be under the necessity of making improvements in the rearing of cattle, to compensate the loss of the supplies derived from the chase. I cannot, however, abstain from remarking, that the ground on which Mr. Barrow condemns this practice, can never, as it appears to me, be maintained, and that he rests his corollary entirely upon false assumptions. In my later journeys, when I went beyond the boundaries of the colony, I was fully convinced that there was a super-abundance of wild game all over the country, which the Bosjesmans, from their natural indolence, and from the imperfect nature of their arms, are by no means in a situation to make use of as an object of advantage to themselves. Nay, I have myself heard them complain of the discontinuance of these hunting parties, since they were, they said, beneficial to them, as they got the refuse, that is to say, the head, the feet, and the entrails of the animals, for their portion. It is, however, I again repeat, right that the possible mischief which might arise from this practice should be prevented.

The district in which the elands had been killed was still, as Louw told us, inhabited by the rhinoceros, and he had himself, in the course of his life, dispatched several of these creatures. Their flesh is commonly given entirely to the savages, who consider it as a particular dainty; and such a present is the more acceptable, since they cannot, with their weak arrows, pierce the thick hide by which the monster is defended. The skin is the only thing valuable to the colonists, to cut into strips for making the driving whips known here by the Malay name of *Schamboks*. As these whips will always sell for two, three, or even four shillings, a rhinoceros amply repays the powder and ball necessary for killing him. X

The Hartbeestfontein is a very fertile spot, and affords plenty of good feed for cattle. Louw keeps two hundred horses, three thousand sheep, four hundred goats, and a great number of horned cattle. A very neat nice young wife, and five stout, healthy children complete his domestic happiness; while his cheerful, contented spirit, and frank integrity of mind, render him worthy of all they can bestow.

We found the cold again here pretty severe at night, though the thermometer rose in the day to twenty degrees by Reaumur. In the winter months

On the other side of the river also appeared a whole society, and all the men with very little hesitation waded through the water to us; but the women were too modest to come over in sight of our people. They went some way up the river to a place which was indeed deeper, but where they could cross without being seen. Among these latter were several young girls, apparently from fourteen to eighteen years of age; some of them were really handsome. Their pleasing appearance, and the cheerful demeanour of the whole party, made the intercourse, on this occasion, more lively and animated than any we had yet had with the Caffres. Our interpreter had great difficulty in following the conversation with the same spirit and animation that it was carried on. The girls seemed to assume confidence at every moment, and amused us exceedingly with their vivacity and *naïveté*, in which nothing was more striking than that, notwithstanding their almost unrestrained mirth, they never transgressed the bounds of the strictest decorum. They particularly admired our ladies, and were never weary with examining, and expressing their astonishment at, their fair complexions and fine long hair.

In the evening we found our camp ready prepared at about an hour's distance, still upon the bank of the river, which, having taken a remarkable bend, was here running almost due east. We had again a number of Caffre visitors at the camp, followers of Jaluhsa, and not more scrupulous of begging than our guests of the day before. They were more than a hundred, who all wanted to barter their ornaments and other trifles for tobacco, pieces of copper, and buttons. We could get any thing of theirs in exchange for these articles, but the buttons in particular served as a sort of money by which the price of every thing was regulated. A cow was valued at thirty coat buttons.

Our farther route was very pleasant, over a broad gently sloping hill, overspread from top to bottom with a number of shrubs and trees beautifully in blow, particularly mimosas. The road had been cut through these shrubs, but was again half overgrown. Our guide assured us that before the invasion of the Caffres this place swarmed with elephants, rhinoceroses, and buffalos; traces of these animals were indeed still every where to be discovered. We stopped about half way in our day's journey to take some refreshment, and soon after, as we proceeded onwards, found the Hottentot who had been sent

The next morning, as we were about to depart, a Caffre came to us to search for two boys who had stolen to the camp, attracted by eager curiosity. After he had received from us some meat and bread, he took them away with him. The lads, however, escaped again, and in the evening came once more to our camp, because, as they said, they liked better being with the Christians than at home. As there was no means of sending them back, we kept them with us, expecting that the father would come for them a second time; it was not, however, till the third day that he did so: he had been seeking for his children all that time without having any thing to eat.

We passed to-day the Nieuwejaarsdrift and the Blackwater-river, and stopped for the night at a place called Dirkskraal. Some of our hunters brought home with them most excellent wild honey. This night the hyænas came absolutely into our camp, and scattered our sheep all about: most of them were retrieved in the morning: three only had become a prey to the marauders: a fourth we were obliged to drive on with his tail bitten and still bleeding.

We saw here fresh traces of rhinoceroses in abundance, and found on the road a tolerably perfect skull of one of these creatures. The country was here again arid and uniform; it is the same to which Sparrmann gives the now forgotten name of Quammedakka. We found through the whole day only one little wood of portularias, cactuses, and guiacums; it afforded us but a trifling shade from the heat of the mid-day sun, yet it was the best spot we could find to stop and take our usual rest.

In the evening we arrived upon the bank of the little Fish-river, where our camp was pitched. This river is commonly dry in the summer, but was now tolerably full of water, in consequence of the heavy thunder-showers which had lately fallen in Agterbruintjeshoogte. Rensburg had here the melancholy intelligence, that at his farm there, the harvest, which was standing in sheaves in the field, and which he expected to yield him, at least, three hundred and fifty bushels of corn, had been entirely scattered by the bursting of one of these clouds. One of his neighbours, by name Van Aart, had three thousand three hundred sheep drowned at the same time; and in another house a child in a cradle was floated away by the torrent, while the elder children with difficulty saved themselves by climbing up to the rafters of the house. All these catastrophes happened on the same day that we had the terrible storm

and cloaks to the branches of the mimosas, so as to form an awning, which shaded us tolerably well from the burning rays of the sun. The prospect of the broad and tolerably well-filled river, shaded by willows, which we could see to a considerable distance each way, from the high bank where we had placed ourselves, was the only sight which could make us forget for a moment the aridity and inhospitality of the country through which we were travelling.

In order to reach Hermannuskraal that day, we could only allow ourselves a short rest at this place, and still had eight hours more to travel, the latter part of the way by moonlight, before our task was accomplished. It was half past ten when we arrived there. Before it was dark we had come through a little mountain pass, which is here called the Israelitish-kloof. In this pass there are several graves of Hottentots heaped over with large stones. These the first colonists who inhabited this part of the country, in pious simplicity, determined to be monuments made by the children of Israel, who had journeyed through the country during their wanderings in the desert; and thence they gave the place the name which it bears.

It was evident here, from the more luxurious vegetation, that we were drawing nearer to the sea-coast. The country was grown over with bushes and succulent plants, between which were many footpaths winding about, and crossing in every direction, made by the wild animals in going to and from the river. The rhinoceros is very frequently to be seen in these parts, and is often hunted by the colonists of Camdeboo and Agtebruintjeshoogte. This animal is one of the most dangerous to travellers by night, since he rushes forwards impetuously with blind rage at every noise of which he is informed by his acute hearing, or at every object betrayed to him by his more acute smell. Examples have been known of these monsters running by night against a waggon, and overturning it, trampling down and destroying both that and all the oxen attached to it. As there were in many places fresh traces of them to be seen in our route this day, it was judged prudent in the evening to put the strongest of our young Africans in front, since, from being more experienced, they would be better able, if necessary, to encounter such a danger.

Our waggons did not arrive at their destination till some hours later than ourselves. But notwithstanding its being so late, we were all glad to get a

ourselves to live for some days entirely upon animal food, and to suffer our cattle to run the hazard of being reduced to want, still it seemed by no means certain that the irresolution and hesitation of the Caffres might not require a farther and farther delay, which would place us in a very awkward predicament.

The Commissary-general, therefore, sent back the King's messenger, charged to say to him that to the Dutch nation, and to the government of the colony, nothing was so sacred as their promise; that he had himself punctually complied with all that had been desired of him, and it was not without concern that he found the King not adhering to his word. He had expected him to have shewn more respect for the Dutch nation, and for the Regent of the colony, a man double his own age. He should certainly at present return into his own domains, but he should not the less be always the sincere friend of all peaceable well-disposed Caffres. He was extremely concerned not to have seen and talked with Geika, and have given him the presents which he had intended for him. He expected the King would act mildly towards his conquered enemies, and would take all possible precautions to prevent the peace of the colony being disturbed.

The messenger seemed altogether astonished and embarrassed at being the bearer of such a message, and summoned all his little eloquence to his aid to exculpate his master to the Commissary-general, and to prevail upon him to delay his departure yet a few days: but as he saw that a beginning was already made in breaking up the camp, and that the resolution to depart was therefore irrevocable, he forbore to say any thing more than that this answer would afflict the King beyond measure, and he should not know how to deliver it to him.

He was then hospitably regaled, and some provisions were given him for his journey back, after which he departed, having first seen the vanguard of our caravan set off. We, ourselves, commenced our journey immediately after him, and arrived at night at the spot on the side of the Great Fish-river, where, some days before, we had taken a short rest at noon.

- In our route we met a large rhinoceros, but frightened at the sight of our cavalcade, and at the cracking of our waggons' long whips, he hastened away, and was in vain followed by some of our jägers. His back rose

above the bushes, and we could see him for a considerable time running with almost inconceivable swiftness. It is scarcely possible to overtake one of these animals when he flies, or even to pursue him, for he treads down all the shrubs and bushes that oppose him with the utmost facility, while they are sufficient entirely to stop a man and horse. He is, therefore, seldom pursued in the open field, but the hunter steals into a thicket, where he lurks against the wind, and seeks out the animal, who sees as ill, as he hears and smells well, and gets so near that a shot may be reasonably expected to hit him. The distance at which the aim is taken is about thirty paces, and the part aimed at is the eye, the only one where the skin and the bones are thin enough for the ball to force its way through to the brain.

If the aim is missed, the animal commonly rushes raging forwards, searching for the offender, and if he sees or smells him, he bends his head to the ground, closes his eyes, and pushes on with his horn upon the ground. It is then easy to escape from him, by stepping nimbly aside, and sliding by the animal, who still pushes with rage onwards; but attention must always be had to keep on the side against the wind, so that the animal may not catch the scent. I have seen rhinoceros hunters who have assured me that they have contended in this way with one of the monsters for four hours together, till his rage was at last quite spent, and he was easily killed. The most common manner of hunting these creatures, and all large animals from whom resistance is to be apprehended, is to watch them on a moonlight night to the places where they go down to the rivers to drink, and there lurk among rocks or bushes, where they must come so near that the shot cannot miss.

We followed entirely the same route in our return as that by which we had gone, and on the thirtieth of January arrived late in the evening at the Modderfontein, after having gone through a very fatiguing journey of sixty-eight hours. In the latter part of our way, however, we had the pleasure of witnessing some farther good effects arising from the train of negotiation which had been so long carrying on, and this, combined with what we previously knew, gave good reason to hope that the end proposed would at length be completely obtained. As we encamped, for the last night, not far from the Zuuré Velden, we remarked, on the heights around, abundance of fires, such as are customary to be made by night among the Caffres when

APPENDIX.



*Remarks upon the Language of the Koossus, accompanied by a
Vocabulary of their Words.*

THERE is no doubt but that the situation of a savage nation, the degree of civilization which exists in it, and above all, the relationship which it bears with other nations, can never be accurately understood, and properly estimated, without a competent knowledge of its language;—without understanding equally the mode of pronouncing it, its structure, and its compass. The number of wants and ideas existing among a people, whether that number be great or small, as well as their relative situation with the countries by which they are surrounded, can never be so efficiently determined as by procuring a collection of their words, the mediums whereby those wants and ideas are expressed, and those relations are defined. But in order to render such a collection truly valuable, it must always be examined with a reference to the innate purposes for which language was given us, considering well the combinations and inflexions of words through which people arrive at a reciprocal exchange of ideas. The more arbitrary a language is, in the use and combination of words, the less it is reduced to fixed rules, so much the more vain appears the attempt to give a just idea of the manner of being, or of the minds of those by whom it is employed.

Among a people where no such things exist as the palpable signs of language, who lead beside a nomade life, and are divided into numerous tribes, at whose rise and fall new dialects arise and old ones are lost—among such a people the language has in it nothing permanent, it shares the fate of those by whom it is spoken, it changes without being improved. He, therefore, who would catch and describe the spirit of it has no easy task, especially if that man be a traveller who has only had an opportunity of knowing one of two of the tribes. The language of savages is never any thing more than a medium of communication among them; it cannot have any higher aim; it can hardly be said to have attained what is properly called spirit, and is therefore incapable of proving all that may be proved by the polished languages of Europe.

Nay, farther: let any one be ever so well acquainted with the language of a single Caffre tribe, he still cannot form an accurate judgment of the manners and modes of thinking among the people in general. This is not to be effected unless he has attained a competent knowledge of the neighbouring dialects, and found a medium whereby to compare what is permanent in each, with what

follows p. 383

APPENDIX.

The Belly	Össiéssó.
The Arm	Unkono.
The Elbow	Kúnehba.
The Hand	Isanga.
A Finger	Omnu.
The Fingers	Iminu.*
The Thumb	Isithuba.
A Nail	Iasipu.
The Hip-bone	Ingala.
The Thigh	Umensi.
The Knee	Idcolo.
The Ankle-bone	Ukong.
A Knuckle	Ökweele.
The Foot	Jénjáo.
The Heal	Istheende.
A Toe	Osowane.
The Toes	Ammasowane.
The Great-toe	Ubonsi, or Ithubjénjájé The Thumb of the Foot.

Names of Beasts. †

Game, or wild Animals in general	Sammakási.
A Baboon. (<i>Cynocephalus Ursinus</i>)	Imfene.
Green Ape. (<i>Cercopithecus Glauca</i>)	Imkáó.
Lion	Guinjáma.
Panther. (<i>Felis Pardus</i>)	Ingwa.
Leopard: (<i>Felis Jubata</i>) ‡	Ilósi.
Wild Cat. (<i>Felis</i>)	Booldlā.
Hyæna. (<i>Hyæna Crocuta</i>)	Unngjúka.
Jackall. (<i>Canis mesomelas</i>)	Punguh tje.

* Notwithstanding all the trouble I have taken, I have not been able to discover a determined rule for the formation of the plural. As I have observed in a former note, many plurals are formed by repeating the first syllable of the singular twice over; and *Amma* expresses a collective, but in the instance before us of *the fingers*, we do not find the plural formed in either way.

† I hope to render a trifling service to naturalists who may hereafter travel over Southern Africa, in giving here a list of names of the animals that inhabit the Caffre country, according to what they are called by the natives, with those assigned them in the scientific classification.

‡ Not the leopard of the system which is comprehended under *Felis pardus*, but what the colonists call *Leopard*.

APPENDIX.

Dog. (<i>Canis familiaris</i>).....	Inzja.
Bitch	Inzjakasi.
Red Weasel. (<i>Viverra Caffra</i>).....	Igála:
Honey Badger. - (<i>Gulo melleivorus</i>).....	Iliéhtse.
Pole-cat. (<i>Mustela Sorex</i>).....	Ikháka.
Civet-cat. (<i>Viverra Civetta</i>) *	Umpáku.
Elephant.....	Ungl'ovo.
Rhinoceros.....	Ukhomo.
River-horse. (Hippopotamos).....	Imfuhbu.
Horned Cattle in general.....	Inkómo.
A Bull	Kuhnsi.
A Cow.....	Komokási, or Maas.
An Ox	Kábi.
Cattle without Horns	Unkuva.
A Calf	Metólo, or Mathóla.
A young Calf	Kojána.
Lean Cattle.....	Inkomo-inilo.
Fat Cattle	Inkomootje-leicefood.
	Inkomo-ammafuta, †
Buffalo. (<i>Bos Capr</i>).....	Ureati.
Eland. (<i>Antilope orcas</i>).....	Umpoef. ‡
Blue-deer. (<i>Antilope leucophaea</i>)	Iputhi. §
Wood-deer. (<i>Antilope sylvatica</i>)	Babehla.
Roebuck. (<i>Antilope cinerea</i>)	Iliisa.
Reed-deer. (<i>Antilope syriaca</i>).....	P'huhnsi.
Red Roebuck, probably new.....	Nála.
Mountain Antelope. (<i>Antilope pygarga</i>)	Pade.
The Gazelle, the Duiker. (<i>Antilope grimmia</i>)	Puhnsi. ¶
The small Antelope, the Oribi, (<i>Antilope pygmaea</i>) ..	Jula.
A Ram	Inguhnsi.
An Ewe.....	Immfu-ingáni.
A Wether	Immfu.

* With regard to the different species of *Viverra* in Southern Africa great errors seem to exist, which, however, cannot here be set right.

† *Puta* signifies fat: also butter.

‡ Thence, probably, the name of *Empophos*, given to this animal by some writers.

§ According to the assertions of Vander Kemp, and of some other colonists, the blue-deer, which is now scarcely to be seen within the boundaries of the colony, still abounds in the Caffre country.

¶ The name of this deer differs only from that of the reed-deer by the aspiration of the first syllable. In pronouncing the latter *p'huhnsi* care must be taken to give the aspirate to the *h*, not to pronounce the word as if it began with *f*.

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APPENDIX.

No. 2.

Upon the Language of the Beetjuans.

ALTHOUGH this has been already mentioned as a dialect of the Koossa language, and that there is a striking resemblance in the radical words of both, yet the same differences are to be found as between two dialects of any European language. That of the Beetjuans is full-toned, soft, and pleasing to the ear; rich in simple sounds, poor in diphthongs, and is spoken slowly and in short sentences. It is deficient in some of the simple sounds of the Koossas; but it has also some not known to them. The snorting of the Hottentots does not prevail among the Beetjuans; and the *f*, with all the relative sounds, is wholly wanting: the croaking *r*, however, occurs in many words, and the cluck with the tongue, which I also distinguish here by the mark ~, is much more prevalent than among the Koossas. What is said of the declamation and of the construction of the language among the latter, is equally applicable to the Beetjuans; but in the use of the auxiliaries, and the preceding mute syllable, there is a great difference. They do not mark the relations of time, like them, by the declension of the pronouns, but have actual auxiliary verbs: *acho*, have, for the past—*rata*, will or shall, for the future. They have no word to represent the idea *his*; nor have they, like the Koossas, augmentatives by introducing the *m*, *n*, *am*, or *in*; but they have the less occasion for these, as their language, from not having the croaking in the throat, and from not being overcharged with words that begin with vowels, is very easy to be spoken.

The annexed vocabulary, I collected, with great diligence, from the mouths of the Beetjuans themselves: some particular remarks I have subjoined in their proper places. It is true, that upon our journey into the country, the missionary Kok imparted to me many observations which he had made upon the language; but none are put down here upon credit only; all have been proved and corrected by my own experience. The two young men of this nation who accompanied us in our return, gave me moreover a fine opportunity for extending my enquiries.

APPENDIX.

The stomach	Mochokru.
The entrails	Mmala.
The arm	Maboch.
The hand	Sseakja.
The finger ..	Munona.
A nail	Nonaala.
The thigh	Siruhpi.
The leg	Lessapo.
The foot	Lonað.

Wild animals in general	Poleholle.
An ape	Tjõni.
A lion	Tau.
A leopard	Onkoãh†
A grey wild cat	P'haach.
A red wild cat	T'huanl.
A mottled wild cat	Zipa.
A hyena	P'heeri.
A jackal	P'húkujuh.
A dog	Intja.
An elephant	Kau.
A rhinoceros	K'homba.
A river-horse	Kuhhu.
A giraffe	T'hókoa.
Cattle in general	Komo.
A bull	Paaha.
A cow	Komõna-namagári.
An ox	Komotuna.
A draught ox	Makába.
A calf	Namàni.
A buffalo	Nerri.
An eland antelope	Pohu.
A kudu antelope	T'holla.
A hartbeest	K'ham.
A gnu	K'hokong.
A springbock	Zebe.
A sheep	Ongkuh.
A goat	Puhri.

* *Ongkã* signifies the nose; probably the name of the leopard is therefore derived from the acuteness of his smell. In like manner *akã* signifies the ear, *sebe* a springbock, doubtless from the quickness of hearing in this animal.

the day before with the country to the west, I now directed my course eastwards.

It is difficult to give an adequate idea of the desert wildness of these mountains. The rugged forms of the mountains in the Lower Bokkeveld, and the lofty jagged masses of the Black Mountains, with their deep wooded dells, astonish, and make an impression on the mind that is far from disagreeable. In these wide gaping vallies, on the contrary, where not a tree or a bush is to be seen, not a stream or a blade of grass, where the mountains around are in the form of a ball, a tower, or a table, where the naked trough-like appearance of the low-grounds contrasts with the wavy lines of the heights, and the smooth rounded sides fatigue with their uniformity,—in such a frightful solitude, the first impression made can be only silent melancholy and repugnance. The whole country may very well be compared to the sea in a violent storm, when the waves rise to a mountainous height, and naked vallies alone are stretched out beneath. The eye is carried between mountains through vallies stretched far beyond any distance that it can reach, and at every new turning a new labyrinth opens. Not a trace is to be seen of the valleys ever being trodden by human feet, yet in no direction is the way obstructed by rocks or woods. Not a plant thrives here which could furnish food to a man, were he driven to the utmost necessity, so that even the very Bosjesman flies these vallies; and there are probably many into which no human being ever yet entered. It is over a vast circuit that this mountainous ocean extends. As far as we could see the day before nothing else presented itself to our view eastward, and we were assured that the end of it would hardly be reached in six day's journey. The mountains run in a regular direction from west-north-west to east-south-east, and their flat summits appear to be the highest ground on the western side of Southern Africa. If the more distant mountains to the east, in which are the sources of the Orange river, and which no one has yet examined, may perhaps be higher, it is certain that the summit of the Komberg is only on a level with the valleys of the Karree mountains, these vallies being at a height of from eight hundred to a thousand feet. Whether the extraordinary form of the mountains, their equal height, the horizontality of their summits, the absence of all traces of any mighty convulsion, do not speak a very elevated situation, and a very

early emersion from the great deluge, I must leave to experienced geologists to determine.

Not without the most cautious observation to avoid missing our way in returning, did we proceed from one valley to another; and through what a length of them did we go without discerning the least trace of any living creature. At length one of our Hottentots remarked a narrow path which seemed to have been beaten by ostriches. This we followed awhile, when, at turning round an angle in the mountain, we perceived a flock of about thirty of these gigantic birds directly before us, and behind them a troop of quaggas, amounting to not less than eighty or a hundred.* As we approached them we were seen by the ostriches, who immediately took to flight, and were followed instinctively by the quaggas; for how different soever these animals are in their habits, they have a great attachment to each other, and are almost always found together. The quaggas follow the ostriches, as I have already mentioned, because the latter can see to so great a distance, and therefore sooner discern food or danger; the ostrich, on the other hand, likes to associate with the quagga, because his dung attracts a sort of large beetles, which are, to this bird's palate, great dainties.

It is impossible to restrain a young and eager Hottentot, fond of the chase, from firing whenever an opportunity is presented. Little did it signify, therefore, that I represented to my lad how wholly useless it was to fire at the quaggas, since we had at the moment an absolute superabundance of fresh meat; besides, we were at such a distance, that it would be impossible to carry any home. I encouraged him, however, to fire at an ostrich, because I wished to get the whole plumage of one, and all the most important parts of the skeleton. He made a circuit therefore on the slope of the hill, and came round the fugitives, so that he could with ease have taken aim at an ostrich; but the other was to him the more tempting morsel, and he brought down a

* The annexed plate gives a view in the Karree mountains which I sketched myself on our return. The general description of this country given above will best explain the print. Ostriches and wild-asses, cited in the Holy-Scriptures as emblems of solitude, are here given as the only inhabitants of these desolate regions. They are to be supposed flying from the hunters, who are behind to the left, out of sight, and to be seeking some still more remote part of the mountains as a place of refuge;

large quagga, even the skin of which we could not carry away. Just as I had collected together some few remarkable plants and insects, and we were about to make a retrograde movement, and seek our camp again, a large rhinoceros appeared in sight: at first it seemed to graze leisurely, but, as we approached, it suddenly trotted off with amazing velocity. It was late in the afternoon when I rejoined my companions, very much tired, but not ungratified with the seven hours that I had spent in these researches. Towards evening the weather became cloudy and rainy, and we had some difficulty to warm ourselves. The next morning the atmosphere was enveloped in a thick fog, and the ground was covered with a white hoar-frost; our tents were frozen quite stiff. We observed in the sequel that a like remarkable turn in the weather almost always took place at the change of the moon, but that it never continued above four-and-twenty hours.

As the sun broke out about noon, and the companions whom we expected to join us did not appear, we determined not to wait for them any longer, and proceeded on our way through the *Schietfonteins-poort*; so a narrow pass between the two principal groups of the Karree mountains is called. After some hours, we arrived at a large plain, inclosed with mountains, the summits of which had the absolute forms of cones and towers, and which might be about six miles in diameter. Some of our people, who were sent forwards with spades and pick-axes to level the worst places in the road for our waggons, having surprised a party of Bosjesmans, went up to them in a friendly manner, hoping to draw them into conversation; they, however, fled immediately, and vanished with incredible speed among the mountains.

To our great joy we remarked that the rain of the day before had been here very abundant, and that there was much more vegetation in the valley than in some parts through which we had passed. One shrub fell under my observation which was very remarkable; every twig from the root upwards, even to the smallest, came forth by three together, so that each one formed with those that stood by its side, as well as with the principal stem, an angle of a hundred and twenty degrees,—that is, the third part of a complete circle. This shrub is known to the colonists by the name of the *Tri-thorn*; it appears to be of the *Lycia* family, having this property in common with that tribe, that the end twig is always sharp pointed. As, however, not the least trace of fruit or flower was to be found upon it, I must leave it for future travellers to examine this