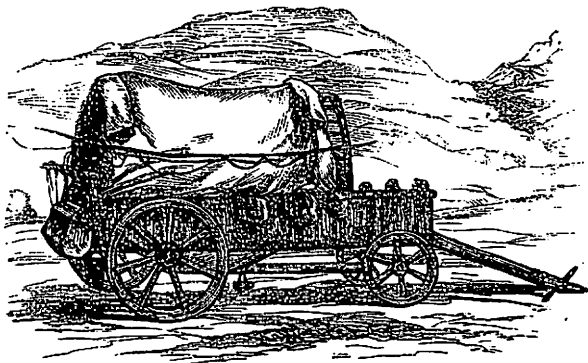


# CAMP LIFE AND SPORT IN SOUTH AFRICA

EXPERIENCES OF KAFFIR WARFARE WITH  
THE CAPE MOUNTED RIFLES.

By THOS. J. LUCAS,  
LATE CAPT. C. M. RIFLES.



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

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their ears and inserting small wooden boxes or pieces of antelope horn, in which they carry their snuff, which destroys the shape and symmetry of the organ, giving it a limp dog's eared appearance, which is anything but becoming. They are sober and self-denying, and seem to have quite a horror of a drunkard, and are altogether a fine temperate race, industrious and cheerful, not at all averse to labour, and may be seen busily employed on the sugar plantations, and are indeed far superior to any imported labour. The Indian Coolie system has turned out rather a failure, as the men are incomparably inferior in physique to the Zulu. The Zulu Kaffir is as naturally cleanly and decent in his habits as the Coolies are deficient, and he has a great contempt for the latter, his hut presenting a striking contrast in this particular.

The country abounds in game of various sorts. Like the Frontier Kaffirs the Zulus hunt in large parties, surrounding the game; each turning round and delivering his assegais with wonderful dexterity as he passes the game brought to bay in the centre. Immediately around Pietermaritzberg the game is comparatively scarce, consisting principally of the small Ipite Bok, a graceful little antelope, hyenas, wild pig, and leopards; but as the sportsman

advances further towards the Drakenberg and Umzumkulu he meets with the rhinoceros, hippopotamus, lions, giraffes, and all the various species of large animals.

To assist the Zulus in the chase, large dogs of the lurcher breed are employed. They are held in leashes until required, and are very swift and staunch. Strange to say, English dogs will not live many months in Natal, but they are often imported for the purpose of crossing with the native dogs, especially the bull dog, which supplies the pluck so deficient in the native animal, and makes the latter most valuable for hunting purposes. Cattle and goats thrive well in the feldt, but sheep not at all; and the Zulus' wealth consists in large herds of the former, which are the usual medium of exchange and barter, and are considered more especially valuable as enabling the happy possessor to indulge in a proportionable increase in the number of his wives—twenty oxen being the usual equivalent for a wife sound in wind and limb and free from blemish. The wives agree well together, each living in her separate hut, so that a large establishment is like a colony of beehives, and keeps throwing out offshoots on every fresh addition to the harem. These circular huts are generally situated on the side of a hill for shelter

from wind and storm, and always harmonize well with their surroundings.

The Zulus make a kind of beer called "outchualla," which is strong and not unpalatable. This is prepared by the women, who make quite a secret of the process. I do not know the ingredients. Like the Hottentots the Zulus turn the ant-heaps, which are as numerous here as elsewhere, to account, by making a fire with sticks at the side of the heap near the ground in a hole, which they scrape out of the hard earth. The heap soon becomes almost red-hot, then, shaving off the top, they place the animal or bird to be cooked on the flat surface, covering it over with loose earth. In a very short time the cooking is completed. Birds are first plunged into scalding water, which causes the feathers and skin to come off easily. I have seen on the frontier a large ant-heap converted into a series of ovens by scraping out holes at different points at the sides; the ant-heap is then heated in the usual way, and four or five dishes are kept going at the same time. The earth of which these ant-heaps are composed is strongly impregnated with formic acid by the ants, and this has the effect of turning it into a hard substance, almost like fire-brick, in which state it easily acquires heat on the application of fire, and retains it for a considerable