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FOUR

A JOURNEY WITH WILLIAM PATERSON TO THE MOUTH OF THE ORANGE RIVER AND A FURTHER EXPEDITION TO THAT RIVER AND THE LANDS TO THE NORTH: JUNE 1779 TO JANUARY 1780

27 [June 1779], *Sunday* Fine weather; slight SE [breeze]; thermometer 60°–68°–52°.¹ Slightly overcast at dusk; wind rising from the N. In this region and season [this] generally signifies rain. I left the Cape on horseback at ten o'clock this morning, accompanied by my small youth, Koerikei, Captain de Lille and his wife,² and my lieutenant, Bleumer.³ They wished to accompany me by horse-wagon as far as the minister Golbag's [place] in the Swartland. After riding for three hours we reached Vissers Hok together, where we spent the night. My wagon, and my boat on another wagon, each drawn by ten oxen, arrived several hours after me. I shall not indicate any distances or directions here until we reach the road beyond [the] Oliphants, since these have been noted in my previous journal.

28 [June 1779] Thermometer 50°–56°–50°. Still a wind rising from the N; overcast sky. We set off through the Diep River, first to [the farm of] Andries Gows. Here we were overtaken by heavy showers of rain, so that we hastened to reach the preacher Golbag in the Swart Land, where we arrived at dusk. My wagon and boat remained behind.

29 [June 1779] Thermometer 49°–51°–50°. The same weather; clearing a little towards noon. I found the [temperature of] the hot water at the fountain in the garden to be 82°. The wagon was stuck in the muddy ground close to the house. A certain Basson⁴ and his servants helped to get it out.

30 [June 1779] Thermometer 50°–56°–51°. The same weather, but [it] abated in the evening; the wind in the SE. I still remained at the [house of the] minister. Dug in the ground; mixed clay, with sand and small cobbles, and in many places not a foot [down] before [there is] ironstone.

1 July [1779] Fine weather; slight SE [breeze], thermometer 52°–64°–55°. I took leave of the minister and of the party which had accompanied me thus far, and left for Losper's⁵ at Riebeek Casteel, arriving after two hours on horseback. I had a fever in the evening, and have been feverish for some time at the Cape.

2 [July 1779] Thermometer 52°–70°–64°. Fine weather; slight NE [breeze]. I left on

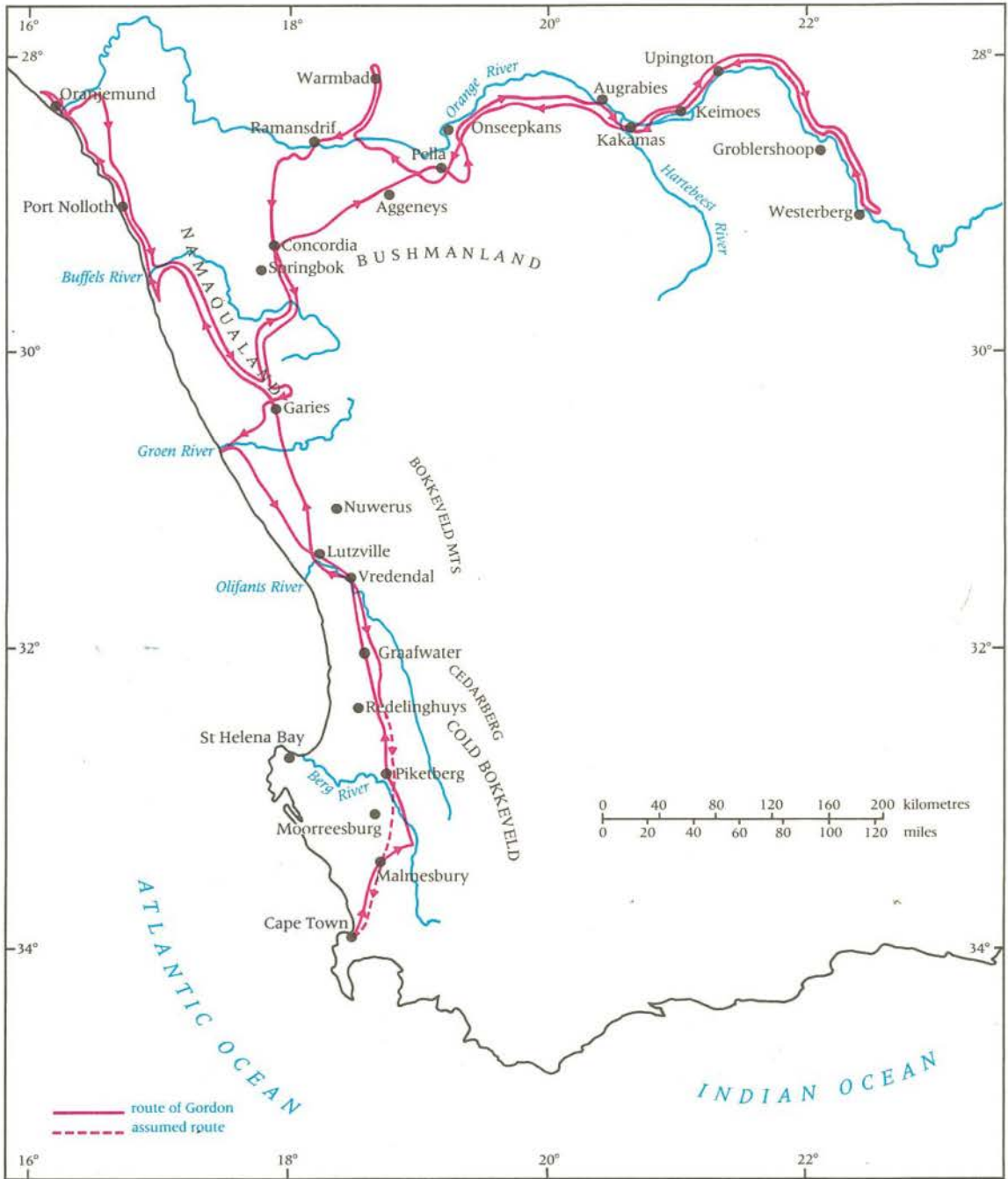
1 Gordon heads the manuscript of this journal with an explanatory note: 'The thermometer readings are as at sunrise, at the maximum heat of the day, which is mostly at about two o'clock in the afternoon, and at sunset.'

2 She was Elisabeth Susanna Gerardina Hemmy (baptized 1753), younger daughter of the former deputy-governor of the Cape, Otto Lüder Hemmy (1710–1777). The De Lilles were divorced in 1800: De Villiers, *Genealogies*, vol. 1, p. 301.

3 Johann Arnold Bleumer (d. 1791) became a captain in 1787: Hoge, 'Personalia of the Germans', p. 35.

4 Johannes Basson (baptized 1744): Smith, *Boerepioniers*, p. 43.

5 Probably Nicolaas Loubser (Laubscher): see Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 118, n. 195.



Map 3 A journey with William Paterson to the mouth of the Orange River and a further expedition to that river and the lands to the north: June 1779 to January 1780

the paw with a poisoned arrow by a Hottentot, [and] from this it had been found dead the following day. Here I learnt for the first time that lion, even those of the same pride, when they are shot dead in front of a [gun] trap and remain lying, are eaten by their fellows just as hyena [scavenge]. Pinar returned, as did the Hottentots, with the eland meat. We heard that we had passed elephant at Lower Koegelfontein.³⁷

22 [July 1779] Thermometer 36°–80°–63°. There was dew and it had been cold. SE breeze; fine weather. I remained waiting for the master of the house to help us with his oxen over Namero's Mountain.³⁸ He arrived in the evening. His name was [as earlier mentioned] 'Van der Westhuisen'. I went hunting next to this little stream, Groene River, and shot several wild duck and mountain geese. We heard a dispute as to whether the rhinoceros and the elephant are specially hostile to each other.

23 [July 1779] Thermometer 48°–70°–60°. At daybreak the wind blew NW, threatening rain. Mist-clouds in the W, and thunderclouds in the E, which people here take for signs of rain. I am hoping for clear weather tomorrow, to ascend the Camies Berg. Last night something poisonous must have stung me, for I had a swelling behind my right knee which caused a stiffness up to my groin and hampered me greatly in walking.³⁹ We set off northwards up this river. All along the way from the Piketberg we saw large numbers of pied crows which also differ from the European ones somewhat, in their call and in having a white patch on the neck and below the stomach – but it is the same bird. This is also the case with the *mossen*⁴⁰ in this country, which also differ a little from ours. The same with the people. Hereabouts chameleons are to be found which are fully five times as large as those at the Cape.⁴¹ We could not find any. After crossing this little river half-way along the road after riding for four hours, and now travelling along the right bank, we reached in the afternoon the place called 'Caries',⁴² again on the Groen River, close to the *legplaats* of one Coetse.⁴³ Several Little Namaqua Hottentots⁴⁴ living on this farm brought us milk. The same terrain today, but stonier and the hills higher, with the same round rocks. Here I found along the way a great deal of quartz and mica mingled with sandstone, as on the shore at the Cape, but black pieces. These high hills extend from the Hamies Berg. The protruding and receding angles [are] regular. Mr Paterson arrived in the evening,⁴⁵ coming from the Bokkeveld. We shot sev-

37 This could be the present-day Koeëlfontein, although it was a short distance off Gordon's route. It may, however, refer to a second spring, below the upper spring, which was earlier mentioned, on 18 July 1779.

38 Also called 'Namro's heights' in the text and on Gordon's Map 3, this elevation was ascended by Le Vaillant with the help of the Van der Westhuysens. The hills lie between Syferdam and Klipvlei below the Kamiesberg range.

39 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

40 Gordon refers to the Cape sparrow or mossie, *Passer melanurus*. The European house sparrow, *P. domesticus*, was introduced to southern Africa in the late nineteenth century and is now widely distributed: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 710–713.

41 Probably *Chamaeleo namaquensis*: dwarf chameleons are found in wooded areas of the Cape.

42 It is known today as the village of 'Garies', the name meaning 'couch grass spring'.

43 Perhaps Johannes Coetsee (baptized 1751): De Villiers, *Genealogies*, vol. 1, p. 146.

44 They lived mainly S of the Orange River near the Atlantic coast.

45 Paterson recorded his meeting with Gordon on this date: Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 142.

eral wild geese. I examined a young so-called 'duiker'.⁴⁶ It has no gall; a long, black, bare, oozing stripe beneath the eyes; four teats, two close together, [and] two sacks or wrinkles in the skin which do not go through, each at the side of the teats. Only the ram has horns and a tuft of long hair on the head and small horn hoofs. Barometer 29 inches 6 tenths, thus three hundred and fifty feet above sea-level.

24 [July 1779] Cold S wind, overcast but broken [sky]. Thermometer 50°–70°–60°. Very clear towards evening [with] a cold N wind. Last night it rained a little. We set off northwards, first with a detour to the NW up Namro's heights; very rocky and crushed sand. After riding for four hours I reached Oog Fontein,⁴⁷ where we stayed. These are all spurs or branches of the Kamies Berg. One of the Little Namaquas had the knuckle of a goat around his right hand. It had been bound on for him by the type of witch-doctor called 'kaiaouw' by them – from Wiltschut's village,⁴⁸ named 'Garap' – who had made a hole in it. This Garap had dreamt that Čauseep would become ill; therefore he came to him and made him *čamie*, meaning 'to make lucky', which is as much as to say 'warding off the danger'. This is a different ceremony from *dro* – 'man-making' or 'making different' – at which urination by the old Hottentots takes place, and not at their wedding, as people have said. He wears it around the wrist until it breaks and then stuffs it in a mouse hole, believing that it would be unlucky for him if someone were to find this knuckle (the same as those with which our children play at five-stones). At this ceremony they slaughter some or other animal and eat it together. At making *dro* they must wear the omentum of the animal round their necks. I passed a Little Namaqua village. Throughout the day the same cool breeze; stronger in the evening.

25 [July 1779] Thermometer 48°–75°–63°. Cold N wind; clear. Last night it was very cold because of the wind, although the temperature was higher than with a still coldness. I set off ahead on horseback to the field cornet Van den Hever.⁴⁹ Took a bearing on Gobeóoms or Vygemonds Berg,⁵⁰ directly N. Since my leg is still stiff I shall postpone the survey of the Hamies Berg until the return journey. This is probably the 'Berg van Acht-en-Veertig Dageisens', though I consider it higher than Table Mountain. Possibly Van der Stel said 'mountain forty-eight days' travel from the Cape',⁵¹ since at the start of the colony one could not ride so far in one day because of the roads and I have now been travelling for nearly four weeks, although an East India ship could sail the [same]

46 The common duiker, *Sylvicapra grimmia*, is a small antelope which takes its name 'diver' from its habit of diving for cover into undergrowth.

47 According to Paterson, Oogfontein, or 'eye spring', rather more than twelve kilometres NNW of present-day Garies, was so named because of a quarrel there between indigenous peoples during which one individual lost an eye: Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 101.

48 It was situated near Langklip, between present-day Garies and Kamieskroon.

49 Petrus (Pieter) Johannes van den Heever (baptized 1728): Mossop, ed., *Journal of Hendrik Jacob Wikar*, pp. 196–199.

50 Vyemond se Berg is about twelve kilometres S of modern-day Kamieskroon. Translated from the Khoi, the name signifies 'fig mouth' or 'fig fountain': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 440. The reference is to one of the wild figs of the region, such as *Ficus cordata*: see Palgrave, *Trees*, 3 ed., pp. 102–119.

51 This is consistent with the date of arrival of the Simon van der Stel party at the Kamiesberg: Valentyn, *Description*, vol. 1, pp. 286–291. Gordon indicates on his Map 3 that information on the mountain was derived from the *Voyage de Siam* (Paris, 1686) of the Jesuit scientist from France, Guy Tachard (1651–1712): Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

extending a long distance into the water, so that this shore will not be visible far out to sea. We found the water that oozes from the ground near the sea, as well as a little grass by which it can be recognized, otherwise one could pass it ten times without seeing it. Unfortunate [indeed] would be those cast away upon this shore. The little game there is consists at most of a few gemsbok which drink salty water. The water was fairly good but quenched the thirst only slightly, and at high tide it is covered by the sea. I rode with Pedro back to the wagons with two calabashes of water which I shared out among the thirsty servants. Tied the oxen, which had returned, to the wagon.

10 [August 1779] Thermometer 40°–65°–50°. Heavy dew; it was cold. SE breeze which became stronger during the day and more southerly along the shore. This seems to be the fresh SE trade. We rode away at sunrise and after we had ridden for five hours the wagon reached this place which the Hottentot called 'Gawaap'.⁸⁷ The boat wagon had overturned and arrived an hour later. The servants had shot a young gemsbok or *pasan*, and wounded one. This is one of the tastiest of game. On a bank we found mussels which were very agreeable. The coast here forms a number of small, sandy inlets, all of the same extent and [where] the [waves] still break strongly. I went NNW along the coast for five hours. Saw many porpoises playing in the sea. Since yesterday I have found many dry thorn-trees and willows washed up, which must have come out of the Orange River.

11 [August 1779] It has been cold; heavy mist. Cold N wind; thermometer 45°–68°–50°. At noon the mist cleared and the wind again became southerly and hot. After midday we left in the same direction. It became overcast again and very misty. I went with Mr Paterson along the beach which we found everywhere to be covered with cast-up wood (trees) and with many water-fowl; here and there [were] small, sandy bays, but everywhere low rocks half an hour from the shore on which the sea broke heavily. We saw one of these rocks like an island, full of seals. We found still more remains of the huts of wild Bushmen and whale bones and shells, but saw no people. A Hottentot has related that a fish had been washed ashore and that these coastal peoples, having eaten some of it, had all died. We got lost and found the wagon again by chance. After four hours of slow riding [along a] difficult route, we unyoked as darkness fell. We had taken water with us, otherwise we, as well as the oxen and horses, would have suffered from thirst. Pinar had gone on ahead to hunt and has not returned.

12 [August 1779] Last night it rained. SE [wind]; fine weather; thermometer 50°–66°–56°. We rode in the same direction. At noon we came into heavy sand, and because I had not been able to determine the latitude for the past two days on account of the overcast sky, I stopped the wagon and measured [it], finding it to be 29° 1'. We went along the beach where we found footprints of people and a seal skin freshly cut off. There must be a pool of water here. Pedro said that these were the footprints of hunting Bushmen who had come here to hunt. We found sea-coral, a [sort of] plant, though really not coral, but indeed sponge;⁸⁸ [we also discovered that] the water had all

87 'Guwaap', 'Guaap' and 'Goowaap' are other spellings of the name. It is evidently the spring at modern-day McDougall's Bay, S of Port Nolloth: *ibid.*, p. 147.

88 Coral is formed of the skeleton of marine organisms; sponge is a simple form of animal life.

been drunk. At this [place] the rocks in the sea were full of cobbles and quartz. We saw a headland extending into the sea, and the coast here as though it had caved in and the sea had sunken. I looked everywhere [for shells] on this beach, which was almost seventy or eighty feet high, and at last found perfect shells petrified in the rock.⁸⁹ I went down to the depression and found a deep hollow in which were trees which had been washed ashore. Since the oxen were without water and tired after [plodding through] the thick sand, we remained here and let them walk around a bit. At evening I gave the order to inspan again. I went to where Mr Paterson's wagon had been outspanned and met up with it, although it was dark, by following the tracks; an hour further on, and although Pedro had assured us that there would be water, we found ourselves still two-and-a-half hours on foot from that place. We remained there for the night. From the headland our direction has been N½W, one mile. We saw two jackal along the beach.

13 [August 1779] Fair weather; SE trade wind. Clear; thermometer 50°–78°–60°. I found a scorpion on my frock-coat, but it had done no harm. I went back because my wagon had not yet arrived, and found it an hour from there. We inspanned and after riding downhill for four hours came to a deep ravine formed by the water when the river flows. Here was no water except a small spring which we dug open, but it was good and not brackish.⁹⁰ I let team after team drink here and allowed it to ooze full again. These animals had now gone thirsty for fifty hours. We remained here. I arranged a system whereby each of us, with two Hottentots, would keep watch for two hours during the night.⁹¹ The other water lower down here and there was briny salt. All the same terrain, with many bushes; I see some mountains to the NE, though not high, at a distance of five or six miles.⁹² We saw some eland and gemsbok spoor [and] a rhinoceros and lion spoor, but because the water situation is so bad, one finds nothing here except a few wolf⁹³ and jackal which live off the beach.

14 [August 1779] Fine weather; SE trade. Thermometer 60°–77°–65°. I went to the beach which, because of our more northerly route, was now one-and-a-third miles W of us. Mr Paterson and I first went to where this watercourse, when it flows, enters the sea, but found not a drop of water there, and only signs that the sea sometimes breaks through the gap in the low dune. This stream never seems to flow so strongly as to enter the sea. The beach was covered with low dunes and many rocks, but here was no foreshore of stones, and it forms a small sandy bay, but with heavy surf, of quite the same extent with slight indentations. We found many big mussel and rock-sucker shells, with trees that had been washed ashore. The rocks [are] of the same type and inclination. Paterson gave a yell and at that moment a skaapsteker snake⁹⁴ slithered

89 Paterson also documents this discovery. The fossils doubtless included *Ostrea prismatica*: Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 150. At this point the travellers were some seventeen kilometres N of present-day Port Nolloth.

90 The place is called 'Diepe Kloof' both later in the text and on Gordon's Map 3; it is a permanent spring in the bed of the Holgat River about eight kilometres from the coast. On the rare occasions when the river flows, a waterfall lies above the spring: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 90.

91 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

92 Mountains of the Richtersveld; Ploegberg would have been the closest.

93 Brown hyena.

94 Either the spotted skaapsteker, *Psammophylax rhombeatus*, or the striped variety, *P. tritaeniatus*; its venom is neurotoxic: Johan Marais, *Snake Versus Man: A Guide to Dangerous and Common Harmless Snakes of Southern Africa* (Johannesburg, 1985), pp. 66–67.

red, long berries which were good to eat. We reached the defile after riding for about five hours over such irregularities as are found at all small mountains, which sometimes cause the land near them to subside, and going uphill we got through it in half an hour. A few hours to the W of it, camel-thorn trees¹⁷⁹ started to appear here and there which in the moonlight made a lovely change in this flat country. After riding on for about three hours we reached at about half-past twelve in the morning a little *graafwatertje* named 'Huib'.¹⁸⁰ We saw nothing but an ostrich, two skaapestekers and [a] horned snake, and some zebra spoor. The veld was mainly large clumps of Bushman grass; very gravelly, sandy *caro* veld.

25 [September 1779], Saturday Last night fine, warm, calm weather. Thermometer 65° for most of the night. Moonlight. This morning fine weather, the same as yesterday; the sky partly obscured by mist. This evening at five o'clock [we had] full moon.¹⁸¹ Elevation of the plain 2 265 feet; latitude 29° 16'. To the E of us we still saw camel-thorn trees, an ostrich and steenbok, otherwise no game nor people, although I was told that Bushmen live hereabouts. Took a bearing on our further route, ENE at a small hillock. Flat, hard veld; lots of quartz and little cobbles which gleamed like diamonds in the moonlight. Everything flat as far as the eye could see; slightly hilly in the NW [and] fairly high broken hills from the SW to the NE. The going became heavy and sandy after five hours; we unyoked after eight-and-three-quarter hours at a *graafwater*, Camma Sous.¹⁸² This is also a *graafwater*, so that one cannot travel along here except in the rainy season. In this entire arid region it also thunders but without much rain, in the dry Cape SE season, and it snows here in winter. Here we found a small Bushman village consisting of sixteen men, women and children who, although it was night-time, came to us at once. They had ten head of cattle, among which was a milch cow which they had taken from the Little Namaquas, with whom they live in enmity.

26 [September 1779] The same weather and wind which mostly becomes due E three or four hours after the sun has set. Very hot because of the hot, red-coloured loose *caro* sand. The wind fresh and following the sun. Thermometer 68°–100°–80°. The barometer gave a reading of 2 165 feet; [latitude] 29° 4'. N.B. Thus our route has become more northerly. Yesterday as the sun was setting I saw an animal which looked like a rhinoceros against a hill. It was too far away and the sun was setting. My young Koerikei can see as well with the naked eye as I can with my pocket-telescope. There is such a change in the temperature since Engelbregt's that my nose bled now and then. Yesterday I ate a wild cucumber¹⁸³ which was so bitter that I became ill from it and vomited, as did a Hottentot.

Among these Bushmen were four medium-sized, well-built young men — brothers.

179 *Acacia erioloba*; 'camel-thorn' is a mistranslation of 'kameeldoring', the correct meaning of which is reflected in its synonym, *Acacia giraffae*: *ibid.*, p. 235.

180 Given as 'Heib' on Gordon's Map 3, this is near Naip Noord, some fifty-five kilometres NE of present-day Springbok. A '*graafwater*', or '*gorra*', is an excavated waterhole; the word used in the text is the Dutch diminutive form. For the route, see Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 105, Map 21.

181 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

182 Kamasoas, or 'Kammasoas', is twenty-five kilometres W of present-day Aggeneys.

183 Probably Paterson's 'wild prickly cucumbers', *Cucumis africanus*: Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 105.

Bushmen serve among our farmers and are good herdsmen, but they cannot tolerate any ill treatment.

2 [October 1779], *Saturday* Last night it was very cold; fresh S wind and a clear, freezing sky. During the day the wind became SW, still fresh. Thermometer 40°–65°–54°. It has probably rained from the NW towards the Cape and the Kamies Berg, since on this plateau, far from the sea, the climate is different and almost the same as that behind the Sneeuwberg. Some snow does fall in the Cape's rainy season, and thunderstorms occur in the Cape summer. I found the rocks in this little river to be of varying hardness. Model travelled with us because the *graafwater* in this little river has run dry. Against the rocks I found a type of wasp which people hereabouts call 'giftby'.²¹² It is reddish and longer [than a bee], very narrow in the middle, with long, narrow wings. Its sting is much more painful than a bite. Its nest is no larger than a fist, and round. We left, first half a mile E by S into a little hollow formed by the projecting spur. Half-way we crossed the dry little Cabas River which flows from the plain to the SE in thunderstorms. After a mile and a half we came into a bad, stony path, first descending a quarter of a mile NE, then E, through a shallow ravine down which came a dry river, which I named 'Susanna Dal'.²¹³ Here stood a great deal of Bushman grass and *kouw* trees, so that it was very pleasant, but when we looked for water we found none, and we rode a quarter of a mile further down where we outspanned after four-and-a-half hours of brisk riding, without water. In this vale we saw many giraffe spoor. They had browsed at each *kouw* tree. What amazed me was that by their spoor it could be seen that when they stood still, their hind feet were at most a foot from the front ones. We also saw a rhinoceros spoor. We were now trekking like the children of Israel, since Model travelled with us because the water at his place was exhausted; his hut and furniture [were] packed on pack oxen and a draught sledge, and with all his stock, which caused a proliferation of sheep and cattle. Some ewes lambed along the way. The lambs were taken and carried, and also placed on the sledge. At the end of the ravine we saw the vast plateau stretching from NE to SE as far as the eye could see, with only small uneven places here and there.

3 [October 1779], *Sunday* Fresh, cool SE [wind] which remained gently E throughout the day. Thermometer 45°–70°–55°; altitude 2 460 [feet]. We set off with a deviation through the NNW, having the Samoep,²¹⁴ where we again come to the river, to the N by E. After riding for two-and-a-half hours we came to a small, dry river a quarter of an hour to the W in the ravine. There was a little brackish water where with difficulty we let our stock drink; I named this place 'De Dorstige Kuil'.²¹⁵ We rode up further for another hour and three-quarters and unyoked on account of the darkness, but without

212 The 'poison bee' is probably a social wasp of the genus *Belonogaster*.

213 Probably named after his wife-to-be, Susanne, it is marked on Gordon's Map 3 as 'Susettes Dal', this form being presumably an affectionate diminutive: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21. It was situated perhaps on the Kaboep River.

214 The name 'Samoep' doubtless means 'the spring of the San' or 'Bushman's fountain': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 998. Gordon was later to meet the Orange at its confluence with this river two kilometres N of present-day Steyerkraal, which is twenty-two kilometres upstream from Onseepkans: Forbes and Rourke, eds, *Paterson's Cape Travels*, p. 162, n. 129.

215 'Pool of thirst'.

water, in a downhill open veld full of large, beautiful quiver trees. We called this the 'Agava Tuin'.²¹⁶ Today we saw many giraffe spoor, and also those of zebra and gemsbok, but no living animal except a hare. I went hunting giraffe; saw many spoor, and also those of rhinoceros, but no animals. The firm, reddish stony sand is mixed here and there with dusty, red-coloured clay and one does not dig deeply; all rock. These low mountains look reddish, just like the ground, [and are] all haphazard lumps; few sheets; many large chunks of quartz. Today a great deal of grass, and *haakjesdoorn*,²¹⁷ a type of mimosa, as well as *kouw* and *cameep*,²¹⁸ also many mouse holes, of which this region is full. The Hottentots I saw, Einiquas, all call themselves 'Naugaap'. This was their family or mother's name, but they had another name; thus one was called 'Naugaap Toenemaap'. 'Naawgaap' was his mother's name, and the daughters are named after the father. I also saw many of these above-mentioned birds' nests, in which a type of grey finch lived.²¹⁹ I broke off one of these masses which had been woven between the branches of a quiver tree. It was fully five feet in diameter. Everything inside was full of openings and homes, but I found no eggs or young. The entrances face downwards.

4 [October 1779], Monday Thermometer 56°–76°–68°. At sunrise a fresh E wind; two hours after sunrise, calmer. Fine weather; a little cloudy on the horizon. Throughout the day it was really fine, with a slight E breeze. Very little dew falls here, and seldom. We departed northwards down the plain and after riding for half an hour we were out from among the quiver trees and travelling uphill through reddish ridges of thick sand, with rocks. We took a small turn, to get through the ridges, and then again continued in the same direction, along a hard road. Being out ahead, we saw many rhinoceros spoor. These animals had performed all manner of capers and had run around in circles. At each place where they had defecated, they had tramped two furrows and kicked the dung about, and [dug] bushes out of the ground. I could not find any horn spoor on the ground anywhere, but always the scratching at their droppings. After we had been riding for four hours, and it was one o'clock in the afternoon, we saw two rhinoceros standing in the plain at a distance of about a thousand paces, among *caan*²²⁰ and *kouw* trees ten or twelve feet tall. We loaded our muskets and with three of us went there: the Hottentot Klaas Barend, the *pasganger* soldier Model,²²¹ a German, and I. They went to the right among the trees to stalk the animals from downwind, and I remained in front at the bushes in case they wanted to come out there, since the rhinoceros were standing with their heads in my direction, moving their ears to and fro.

216 Gordon was at this stage making for the Orange River across relatively level terrain, with the Samoep and Skuitklipkop to his right. After passing his 'pool of thirst' on the left, where he made a brief detour, he came to the 'agave garden', called 'Agava of Kookerbooms Vlakte' on his Map 3; thus 'aloe garden' would have been a more appropriate name.

217 The black-thorn, *Acacia mellifera*: Palgrave, *Trees*, 3 ed., p. 244.

218 Perhaps the grey camel-thorn, *Acacia haematoxylon*: *ibid.*, pp. 239–240.

219 The nest of the sociable weaver is often utilized by other bird species.

220 Perhaps the camel-thorn.

221 Model held a permit releasing him from military duties and enabling him instead to help on farms; there were then many such *pasgangers*.

Before we went from the wagon to the trees a hartebeest or *bubalis* bull came straight to within about eighty paces of us. It seemed to fear nothing and to be unaware of us. Since we were on the plain, we did not want to shoot it for fear of disturbing the rhinoceros. I believe it would have come right up to us had not my dog Keiser seen and attacked it. Fortunately it fled from the rhinoceros, galloping beautifully and leaping in an attractive fashion, like a springbok, so that the dogs fell behind. The rhinoceros had not noticed anything, so we took up our afore-mentioned positions as described. Model and the Hottentots crept to within a hundred paces of them but could not see them properly in the trees. They were not yet aware of me, for I saw them settling down peacefully in such a way that the two hunters could not shoot them. I went about fifty paces closer, upon which one of the animals stood up, and shortly afterwards the Hottentot fired and the creature fell dead, having been hit, as we discovered later, in or near the heart. The other one took the shot in its body through the upper foreleg and walked away limping, but my dog Keiser which feared no creature, had already rushed forward at the first shot and worried the rhinoceros front and rear. It wanted to butt the dog but it was too quick for it, and before I could get there, Model shot it dead. We discovered them both to be cows, having two teats much larger than those of a hippopotamus and a somewhat pendulous udder much like that of a horse. They had almost the same length and height, being adult. The largest was 4 feet 10 inches in a straight line directly from the front and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches lower at the back, and 8 feet 4 inches long in a straight line measured as the animal was lying there, after we had arranged its posture as though it were alive, and looked at it from the side. The other one lacked 1 inch on the previous measurements. The largest of the horns was 15 inches long and the smaller 8, thus differing by only 1 inch from the bull of the year before last. Also the thickness differed very little from that one. The head was 23 inches long. The eye was situated just between the front part of the nose and the middle of the ears, below the rear horn, 9 inches above the lower jawbone and only 6 below the rear horn.

Its snout is very flexible and loose, and also its lower mouth, so that it expands and retracts, and its tongue is not hard, but very soft, although there is hair on it on top, towards the back. It can see in front of it without turning its head, although its eyes are placed [at the side] and the opening is one inch in diameter; the pupil is markedly protuberant and does not recede. The thick horn is so placed that it does not interfere with the line of vision. In addition the rear parts of the eyes, to the sides of the ears, are positioned much more to the outside than the front corners of the eyes, [and this] also pushes the eyes out more. Thus I was mistaken in stating [before] that the rhinoceros cannot see to the front, but the hot weather had misled me last year: that was the first rhinoceros I had seen; I was occupied with everything at the same time; and within a short hour the animal I had shot had swollen in the heat, and its snout and the wrinkles around the eyes were so swollen that virtually no flexibility of the snout could be discerned and almost nothing of the eyes could be seen from the side, let alone from the front, so that the drawing was exactly as the animal was then. But when I went to one of these rhinoceros, which was still supple, I concentrated on its sight and noted that it could indeed see well to the front, that its eyes were not recessed but level with the limbs, having a dark blue pupil, a darker iris and also clear whites. I also saw that although a rhinoceros sometimes stands looking at something, like the one in the

drawing, its natural posture is one with the head held further down, so that the horns form an angle of 45° with the horizon. For the rest, these two rhinoceros were without any wrinkles in their skin, excepting for the groin crease and a slight wrinkle in the foreleg and neck. Moreover, their hides were not as knobbly, but much smoother than the bull of last year. I do not yet know whether it is common for cows not to have wrinkles. For the rest they are somewhat smaller than the bulls, although their shape is the same. Both horns were movable. Although it has no incisors, its back teeth come together so far forward in its mouth that there is only a distance of two inches where there are no teeth.

Here we saw no giraffe spoor, as they live further from the river. Since there was no water here, and our cattle had had none since yesterday, we cut a piece from a rhinoceros and travelled two hours N and with a little detour to the NW and then N [again] within half an hour, to [arrange to] have these animals cut up tomorrow. This place is called 'Naisees'²²² by the Einiqua. We thought we would find water in a ravine, but there was so little that we rode for that [last] half-hour down to the river, descending a steep incline through an opening in the mountains, and unyoked at a distance of five hundred paces [from it], because the elephant which go to eat the trees along the river might trample the wagon. Today we saw about a dozen zebra, and elephant and rhinoceros spoor near the mountain at the river, as well as the fresh spoor of two lion which had caught a zebra. Close to the river we also saw hippopotamus spoor. I found the river to be full of ledges and rocks, so that when the river here is in spate, there must be a great noise over the rocks. It was evening when I came to the river. I was very thirsty and found delicious water, and man and beast drank to their hearts' content. Because it was dusk I could not see much of the river, but while going down I perceived that the plateau descends to the river just as on this side, and that the mountains – which are little higher than the plateau where it was at its highest – follow the slope to the river on either side, and were composed of jumbled rocks, although [only] sparsely covered here and there with quiver trees and other shrubs. Pinar had gone along the river from Cabas, where the bend N begins and ends here. I have not yet seen him.

5 [October 1779] Fine weather; easterly breeze following the sun; hot. Thermometer 59° – 96° – 80° . Latitude 700 paces from the river $28^\circ 43'$, deviation 1° more NW, thus 21° . Altitude of the river bed 1 065 feet; therefore where I came to this river in 1777 its bed is 3 000 feet [higher], but the river's course is very low between the [high] downward-sloping countryside and the mountains on it. How has this ravine between these two land masses been formed?²²³ It flows to the WNW and comes from the E, as far as I could see. As far as I have been able to see up and down the river today, it is so full of large, smooth sheets of rock – rough grey sandstone with quartz – that almost no water is visible and it looks as though it would be possible to cross the river everywhere without wetting one's feet, except for a few small streams. I tried to cross but was prevented from doing so by some swift, narrow streams which branch out in all directions

222 Probably this name means 'place of the giraffe': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 842. Marked as 'Naisies Klip' on Gordon's Map 3, the locality would seem to be the present-day Onseepkans.

223 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

between the sills. That this river does not become full except in the rainy season or Cape summertime, and that it is low more often than it is full, is apparent from the many willows and species of mimosa which grow sturdily everywhere along and in the river on sills and sorts of islands, except for a narrow strip in the middle. When it is properly full there must be a great rush over these rock sills. The river is full of rocks everywhere, and at its lowest now. After midday I went up the river following many twists and turns as far as the ranges [on either side]. The width between them is seven or eight hundred paces. I found fresh hippopotamus tracks and saw a medium-sized leguaan, but it was too quick [for us to shoot it]. When this leguaan walks, its tail drags, leaving an unbroken pattern over the ground behind it. On the opposite side a little stream of twenty paces cut me off from the mountain, the river flowing up against the cliffs when it is full. I shot two pretty birds which were species of kingfisher.²²⁴ Saw two green parakeets²²⁵ but they were too quick for me. However, I shot a small monkey of the same type as in Outeniqua Land,²²⁶ causing it to roll out of the tree. After having bathed a while in a little stream, I returned to the wagons as darkness fell.

6 [October 1779] Still; slight W [breeze]; during the day a fresh W [breeze]. Fine weather. Thermometer 60°–86°–70°. We left the river and again went onto the high ground to near where we had found the small dry stream half a mile from the river on our way here. We then turned SE through an opening in the rocky hills and then E by N, and rode for some time along a fairly uneven road. Since one sometimes has to be up to two miles from the river to be on the high ground (the same on both banks), we unyoked, without water, as darkness fell, after riding for four hours. All the same terrain and vegetation. Koerikei found a bees' nest, but it was situated so deep among the rocks that he could not collect the honey. On the mountains at our outspan I found that deadly poison tree of which a bruised branch, being full of latex, can poison a small spring; it was a euphorbia.²²⁷ We saw fresh rhinoceros spoor. The rhinoceros meat was very good to eat, but that of old animals is tough. This one was a young adult cow, very fat. It tasted very much like beef, but had the flavour of the wild, which made it resemble rabbit meat.

7 [October 1779] Fair weather; thermometer 60°–80°–70°. Cool, westerly breeze, very pleasant. We arrived at the river after [travelling] four-and-a-half hours ENE and with a turn northwards, the last hour [going through] the same downhill veld. Our Bushmen called this place 'Samoep'. Here again I could once more almost go across the stone sills without wetting my feet. N.B. As far as I have got to know this river, the opposite side is its main channel. I saw many elephant spoor, and some hippopotamus, and the same types of trees, but hitherto only a few, and very stunted trees, more deserving of the name of 'shrubs' than of 'trees'. This morning as I was riding out ahead, following a giraffe spoor, my horse stepped into mouse holes with which this area is riddled, and fell neck and crop onto me, but it leapt up very quickly and did not

224 Undoubtedly the malachite kingfisher, *Alcedo cristata*: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 375–376.

225 Probably rosy-faced lovebirds, *Agapornis roseicollis*, which often make use of the nests of sociable weavers: *ibid.*, p. 320.

226 A vervet monkey.

227 *Euphorbia virosa*.

injure me in the least. I called this outspan 'De Gelukkige Val'.²²⁸ Here at Samoep the river flows N and S for half a mile, three miles ENE½N from our outspan, De Klip Bank,²²⁹ and then makes a complete bend to the SE, as Toenema had told me. We are now still two days' travel from the large waterfall, according to what he said. Since there is so little game here, I sent one of my Hottentots, Mallegaas, with a Bushman to fetch twelve sheep from Model to be used in case of an emergency. I am amazed at the scarcity of hippopotamus here, since there are so many up the river.

8 [October 1779], Friday Fine weather; calm, but not so hot. At noon a westerly [breeze], with mist coming from the sea or western side in the evening. I think it will rain at the Cape. Thermometer 61°–78°–64°. We left the river in the afternoon and rode half an hour back again, up the rise, and then through the E, NE and ENE: difficult, stony, sandy road; very steep uphill between the high stone hills; grey sandstone with lots of mica; everywhere irregular chunks of rock; a great deal of Bushman grass in the flats, and shrubs. After we were nearly on the high, level veld, and saw the elevated, flat Namaqua Land to the N²³⁰ beyond the river which flows between cliffs, we unyoked because it had grown dark. My dogs caught a ground jackal, called 'á',²³¹ of the same type as I caught in 1777 behind the land of the Kaffirs. We have ridden for four-and-a-half hours, but along a difficult road, thus two miles ENE½N. N.B. One finds clay in the depressions at the river. The Einiquas who were with me were delighted [to think] that their compatriots would be astonished by me, and particularly asked me to wear my long hair loose when we were with them. There were now two male Einiquas, three females of that tribe, another Hottentot – a good shot, named Claas Barend²³² – and four more Hottentots, among whom was Koerikei. Together with Schoemaker, these were all of our people, since the Bushmen had gone along the river with Pinar. We have now missed him for six days, although our agreement had been to meet on the first evening. This evening I took a bearing on the Keicaap or 'large river', thus named although it does not flow except when it rains. It comes from the N by W and enters the Orange River to the NNW of here. The Ha Kamma, a dry river as well, joins the river closer to Samoep, also on the right bank. From the waterfall the river begins to curve to the ESE. Our Einiquas called this outspan 'Honc Eib'.²³³ Half an hour further E there was sometimes water in a stone, but now it had none.

9 [October 1779], Saturday Fine cool weather; calm; sometimes a slight breeze now

228 The place of 'the fortunate fall' is marked on Gordon's Map 3: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

229 The 'Naisies Klip' of Gordon's Map 3: *ibid.*

230 He would have been looking towards the Blydeverwacht Plateau and the Platrant.

231 Probably a black-backed jackal.

232 Wikar had recommended Barend to Gordon when they had met: Mossop, ed., *Journal of Hendrik Jacob Wikar*, pp. 198–199.

233 The name means possibly 'black gemsbok place': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 568. Now called 'Nongcaip', with other similar spelling variants, it lies E of Warmbad Noord on the Cape bank of the Orange River and about thirty-seven kilometres NE of Onseepkans. Gordon's Map 3 and his text are at variance with regard to the rivers mentioned here, the map placing their confluence with the Orange too far to the SW. The first, 'Kaikaap' on his map, is today the 'Kainab'. A note on the map indicates that its meaning, 'large river', no doubt confused Brink into thinking that it formed the upper reaches of the Orange. The second river, now the Ham, enters the Orange just downstream of its confluence with the Kainab: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 108; Maps 19–21.

from one direction, then from another. Thermometer 52°–76°–60°. We travelled with many twists and turns, sometimes S, then N and NE, along a bad, stony and sandy route between the mountains, across plains and through ravines. After riding for five hours in a NE by E direction, we came to a small *graafwater* called 'Eiaas'.²³⁴ We dug at a stone. The water was fairly palatable but so scarce that we let the oxen drink a little, two at a time from a pool, after resting for two hours (here I saw several parakeets: very wary). After riding for three hours more ENE, mostly level, all yellow, dried grassveld, without water, we arrived at a place from where on the opposite side we saw the flat, long table mountains of the high Namaqua Land stretching E and W at a distance of two-and-a-half miles to the N. We unyoked because of the darkness. All the same soil. I found some small rubies and the quartz had also become reddish.

10 [October 1779], Sunday The same weather and wind. Thermometer 56°–80°–62°. Latitude 28° 26'. Took a bearing on a *graafwater*, Haries,²³⁵ one mile NNE. We left at seven o'clock and had to ride with many twists and turns around the mountains, now S, then SE, for three-and-a-half hours before we came to that *graafwater*, Haries, the water of which was good, but meagre. All these mountains are the same, and the *graafwaters* are in little rivers that don't flow except when it rains. I found Pinar here, having looked for each other. I saw many giraffe and rhinoceros spoor, and yesterday a herd of about thirty zebra. Could not get within range. They [Pinar's group] had shot four rhinoceros and two hippopotamus, and had killed an elephant and badly wounded another. On the other side of Samoep they had found a Bushman village where a woman had given them two young Hottentots about eight years old. One had run away again; the other remained with me. His name was 'Ćabas' or 'red'. Still many quiver trees on the mountains, and poisonous euphorbias [which are] six-sided, rounded, [and] with two thorns next to each other from top to bottom along each edge. One was twelve feet in diameter and eight feet tall. This veld is more overgrown than behind the Sneeuberg: low trees; a different type of mimosa. My Hottentot, Mallegaas, arrived in the afternoon with twelve sheep and two goats. Today I ate a delicious soup of the meat of young rhinoceros. It was as tasty as veal. The so-called '*haakjesdoorn*' mimosa are so tenacious and sharp that if one is caught in them, one can barely move. The rocky sand is now mixed with clay now and then. I found some spar.²³⁶ Yesterday and today we had to work hard to remove the rocks from in front of the wagon to get through the mountains and rocks. Although there are little defiles everywhere, and grassy plains between them, and level country further from the river, yet we must keep to the side of the river for the water. One of Pinar's Hottentots was bitten by a horned adder at Aloe Kloof, and healed himself by sucking and applying the curds of butter-milk. We shot several of a type of Namaqua partridge²³⁷ which came in large numbers to drink at this *graafwater*.

234 Marked 'Aiaas' on Gordon's Map 3, it is doubtless the present-day Eyas, SE of the confluence of the Kainab and Ham with the Orange: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 105, Maps 19, 21. Its name means 'ass spring': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 327.

235 It is identified with Bo Narries, thirty-four kilometres E of present-day Warmbad Noord, and given as 'Garies' on Gordon's Map 3: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 105, Maps 19, 21.

236 A crystalline, non-metalliferous mineral.

237 The Namaqua sandgrouse, *Pterocles namaqua*: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 298–299.

11 [October 1779], Monday Last night it was cool. A hyena came close to the tent, but after howling several times it left, escorted by my dogs. The same weather, but warmer. Thermometer 54° – 96° – 70° . Accompanied by Pinar, three Bushmen, four of our upland Hottentots and my two small ones, Koerikei and Kabas, I went N to the river one-and-a-quarter hours from there, through the Haries Poort, descending constantly. I found the river to be just the same, but with fewer rocks, and at this place greatly resembling the Maas²³⁸ at Namur where it winds close through the mountains. It extends E and W here, but winding, and [with] few trees and birds. We saw fresh rhinoceros and elephant spoor and a large lion spoor, fresh, but none of these animals. We saw two hippopotamus in the river, which both lost their lives. We waited for them to come up, which took more than three hours after death in the case of the first. This is sometimes very variable, possibly as a result of the size of the animal, its fatness or thinness. Along this river there were salty deposits in many places, and Model had scraped together good salt at a pool next to the river at Camaggas, although the water never becomes brackish here. I saw the Bushmen swimming across the river, which they do with a dead piece of willow wood between their legs and going from rock to rock. Pinar also did this, and the Bushmen with his musket and powder. I remained on this side determining the latitude, since the dogs had run into the astrolabe. However, I found the observation to be accurate. I took a reading on the barometer and got 28 inches and 8 tenths, thus 1 060 feet above sea-level, the same as at the rock sill; also the same weather. This shows that the river has very little fall here, and that one can take an accurate measurement with the barometer at every two or three hundred feet. The level, high mountains are situated half a mile on the other side, as well as rough, stony, uneven mountains on both sides, apparently formed by subsidence, and lower than the plateau. I returned to the wagon in the afternoon. I was very astonished at little Kabas, who is only 3 feet 4 inches tall (Koerikei is 4 feet tall). He carried the copper measuring-stick of the barometer, and was always close to me like a dog, although I walked extremely fast and it was very hot. He was most conscientious about everything, and did all he could to win my favour. The sand at the river was so hot that it burnt the feet through the soles of one's shoes. Arrived at our *graafwater* very thirsty.

12 [October 1779] Fine weather; westerly wind; thermometer 60° – 76° – 55° . This morning I found small rubies in the brittle sheets of sandstone, but they were not large or clear, and most of the red pieces were so brittle that they changed into very fine gravel. At noon we set off eastwards: all flat uphill veld; the same soil. I am still keeping the high tabular Namaqua Land two-and-a-half miles to the right; the river flows next to it, mainly E.²³⁹ In the afternoon, first once and then twice, we saw two rhinoceros, [the latter] being cows with a half-grown calf – thus five in all. We hunted them and wounded one, but caught none. I cannot accurately determine how many of us there are, since every day more Bushmen join us, who live off our hunting and are very helpful. At about sunset, after riding for six hours,²⁴⁰ I saw the first giraffe, but it was at a

238 Known in the French-speaking part of modern-day Belgium as the 'Meuse', it flows through the Ardennes.

239 Its flow, of course, is in the opposite direction.

240 This phrase is a marginal note in the manuscript.

distance and I had to use my pocket telescope. It was coming towards us on its way to the river. Sometimes it stood still and moved its neck to one side and then to the other, like the mast of a ship being prepared for top and tackle at sea. One of my Hottentots had already seen it and, stalking it, wounded it slightly, but it ran away. Just then Pienaar arrived from hunting two rhinoceros along that path. He went off after the animal and, setting my dogs after it as well, I heard them barking and [then] two shots. Although dusk was falling fast by this time, I walked, having left my horse behind, in the direction of the barking, and reached Pienaar when it was completely dark, following the signal of shots and the making of a fire, one hour away from the wagons. I found this beautiful and remarkable animal, one of the loveliest that nature has formed, dead. I could not satisfy my desire to view this creature enough, no matter how long I gazed at it by the light of the burning wood. Little Kabas and Koerikei followed and kept up with me through hedges and shrubs, which were full of thorns, although the Hottentots said that it was dangerous in the dark because of the rhinoceros which are plentiful here. I had two Hottentots bring the wagon to us, and it arrived at midnight. My upland Hottentots were most amazed at this animal. The wind blew strongly S and cold at eventide and, being warm from walking and thinly clothed, I suffered severely from cold until the wagon arrived. We had no water except that in my water-cask.

13 [October 1779] The wind was still strong, but SE. Fine weather; thermometer 55°–80°–65°. I was busy all day measuring and examining this beautiful animal, [the giraffe]. What was a pity was that it was impossible for me to take the skin with me. Nevertheless I shall try it with the skeleton.²⁴¹ From all I hear it appears that the height of these animals is fifteen or sixteen feet. People exaggerate, generally giving the details of unique specimens in natural history. N.B. It is very troublesome for this animal to lie down and also to get up. It lies down in two stages, like an ox, with its feet under its body, and completely flat on its side with legs and neck stretched out. When it goes to lie down, its body first leans over backwards, then it lowers the hind part and then the front. They are very inquisitive and when they notice something they all gather in one group, sometimes fourteen or fifteen in one herd.

Measurement in Dutch feet, inches [and] lines, of an adult male giraffe, in the Namacqua Hottentot language [called] 'neib', plural 'neina', [and] in Briqua or Moetsjoana,²⁴² 'toeka': height from the front, the animal standing straight up, from the top of its head to the ground, 15–2–0; from the point of the snout along [the] neck and back to the root of the tail, following the line of the body, 13–0–6.²⁴³ The ribs in the chest at the neck [are] four inches apart and come together sharply underneath at the back of its body. They were very round and two feet apart in the middle. The wild Bushmen say that the giraffe sometimes climbs up against the mimosa camel-thorn with its front feet like a goat in order to be able to reach the branches higher up by

241 This was possibly the one sent later to Professor Allamand: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 106.

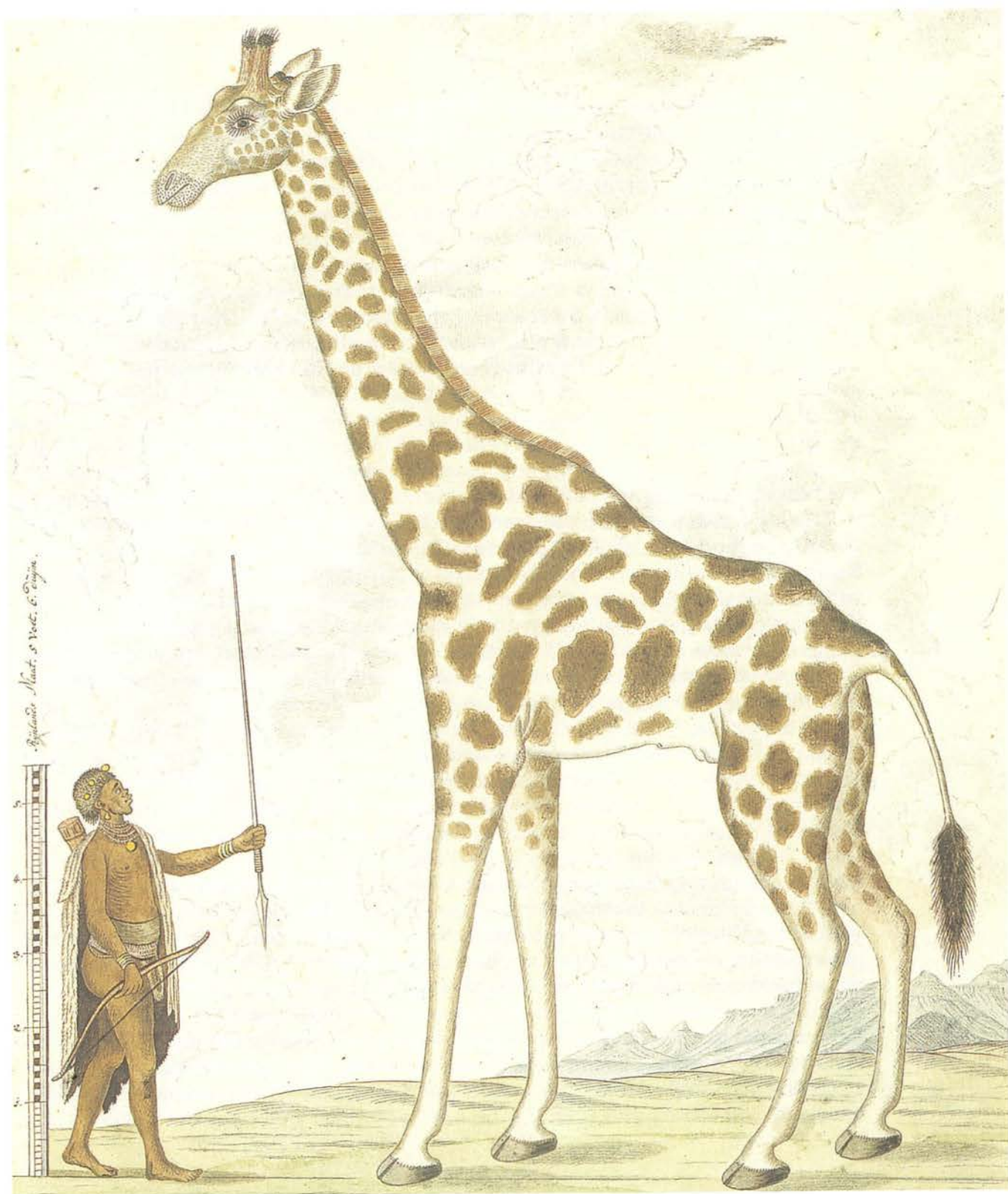
242 The Tswana language.

243 Gordon lists close to eighty further measurements, not reproduced here, giving them in the Rhineland measures then in use in the Netherlands. The giraffe, *Giraffa camelopardalis*, is often referred to by Gordon in his manuscript as 'cameleopardalis'.

standing on its hind feet, and sometimes forces the branches downwards with its neck while grasping the leaves in its mouth. N.B. The wife of a certain Gideon Visage²⁴⁴ was once chased on her horse close to a herd and having come near two of them, they were neither shy nor aggressive, but looked at her with great curiosity, since the woman had striped clothes on. These creatures even turned their heads above the head of the woman on horseback, moving their lips, without doing her any harm, after which she rode away. The giraffe grows to full size in three or four years, so the wild Bushmen tell me. Its ribs were mostly two inches apart like those of a cow; Iteki told me that a buffalo had them together and corresponding. The front bone of the spine or of the comb which forms the withers was nine inches long and two inches from the others, which were just one inch apart from the second, a foot after which they decreased like a saddleback. Found that the giraffe is not perfectly dappled on both sides [and has] what seem to be perpendicular patches. It has six upper and six lower molars almost like an eland, thus twenty-four, and eight incisors. The lower back one on each side had three roots. The tongue was narrow and like an eland's, and also somewhat hairy in front and at the back.

It had a gnarled ram's head. The ridge on the nose above the eyes was raised three inches above the eyebrows, thus from the middle of the eyes seven inches, [and] from there to below at the jaw, seven-and-a-half; the front corner of the eye slightly higher than the back; the upper lip flat and two inches above the bottom one. The nostrils three inches long in diameter; a half-inch opening; two inches below and three inches apart at the top of the head. The upper ridge was four inches long; three [inches] wide in the middle; no hair; felty and chalk-coloured. Three-and-a-half inches lower towards the nose is another prominence on which [there is] also a bare, round callous white place one inch in diameter. The horns had some small lumps, not regular, about the middle, like growths which compare somewhat with the harts in Europe, but they do not shed them; thus not round but rather angular. The top of the horns was round. The skin on the nose is so tightly attached that I removed some of the cartilage when I cut it off, and bare on top, the black ridge of hair an inch long coming only to within an inch of the upper part. The arch on the head makes it narrow there. Behind the horns between the ears it has two round lumps two inches high and also in diameter, an inch apart, on which was also blackish-grey hair a little longer than the other hair. [It] also has the longitudinal three grooves in the ears on which is hair like other gazelles; red mane about four inches long in all, the points black. [The] eight incisors [are] like those of an eland, also loose. Its protuberances or horns are not upright but form an angle backwards almost like an eland's. The jaws towards the back, eight inches at the widest; had a beautiful lively eye like an eland, one-and-a-quarter inches at its longest and an inch at its narrowest diameter. The mouth very flat, wide and round. Has no tear-ducts

244 Probably Guillian Visagie (baptized 1753), who married Elsabe Ras in 1776. He had a grazing farm at what is today Koekenaap, across the Olifants River, and was punished in 1784 for his part in a savage reprisal raid on Khoikhoi accused of theft. He became a fugitive from justice and in the early 1790s was living N of the Orange River. The name 'Gideon' is clearly given in error: Mossop, ed., *Journals of Brink and Rhenius*, pp. 113–115.



Bucinae Maat. s. Voc. E. Pigeon.

Plate 63 In Gordon's time few living specimens of giraffe existed outside Africa.

above the eye wherefore the lids [have] black bristly hairs half an inch long; upper lids [have] more than the lower. Has an elevated lump raised an inch, round in diameter an inch, two inches from the eyelid between eye and horns.

The outside of the ears was completely whitish-grey and short hair except the upper, inner ridge on which, to about three inches from the edge, [was] soft white hair one inch long. Sparse black bristly hairs with red and white mixed about the upper and lower lip, of which most are one inch long to three inches towards the back where the narrow part begins, which is smooth like the rest. The hair around the horns is hard and half an inch long and at the top along the edge is black hair. The head is mostly red and at the nostrils, which lie on top of the flat muzzle, somewhat black and white as though dappled; in front of the nostrils red, under the chin more whitish, also up to the eyes but dappled light-red; between eye and ear downwards, three longitudinal dark, dappled patches. The white stripes which then start alongside the neck and then form the large, irregular three [to] four pentagonal black-red blotches, are quite two and three inches wide and run like streets on the plan of an irregularly built city. The patches become larger and dark to the sides and chest. It had two oval blackish ones on the sides somewhat closer to the stomach, a foot in diameter. The feet are whitish-grey to the knees and heels, slightly speckled, here and there a dirty red. The hind and front buttocks have lighter and smaller patches, as have the insides of the legs, thus more whitish than the rest of the body. The light, small patches continue together till under the stomach and chest, but the penis and scrotum [are] a dirty white. It has no ergots, but its large hoof protrudes backwards two inches, the hoof cloven and much like an eland's. On the heels and elbows it has small calloused places as though from lying, also under the body behind the forelegs; however, it also lies on its side.

The hair of the tail is black with some white ones. It is half as thick as that of an elephant in length, and starts on a round knob which is on the end of the tail. On top of the suture of the tail some red hairs an inch-and-a-half long protrude like a seam and extend to the top of the rump. Thereafter on top of the body, between the two legs, there begins a place like a star or twist in the short, smooth hair, running there with the points forward, until in the mane which ends narrowly on top behind the fore feet when the animal stands, and not as far on the back as in Allaman's drawing.²⁴⁵ For the rest the entire skin is smooth and short-haired. The shoulder of this animal sits as on the chest and forms a part of the neck which it moves to and fro in walking, like an ostrich, and slowly, as it were to keep its balance and is the reason why it seems so low behind; otherwise chest and rump are level. The rump forms a quite narrow, pointed ridge on the back and the two breasts also protrude roundly in front. The shortness of the body and the neck that stands upright with the shoulder when the animal stands, makes it look a great deal like an ostrich. Moreover, some Bushmen call it the 'four-legged ostrich'. This animal had a little gall-bladder [and] its internal organs [are] mostly like an eland's and [there is] no fifth sac to load water like the camel; [it] has

245 Together with a description of the giraffe, based upon information received from Gordon, the drawing appeared in the fifth supplemental volume of Buffon's *Histoire naturelle* of 1785. Sparrman gives an extract from the description, and this is reproduced in Forbes, ed., *Anders Sparrman*, vol. 2, pp. 182–183.

fourteen large ribs and four small ones (or rather four flat little bones between the ribs and pelvis) on either side, which begin almost half-way down its body. The high comb forms the shoulders and is the cause of the great disproportion between the front and hind [parts of the] body, since otherwise the ribs are level with the back part. Its skin is for the most part half an inch and a line thick; it was full of ticks. Its flesh tastes a good deal like eland's flesh and is tasty. Both male and female have horns and differ very little in shape, it is said. The vertebrae of the neck are strange, since there are seven, each one about eleven inches long, irregularly spaced.

I sent the oxen back to the river to drink, because it is far; they have not yet returned. Most of the Bushmen have accompanied Pinar to the river. Direction to here, E by S two-and-a-half miles. This morning a rhinoceros badly frightened the women who are accompanying us, but it fled at a shot fired by one of my Hottentots. Some of these Bushmen wear a great many thongs around the wrist, like a large nest. This was the badge of honour of a hunter.

14 [October 1779] Fair weather; hazy stormy sky; somewhat overcast. Easterly breeze; thermometer 60°–79°–61°. Found the altitude to be 2 360 feet; the level land and the elevated high Namaqua Land or apparently long table mountain about 1 560 feet higher. In the morning a rhinoceros came close to us. Iteki went to it and shot it. It was a cow of the ordinary size. I cut the meat off the entire skeleton of the giraffe. I had managed to draw it perfectly. We buried the bones in the ground until our return, to protect them from wild animals. Nothing could equal the amazement of the Bushmen and Einiquas when they saw the drawing. They said that we were wonderful people, that they now saw that I 'coeroe-o-o' everything – that was for 'copying and writing' – and that they now realized for what reason I walked so far to and fro, and looked [at things], of which they had previously not been able to make any sense among themselves. We were nearly dead from thirst here, and when we had completed our tasks we set off eastwards and after riding for three hours unyoked at a little *graafwater* which was brackish. The same soil [and] vegetation – tuft-grass, melic, finger-grass²⁴⁶ and camel-thorns – everywhere. A rhinoceros has no gall-bladder; I have now examined [it] perfectly. This little dry river is called 'Gamsei'.²⁴⁷ I did not wish to ride down, because then we would have had to go along a rocky path and back again with the wagon; but I let our thirsty stock and people go to the *graafwater* (an hour further on), which they had to dig out, and remained alone at the wagons with Iteki and Schoemaker. I sent the half-aum for water, and all our servants returned with the stock and the cask half-full of water at midnight. They had tracked a lion. Today we twice saw a small herd of kudu, which the Einiquas call 'geib', as well as some zebra, and many spoor of rhinoceros, giraffe and elephant. I went under a tall camel-thorn, fully forty feet in height, which has a bloom just like that of a mimosa but a different leaf. Schoemaker made a fire upwind to grill some meat, and this set fire to this dry veld

246 Unidentifiable grasses.

247 Marked 'Gam-Eij' on Gordon's Map 3, this is probably the permanent spring, Gomnuip, about nineteen kilometres WNW of the Augrabies Falls and some thirteen kilometres beyond the spot marked on his map where the giraffe had been shot: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 105, Maps 19, 21. 'Gamsei' perhaps means 'place of water'.

which, with the fresh W wind, we only extinguished with difficulty, otherwise the entire wagon could have burnt. We threw sand on the fire and beat it with green mimosa branches. The long table mountain still extends on the opposite side of the river, and the level, low land on this side.

15 [October 1779], Friday Thermometer 60°–80°–.248 SW breeze; fine weather. We set off eastwards just after sunrise to get even further from the river for the sake of the better road, with a turn through the SE, but afterwards to the waterfall, NE, and after five good hours of travel came to the *graafwater* Koekabassi,²⁴⁹ where we unyoked half an hour from the waterfall of which I had heard for a long time. The Einiquas call the waterfall 'Aukoerebis' or 'hollow place'.²⁵⁰ The same terrain. Today I saw some gemsbok, some kudu, an ostrich, many elephant and rhinoceros spoor, and Iteki wounded a rhinoceros but did not get it. This place is full of animals. I also saw several aardvark holes for the first time [on this journey]. (I have not seen any tortoises for a long while.)

At last I saw what I have longed to see for so long, six giraffe close by, so that I could look at them properly. One of them was, at a guess, half a foot taller than the others, being a bull, and had blacker markings, and was certainly not taller than fifteen or sixteen feet at the most. They were standing and eating from the low trees, and walked slowly one after another like flamingos. As a result of their becoming aware of us, I now saw that although when standing they sometimes hold their necks completely erect [in line] with the forelegs, their attitude when moving is such that the neck in a straight line forms an angle of thirty degrees from the zenith with the horizon, so that the continuation of neck, shoulder and hindquarters seems to form an incline, thus.²⁵¹ The head is held with the mouth pointing downwards. In walking, the neck moves forward with each step, yet, not being able to trot fast (so people say and I did not see), when chased by my dogs they broke into a gallop and each time the front part of the body came down, the neck also came over forward and backward, being very strange to see. This animal does not run as swiftly as an eland, however, and both can be overtaken by a moderately good horse. It is said that they can kick fearsomely, and in this manner fight each other. Those we had shot bore the scars of this; a dog can't stand up to them and also doesn't dare get close to their feet and cannot reach their bodies. I badly wanted to shoot some of them, but the dogs were there too quickly, and I had held my horse Snel back to spare him, although he could have chased them around. Moreover, [I wanted] to shoot one of them closer to where I had left my boat, so that I could take the skin with me. Another point [about the giraffe] is that its legs are not ill adapted [to its way of life]; they are well proportioned and without bending its knees it

248 Gordon omits the third temperature reading, usually taken at sunset.

249 It is marked on Gordon's Map 3 at the western end of the Augrabies Falls: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

250 This meaning for 'Augrabies' appears to be an appropriate one, since the granite at the falls sounds hollow when knocked, as a result of jointing: information from G. Levin, archivist, Geological Society of South Africa. The 'hollow place' could refer, too, to the chasm into which the river falls.

251 In the manuscript, at this point, Gordon includes a simple 'stick-figure' sketch to indicate the angle described; the figure is eight millimetres in height.

can eat from the ground, but mostly they eat the twigs and leaves of trees, using their horns as well. Had it not been for the dogs, they would have remained standing within gunshot range, looking at the wagons with curiosity, since they are not accustomed to seeing anything like that.

We saw a fire half a day's ride ahead of us. Toenema said it was of either the Anoe Eis or 'Heldere Kraal people', who are Bushmen without cattle; or the Namneiqua or 'Caros Kraal people',²⁵² who have cattle. I went to the river to see the waterfall which [from a distance] I could neither hear nor see, although when the river is full the spray can be seen rising a day's distance away and can be heard even further off. I found that the river forms deep channels, because the ground in the vicinity is level; all rocks, which are only about ten or twenty paces wide at the bottom, but fully fifty and two and three hundred feet in places. There the river divides and to the best of my knowledge, forms three long islands of rock, but with some shrubs on them. This lasts for about a mile, and then the river again forms a single channel. I now found the water low, and therefore I [could get to] these islands and the deepest chasm which otherwise cannot be reached – although I missed the beautiful sight of the spray and the rainbow. From this originates the fable of the enchantress who sits in the middle of it and sucks everything in. It is said that there are sometimes hippopotamus in the channels of this divided maze of watercourses; therefore it can rather be said that they are sucked in and never reappear. First there is water, but going a mile westwards one would see them [hippopotamus] coming; but they would be able to disappear into some holes where I have now for a considerable distance seen the water flowing underneath.²⁵³ I went down into the first chasm, not without danger, and found some pretty stones, between an agate and a *caillou*.²⁵⁴ Young Cabas, who is small, first climbed down the steep cliff, and when I followed him my three Hottentots did likewise. This was the wildest place I have ever seen. (If one were to come here at high water, which one can do at the first gully, one would not be able to see or hear; but the slope was not steep, and little more than a millrace on the whole, as far as I could see.)²⁵⁵ I went up eastwards for a distance of a quarter of an hour. Here it was again high and level, and we went over the rocks of this first gully to the second, which was deeper but similar. Into this fell abruptly for fifty feet what was now a brook.

As evening had overtaken me, I returned by moonlight, and met Pinar, who had gone up along the river. They had shot a hippopotamus, and some of them had almost had a mishap with a rhinoceros they had wounded. They had found two Bushman villages next to the river, whose people had at first fled from them but had later come to fetch hippopotamus meat. They had also set fish-traps of osiers and caught many fish, mainly moggels. Each [village] was about fifty strong. One village had a woman whom

252 The Namnykoa, or Namneiqua, 'wearers of the kaross', were a branch of the Einiqua: Nienaber, *Stamname*, pp. 742–744.

253 The meaning of Gordon's text here is difficult to follow.

254 In French, '*caillou*' indicates a pebble which is often coloured.

255 At this point Gordon would seem to be at the site from which his Drawing No. 20 was made: Rijksprentenkabinet, Amsterdam. It represents the scene about two-and-a-half kilometres downstream from the main falls: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Plate 44, p. 106.

they had rejected and who was as thin as a skeleton from hunger.²⁵⁶ She was afraid that they would take away from her the hippopotamus meat Pinar had given her. When I return I shall ask her to come with us. I am amazed at the Bushmen, for although everything is lying around freely within reach, they will not touch anything to take it away; and although we are so weak in this distant land full of wild animals, we are as much at ease, although on our guard, as in the heart of the Cape. In comparing this with the descriptions given by those who find all sorts of danger even in the vicinity of the Cape, one realizes how little real danger there is, except in people's minds. To my regret I broke my thermometer today while clambering over the rocks, therefore observations are [henceforth] omitted.

16 [October 1779], *Saturday* Fine weather; hot as usual, [though an] easterly coolness. I went to measure the latitude at the river. Some Bushmen and several of my servants carried the barometer and the astrolabe. I found the latitude to be 28° 31', deviation 22½° NW; had lunch between the second and third channels, which are further apart and full of trees and undergrowth of the sort mentioned before, although there is only a little soil here and there on the rock. After grilling a rhinoceros tongue here, we went N for fully half an hour over slabs of rock and uneven places with the same trees. Here I again saw a fissure through which the water flowed like a strong millrace. Coming somewhat more easterly, I saw that this stream is formed by four others. Standing here to look around, I saw some Bushmen who ran away. I beckoned to them and called them, but they continued on their way until Toenema saw them and recognized some of his friends. He called to one by name and told him he should not be afraid but should come across the stream to us. This the others then did. When they showed how shy and astonished at [the sight of] me they were, I gave them some tobacco, and Toenema greatly praised my kindness towards him, saying that he was like a child of mine, and [told them] everything I am able to do, which the others repeated almost word for word, or only the last half of the phrase, which is their custom, and which produces a singular effect when there are many of them together and they repeat everything said to them by way of approval. The Bushman then kept at my side and often repeated to the others, 'This is my *hoenequei*', [the latter word meaning] 'great man', or 'lord'. Then another two of them came. This village, or two or three, are [those of] the Anoeis or Heldere [Kraal people]. They live here at the waterfall, [in] three of the four [villages], because we found another one. Like Toenema, [most] lacked a testicle, but an old man did not. Thus the majority of them are half castrated.

They told me that there were still more channels beyond the third one, and that it continues like this up the river, as far as they knew, the water flowing over most places with a roar when the river is full. I found the altitude of the bed of these streams here to be six hundred feet higher than at Haries, and thus it continues eastwards, a singular feature in a river, caused by the land here being flat and higher. The flat mountain or escarpment of high-lying Namaqualand, just parallel to the river and the Roggeveld, ends here, and the spur seems to end about two miles further E. I returned to the

256 Sparrman was told of a similar case among Khoikhoi peoples: Forbes, ed., *Anders Sparrman*, vol. 1, pp. 323–324.

wagon accompanied by the Bushmen. I found several others busy filling my water-cask. These Bushmen catch fish and live by hunting, digging pits to trap hippopotamus and rhinoceros at the side of the river, just like the one into which I fell with my horse on a previous journey. I saw many baboons on these kinds of islands, and not many birds, but some ducks and cormorants.²⁵⁷ These Anoe Eis are Einiquas who have lost their cattle as the result of an argument with the Namneiqua village; but now they are good friends again. The Namneiqua are situated a day further up. The Anoe Eis live at the low river, for the most part on the other side of the river or on these strange sorts of islands, and in the season of thunderstorms, on this side. The Hottentots who practise semi-castration call this ceremony 'tabie'. North of here, as far as they know, live more Bushmen. They called these 'Noeeis' and 'Eieis' to me.²⁵⁸

17 [October 1779], Sunday Fine weather; normal temperature; cool E breeze. Last night a hyena got among my twelve sheep and the goat, close to the tent. I awoke a little too late, and in spite of the moonlight could not trace where they had strayed. When daylight came we found three sheep and the goat dead and half eaten. Fortunately we recovered the others again. I went westwards for half a mile onto one of the high hillocks to see clearly the division of the river further upstream. It flows together again here. I saw three fissures close together in a deep chasm where it again forms the river, and one which flows the furthest around the back came in alone a sixth of a mile more to the W. A small old Bushman, or rather Einiqua of the Anoe village,²⁵⁹ showed me the way and pointed everything out to me. In the afternoon he brought me to the fourth channel on the other side of the rock islands, where he indicated to me that the water rushed most noisily when it is full, since there are two such places fully a quarter of an hour apart. This was just such a gully. He told me that when the river is full these islands are generally flooded, and that it makes one dizzy to see and hear the foaming water. Having wandered around the entire day with this kind man, 'Doega' as he was called, I prepared to leave on the next day at daybreak. Here the river begins to turn ESE. We judged that we would reach the Namneiqua this day. The Anoeeis brought me finely crushed dried fish in a bag which they keep for supplies.

18 [October 1779] Fair weather but louring thunderclouds. Easterly [wind]; calm. In the afternoon [there were] two heavy thunderstorms each of which lasted about half an hour, the first accompanied by hail of ordinary size; little wind. The second was very low and as heavy as any I have ever heard, long without rain or wind, and when it began to rain heavily, the storm was over. They came through the N from the NW. In the evening the weather was pleasant and calm. We left [to the] SE when day broke to get a little further from the river again in order to have a better route, since the hollow, dry rivulets, which flow into the river for only a short while in thunderstorms, are numerous. We saw a rhinoceros which we wounded but did not get. Our direct route is ESE, thus after this turn we reached after four-and-a-half hours [through] the same

257 These may have included white-breasted cormorants, *Phalacrocorax carbo*, or reed cormorants, *P. africanus*: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 38–39, 41.

258 They were a San group: Nienaber, *Stamname*, pp. 749–750.

259 The Anoeeis were a branch of the Einiqua, which included San.

terrain, a portion of the Namneiqua or 'those having karosses'. They were situated on an island fully half an hour wide, formed by the river on the northern side and by only a small stream on the southern side. The island, and everything down from the maze of watercourses, is covered with bush – mainly mimosas, willows and large *rasyn* trees like the largest mimosas. It is covered with a great deal of fertile soil. This tribe had ten mat huts among the trees; I estimate five or six persons in each hut, and [with] little gardens like the Kaffirs, but there was nothing except dagga or hemp in them. This they got from the Namaquas, and they from us. There was not a single semi-castrated man among them, and [there were] two old men who had the most to say – rich men or chiefs, one named 'Doèga', brother of the Bushman of yesterday, and the other 'Aboegoeb'. Here I found many pits dug at the river to catch rhinoceros, elephant and hippopotamus, and no stakes in them, for the pits were deep enough. Along some pits lay thorn branches like a funnel, to lead the animals step by step in that direction. I also saw funnels set counter to the others, almost like an eel-trap to catch fish. They are also real Hottentots. I have found that the language on this side of the Cape differs much less in dialect than on the side towards the Kaffirs, and although the dialect varies, each is named after its own side.

Two came to me and I went with them across one stream, which was not even a foot deep and about twenty feet wide, onto their island which they abandon when the river is in flood and generally washes over it. I found this place to be very beautiful. The trees and foliage under which we passed and which are so scarce in this land, made it rapturous, and the change from the arid, frightful, bad, stony countryside made this distinction even sharper. I was received in a most friendly fashion by a cousin of one of the chiefs, which they call '*ghawoep*'. His name was 'Tamega' and he was much whiter than the others. Since a thunderstorm arose I took shelter in his hut into which, however, the rain penetrated to such an extent that I had to cover myself with his large, oval bed-cover of oxhide. The entrance or door was so narrow and low that I could barely crawl in or out. When the storm had passed I went to measure the altitude of the river with the barometer, and I found it to be 2 000 feet. Tamega, the son of Aboegoeb, who showed me the way through this thicket, could form no idea of my work, although I explained it to him. Like all wild Bushmen, he was most amazed at the quicksilver and how it is [both] wet and dry. I found Pinar here. He and his servants had yesterday shot five elephant, of which these bushes are full: three cows, a young calf and a young bull, out of a herd of twenty. We heard them shooting close to us and saw the fire which they lit to keep the elephant away and to lie beside, burning up brightly. This is a well-established custom. Tamega also told me that they often have to set fire to the wood to keep the elephant from their huts; if they encounter them, [the elephant] also chase after them. These Hottentots have cattle, sheep and goats (though not many), and are great hunters. The sheep are smooth-haired like goats and have long, thin tails. N.B. They milk their sheep. They (several) came across me in the bush, with pack oxen and cows laden with elephant meat. They were very well satisfied. I returned to my tent which we had pitched some way from the river, still with some thunder, hail and rain. Tamega was amazed at my house. I gave him meat, but he had no desire for biscuits or bread which we had baked with some meal.

After the heavy thunderstorms were over, the two men like chiefs each brought me

a wooden cylinder with milk and I gave them some tobacco. They said that they always had disputes and war with the Kawkeis or Snei Kraal,²⁶⁰ and the Ogoqua or Smalwangen²⁶¹ (these are actually the Einiquas), and that each stole cattle from the other and killed each other. A cousin of Abogoe went lame from a poisoned arrow in his knee received two years ago. They complained most about the Ogoqua, but they themselves were just as bad. I told them that our great chief wanted them all to live in peace, and that I would speak to the Ogoqua as well, and they were very pleased with that.²⁶² Nothing astonished them all more than my long hair, which I was wearing loose at Toenema's request (also my long beard), and a king in Europe could not have commanded more respect than they had for me in their own way. These bushes are full of birds, and many *polipentaten* or Camdebo chickens, as well as pheasants, which is the francolin; I saw just one beautiful woodpecker,²⁶³ which I shot, to their amazement. Further than that I saw nothing but the ordinary river birds. For a sheepskin I exchanged the pelts of two types of jackal and *coerak coelak*²⁶⁴ and some smaller skins of animals I had not seen before and [which] are only found here. According to what I have been told another four elephants have been killed, but this is uncertain because of the thunderstorm. (When an elephant falls and there are others nearby, they push and trample it as hard as they can to help it get up again.) We are now 2° 9' of longitude E of the Cape, and 4° 4' from the mouth of the river which is now to the W of us.

19 [October 1779] Fine weather; easterly breeze; the air much cooler, but sultry again in the afternoon. I again went to the village and the river along a path, and would have fallen into a pit dug to catch hippopotamus again, but the *ghawoep*, Aboegoep, and his son Goroe, who were travelling ahead, warned me. They are very cautious when going through the bush, on account of the elephant. They tell me that these creatures chase them and would trample them, even though they do not hunt them, often coming right up to their village, which they call 'Commé' by name, as they showed me by the spoor. Moreover, an elephant had some time ago trampled to death one of their young girls who was walking in the bush looking for food. We wandered for some time through the bush and along the river, where I found a number of pretty, translucent blue stones like sapphire, as well as some opaque, speckled green ones.²⁶⁵ I saw fresh elephant spoor. According to the Hottentots, six elephants, one of which had been

260 They were earlier called the 'Kouqua' by Gordon; their kraal is indicated on his Map 3 as that of the Kaukeys, on the N bank of the Orange River; Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

261 They are listed by Mossop as the Aukokoa group of Einiquas, the 'narrow-cheeks' who lived on today's Kanon-eiland and other islands of the Orange River between Keimoes and Upington: *Journal of Hendrik Jacob Wikar*, p. 14. The Ogoqua, or Ochoqua, also Cochoqua, were a subdivision of the Great Korana, their name meaning 'narrow-cheek people'; they were probably named after a chief called 'Ogo', 'Ocho' or 'Cocho': Niepolder, *Stamname*, pp. 265–274, 698.

262 Gordon was mindful of his duty to Van Plettenberg and the Cape government: frontier relations were becoming a matter of increasing concern for the colonial authorities.

263 The cardinal woodpecker, *Dendropicos fuscescens*: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 421–422. The 'Camdebo chickens' were helmeted guineafowl and the francolins probably either Orange River or Cape francolins.

264 The widely distributed caracal, or rooikat, *Felis caracal*: Smithers, *Land Mammals*, pp. 101–102. The name is derived from the Turkish word '*karakulak*', meaning 'black ear'. The other pelts were evidently those of the black-backed jackal and perhaps either the bat-eared or the Cape fox.

265 Doubtless both were varieties of corundum.

wounded, passed within fifty paces of here yesterday, and they advised me not to walk through the bushes in this way. It is certain that one cannot see any great distance in this undergrowth, and these animals are upon one before one knows it. The Hottentots say that when there is a violent storm an elephant remains standing still in the same place, out of fear. Up to now the servants have found none of the elephant which had been shot. When I came to the village I saw a Hottentot who was missing an eye. I asked him how he had lost it, and he told me in the presence of the entire village that a star had fallen from the sky onto his head and in that way had treated him so harshly. On enquiring more closely I found that there was superstition mixed with this story, and that he must have had a sort of stroke. When I asked him what the star looked like, he and an old woman said it resembled a porcupine, and that three women had caught the thing. He said that although he had already slaughtered many cattle – since he had been very rich – (being ‘made different’), he had not yet been able to get strong and healthy again. Thus all their customs have eating as a basis, as among most peoples everywhere, to which drinking must also be added. When a wealthy Hottentot dies, many cattle or sheep are slaughtered and eaten at his grave, and the bones and knuckles are left lying there as mementoes. I gave the two *ghawoups* or chiefs some beads and two mirrors each for their favourite wives, and we were good friends. They warned us to be wary of the Hottentots further on, saying that they were dishonest. Today we again saw some hippopotamus in the river, which here flows SE and NW, and many blue ixias, there having been few flowers to here and little honey.

20 [October-1779] In the morning it was cool and cloudy; at noon very hot, about 96°. The wind, [which] was light, followed the sun and in the evening blew strongly SE for a couple of hours. We set off SE at daybreak and unyoked after riding for two hours and three-quarters where we thought we would find the second section of the Namneiquas. The river was still overgrown on both sides with dense bushes, and consisted of only one channel, without streams as when the water is higher, and flowed deep, of the same width as where I came to it behind the Kaffirs; the countryside also being without high mountains. (By virtue of the many temperature readings [I have taken] I have become so accustomed to it that I can estimate the temperature to within a few degrees. I put this to the test on a number of occasions.) We found that these Namneiquas were situated on the other side of the river; some of [those of] the first village²⁶⁶ accompanied us. We saw many heaps of stones (graves of Hottentots). On one were large numbers of bones of cattle and sheep, and a whole ox-head, a sign of a wealthy man or chief. In the beginning they cover the grave with thorn branches [to ward off] wild animals; then, when the smell has disappeared, they remove the branches so that no snakes can nest in them.

We left after midday and after riding for two hours reached the Camaghaap or Hartebeest River.²⁶⁷ This was shallow, fully two hundred paces wide [and] full of dry

266 The village is marked on Gordon's Map 3 on the S bank of the Orange River and there is no indication there of a crossing – if this is what is implied here: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

267 It is situated close to the confluence of the Hartebeest River and the Orange, some nine kilometres WNW of present-day Kakamas. The Khoi name means ‘river of many hartebeest’.

reeds and cypresses, low trees, but many fewer than at the Orange²⁶⁸ and I found not a drop of water in it. I saw two large, fresh lion spoor, and a rhinoceros, but it was far away. Because the road was fairly good, we rode close to the trees along the river today; the same soil and countryside. As sources, this Camagha has the Sak River, which receives all the water that flows N from the Nieuweveld and Roggeveld, and the other must come from the high, flat country between the Nieuwe Veld and this region. It is thus a river which flows in stormy weather, and therefore not for long. It stretches S and N. I went up it for some distance and saw no water, but many hippopotamus spoor. I had previously heard from the Bushmen that large pools of water remain in it to the S, in which hippopotamus live and the water becomes brackish. Along this river are the Bushmen who bear its name. I saw no people, but on a rocky hill I found [evidence] that they had eaten some cattle which they had in all probability stolen. Our Hottentots, in the meanwhile, shot two hippopotamus and wounded one. At the sound of shooting, my dog Keiser ran in that direction and wanted to attack the hippopotamus in the water. It dived each time and once came up directly under the dog but, being confused by the wound, it did not get hold of it – otherwise [Keiser] would surely have been lost.

21 [October 1779] Last night I was up twice with my musket because of the ferocious barking of my dogs, once at a horse which had broken loose, and the second time at a Bushman who screamed loudly in his dreams. Fine weather; easterly breeze; hot. Latitude 28° 45'; 2 100 feet altitude. I went to the river to see the hippopotamus and found some of our Bushmen and Namneiqua busy killing a wounded hippopotamus with their assegais on the opposite side. It was almost out of the water and was defending itself, biting at the Hottentots now and then, but it was too badly hurt to do any damage. On our bank a group of those people was busy cutting up a second dead one. They were on and around it like vultures, talking and shouting in their hundreds, cutting off the meat with their assegais. A third [hippopotamus] had been carried away by the current. In the afternoon I went for a walk, SE, into the veld. I found everything flat with small hills of rock, and very stony; level, but gently rising and falling here and there. The hills of rock [are] irregular chunks of hard sandstone and [with] much quartz – small, sharp pieces – so that in this veld one rapidly wears out one's shoes, and horses and cattle [spoil] their hoofs [and become] soft footed. The same flat veld is to be seen, though slightly higher, on the opposite side of the river, all just stony, arid and ill favoured, through which can be glimpsed the green stripe projecting out which makes the trees on either side of the river appear like a [single] bush. The wild Bushmen were amazed in the extreme when I lit a pipe of tobacco for one of them with a magnifying glass and played for them on a cither. The veld seems to be becoming barer, and the giraffe to be coming to an end. We cannot take the wagon further now because we must go through the river two miles on and, because I want to go further, I am letting the wagon go back to the Namneiqua with two of our servants to wait for us. I shall have to cross the river at a place called 'Hosabees',²⁶⁹ since the Einiquas and Coraquas

268 In the manuscript the form 'Gharie' is used here for the name of the river.

269 The name means 'well-found place'; the site of the crossing is evidently at Neus, near present-day Kakamas.

are situated on the other side. We left our belongings with the wagon, taking with us as much as four pack oxen can carry, and my astrolabe; therefore my barometric observations will cease for a time.²⁷⁰

22 [October 1779] Fine weather; slight easterly breeze. The [wagon] which had gone back to the Namneiqua arrived late. After we had left the wagon, with which we left three of our Hottentots,²⁷¹ I had the most necessary items such as my astrolabe carried along by a Hottentot, with my dressing-gown on a pack ox which was laden almost half as high as it was tall with hippopotamus meat, etc. The docility of these animals which let themselves so readily be led by the nose is amazing. We lost a young slaughtering ox, which had certainly been caught by a lion.²⁷² We were not finished before half-past five in the evening. We set off SE½E along the river and after half a mile arrived at a place which Toenema called 'Takemas'.²⁷³ Here they wanted to make a raft of willow wood and go across the river. The river was as wide at this point as the Maas at Maastricht and flowed smooth and deep. We heard hippopotamus snorting and also saw one. The sound was hollow and more like the noise of an ox or a horse, even at the end, with short blasts. They also emit clear cries. We found the spoor of a number of elephant, including calves; one turned back close to our wagon.²⁷⁴ We slept on the rocks at the water's edge. Together with us three Europeans, there were now nine Hottentots, marksmen, my two little young ones, and some Bushmen. Our five sheep remained behind.

23 [October 1779] The same weather. I saw a large herd of buffalo on the opposite side of the river, the first I have seen on this side of Africa; they had been in this region previously, however, but were hunted and killed.²⁷⁵ Toenema said we could go to a place half a mile on this side of Hosabees, called 'Euntanies',²⁷⁶ and cross the river over the rocks, without making a raft. We set off in the same direction along the river and after two hours came to that place, where we crossed without getting wet higher than our shirts, and mostly [only] up to our knees, without unloading the pack oxen.²⁷⁷ About noon we were on the opposite bank, having crossed three streams, with the river at first full of rocks, again forming a similar island in the middle. I found a skull among the rocks. Today I saw many elephant and rhinoceros spoor, and a herd of about eight kudu, most of them bulls, since the cows have no horns. This animal has a smaller and rounder hoofprint than a gemsbok or hartebeest. When a hippopotamus sticks its head out one hears two snorts in quick succession. The first is the louder. It expels the air and then takes a good breath for provision. I sent a Hottentot back to the wagon for something I had forgotten. He told me that just after we had left a whole

270 In the manuscript, but not reproduced here, there follow at this point several pages of detailed notes made by Gordon. Included are 'observations on the ostrich', vocabulary of the 'Namacqua Hottentots' and notes on various mammals and snakes.

271 This phrase is a marginal note in the manuscript.

272 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

273 It is now 'Kakamas', or the 'place where cattle drink': Nienaber and Raper, *Toponymica*, A, p. 614.

274 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

275 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

276 It is recorded as 'Eintamies' on Gordon's Map 3: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

277 After this crossing, the route on Gordon's Map 3 – previously demarcated by a double track to indicate travel by ox-wagon – changes to a single track, to indicate travel by pack ox: *ibid.*, p. 106, Map 21.

herd of elephant, some rhinoceros and a lion had come close to the wagon. They had been anxious all night long and had made a fire. Some of our group also said that they had heard a lion, and I see now that the reason Toenema had outspanned here was that he was afraid of elephant and, in spite of the most beautiful moonlight, [had wanted] to avoid going through the bushes.

Because of the heat we remained among the trees until four o'clock, since the sand in the dry watercourses along the river was so hot that I could in no way tolerate it against my bare feet and really burnt myself. At four o'clock we set off along the right bank of the river, but here, near Hosabees, the high rocky hills are close to the river. Our path therefore wound among the hills, fully an hour from the river, and we lay down under a *rasyne* tree at the river. An hour before sunset we saw a giraffe in the distance, and several kudu, many spoor of elephant and rhinoceros, and a great number of quiver trees. Here I also found some crystal through which a blue vein ran, and also a red [one].²⁷⁸ We are now half an hour past Hosabees. The place is called 'Gariëp Eis', which means 'Garies nose', with reference to the blunt island,²⁷⁹ and the river at this point is rocky everywhere and is divided into a number of channels – [with one] stream flowing around behind a hill – and has a steep bank. After we had been here for an hour and our Bushmen had lit a number of fires, we heard a great deal of shouting among the Bushmen, who called out that strangers were coming to shoot us. We took our muskets and sent Naugaap to speak to them. Shortly afterwards five of these Bushmen came to us, to whom I gave some tobacco. They smoked and left again, but we were on our guard during the night. They call themselves the 'Kéin Eis' – 'the people of the kraal'.²⁸⁰ We heard nothing further. We are now two-and-a-half miles ESE of Camaghaap, even though we have marched for seven hours. Everywhere [is] very stony, uneven terrain. Before dark a group of ten or twelve Bushmen, who had been with us at Camagha,²⁸¹ arrived. They had first consumed the hippopotamus we had shot.

24 [October 1779] The same weather; the wind westerly. Slightly hazy at evening; thunderclouds and some summer raindrops. We set off eastwards at daybreak. Here is an island, shaped, as is the river hereabouts, like that at St Pieters Poort at Maastricht [and the Maas to] Scklavante.²⁸² This island I afterwards named after my friend Sir John Macpherson, former governor of the English Indies.²⁸³ When we had progressed half an

278 Both varieties are forms of quartz.

279 Now called 'Neus Island', the name originates from the Khoi word for 'nose'.

280 They are indicated as 'Keinkeis' on Gordon's Map 3: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21. To the San the Orange River was the 'Ei' or 'Kei' and the Keineis, or Keinkeis, were thus Einiqua or 'Orange River people': Niepolder, *Stamname*, pp. 597–598.

281 The place-name 'Camagaqua' is marked on Gordon's Map 3 as being near the confluence of the Hartebeest and Orange Rivers: *ibid.*

282 St Pieters Poort was one of the old gates of Maastricht, the Netherlands; the other locality has not been identified.

283 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript and was clearly added later. Sir John Macpherson (1745–1821), English member of parliament and governor-general of India from February 1785 to September 1786, was created a baronet in June 1786. He became godfather to Gordon's daughter Johanna in December 1787. The island is marked on Gordon's Map 3 as being to the SE of the confluence of the Hartebeest and Orange Rivers: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

hour we found the above-mentioned Keinkeis Kraal of nine little mat huts. Most of them [the villagers] had come out and were sitting on the stones. They largely live from fishing. Near them the river again forms a small waterfall, all of different streams full of stones. Here were many hippopotamus, and the further we went up the river the more we met with. Here is also more grass, so these creatures do not live from fish. We wounded two and amused ourselves by watching the Bushmen hurling their assegais at a half-grown one. They hit it, but since it was in the water they could not do much damage. We left at a quarter to eleven because the afternoon wind comes up early. Three hours of brisk marching [followed], through the same terrain along the river, first around a little mountain, then E by N. However, since the pack oxen fell behind, I went into the thicket next to the river. I waited for two hours, and they had gone past along another path. I continued on my way and after three-quarters of an hour we camped in the bush at the river. Pinar remained behind because of a pain in his body. The same terrain. We passed ten deserted huts from which the mats [covering them] had been taken. Here I saw a dog which looked almost like a pointer, with patches. It ran away swiftly. There must certainly be Bushmen encamped close by. After we had lain down, Naughaap said that his village, the Kaukeis or 'Snei Kraal', was situated here on an island. He went there, and Pinar came to me. At ten o'clock in the evening Naughaap arrived with some people from his village which consisted of eleven huts. The *ghawaup* was ill. His name was 'Naba Noemam Sonoop'. I had already fallen asleep, and the Hottentots crowded around so closely that I considered it prudent to take my musket unobtrusively in my hand in the course of the conversation. They brought me milk and I gave them tobacco, and they remained with us for the rest of the night.

25 [October 1779] The same weather. The early-morning cool westerly breeze freshened towards noon. Lightning last night. Latitude a mile and three-quarters E of the Kaukeis next to the river, 28° 36'. This village has the custom of making *tabie*, but there were three of them still with us in the morning who had not been castrated, yet many in the village have been. This indicates that it is not an obligatory or general practice in the village. They have some cattle but the Ogoqua or 'Smalwangen' have taken many of them. However, they often conceal their cattle if suspicious-looking people approach.²⁸⁴ I am delaying going to them on the islands in the middle of the river until the return journey. From Hosabees the river again becomes full of small islands. The river is fully half a mile wide from one side to the other; [the banks with] the same types of trees were very green and grassy after the heavy rainstorm and thus very pleasant. [The river] again flows N of E. The countryside on both sides is becoming much flatter, and is high, starting to look like the terrain at Plettenberg's River²⁸⁵ but more overgrown. Today on a small island, between the trees where there was a clearing, I saw a beautiful elephant from very close by. This is a lovely animal, like the drawing,²⁸⁶ [though] its ear is larger. Its trunk hangs nearly to the ground. It walked forward majestically, was ten or eleven feet in height, and walked fast. It often stood still and did not

284 This sentence is a marginal note in the manuscript.

285 The Seekoei River, to which Gordon gave the governor's name in November 1777.

286 A drawing of an elephant appears on Gordon's Map 3: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21.

notice me. It marched through the trees making a loud cracking [noise]. Its back has a lovely arch at the rear so that the rump is elevated. Our servants hunted it, but it escaped among the trees. I saw many spoor of rhinoceros, giraffe and elephant, as well as some of buffalo, and in the distance two giraffe. N.B. At the place where we spent the night we encountered one of the Ogoquas or 'Smalwangen'. He was a well-built young fellow and told us that his village was situated on an island not far from here. I sent him to tell his people [of our arrival].²⁸⁷ There was a Great Namaqua living with them.

We set off eastwards when day dawned. The air was cooler because there had been a storm to the S of us and, after four hours of marching, to survive the noonday heat we went under the thorn-trees next to the river, where a stream formed a rocky island. At two o'clock we resumed our journey in the same direction. We had travelled one mile when we received news that our servants had shot a hippopotamus. We returned a quarter of a mile to the river at the tall camel-thorn or type of mimosa tree, where we spent the night while our servants cut the animal up, since we had no more meat left. The name of this place was 'Hautaws'.²⁸⁸ Before we returned to the river we saw a Bushman running. Two of ours caught up with him, but he ran away again. The wind was violent when evening fell. Here were buffalo; the same terrain; many guineafowl.

26 [October 1779] Last night it was very cold, with a storm from the W [and] a little misty rain, so that I suppose that it has rained heavily near the Cape. Still a strong W wind but clear [and] slightly cloudy. We set off ENE, right along the river which here forms high islands of rock among its channels. It is so full of trees everywhere along the river here that one cannot, even from a rise, see any water sparkling, except on occasion. After marching on for three hours we came opposite the village of the Ogoqua. I sent a Hottentot to them since, because of the trees, we could see nothing of their *legplaats* in the river. Three Bushmen, one of whom was one who had run away yesterday, came to me, and when they heard that a hippopotamus had been shot yesterday, they went there, as fleet as wolves. They said they lived not far from here, and that they belonged to the Keinkeis. We left at one o'clock and arrived opposite the Ogoqua after three-quarters of a mile, since they had moved further up. Their *ghauwaap*, named 'Ñaba Ñoe Túuw Óab', or 'Touw Oab Naba Noeb', came to meet me with four of his people, bringing two sheep and a pot of milk as a gift for me. He was an old man who had been crippled in the knee by an arrow which he had received from the Bushmen. 'Áw Nameiqua' is the name of the Bushmen situated to the S of them. He seemed to be a kind-hearted man and to have more sense than the rest. He also complained about the Geissequa, whom he also called 'Combecoe' or 'Combequa',²⁸⁹ thus one village complains about the other. They were [nearly] all castrated, but said that they now no longer practise it because, they said, they became weak as a result.

287 This sentence and the preceding two form a marginal note in the manuscript.

288 Marked as 'Hautauus' on Gordon's Map 3, it is NE of present-day Keimoes: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, Map 21. The name means perhaps 'sand pass'.

289 The Gesiqua, Geissiqua, or 'twin people', lived near present-day Upington; they were a branch of the Tswana that had intermarried with Kora and Ogoqua and their name possibly refers to this interbreeding: Nienaber, *Stamname*, pp. 364–369. The alternative name, 'Combecoe' or 'Combequa', has the same meaning: *ibid.*, p. 278.

Possibly they said this because I informed them that I did not approve of it, but there were also some among them who were not castrated.

They said that they had friends among the Briquas, but that smallpox was rife among this people, and that is why they no longer have relations with them. The river is called 'Koeroemena'. It is a small river in which water flows perennially and which enters this river; thus I think it must be the Keinkaap or such a river, because we have not seen any other perennial river or heard of one from the Bushman people.²⁹⁰ N.B. I have subsequently ascertained that it is half as large as the Orange River, always contains water, and flows into the sea beyond Namacqua Land.²⁹¹ Noueikoe and Hoekeikoe are situated to the N of the Ogoqua and are Bushmen.²⁹² I asked the *kawaiup* about the Briquas, and he said he spoke a little of their language. I found that some of their words mainly corresponded to Kaffir, but they call water 'betsi'. Matsiboa was a chief and he kept many wives. Mocodoe [was] also a chief. The Kabobaab²⁹³ are situated behind the Briqua.

We went to the second stream of the river, and found it to be very deep and very wide [and] full of hippopotamus. N.B. The *kauwaup* told me that one of his people had had a leg bitten off by one of these creatures while swimming, and lived, and one [other] had been killed. The bush was very wide at this point, so that we could see nothing except [when we were] close to the water. We wounded several hippopotamus and with my belt pistol I fired a shot at a hippopotamus close to the *kauwaup* and three of his people, so that they almost fell over. They returned with me and stayed with us for the night. In addition three lion which had been lying close in front of us leapt up and fled. On the way back they showed me where the Geissiqua and Coraqua Kraal had stalked them to attack them and take away their cattle. Two or three on either side had been killed. They bury their dead while the fighting is going on, if possible. If they have to retreat they kill the prisoners and wounded, even women and children, but they say the Ogoqua do nothing to the latter two, and keep them with them. (On these islands they are well concealed among the bushes, which is why they live there, because otherwise right along the banks there is very beautiful grass and [it is] a charming place.) Many of these islands here are so elevated that they are seldom flooded when the water is high. They showed me one on which there was a tall hillock. To this one they then went. Some of their people had gone to the Bricquas. We saw about twenty on the other side. In all, they consist of about a hundred men, women and children. There are twenty-three huts, four on a small island and nineteen on a larger one. They had a fair number of stock, cows, sheep and goats, of the same kind as the Namneiqua.

27 [October 1779] Fine weather; easterly breeze that already blew cool early in the

290 Gordon's fascination with the Briqua or Tlhaping is evident. The river that he describes is not the Kuruman which flows into the Orange, but the river of which the former is a tributary, the Molopo. The confluence of the Orange and the Molopo is fifteen kilometres NW of the Augrabies Falls.

291 This is a marginal note in the manuscript and is obviously based upon incorrect information.

292 They were San.

293 The Haboben, Nabobequa or Cabona, 'veldschoen-wearers', lived in an area N of the Great Karasberg range: Nienaber, *Stamname*, p. 460; Mossop, ed., *Journal of Hendrik Jacob Wikar*, p. 13.

morning. Last night there was a little dew, which is rare here. We left about noon, having sent on ahead the pack oxen, the hoofs of which have begun to crack. After an hour and a half of heavy marching we arrived at the deserted village of the Geissiqua. Route NE all the way along the river. This village had moved higher up, living in enmity with the Ogoqua. The river remained the same, with streams and bushes, and also the same terrain, but we saw no giraffe spoor. We found many buffalo heads on the old site of the Geissiqua, and [met] five of these people who had come from their village because they had heard us shooting yesterday. They had little tufts on their heads like the Kaffirs, as well as their hair, and two of them seemed to be Basters.²⁹⁴ The father, Eiheep, a *kauwaup*, was a Hottentot, however, so that their mother is possibly a Briqua. They were friendly and accompanied us. After half an hour's rest we continued in the same direction and went to . . .²⁹⁵ After we had gone an hour from the old Geissiqua village I saw two Bushmen as thin as skeletons. They set fire to the grass to burn a swarm of young grasshoppers which were crossing over the road here, and ate them half roasted. Our Geissiqua also ate some. Behind a shrub sat yet another one, who was also thin and had legs covered with sores. The village was situated among the trees at the river. They called themselves 'river people' and were few in number. They call the Bushmen on the other side of the river 'Kouneina'.²⁹⁶ After another two-and-a-half hours we lay down on the bank close to the river which at this point was wide and full of hippopotamus, which grunted loudly as night fell and at sunrise. This is one of the sounds they make: five or six short grunts like a pig, hollow and clear, and the last one longer, something like a cow. I shot a pretty kingfisher.²⁹⁷ Here the river again forms a small island; it extends from these two streams into this hippopotamus pool.

28 [October 1779] Fine weather; easterly coolness. Last night it was fresh but not cold. We left in the same direction and after two-and-a-half hours of brisk marching right along the river arrived at the Geissiqua. One village of twenty-five huts was situated on a branch of the river and the other village further ahead, on the other side, half the size. The rising current of the river met us here, so we had to go more than knee-deep through the water to reach the village, where this morning it was still dry. Some of the people from yesterday came to bring us milk. Took the latitude 28° 26'.

The water reached maximum height at noon and fell gradually. [The people of] this village had fled before the rising water and I found them erecting their huts, which they did in a few hours. In the afternoon I again went to them, and [again] in the evening when the cattle were in the kraal. They milk in the middle of the day, as the Namaquas do, and in the evening, but never in the morning. During the day each was busy with his own work in front of his hut; [the huts] stood around almost in a circle, with three large live thorn-trees in the centre. They make funnel-shaped fish-traps [and] milk bowls which they hollow out with an adze; [they] tan hides by rubbing them with

294 Of mixed blood.

295 Gordon omits their destination.

296 Also known as the 'Kowkais', the name means 'hippopotamus people': Nienaber, *Stamname*, pp. 702–704.

297 Three species are found in the region, including the attractive malachite kingfisher: Maclean, *Roberts' Birds*, 5 ed., pp. 373–376.

stones, and many women sat pounding red buchu from camel-thorn bark.²⁹⁸ I saw various Kaffir faces among them – who were also of the Bitsiana²⁹⁹ or Briquas – and a very old man. I asked after their way of counting, and many words were exactly the same as Kaffir, but others differed. They were most amazed at me, particularly my long hair, magnifying glass, instrument for determining the latitude, and my ability to speak Briqua, with which they said I would be able to help myself. They told me that the Briquas had [formerly] lived as far as this. N.B. The description of their huts is the same as the Kaffirs; and everything else, but they tanned many hartebeest hides just as we do, removing all the hair, but they leave it on the tail which they let hang down their backs. This is often their clothing. Previously they never used the bow and arrow, but only the assegai; but since this weapon is useless against a bow and arrow they have of late also used the bow and poisoned arrows. Their name is 'Bitjoana' and not 'Birina' or 'Briqua' as they are called by the Hottentots. The Coraqua and Einiqua have driven them from here, but some of them are now still among the Bitjoana. They are situated on the Koeroemana which they say flows from the Gharie and behind past the Nabobequa Namaquas, but the fact is that it rises close to the source of the Gharie, since it is impossible for a small river like this to flow in that way.³⁰⁰ The Koeroemana is half as big as the Gharie but always contains water, without hippopotamus, and with some thorn-trees and a lot of reeds. On the other side of it live the Kaffirs whom they call 'Cabeticoe', but who call themselves 'Borroemana' or 'Morroena'.³⁰¹ Behind them is a large river, larger than the Gharie, named 'Koaang', full of hippopotamus, which flows W behind Namacqua Land.³⁰² To and beyond the Koeroemana River are Bushmen, between the Namacquas and Briquas – they do not know how far. This is level country, poorly supplied with water, but Briqua Land – situated N of the Wilhelmina River³⁰³ – has mountains and many springs. This interior has giraffe, gnu, hartebeest, zebra, quagga, elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, eland, etc., and the fauna known to us. Brink's *aueroks* is the gnu, which they call '*ghauwp*' or 'the master', and the *witte paard* [is] a grey quagga.³⁰⁴

The Geissiquas are about two-hundred strong and were very friendly, bringing us milk in abundance. They were bad friends with their neighbours, according to their

298 'The bark is first burnt, then ground to produce a remedy for headaches': Palgrave, *Trees*, 2 ed., p. 235. For an account of the use of buchu as an aid in cementing a personal relationship, see Mossop, ed., *Journal of Hendrik Jacob Wikar*, pp. 62–63.

299 Bechuana, or Tswana people.

300 The Molopo River and its tributary the Kuruman flow into the Orange, evidently encircling the area of the Haboben Namaqua; however, the source of the Molopo, E of present-day Mafikeng, and of the Kuruman, near the present-day town of that name, are far removed from that of the Orange.

301 They were probably Rolong.

302 Forbes, basing his conjecture on further information given in Gordon's Map 3, suggests that this was a former flowing river in the Okavango Delta area; the present-day dry Kaua River W of Nokaneng is noted: *Pioneer Travellers*, pp. 108, 109.

303 This name had been given to the present-day Caledon River by Gordon in December 1777.

304 Brink wrote of 'white wild horses' and '*auerossen*' resembling oxen, adding that the latter animal was called 'the master' by the Namaqua because it was 'very fleet of foot': Mossop, ed., *Journals of Brink and Rhenius*, pp. 48–49. The '*auerossen*' were blue wildebeest, *Connochaetes taurinus*; *ibid.*, pp. 48–49, n. 45; Smithers, *Land Mammals*, pp. 156–158.

the fellow believed firmly in its efficacy and was healed. The women had probably asked him what was in our muskets, and [told him] that that had then entered his leg when he was bumped against [the gun]. A cattle market was held again, and we set off along the river, sleeping an hour before we reached the place where the second division of the Goering Eis was then situated, in their trek. Since the water in the river was low, we avoided going around the mountains, but found it very rocky. The water in this defile must rise very high and make it impassable, as we saw by heavy trees which had been thrown ashore. All these people had heard a great deal that was bad about us from the Bushmen.

8 [November 1779] Last night there was a southerly wind; it was cold, with clear skies, just as it is near the Sneberg when the wind blows. This morning fine weather [and] still; during the day hot, and a slight W breeze in the afternoon. We left at daybreak [and] stopped at noon at the first Goringeis, where the second was now situated. They were more friendly now, particularly towards me, saying that the others came to their [village] with mischief [in mind] and coveted their cattle. They gave us milk in abundance, and we gave them tobacco. Our servants bartered young cattle, and I a cow to slaughter. We left at midday and slept at the Draay Islands. We saw the Bushmen's fires, but not them. Our servants now had about fifty cattle in all, which bothered me all night, sometimes almost walking over me.

9 [November 1779] Fine weather, but hot; cool last night, but I have still seen no dew, and the veld is very dry. The wind in the morning light E. It came up late, veered E and northwards and became westerly in the afternoon. These day winds blow up freshly at intervals, and often whirl, although there is not a cloud in the sky. At daybreak we began our march, stopping at noon half an hour on this side of Zeekoei Lust, where the water had gone down a great deal and the hippopotamus had left. We slept fully half an hour on this side of the old Goeringeis village. We saw Bushman fires on the other side and heard them shouting, but they did not interfere with us. We tried in vain to shoot a hippopotamus.

10 [November 1779] The same weather and wind; hot. During the night it had been hot [too]. We spent noon at Pinar's Island, shot a number of hippopotamus and eviscerated one of those which floated to the surface. The rest remained for the Bushmen who followed us on the opposite [bank]. I clearly heard them shouting '*Ham quena!*', i.e., 'What people!', but they did not dare to come across. They speak the so-called 'Chinese' dialect, a lot like that behind the Sneberg, since Koerikei can understand them. After we had turned down from the river and over the rocky ridge, we went to sleep where we had stopped at noon before. I named this place '*Schoonsigt*',³³⁶ because one can see the river beautifully here. Schoenmaker remained behind, having followed the bend in the river. Some hippopotamus came onto the bank to our fire. We wounded one in the body in the moonlight, but did not get it. As everywhere along the river I saw gerbil tracks but none of these animals; [saw] today for the first time again, giraffe and rhinoceros spoor.

336 The name means 'fair view'; the place is near present-day Grootdrink: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 107.

11 [November 1779] The same weather and wind; slightly cloudy here and there. Since Schoenmaker had not yet arrived, I sent three Hottentots back. We went to stop for noon close to Roodsand Land³³⁷ where we had previously cut up the hippopotamus. Schoenmaker came to us again, and we slept an hour on this side of Geissiqua Klippoort. We shot a hippopotamus but did not get it. A group of Nouw Eis Bushmen finally came to us. They were like the rest. I exchanged an empty ostrich eggshell for a pipeful of tobacco. Koerikei spoke their dialect, but there were Namacquas among them. On the opposite side a group of the Second Geissiquas and Bushmen was busy cutting up a hippopotamus which had fallen into a dug-out, or *keissi* pit. They were shouting and laughing, and were very cheerful. The Bushmen's legs were all badly scratched from running through bushes. This afternoon I thought I saw a lion walking in the red sand-dunes. We also saw a large spoor.

12 [November 1779] The same weather and wind – also slightly cloudy. Hot last night; cool towards morning. We passed the defile of the Geissiquas and had lunch at our previous place. Eiheep brought me thick milk, having swum through to the Second Geissiqua this morning. We heard that some of the Second Geissiqua had come out of Briqua Land, almost dead from thirst. At the Koeroemana the villages Dowski and Coriaqua are situated close together; thereafter [are] Homma Cariqua and Curiqua, also close together. [In them live] Geissiqua families who are intermarried with the Moetjoana,³³⁸ though now they have arguments and fights. Many people had died from smallpox, but this disease has now died out. This malady has for some time put an end to the intercourse between the Geissiquas and Coraquas, and between the Briquas and Namacquas. We slept at the First Geissiqua. The river continued to fall gradually, but was still murky. For the first time in this veld I saw a secretary bird. The sun was still shining when we arrived at the First Geissiqua, who straight away brought milk for me. Our Hottentot who had remained here complained that during this time he had partaken of nothing but milk, and that they had given him little enough. All our servants lingered behind, and we could not understand what was keeping them back.

13 [November 1779] Overcast sky; sunshine now and then [with] some raindrops in the morning. Strong W wind which was SW and violent in the afternoon. Last night it was not cool, but it became so because I had to lie without a coat in the open veld, as the servants had not yet arrived. Yesterday and today I heard a great deal of grunting from witchdoctors, since there are some sick people in the village. It was as though they did this from time to time, just as we take medicine, and the grunting was very similar to the sound heard when one sleeps at a certain distance from a dovecote in which the doves are continually cooing. Our servants arrived this afternoon. They had shot a buffalo, a rhinoceros and two hippopotamus, and this had delayed them, since a Hottentot is not easily called away from an animal which has been shot. [The people of] this village had also found a hartebeest killed by a lion, and brought the meat to the village with great rejoicing. We left at about four o'clock and slept at the place where we had slept on the forward journey. I named this place 'Gielquin's Eilande', after

337 'Red sand country'.

338 These mixed Kora and Tswana peoples lived on the Kuruman River.

Major Gielquin.³³⁹ We saw a place where a lion had killed a hart, and many lion spoor. In this veld calcareous rocks are found here and there among the quartz. I gave the Geissiquas who had been with us some gifts, and a grenadier's cap to Eiheep, who made objections about accepting it, for fear of his people; thus the oldest or *kawkawp* has little power, [and it was] as though the cap would confer too much authority on him. He accepted it, however, and wanted to accompany us to the wagon.

14 [November 1779] Fine, cool weather; wind S in the morning and during the day E, but slight and hot. We stopped at noon opposite Ogoqua Island.³⁴⁰ I fired three shots but they [the people there] did not come to us. The river was about three feet higher than on our forward journey, though still falling steadily. We marched to behind the large ridge of rock close to Hautaws. When our oxen went around behind the ridges it was half-past nine, but it was already moonlight before they arrived. I had lit a fire as a sign to them and fired three shots. This afternoon I passed five Bushman huts which had been there since our forward journey. They came to us immediately. Their poisoned arrowheads can be turned around so as not to injure themselves and to make the poison last longer. They do not have the little barbed tip which is used by those behind the Sneeuwberg. Eiheep showed me eleven arrow wounds which had been healed by being cut open and sucked out. The most virulent poison can be counteracted here. In war they are cruel towards their captives.³⁴¹ They slaughter them just like they do cattle: they slit open their abdomens, thrust a hand in and rip open the main artery, leaving them like that. They seldom spare women and children. This the Moetjoana also do.

15 [November 1779] Fine weather; westerly breeze. Slightly cloudy; hot during the day. I left at daybreak and stopped at noon opposite the Kaukeis village. One of the Keinkeis Bushmen, whom we met with his son, offered to fetch milk for me at the Kaukeis. Here I found several Bushman women who were eating dried quagga meat which had been pounded into pieces. They preserve it in this way, and offered me a bowlful. We again had six ladies in our party, the previous ones who had visited their friends. I saw a herd of about forty quagga. It amazes me that there are neither monkeys nor parakeets from Cabas to where we turned round, although it [the country] is full of baboons; also very few sorts of birds. The Bushman brought me milk with several of the Kaukeis. The oxen arrived in the afternoon. As soon as they had arrived, I made ready to go on ahead to the wagon, and to return the more speedily across the river, which we must now do by raft, since the water is three or four feet higher than on our forward journey.³⁴² I found the Keinkeis Bushmen situated on this side of Keinkeis Poort,³⁴³ and before we got there we saw a Bushman sitting on a hill. We beckoned to him but at first he would not come. I went a little closer and spoke to

339 Gilquin was Gordon's chief of artillery at the Cape. The name 'Gielquin' does not appear on Gordon's Map 3, though there is indicated at this point on the river – in the vicinity of present-day Upington – an island named after Gordon's son, Robert: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, pp. 105–106, Map 21.

340 The party had been there before, on 26 October 1779.

341 This word and the following three sentences appear in Gordon's manuscript on the page facing the main text of the journal entry.

342 Gordon had now almost reached the point where he had earlier crossed the Orange River.

343 The defile is not marked on Gordon's Map 3.

him. (With my instruments, which I myself wanted to bring across, I had taken with me two Bushmen, my little Bushman Cabas and another three Hottentots.) He came, but was afraid. I gave him some tobacco, and since he had his bow and arrow with him, I asked him whether he had shot anything. He said, 'No,' but added that he was looking for quagga that had drunk from a spring which he had poisoned with several ostrich eggshells full of latex from the hexagonal, thorny, yellow-flowered euphorbia, together with a bruised branch from that tree. They generally die close to the water, or if there is a great deal of water, the night after, since their stomachs rot. Their flesh, however, remains good to eat. He went with us to his village, which was the same one we had seen before on the other side. Here I saw much zebra meat, poisoned in this way. I gave him some tobacco, and we went to sleep behind the mountain, almost at the start of the defile, next to the water. The road has been very stony these three days, so that our veldschoen of which I have now already worn out a pair, are broken.

16 [November 1779] The wind veered with the sun during the day. Thunderclouds; hot. Little wind – easterly [and] slight in the morning. Last night it was not cold, but it became so because I had nothing but my Scottish plaid which was thin and had been worn threadbare. A hippopotamus had blown close to us all night, and the little waterfall cascaded noisily. We left at daybreak and after two-and-a-half hours were at Hosabees, all solid rock through which the river flows in a narrow channel, except for two small streams on the S side. Here I found some dark crystal through which a blue vein ran. We sought a suitable place³⁴⁴ which we found among the rocks, neither wide nor with a swift current, but deep, the force of the water broken by the previous division and fall as well as by the gradient, which was slight at this point. I crossed it with my machine,³⁴⁵ much to the amazement of the Hottentots, and when everything was ready, I left the servants here to make a raft and went with two of them and my Cabas to the wagon, crossing the two streams, a great deal of stony veld [and] the two dry rivers, one a previous tributary of the Orange River and the second, the Camagga or Zak River.³⁴⁶ Here for the first time on this journey I mounted a horse, being uneasy about how things were with the wagon and servants at the Namneiqua, and although I still got lost, rode alone in two-and-a-half hours to the wagon, which I found in a good state, my servants praising the Namneiqua. I found several of these Hottentots at the wagon, and they showed as much joy as my three Hottentots at my return, but they said that the people must have been rogues since I had come back so thin. I told them that that was not the case, but that it was from hard travelling. Tamega brought out milk for me, and it was just as though I had come to my own personal friends, so affectionately did these people behave. They asked directly about everything, and one reproached the other that they saw me so late, and not before I was near them. They were also amazed that I was alone. My two Hottentots and my young one arrived fully

344 The return crossing was effected a few kilometres upstream from the crossing place of the outward journey.

345 Gordon himself uses this word in the manuscript. He is probably referring to the instruments mentioned in his journal the day before.

346 Gordon is doubtless mistaken in assuming that the first dry river was an earlier tributary of the Orange; the second is the Hartebeest River, which he here names after its tributary, the Sak.

five hours later. Today, because of his courage, I named Cabas 'Hector',³⁴⁷ and he was very proud of his European name. This small child marched as well as the best fellows, was the first to swim through the river and knows no fear, always being considerate and cheerful.

17 [November 1779] Easterly coolness; very hot. Remained waiting for my servants and went to the village which had come to be situated closer to the first stream for the sake of the wagon. They had already visited me early with milk. Our servants had meanwhile shot three hippopotamus while we were on our journey, all of them very thin because of the drought. They were busy making a *keissji* or 'pit' in which they catch game. Some women dug out with a stick the earth which was red and stony, and then sifted it onto a round hide. They knead it and use it for baking their pots, which are not very hard but satisfactory for general use and for cooking.

17 [November 1779]³⁴⁸ Clear, fine weather, but very hot, although the wind came up early and blew very hard, again veering to follow the sun. Pinar arrived with several of our Hottentots. The Bushmen at the Camagga had wounded three of our cattle with assegais, having stalked them in the trees along the river. This made us think that they took the slaughtering oxen we had lost before.

18 [November 1779] The same weather and wind; SE early in the night. Our Hottentots arrived in the evening and we made ready to leave on the morrow. In the afternoon a large swarm of migrating grasshoppers came from the E and whirled down to the river, being very hungry. They were exactly the same as those of last year, on the Sneeuwberg. They serve as food for people, and fish, lion, springbok and even horses eat them with relish – so Pinar assures me. Once they have been made men, these Hottentots do not eat hare or drink milk.

19 [November 1779] We left in the morning and slept at our previous place at the waterfall. Eiheep and Geisiqua and Naugha the Kaukeis went back. Pinar came to us bleeding. He had shot and wounded a giraffe but had fallen from his horse with his saddle. Still nothing to be seen at the waterfall on account of the low water.³⁴⁹

20 [November 1779] The same weather and wind, but W in the morning. We unyoked at the Gamfei, a little higher than on our outward journey,³⁵⁰ because I did not wish to ride in the stones. This morning I saw sixteen large elephant and some calves at a thousand paces. They were grazing and looked at the wagon. Also [saw] five giraffe and a colt, as well as some quagga. When a giraffe walks, it always raises both legs on the same side at once; moreover it gallops and never trots. The cow was a little smaller, but also had horns. As before, I sent the oxen to the *graafwater*, which was fully an hour distant, with orders to bring them back by sunset. The fact that the day was very hot and that there was almost no shade, which we had to seek beneath a branchless mimosa, made the heat very unpleasant. When the oxen returned in the evening we rode for a further three-and-a-half hours and went to sleep [at the place] where we had shot the giraffe as we had advanced. Here I found Pinar, half-dead with thirst, with

347 The Trojan warrior, a hero of Greek mythology.

348 Gordon provides this, a second journal entry, for 17 November 1779.

349 This sentence describing the low water at the Augrabies Falls is a marginal note in the manuscript.

350 Gordon had earlier reached this river on 14 October 1779.

some of his Hottentots, and to my great displeasure discovered that the wolves³⁵¹ and other wild animals had dug up and damaged the skeleton we had buried; however, I took some of the best pieces with me. A strong W wind in the evening and half the night. Our Bushmen and two of my dogs stayed away.

21 [November 1779] SE [breeze] and cool in the morning, but at noon again W and hot; overcast in the afternoon. Pinar, longing for home, rode ahead. I gave him Schoemaker to accompany him, as he was delirious both because of a lack of liquid and because the journey had taken so long. I now remained alone with my four Hottentots and two youths. I was pleased to be rid of Schoemaker, who was impatience personified. I rode straight across the veld and riding for five hours, came to our previous *legplaats*, Haries. I saw a giraffe, but it was far away. We had to dig open the water and let the oxen drink one after the other. We saw a number of scorpions. It was a wonder that we were not stung since, being tired, we just went to lie on the ground.

22 [November 1779] The same weather and wind, but in the afternoon slightly overcast with thunderclouds. Hot in the evening; a strong whirling wind from the SW – it lasted until midnight. I rode southwards around all the rocks and then kept the direction, and stopped at noon half an hour S of Eiaas *graafwater*, where I sent the oxen to drink. I have therefore come a better and shorter route.³⁵² We followed our previous path and slept on this side of the ill-favoured stone defile of Honceip. I named the projecting mountain 'Hendrik de Vierdes Gebergte', because here I finished the books I had taken with me to read, namely Sully's *Mémoires* [which commemorate] the great and good monarch.³⁵³ Matroos had lost the bullet moulds and several other things in a bag, and went back to look for them. I gave him a piece of meat to take with him.

23 [November 1779] The same weather and wind, but very clear and hot. We crossed this rocky defile with great difficulty, having everywhere to work [hard] along the way still, and to hold the wagon fast – also because there are now only four of us. The wheels of my wagon became so bad that we had to tie the spokes fast. In the afternoon Cabas disappeared, his village being close, near the river. We stopped for lunch a little further than Honceib, the dry and sandy river, and in the afternoon rode to opposite Samoep, since because the way was difficult I did not want to ride to the river. I sent the oxen to the water. In the evening, with not a cloud in the sky, there was a beautiful total eclipse of the moon. My Hottentots were amazed that I had foretold it for some time already. I regretted not having a chronometer, for the occlusion, the emergence and the entire night were [all] very clear. After the moon came out a strong SE wind blew which died down when dawn broke. While I was sleeping, Koerikei woke me up, with Cabas, who came to me accompanied by an old Bushman. He made many

351 Hyena.

352 This is indicated on Gordon's Map 3.

353 The French statesman Maximilien de Béthune de Rosny, Duc de Sully (1560–1641), published his *Mémoires* in 1638; many subsequent editions have appeared. He was chief minister to France's Henry IV (1553–1610), who promulgated the Edict of Nantes in 1598, granting freedom of religion to Calvinists. The edict was revoked by Louis XIV in 1685, accelerating a Protestant exodus from France from which the Cape gained a number of settlers. The peak named after the king lies to the E of present-day Warmbad Noord; nearby, Gordon's Map 3 shows a spring which is named after Sully: Forbes, *Pioneer Travellers*, p. 106, Map 21.

gestures of friendship, and said that he had been at his [Cabas's] village. I gave the Bushman some tobacco and something to eat and he left. I said that I did not wish to keep Cabas if he wanted to go with him. He protested that he wanted to be with me, and went to lie down and sleep.

24 [November 1779] In the morning SE [wind which] followed the sun, but light; strong SW [wind] in the night. Fine day; very hot weather. I again rode on high ground along [the river], in the rocky hillocks, for the sake of a better road. I went out ahead at daybreak with Cabas, to see where we could get through with the wagon, and when I went around one of these hillocks, without taking [any] notice of Cabas, I found on arriving at the wagon that this young boy had again run away – and certainly the previous day as well, when the Bushman had forced him to return to me – which was strange. They had looked for my fire to find me in the night, and the Bushman had never seen me [before]. Cabas had first come to me at Haries on our forward journey with Pinar's Hottentots along the river, and had attached himself to me of his own accord. We stopped at noon at our previous outspan, De Gelukkige Val. I sent a Hottentot back to Samoep because I had left my belt with pistol and hunting knife lying there. We inspanned at sunset to travel by cool moonlight and rode along the same route to the nest of honey. Then I brought the wagon to the top along the slightly hilly [but otherwise] flat veld, and unyoked at eleven o'clock in the evening opposite the rock ledge. In this way I spared the wagon and gained three hours. I sent the oxen to the water in the river at Klipplaat.

25 [November 1779] The same weather and wind, though little of [the latter] and very hot. I went onto a high hill to see where I was and saw the pointed mountain I had identified last night. I went there to be certain, and straight away identified the best route for the wagon. After fully half an hour I found my previous wagon path not far from where we had shot rhinoceros. I returned, and when the oxen had arrived, we inspanned and rode down along the red-coloured dunes to the small dry Agava or Kokerboom River,³⁵⁴ [which was] lower than before. I sent the oxen to the river at Kaboés, two hours down from here and remained here alone with Koerikei. I do not know where Model was staying. Two types of fly, the ordinary ones and a large blowfly,³⁵⁵ are troublesome here, but do not bite, otherwise it would be intolerable in this locality. I had just a little shade under a *haak doorn*, since here is nothing but low shrubs. We have had to bind the spokes of the wagon several times with ropes, since they broke regularly. My two Hottentots came in the night and brought me water and milk with a piece of mutton. They had found Model encamped at the river. I had suffered thirst with Koerikei. Today we found twelve ostrich eggs, but they were fertile. Koerikei ate some of them. An old Hottentot, Hans, whom I had sent back to fetch my belt, came back from Model with it, having followed our tracks to close to here, and having then gone down the river to drink. I saw some ostrich this evening. The rhinoceros appear to be further into the veld because of our previous journey.

26 [November 1779] The same weather. Very hot in the afternoon; a thunderstorm to

354 Here, on 3 October 1779, Gordon had named a small plain in the area, 'Agava Tuin'.

355 Gordon's '*bromvlieg*' is of the family Calliphoridae.