

HISTORY  
OF  
THE COLONY OF NATAL,  
SOUTH AFRICA.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,  
AN APPENDIX,  
CONTAINING  
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ORANGE-RIVER SOVEREIGNTY AND OF THE  
VARIOUS RACES INHABITING IT, THE GREAT LAKE N'GAMI,  
COMMANDOES OF THE DUTCH BOERS, &c., &c.

BY  
THE REV. WILLIAM C. HOLDEN,  
UPWARDS OF FIFTEEN YEARS A RESIDENT IN THE COLONY.

WITH THREE MAPS,  
AND NINETEEN ILLUSTRATIONS ON WOOD AND STONE.

*Holden*  
*Natal*

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principal one on the coast of Natal, and has been frequently visited by merchant vessels."

This statement is of importance in connexion with the question of the former course of the rivers near the Bay of Natal. The Bay is large, and may be described as of a circular shape, with two small rivers, and some lesser streams, running into it. At low tide the greater part of it is left uncovered; and any one riding round the Bay has ocular demonstration that the quantity of fresh water falling into it is comparatively trifling. On each side of the Bay, stretching along in the direction of the coast, is a flat, not much raised above high water-mark, and separated from the sea, on the southern coast, by a range of sandstone hills; on the northern, by low hillocks of loose sand. Along this latter flat, the Umgeni, one of the largest of the Natal rivers, has twice within the last ten years, on the occurrence of heavy floods, made its way into the Bay. Was this its ordinary course two hundred years ago, when the above description was written?

On the one hand, the mouth of the Umgeni is now often choked by the sand of the sea-shore; and the position of the land between the Bay and the Umgeni is such that the supposition is almost involuntarily forced upon even ordinary observers, that the river, at some prior period, had its course through the Bay. Moreover, we can hardly suppose that such experienced seamen as Holland then sent forth could mistake the Bay as it now exists for a large river. On the other hand, it must be admitted that the inquiries which the colonists made among the natives at the time of these floods, supplied no evidence of the river having had another course than its present one.

In the year 1686, a Dutch ship, the "Stavenisse," was wrecked at the entrance of the Bay of Natal. After one or two ineffectual attempts to escape in the boats and by land, they set to work to build a small craft out of the timbers of the wreck. In a twelve-month this vessel was completed, and sailed for the Cape, without compass or chart, leaving some of the crew behind, (and amongst them four Englishmen and a Frenchman,) who did not care to expose themselves to the dangers of such a voyage. The little vessel, however, arrived in safety at Table Bay.

In the course of the next year, the Dutch Company at the Cape, excited by the accounts of the amazing fertility and strange productions of Natal, dispatched another vessel, to make further discoveries at Natal, and along the coast as far as Delagoa Bay. After completing the survey of that place, they sailed for Natal Bay, and there rescued two of the seamen left behind by the "Stavenisse;" and, when coasting along in latitude 33°, and off the territory of the Magoses, (now called the Amakosas,) another seaman of the "Stavenisse" swam off to them. These persons gave much information respecting Natal and the inhabitants, which, at this time of day, it is not a little amusing to peruse. They state, among other marvels, "One may travel two or three hundred *milen* through the country, without any cause of fear from men, provided you go naked, and without any iron or copper; for these things give inducement to the murder of those who have them. Neither need one be in any apprehension about meat and drink, as they have in every village, or *kraal*, a house of entertainment for travellers, where these are not only lodged, but fed also. Care must only be taken, towards nightfall, when one cannot get any further, to put up there, and not to go on before morning. In an extent of one hundred and fifty *milen*, travelled by your servants along the coast, to the depth of about thirty *milen* inland, and through five kingdoms,—namely, the *Magoses*, *Makriggas*, the *Matimbas*, *Mapontes*, and *Emboas*,—they found no standing waters, but many rivers with plenty of fish and full of sea-cows. There are many dense forests, with short-stemmed trees: but at the Bay of Natal are two forests, each fully a *myl* square, with tall, straight, and thick trees, fit for house or ship timber; in which is abundance of honey and wax: but no wax is to be had from the natives, as they eat the wax as well as the honey.

"In all the time of their stay in that country, or of travelling through it, they found but one European,—an old Portuguese, in the country of the Mapontes. He had been shipwrecked there about forty years before, while returning from India. The wreck, built of teak, is still to be seen on shore; and, as the Africans state, several brass and iron cannon are still to be found there. This Portuguese had been circumcised, and had a wife, children, cattle, and land. He spoke only the African language,

having forgotten every thing,—his God included. They cultivate three sorts of corn, as also calabashes, pumpkins, water-melons, and beans. They sow annually a sort of earth-nut, and a kind of underground bean, both very nourishing, and bearing a small leaf. Tobacco grows there wild, and, if they knew how to manage it, would, in all probability, be equal to the Virginian.

“The true European fig grows wild, also a kind of grapes, which are a little sour, though well-tasted: they are best boiled. They have also a kind of tree-fruit, not unlike the father-land medlar, and not unpleasant to eat. Wild prunes grow abundantly on the shore, and are well-tasted. There are also wild cherries, with long stalks, and very sour. Finally, they have a kind of apple, not unpleasant eating, but which are not ripe until they fall from the tree: before they fall, they are nauseous, and cause flatulency. The country swarms with cows, calves, oxen, steers, and goats. There are few sheep, but no want of elephants, rhinoceroses, lions, tigers, leopards, elands, and harts, as well of the Cape kind as the father-land, with branched horns; rheboks of various kinds, wild hogs, dogs, buffaloes, sea-cows, crocodiles, and horses. The latter they do not catch or tame, although they approach within ten or twelve paces: they are finely formed and quite black, with long manes and tails, incredibly swift, and of great strength. Some have the tail black, and others white.” They also say, that they “saw two animals feeding together in the wilderness, in size and colour like the elephant; having a head like the horse, a short tail, but long neck, very tame, and totally unknown in Europe. (Giraffe?)

“There are many kinds of snakes, scorpions, large and small, also centipedes, toads and frogs, ostriches, geese, ducks, pigeons, red and brown partridges, abundance of pheasants and *Pauws*, with a shining top-knot and tail. (Balearic crane?) In the rivers are eels and congers, and in the Bay of Natal king’s-fish and sun-fish, known in India and here, as may be further seen from the annexed account taken down from the mouths of our men.”\*

The officers in command of the expedition, also, while at Port Natal, entered into a treaty with the chief of the district for the

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\* CHASE’S “Reprint of Natal Papers,” &c., vol. i., pp. 8, 9.

purchase of the Bay and some surrounding land, the medium of exchange being beads, copper, iron-work, &c.; and they were specially directed to affirm, in the purchase-deed, that the goods so given were of the value stated in their instructions. The land was bought and assigned accordingly. But the purchase did not secure to the Dutch any benefit equivalent to the value of the goods given, trifling as that was: for, on visiting the place a few years after, to take possession, they found that the chief with whom the contract was made was dead; and his son, on being reminded of the treaty, replied, "My father is dead: his skins" (that is, clothes) "are buried with him in his house, which has been burnt over him; and the place is fenced in, over which none now must pass: and as to what he agreed to, it was for himself; I have nothing to say to it."

About the commencement of the eighteenth century, Port Natal was visited by the English for the purpose of securing victims for the nefarious slave-trade, in which they appear to have been successful.

In 1721, the Dutch established a factory at Port Natal, but soon abandoned it; and, till the arrival of Farewell and his party in 1823, as detailed in the next Chapter, the intercourse of the white man with the inhabitants of Natal was principally the result of shipwrecks along the rock-bound coasts.

## THE GREAT LAKE N'GAMI.

OUR geographical knowledge has been much extended by the discovery which Messrs. Oswell and Livingstone have recently made of the Great Lake N'gami, lying in about 20 degrees south latitude, and 24 degrees east longitude. The existence of this Lake had long been reported by the Natives; but the means of arriving at any certainty concerning it were unknown until these two adventurous gentlemen engaged in the undertaking. Dr. Livingstone had long resided at Kolobeng in lat. 25°; and from his accurate knowledge of every thing relating to the Natives, he was placed in favourable circumstances for entering on the enterprise. All being ready, he and his company left Kolobeng on June 1st, 1849. On the 4th of July they came to a large river about three hundred miles from Kolobeng; and, by following its banks three hundred miles further, they reached the long-expected Lake early in August. Thus, by great intrepidity and perseverance, they settled this doubtful point, and added a satisfactory portion of information concerning the Desert and Lake to our former treasure, which had till then been small and unsatisfactory. This has opened a new field of investigation, and already yielded a rich return to some of our enterprising traders.

I now introduce the deeply interesting journal of Mr. M'Cabe entire, as far as it has been published. His papers made their appearance first in "The Friend of the Sovereignty," and have been copied into "The Graham's-Town Journal;" from which I now take them for the instruction of the reader, as they give a very good idea of travelling according to African life.

## THE KALAGHARE DESERT.

"WE transfer from 'The Friend of the Sovereignty' the following account by Mr. M'Cabe of a journey made by him across the Kalaghare Desert. The route, it will be seen, is one which can only be attempted by those willing to brave fatigue and privation of more than an ordinary character. Mr. M'Cabe relates his adventures with great plainness; and the public are indebted to him for his contribution to that stock of knowledge of this country, which has of late largely accumulated, exciting great interest both in this and in the parent country."

JOURNAL KEPT DURING A TOUR IN THE INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA TO THE LAKE N'GAMI, AND TO THE COUNTRY TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY MILES BEYOND, BY MR. JOSEPH M'CABE.

"In our late journey through the great Kalaghare Desert, to the Lake N'Gami, and to the region two hundred and fifty miles beyond, we took our usual course towards Kolobeng, having started from Bloem-Fontein on the first of May, and reached the residence of the friendly chief Secheli on the 29th of the same month. On our route to the above chief, we passed the stations of two of the most hospitable of Missionaries, Messrs. Ludorf and Edwards. Various considerations induced me to try the route through the Kalaghare Desert; and, after leaving a waggon, thirty oxen, some bags of coffee, sugar, meal, and other articles, as a reserve, we pursued our course to the kraal of the chief Sentuhe, forty miles south-west of Kolobeng, which we reached on June 3rd. My reason for visiting him was, to obtain a guide, knowing that his father, old Sebiege, chief of the Wanketse, had travelled that country, and dwelt for a long time on the border of the Lake. From this tribe we obtained a good deal of information, and, although by no means encouraging, we were determined to try and overcome the difficulties which were said to form a barrier; and, having obtained three natives as guides, we started on the enterprise on the fifth of June, with good hopes of success. Our course then became west by north. We travelled sixty miles, which took us three days, through the sand, before we reached water; this at once proved to us that we had entered the Desert. We halted at a Ballalla kraal, which we reached on the 8th.

"These natives are very poor: they possess nothing, and subsist on what game may fall into their pits or traps, on locusts and roots of the Kalaghare. From them we ascertained, that a *vley* of rain-water was to be found in the neighbourhood; and, after giving them some beads, two men of the kraal, as guides, accompanied Mr. Maher and some of my boys in search of it. After driving the oxen about fifteen miles, they came to a *vley* of water, but so scanty that, in order to prevent them from trampling the water into mud, only two oxen could be allowed to drink at a time. While the oxen and horses went to the water, I employed my time in gaining all the information I could possibly get from these poor creatures; and found that a well or pit, containing good water, lay in a northerly direction from where we stood. Early on the 9th, I took my guide, and went in search of the well; and, after proceeding some distance from the kraal, we fell in with a foot-path which we followed for six miles, and which brought us to a fine well. I examined it, and found it about fifteen feet deep, and containing almost sufficient water for our stock. This well is called by the natives Secuil. This little discovery was of great importance to us. I returned to the waggons, and found that Maher had not returned with our cattle and horses from the water, which had been sent the previous day. Late in the evening, however, all arrived

safe. The oxen and horses showed that they had been to water, for they looked full.

“On the morning of the 10th we made for the Secul, which took us two hours with the waggon. Here we out-spanned, and took out our tin buckets; and, after forming a small dam by the side of the well, we posted three men to draw out the water: one went down to the surface of the water, another half-way down, while the other stood on the top. These pits are generally found with spars of wood fixed down the sides to support the drawers; and by this means we had all the water drained out, and thrown out into our temporary dam. Our guide informed us, that we should be four days without water: so, after filling our kegs and water-sacks, the oxen and horses were brought up to drink, and very little did they leave remaining. On the 11th, we resumed our *trek*, and, having the morning moon, we inspanned at four A.M. After four days' hard driving, from daylight till sunset, allowing only two hours for outspanning, we came to the Downtley, a distance of eighty miles from the last well. On hard ground a waggon may travel a hundred miles in four days, but here we had heavy sand all the way. The Downtley is a large pan with a good fountain, and several good pits with plenty of water. On our way to the Downtley we shot several springbucks. These bucks are found where there is no water to be had, and so is the eiland, and the giraffe. Our oxen suffered severely, the sand covering the feloes of the wheel. The days were warm; and, being without water, we thought the oxen would kill themselves when they again reached a fountain. After drinking, they lay down close to the water, every now and then getting up and taking a fresh drink: thus the poor animals continued nearly the whole of the next day. We gave them a day's rest, and on the 16th we again entered on our journey.

“According to our guide's account, we had five days to travel without water: so, after carefully filling our water-utensils, we started at ten A.M. After three days' ride, we struck upon a kraal of natives possessing sheep and goats, also a field of Kafir melons which they had cultivated: this was quite unexpected. They received us in a friendly manner, and gave us a drink of goats' milk, and as many melons as we could carry away. The first inquiry we made was for water: they gave us to understand that there was no water within two days' *trek* from this. We then asked them where they obtained water for their sheep and goats: the chief pointed to the field of melons, and said, 'There is our water.' I found the natives of this kraal very reserved. I could get but little information from them respecting the route to the Lake, and they raised great obstacles to our success. As the waggon proceeded, I took my horse and made a huntsman-like search for water, and thus took a circuit of fifteen miles, but could not trace any path that appeared likely to lead to water. I now felt satisfied that their goats and sheep ate the melons as a substitute for water. We pushed on another day, this being again the fourth day without finding water; and, having travelled through heavy sand, several oxen dropped



in the yoke. On the fifth day the oxen could pull the waggons no further, being quite overcome with thirst; and, according to information received from the Bushmen, the water was still a day's ride with the waggon.

"On Sunday, the 20th, while preparing to push forward with the oxen, horses, and boys to seek for water, two Bushmen made their appearance, but on our approach they fled. Maher and myself, being mounted, started after them; but, being mounted on thirsty steeds, we had some trouble before we could gain on these fleet-footed fellows. They often drive in the eiland. We at length succeeded in bringing one to a stand. Having some beads and tobacco in my pocket, I presented him with a little of each, and coaxed him to my waggon, which he appeared to approach with great reluctance. He understood a little Sechuana; and, with the assistance of my interpreter, he gave us to understand that he would show us a field of melons not far off. I at once resolved to drive my oxen and horses to the spot, leaving two men in charge of the waggons. The remainder of us set off, accompanied by the Bushman, who took us about ten miles. The oxen then began to raise their heads to windward, and soon after to double their pace: shortly afterwards they increased their speed to a trot. At first they only came to an odd melon here and there; five or six oxen, joined by a horse or two, disputing a bite at the first they came to; and so they continued to do until the patch of melons became thicker. I soon had the satisfaction of seeing my oxen spread out and feeding the same as if they were on a field of sweet green grass. By sunset I felt satisfied that my oxen and horses were full, and their thirst quenched, so that we returned to the waggons that night.

"Early in the morning we inspanned, the oxen greatly refreshed. Leaving the boys to come on with the waggons, Maher and myself mounted to go in quest of game. We shot a giraffe, and drove in an eiland. The waggons having travelled fifteen miles or five hours, we found them outspanned in the midst of a patch of melons. I was quite delighted to see our oxen and horses in the midst of a field of such an invaluable article in the Desert, and ourselves in possession of several slices off the ribs of a fat giraffe, while all hands were busy skinning a fine eiland, which we had driven in, and which was stretched out alongside of us. With a roaring fire, and ravenous appetites, being somewhat impatient for a mouthful, the kettle and gridiron were soon on the fire, and ere long the fat was dripping, and blazing away in the fire. We only grumbled because our gridiron, not being one of the improved kind, would not enable us to catch the fat; I must also add, that our kettle was but half full, for we had been on half allowance since the day before, on account of one of our *vatjes*, 'water-casks,' having lost the stopper, got upset, and the water, as a matter of course, ran out. Still we were as happy as kings after our feast. The eiland was cut up into *biltong*, salted, and stowed into the waggon. We then inspanned, and pushed on half the night; rode five hours, fifteen miles. Resumed our *trek* early next day, and at twelve noon

reached the Kang, a large salt-pan with wells of water, very salt. This was now the seventh day without water, since we left the Downtley.

“There is a nearer course from the Downtley to Kang; but, for some reason best known to himself, our guide took us a long way round. The water being unfit for drinking purposes, except for the oxen, we dug a pit at the northern side of the pan, and found good fresh water, but so scanty that it took us a day and night to fill our water-casks. Our guide now pointed out two ways by which we could proceed. To the west, he said, we could get to the Lehutito, where we should find good water. By his account he made it four days’ journey, which we calculated must be near ninety miles, and much out of our course. The other route being N.W., and in a more direct line, we adopted it: although without water, we trusted to the chance of finding melons. We had now to prepare for a journey of fourteen days without water. This appeared to us rather long; consequently our powder canisters were emptied, a number of water-sacks, and even ostrich egg-shells, were all brought into use, besides our half-aum, and two five-gallon kegs.

“Before we left the Kang, a number of Griquas arrived with several waggons, also endeavouring to make their way towards the Lake. They had barely outspanned before we were visited by them. Among the rest was a petty captain belonging to Sentuhe, who seemed to have the most to say, and conducted the party. After conversing some time as to the privations they had gone through before reaching the Kang, broad hints were thrown out by them that they wished to accompany us. He said he knew the direction well, and would be of great assistance to us. I would much rather have declined their company, but I knew not how to avoid them. I remained there on the 24th. At coffee time the whole gang came towards us, and, squatting all around our fire, intimated that their coffee and tea were used up, and that they did not know what they should do without. After finishing two kettles of tea, with a due proportion of sugar, and begging a couple of *treksels*—as they called it—of tea, and some sugar, they inquired when I intended to move forward: ‘To-morrow,’ was my reply. Accordingly, on the 25th, our fourteen days’ supply of water completed, and all stowed away in the wagon, we inspanned and made a move, leaving the Griquas and their party behind.

“We travelled twelve miles, and then outspanned. We had not, however, long unyoked, when the cracking of whips announced the coming of the Griqua train; and before we had time to take some refreshment, up they came and outspanned, and said, ‘We are glad to have caught up with you, and will now try and keep up with you.’ Seeing our kettle on the fire, and our *karbonatjes* well peppered and salted, and producing rather a savoury perfume, they preferred the squatting system. The boys announced the breakfast ready, and, anxious to delay as little as possible, we ordered the breakfast to be served up. Our kettle being rather small,—the larger one being

stowed away to prevent our being too free with the water,—these worthies did not forget to hint that they feared they should not get a cup out of that small kettle, while others remarked, 'That does not look like the kettle you had on the fire yesterday.' 'No,' answered one of my servants who understood the Griqua language: 'the kettle you refer to cannot be brought into use before we have the good luck to reach the Lake; and I expect, before we go very far, we shall have no water for the small kettle.' 'And what will your master do then? A white man cannot do without tea and coffee: he will have to turn back.' 'Not so long as melons are to be found,' said the boy. They then begged a *treksel* of coffee, and went to their waggons. We breakfasted, and ordered the boys to inspan the oxen, and rode till ten o'clock at night.

"Pursued our journey early next morning, and reached the Lat Lake, a large salt-pan. Here we found a Ballalla kraal, with a large flock of bucks. They had cultivated a large field of Kafir melons. From them I purchased some milk-goats. I found that goats travel much better through the Desert than cattle, feeding, as they do, upon the leaves of the different plants and shrubs. The people also supplied us with some melons, for which I was thankful. These melons are very good in a thirsty land. Here our oxen got a few wild melons; and we remained that day, it being Sunday.

"Monday, at eight A.M., continued our *trek*. On the 25th we reached another kraal of natives, who had a flock of goats, and a field of melons. From them I managed to purchase a patch for my cattle. The rest of the field was guarded by a number of women; the oxen and horses were then driven in, and much trouble had the women to keep them within bounds. Before long the patch was laid bare, and then the women had no chance of restraining them. A rush to the forbidden field was the result. My boys were obliged to run to the women's assistance. The oxen were brought up, inspanned, and at four P.M. we were again on the move, in company with the Griqua train. We travelled till late at night, and in the morning found ourselves outspanned at a small native village. They also possessed goats and a few sheep, and fields of melons which they had cultivated. From them I could get but little information; but, after some little difficulty, we learnt from them that a small distance out of our course we might find some melons. After presenting a few beads to the head man of the village, he gave us a guide; and, after driving the oxen and horses ten miles in a westerly direction, we came to where the melons lay thick on the ground. The cattle, after feeding for three hours, began to lie down full and quite satisfied, which clearly proves the invaluable qualities of the melon as a substitute for water. We returned to the waggons, but did not reach them before dark.

"I now found out, through one of the Griqua party, that Ghamma, a man of some note among the Wanketses, and conductor of the Griqua train, had put all the obstacles in my way, by warning the Ballallas and Bushmen in the country not to give the white man any informa-

tion as to water, distance, or course to the Lake; he even sent men far in advance for that purpose. After hearing all this, I made up my mind to leave them, and take a different course, let the result be what it might. Early in the morning we were again on the move, and by midnight reached a Ballalla kraal. I was now told that this was the last kraal we should see, and that we should now enter upon a country inhabited only by wild Bushmen. The natives here appeared to know well the course to the Lake, but I found them very reserved. I did my utmost to obtain a guide, but in vain. The head man of this little village replied: 'If you were alone with only your own waggons, I would give you a guide; but you are aware that the Wanketse chief is close behind you. He has sent some of his men to warn me, that if I dare to give you a guide, or even give you the least information about the road, he will destroy us. But, never mind, I will give your own guide all the information I can.'

"Determined not to travel with Mr. Ghamma and his party, after making a few presents to the captain of the village, I inspanned early on the 1st of July, and continued our course, which now became N.N.W. We rode all that day, and at sunset we reached a patch of melons. Here we halted for the night. Next morning, as usual, we were early on the move, our guide leading us all this day and a part of the next a N.W. course. On the afternoon of the 2nd of July he disappeared. This brought us to a dead stand-still; so we outspanned: by sunset he made his appearance. On inquiring of him where he had been, he said, 'I saw a Bushman, and ran after him, and he took me so far that I lost the spot where I had left the waggons.' In the morning we resumed our course, still N.W., and continued the same all day.

"On the morning of July 3rd, our guide seemed to wander: every now and then he climbed up some of the highest trees he could find, and at last brought us to a halt. We were now obliged to outspan. This being the second day without melons, Maher and myself immediately went in one direction in search of them, while some of our boys started in another. Maher and myself succeeded; and in the morning we inspanned, and directed our waggons to the spot where we had found them, and which we had some difficulty in finding again. Here we shot an eiland. All this time our guide was missing. By the neglect of our herds, we lost a fine horse which had been separated from the rest, and not seen afterwards. I heard after, from Griquas who followed my *trek*, that the horse went back, and, trying to get a drink of water at the Kang, fell into the pit, and there died; so the horse must have gone back about two hundred miles.

"On the 5th, our guide returned, and informed us that the last two days he had been leading us wrong, and wished we would remain until the train of Griquas came up. This we at once declined, but inspanned and proceeded. He then turned us from N.W. to N.E. for about fifty miles. Our course then became north. On the 6th the herds lost seven oxen, but we did not miss them till the 7th. Mr.

Maher and Hendrik, mounted on horseback, took a little water with them, and went in search of the lost oxen. After going back about twenty miles they fell in with the spoor, which they followed another fifty miles before they found them. It was by mere good luck that they escaped the Bushmen; for, had they fallen in with them, there had been no chance of their recovery. There being no melons for our oxen and horses, when Maher left us, and our water fast diminishing, we could not wait for him; so we pushed on.

“On the afternoon of the 7th we *trekked* until sunset, and then halted for the night, but still without melons; our oxen, of course, thirsty. I could not help thinking of Maher and Hendrik, who had gone in search of the lost oxen: fearing that they would greatly suffer from thirst, I filled two bottles with some water, and tied them with some biscuit in a handkerchief, and hung it to a tree near the waggon-track, so that they could not help seeing it: and it was very fortunate for them I did so; for their horses knocked up, and they were obliged to foot it, distracted with thirst. The third day they came to where I had slung the handkerchief. Old Hendrik, a keen-eyed Hottentot, caught sight of it first, and soon hauled it down and examined its contents, each taking a hasty drink; but they wisely reserved a little in each bottle, not knowing when or where they might overtake the waggons. On the 8th of July I reached a large and rather deep valley, called by the natives Mugube Magoolo. This was the first appearance of a valley we had met with since we left Sentuhe's. Here the recent spoor of elephants and rhinoceroses was for the first time seen. This valley stretches from N.W. to N.E., and in many seasons holds water. On the south side it is lined with heavy sand-hills. It was at this place where a party of Griquas, three years ago, were disappointed in finding water, and were obliged to abandon their waggons and oxen, and nearly lost their lives from thirst; but, fortunately, a shower of rain saved them. Their waggons were burned, and most of their oxen fell into the hands of the Bushmen.

“On the 9th we found a small patch of melons, barely sufficient for our wants. Here I examined our supply of water, and found that we had only sufficient for one day; and as our guide could not tell us when we would reach the first water, I measured it out by pints, and, by reducing each man to one pint per day, I found I could make it do for five days. My men were accordingly put on this allowance. The Totties could not understand this at first; but, with the assistance of a melon now and then, they managed tolerably well. I must mention that, in measuring out the water, I did not forget Maher and Hendrik. On the morning of the 10th I again filled two bottles with water, and tied them with some biscuit to a bush near our wagon-spoor. The bush being rather low, a lion, following our track, came on the handkerchief, tore it down, and, after rolling the bottles about, and scattering the few biscuits, swallowed a piece of cheese, and walked off. Late in the day we arrived at another valley; and, after travelling up its course for four miles, we struck off to the north,

following an elephant's path, and halted for the night without any melons. Oxen tremendously thirsty.

"On the 11th we pursued our journey; and, having travelled about three miles, the path divided into two; one struck to the N.N.E., and the other N.N.W. Our guide followed the one leading N.N.W. We travelled all the day through thick and heavy sand; shot an eiland; and halted at night without any melons. Early on the 12th, continued our route through thick sand. This day we were again without melons. Our oxen now began dropping in the yoke; as fast as they dropped, we replaced them with fresh ones. On the 13th our oxen could scarcely bring on the waggons. I left the boys to come on the best way they could with the thirsty oxen, while myself and Prince, a native servant whom I had obtained from the chief Secheli, started in search of water, both of us mounted on thirsty horses. After riding two hours, we fell in with a few melons, which we gathered and gave to our horses, not forgetting ourselves. Off-saddled for half an hour, and feasted upon the melons. Up-saddled, and proceeded on our search.

"After riding twelve miles further, we struck on a place where the trees and bushes had some years since been cut down with axes. Prince remarked, 'It must have been old Sebiego's people that had done this, and we cannot be far from water now.' We pushed on through this place where the trees had been cut down, when all at once we fell in with a fresh rhinoceros spoor; and knowing that this animal never goes far from water, unless he is much hunted, which I knew was not the case here, we followed the spoor; though it gave us a great deal of trouble to do so, still we kept it, and found, as we proceeded, that the track was joined by another, until it led us to a foot-path where many fresh spoors were visible; and ere long we came upon several pits, but so scarce was the water, that we barely got enough for ourselves and horses. However, we went round to all, and found that by opening them we should be likely to succeed; and, to crown this success, we found that at a short distance to the west lay a fine field of wild melons. I immediately started Prince back to the waggons, to inform the people that relief was at hand; that we had found water. When he reached the waggons, a short halt was made. All the water was brought out of the waggons, and divided amongst them, and not a drop did they leave. While Prince went back to hurry on the waggons, I amused myself by opening one of the pits, which had been stopped up by Bushmen. While very busily throwing out sticks and stones, I perceived a rhinoceros coming towards the water, within fifty yards of me. My rifle being close at hand, I treated him to a bullet behind the shoulder; blowing and snorting he ran for about a hundred yards, with the blood streaming from his nostrils, when he tumbled over to rise no more.

"After working some time, I had the pit cleared to the depth of three feet. It was nearly sunset before the waggons arrived, and by that time I had obtained sufficient water for our immediate wants.

My people were so impatient, that, before unyoking the oxen, they ran to the pit and drank heartily; the oxen were then outspanned, and both they and the horses were driven to the melons, where the herds remained with them the whole of that night. 'Coffee!' was now the cry, and two kettles were accordingly brought out and filled; and ere long the fire was blazing away under both; and not many minutes elapsed before we were enjoying that refreshing beverage, in addition to our biscuit. The Bakuains and Wanketses, of whom I had eight in my service, stood the nineteen days without water, and not even a murmur escaped them. They did not ask for so much as one pint of water, but satisfied themselves with the melons. Early on the 14th of July I dispatched Alexander and Prince, two native servants, each with a led horse, some water, and provisions, in search of Maher and Hendrik, with directions to keep the waggon-spoor. They rode for about twenty miles, and found Maher and Hendrik sitting under a tree, taking rest. Of course the water met with a hearty reception; it was immediately taken from the horses, and the two thirsty men relieved. They had found the oxen; but their horses had both knocked up, and they were consequently obliged to foot it, greatly fatigued.

"After they had taken some refreshment, Hendrik and Alexander mounted the fresh horses, taking with them what water they had left, and went back to try and relieve the two knocked-up and thirsty horses; but they found one dead, and the other too far gone to leave any hope of its recovery: so both animals perished for want of water. Leaving Prince to come on slowly with the oxen, Maher mounted the horse I had sent to him, and at five P.M. he reached the waggons in safety. We felt rejoiced at having met again; he could not help remarking that the little water I had occasionally left on the waggon-track had saved them from perishing of thirst. They fully expected to find the waggons deserted; and were surprised that the oxen had pulled them such a distance, through the deep sand, without water, and with so few melons. On the 14th we were all busy clearing out the several pits; and by evening we had got a good supply of water. After having been nineteen days without drinking any thing, our oxen and horses were brought up, and driven to the water; but, having been in a good field of melons all day, they did not drink so much as we expected. The oxen were now nearly worn out, consequently we resolved to give them two days' rest. The Griquas and Mr. Ghamma again caught up with us; and we heard from some of them that they had found water two days ago, though we had found none. Mr. Ghamma was astonished to find us here, and said, 'You have travelled well, and beaten me.'

"We had now crossed a Desert of five hundred miles in breadth; which the scarcity of water, heavy sand, and a bad guide rendered no easy task. In many parts—

'Not a bird was to be seen,  
And the stillness of death reigned over the scene.'

A deep and unceasing sand, covered with a kind of thin grass, and a

low sort of hooked thorn, which often checked the oxen, continually lay before us, and greatly impeded our progress. Hundreds of Bushmen villages were scattered through the latter part of this Desert, but were all at this time deserted, some very recently: the smoke from their fires appeared in all directions. The country to the west and north-west of our route was inhabited by them. While the Griquas were at the pits, they managed to catch two of these Bushmen; they were fine strapping fellows, much superior to their southern brethren.

"The country to the W. and N.W., up to the Atlantic Ocean, is occupied by the Damaras, a powerful tribe, rich in cattle; they wear but very little clothing or covering of any kind. The country to the S.E. of them is inhabited by a horde of Corannas, under one Jonker Africander. This tribe often goes out on a foray against the Damaras, and succeeds in taking droves of cattle. A party of Baralongs and Batlaries from over the Vaal River, lately made a trading expedition to their country, and actually brought back two hundred head of cattle.

"On the 18th we left the pits, accompanied by the Griquas. Our course now became nearly east. Maher and myself mounted, and went in quest of game, and drove-in a fine fat eiland. We reached the Ganse late on the 19th. Here we found good and sufficient water for all our wants. Mr. Ghamma and his party shot two rhinoceroses: the horns they bartered to me in exchange for tea and coffee. On the 21st we continued our journey, leaving the Griqua train behind. We travelled twenty miles, and halted for the night in a field of melons. Early next morning we were again on the move, and fell in with a *borielle*, or black rhinoceros, and shot it. Here we unyoked the oxen for two hours, and took breakfast. Again we inspanned, and continued till four P.M., when we found a small pit with a little water, and halted for the night.

"Early on the 23rd we again pushed on; but had not gone far, when we came upon another well, containing sufficient water to fill our *vatjes*, (water-casks,) and enough for our horses; but the oxen got none; a few hours' work at the well would have procured us abundance, but we were anxious to push forward, and therefore started again immediately. Our guide wandered from the proper course as usual, consequently we were another day without water. We now regretted that we did not remain at the last well till we had opened it, and given the oxen water. Our oxen would not have suffered so much, had our guide directed us properly; for we should not then have been without water.

"On the 24th the forests through which we passed were so thick, that we were obliged to bring our axes into play, to clear a road for our waggons. After travelling eighteen miles, daylight was fast disappearing, and yet no signs of water; and we had again made up our minds to halt, and spend another night without finding any, when Alexander accidently noticed that one of our dogs appeared rather playful, and, after calling him, found him quite wet. This caused a general turn-out; and in a few minutes every one at the waggons, including Kafirs, stood round the dog, and found that he had, without



doubt, been to water. A general search was made, and before long we found a *vley* of good water, about three hundred yards to the north of where we had stopped. The waggons were drawn up to the *vley*, and as each ox was unyoked he ran to the water. They were very thirsty. At supper-time the poor dog who had found the water was not forgotten; every one treated him to a piece of meat. On the 25th, having good water, and plenty of sweet grass, we remained at the *vley*. Maher, myself, and after-rider, saddled-up and went in pursuit of game. We had not gone far from the waggons, when we came upon another large *vley*, supplied by a good spring; many geese, ducks, and other wild fowl on its surface, and so deep that a horse might swim in it. This *vley* must contain water in the driest seasons.

"We had not long left the *vley*, when we observed a troop of giraffes quietly feeding, standing at a short distance from us. We rode up towards them; but, when within three hundred yards, they got scent of us, and made off. Our trusty steeds soon brought us up to their heels; for some few minutes we were hidden by the dust; ere long we were riding by their sides. We turned out two of the herd, and tried to drive them towards the waggons; but we soon perceived that their race was run; they got obstinate, and would go no farther: a bullet from each of our rifles laid them low. We then returned to the waggons. When our Bakuains and Wanketes heard of our success, they followed our horses' spoor to where the giraffes had been shot, and at midnight returned loaded with flesh. On the 26th we continued our course. The country hereabouts must have been visited with heavy and late rains, for all the *vleys* were full of water. Far in the horizon we now observed a blue speck; but as the sun passed the meridian, it gradually disappeared, and at last we lost sight of it altogether. We travelled on until ten o'clock at night, and then halted at a pool of rain-water. Maher and myself, expecting game, lay in wait at the edge of the water; we had not waited long, when we saw two objects approaching, which turned out to be rhinoceroses coming to drink. We waited until they gave us the chance of giving them a broadside, when both of us fired at one; wheeling round, they both set off, the one severely wounded.

"On the 27th, at an early hour, we were again on the move; and as the sun showed its rays above the horizon, a chain of hills distinctly appeared in the distance. At two A.M. we unyoked the oxen for two hours, breakfasted, again inspanned, pushed on, and at five P.M. reached the foot of the hills, where we found a *vley* of rain-water. We unyoked for two hours. I took my spy-glass, and climbed to the top of one of the hills to look out for the Lake; but, the day being far gone, my glass was not powerful enough for the distance, which was, by our guide's account, thirty-five miles. At seven o'clock in the evening we again moved on, and continued until ten o'clock at night. We inspanned early on the following day, with the hope of reaching the Lake about sunset. We had not proceeded far, before we fell in with the spoor of three bull elephants. Leaving the waggons to push on,

with instructions to the drivers to reach the Lake if possible, Maher and myself, with two after-riders, and three of our Bakuains, followed on the spoor of the elephants, which took us about twenty miles to the westward, where we found that a number of Bushmen had also fallen in with the spoor, far ahead of us, and had dispersed them ; so the result of our day's work proved fruitless.

"We then gave up the chase, and off-saddled for an hour. After saddling-up we went in search of the Lake ; shot a rhinoceros ; the sun went down, and yet no sign of the Lake. We again pushed on ; and, long after dark, we for the first time heard the sound of the mighty waters. The sound at first put me in mind of the distant sea. By ten o'clock at night we reached its banks, which are rather boggy, and being thickly covered with reeds, and very dark at the time, we had some trouble to get to the water. However, we succeeded at last ; and, after we, as well as our horses, had taken a hearty drink, we went in search of our waggons. Seeing a light at a distance, we made for it, and found it to be a kraal containing sheep, goats, and a few cattle ; to our surprise, we found our herdsman and horses here. On inquiring of the herdsman where the waggons were, he replied, 'I cannot say ; the horses took fright about the middle of the day, ran off, and I followed them.' The horses were well secured on account of the lions being rather troublesome. We off-saddled and remained at this place for the night ; got a drink of milk, made a good fire, and lay down for the night ; having nothing to cover ourselves, we found it very cold. Long before day-light we were up sitting round the fire, impatient for the appearance of the sun.

"At dawn of day, we were in the saddle in search of our waggons. We rode along the shore of the Lake for about six miles to the S.E., where we found them outspanned. They had reached the Lake about ten o'clock at night, at its most southern point. One of the waggons stuck fast in a kind of quicksand, and we had some trouble in extricating it. We remained here the whole of the 29th and 30th, to give our now jaded oxen a little rest. Maher and myself, with an after-rider, mounted our horses and took a ride round the Lake, from W. to N., until we struck the river Teougha. This took us four hours and a half, (about twenty-seven miles,) from the point where the waggons stood. We touched at a Makowa village, on the Teougha River. The Natives received us in a very friendly manner, and gave us corn for our horses. We made inquiries as to whether there was a passage round the Lake to the Batuane village, or Sebitoane's country. 'No,' was the reply, 'you cannot cross the Teougha ; there is no drift. The Teougha is about thirty to forty yards wide, and eight feet deep, with a rapid current, and large reedy swamps stretching out far and wide in every direction, which entirely obscure the river ; consequently you can only approach it at a very few points.'

"Not feeling satisfied as to there being no drift, so soon as our horses had eaten their corn, we saddled-up, and went in search of one, being determined to find our way down the river as far as its junction

with the Lake. The many reedy swamps greatly impeded our progress; and, as night overtook us, we were obliged to off-saddle, and halt for the night. Surrounded by swamps, we felt the night rather chilly. Early next morning we continued our course. By nine A.M. we succeeded in making our way through the reeds and marshes, and found that the Teougha here extended to more than two miles in width, and that at a mile further down it supplied the Lake with an immense sheet of water. The noble river before us here proved a magnificent sight; and many of the Lake bucks, of which I shot two fine specimens, capering about, enlivened the scene. We now determined on wading through the river; and several Makowas came up, and did their best to prevent us from attempting to cross, saying, 'The water is deep, and full of crocodiles.' However, we would not be stopped. We waded through the river, and found it in the deepest part only three feet in depth, with a sandy bottom, hard enough for waggons to cross. We were delighted at our success, and I immediately sent Alexander, our after-rider, back, to bring up the waggons.

"The Teougha enters the Lake almost due north; but as it ascends, its course inclines to the west. Bakowas dwell on the banks of the river. They build their villages among the reeds; and possess canoes, huts, lines, and harpoons. Although they grow corn, still they live principally on fish, and often harpoon the sea-cow. Their robust and healthy appearance proves that they live well. Hordes of Bushmen also inhabit the Teougha and its vicinity. Our waggons arrived on the 2nd of August, without our Wanketse guide. He told Alexander that the chief of the Lake would certainly kill him, if he dared to take us round to the north of the Lake. He accordingly left the waggons, and proceeded by a different route to Lethulitebe, chief of the Batawana town, to inform him that he had brought the white man to the Lake, and would still have guided him to them; but, like most men, he would sometimes follow his own course, and the waggons had gone round by the Teougha. This startled the chief, and accordingly he dispatched a party to turn us back, and bring us the way our guide wished us to go.

"Early on the 3rd of August we inspanned, and commenced fording the river. Our first waggon got over well, but the other stuck fast in the sand. This was the fault of the driver, who held still too long, and gave the waggon-wheels time to sink into the bed of the river. We unyoked the span of oxen in the first waggon, and put both spans to the waggon that was stuck fast; and by the united exertions of twenty-four oxen, we got the second waggon extricated; and by ten o'clock A.M. we were across all safe. We now pushed on for the Batawana town; and on the 5th of August, at six P.M., reached it. The party the chief had sent after us, finding we had already crossed the Teougha, relinquished their pursuit. The N. and N.W. shores of the Lake are lined with a chain of sand-hills of some height. The shore on this side is open and free from reeds, and can be approached to the edge of the water; for it is not boggy as in many other parts. From the top of

one of the sand-hills we had a beautiful view of the broad water. Below and around us stood many magnificent trees, including the mimosa, which adorn the scene. With the assistance of a telescope, I may venture to say, I almost feel satisfied that I could see the trees all round the Lake, from the point where my waggons first touched the shore. I travelled round north to the Batawana town; and, reckoning by my watch, I made the distance, as near as possible, sixty-five miles. The remainder of the distance has been travelled by other parties, who calculate it to be fifty miles. This would make the Lake one hundred and fifteen miles in circumference, and fifty-seven and a half miles in length, and about twelve miles in breadth.

“As we approached the village of the chief Lethulitebe, he sent three men to conduct us to a spot for our encampment. We had scarcely unyoked our oxen, when I received a message from the chief, to the effect that he was anxious to see me. I accordingly paid him a visit, accompanied by Andries, my interpreter. The chief’s messenger guided us to the village, which we entered by a long and narrow path, very winding, and watted on both sides. This brought us to the *gotla*, or ‘council-chamber,’ an open spot or square in the centre of the town, where all public business is generally transacted. In all villages where a chief of any note resides, you will find the *gotla*. Here I found the chief seated with his councillors. After greeting his highness, I presented him with a cloak decorated with about four gross of glittering brass buttons; for which he thanked me and seemed pleased. He then asked me from whence I came, and many other questions, which I answered. He seemed astonished that we had succeeded in reaching him through the Great Kalaghare Desert. He said, ‘I was not aware that white people could cross the Desert in waggons. When I heard of your being in that direction, I sent a party to meet you, to see who you were; but they did not fall in with you. I am not pleased at your coming round N’gami’ (the Lake) ‘to my residence, a route which I have forbidden. There is only one way by which I am accustomed to see travellers, and by that way only I expect them. I find you have every appearance of being friendly visitors, and therefore I will not say much on the subject.’

“The interview now being over, I bid him good day and returned to my waggons. Dinner—which consisted of very good rhinoster and giraffe steaks—being prepared, the chief not having offered me anything to eat, I felt rather hungry, and accordingly ordered it to be dished up immediately. While we were sitting at our meal, the chief made his appearance with a number of followers. I offered him a stool, and he sat down, his followers squatting around him. He did not give us time to invite him to dinner, but exclaimed, ‘*Nama u enkile eona e la monate*,’—‘That meat you have there must be very good;’ at the same time, stretching out his long arms, he laid hold of the dish, and, placing it on his knees or lap, after looking round, and dealing out some to his men behind him, he very summarily finished the remainder. I then poured out a basin of coffee for him, which I sweetened agreeably

to my taste: he took a mouthful, put the basin down, and asked for the sugar-basin, which was of course handed to him, when he immediately emptied its contents into his coffee, stirring it well, until it became nothing but a basin of treacle, which he swallowed with a due proportion of soaked biscuit. After finishing it, he said, 'I like the white man's honey better than ours.' He now appeared anxious to know what we had in our waggons, and said he would like to trade with us. On showing him our beads, brass wire, and other articles, he seemed pleased at seeing so many varieties. He said, 'It is now *perimela*,'—'the sun is down,'—'put your goods away: I will come over to-morrow.'

"Early next morning he arrived, accompanied by many followers, with some tusks of ivory; and a greater Jew I never had to deal with. The day was nearly gone before the bargain was closed, and the ivory secured. All this time our waggons were surrounded by at least a hundred spectators; and when the market was over, and the crowd dispersed, we found that we had lost a bundle of clothes containing two pairs of trousers, three shirts, a jacket, and waistcoat, besides another good waistcoat of mine, in the pocket of which was my compass, the only one I had. A search and every inquiry was made, but of no avail. I then sent to the chief to acquaint him with my loss, and requested his assistance in recovering it. He replied, that we ought to have taken better care of our goods. I offered him a reward if he would but find the compass, and return it to me, but it was not to be found. I felt the loss of it very greatly on my way to Sebitoane's country.

"One morning the chief Lethulitebe came down to our waggons, with some followers, leading a horse which he had purchased from some traveller. He said, 'I have brought down this horse to show you; and I wish to purchase one from you: it must be a horse that can run well.' My horses were soon brought up, and I pointed him out a good quiet pony: he asked me the price, and I told him. He then said, 'If it can beat mine, I will give you your price.' Jockeys were selected, and the course pointed out was about a mile long. The horses started: pony took the lead, and won easily. He sent for the ivory, and the bargain was concluded. He next required a bridle and saddle, which I also sold him. He was very much pleased, and wanted to ride his new horse; the horse was accordingly saddled; the chief mounted; his feet were placed in the stirrups, and the reins put into his hands; all this time he had two men holding the horse by the bridle. It was full ten minutes before he was ready; the horse was at length led a little way, and then let go. Pony began to trot towards his companions, who were feeding a short distance from the waggons: the chief let go the reins, and clung with both hands to the saddle, lying flat on the horse's back. The loose horses, being astonished, no doubt, to see such an awkward rider, lifted up their heads, and began capering and prancing at almost full speed; pony, as a matter of course, followed, and, seeing his companions rather playful, followed

their example, and took a part in the performance. The first BUCK he made laid his rider prostrate: the ground, however, being sandy, he was not much hurt. The horse was caught, and brought up to the waggons: when a consultation was held, and it was decided that 'the horse must be taken to the village, fed with Kafir corn, and kept there for three days; then he will become tame and more accustomed to us; but now he only knows the white man!' The horse was accordingly taken up to the village; and, on the third day, he was brought down by the chief already saddled, with the pommel hindmost. The bridle the chief carried in his hands, and requested one of my boys to put it on for him; the boy then bridled the horse, and altered the saddle. He then sent for his old horse, and asked me to allow one of my men to ride with him, at the same time requesting me to tie up all my horses, lest he should meet with the same disaster as before. I then called Hendrik, who mounted with him, first warning him not to go faster than a walk. After an hour they returned; and the chief, quite delighted, said he should soon learn to ride.

"Finding him in such a good humour, I thought it a good opportunity to intimate to him my intention of proceeding to Sebitoane's country, and to obtain a guide from him. In reply to my request, he said, 'You cannot go to Sebitoane's; the *tsetse* will kill all your oxen, and you and your people will catch the sickness. Besides, Sebitoane has no ivory, and there are very few elephants in his country.' I told him I believed all he had said; but that I would risk it, if he would furnish me with a guide. After a great deal of talk, he at last promised me a guide, provided I would remain with him a few days longer: this I agreed to do. He asked me where Mr. Oswell and Dr. Livingstone were, and when Mr. Oswell was coming to see him again. I told him that I thought Mr. Oswell had gone over the 'great water' to England. He said, 'Should you see him, tell him he must come one day and see me again.'

"I found fish very plentiful at the Lake; we were well supplied while there. The Bakowas brought us an abundant supply every day for a few beads. On the 11th of August I went to the chief, and told him that I was anxious to start for Sebitoane's, and that I should like to move in two days' time; at the same time reminding him of his promise to give me a guide. He replied, 'You are determined then to go. I know I have given you my word to furnish you with a guide; but we must first agree about the payment. You must give me gunpowder and lead; for you know that you are on my side of the river, and that you cannot reach Sebitoane's country without crossing the Tamalukan; and *that* you cannot do without my canoes.' All this I was well aware of, but refused to pay him in powder and lead, on the grounds that I had but a scanty supply, but would pay him in other articles. However, nothing would do but the powder and lead; so I was at last reluctantly compelled to give him ten pounds of powder and two bars of lead. Even then he did not seem satisfied, so five pounds of beads were added, and all was settled, and we got every thing ready

for a start the following day. On the 13th of August I started with a waggon and twelve oxen, accompanied by a driver, leader, interpreter, two Backmanes, and the guide; leaving Mr. Maher in charge of a waggon, thirty-six oxen, my horses, and the remainder of my people.

"At eleven P.M. we inspanned, and rode twelve miles; and outspanned on the banks of a small stream of clear water, the surface of which was covered with hundreds of wild fowl of various kinds, of which I bagged thirteen ducks. There were beautiful trees of great height, which added greatly to the beauty of the scene. We again inspanned and pushed on, continuing up the stream for six miles, and then halted for the night. Our waggon was drawn up under a large and magnificent tree. This stream is called by the natives the Gonier. Early on the 14th we were again on the move. We now crossed the stream, and in the course of the day had to cross several other streams. In passing through one of them, my waggon stuck fast; great exertions were made to extricate it, but without effect. In this predicament we remained all night. A Bushman village being near at hand, I went over and got fourteen of them to come to our assistance. My boys took the axe, and chopped down several spars, with which we succeeded in lifting the wheels, and, with the assistance of the Bushmen and oxen, all united, we managed to extricate it by eleven P.M.

"After rewarding the Bushmen for their assistance, we proceeded, and crossed two more streams, the last being nearly a hundred yards in width, and four feet deep. All these streams were called by the name of Gonier. The last one we crossed is the principal stream; the others are caused by the annual rise and overflow of the rivers. We continued our course up this stream all day, and did not halt till the evening. About midnight I awoke, and, after lying some time listening, I heard a noise rather familiar to my ears; I got up and awoke the boys, went a few yards from the waggons and listened attentively; I then distinctly heard that the noise was made by elephants. The night being dark, we could not exactly tell on which side of the river they were. But at daylight in the morning, leaving the leader in charge of the waggon, myself and the driver, with a number of Bushmen who had followed our waggon, went towards the spot from whence the noise had proceeded in the night. We found the spoor of a small troop of cow elephants, and followed it for about three miles up the river. The spoor then crossed the river, which we waded through. The water was about four feet deep. We followed the spoor for five miles further without seeing any thing of them, when all at once we came in sight of eleven cow elephants within a stone's throw of a large patch of reeds, growing in deep water, and the ground around very boggy. We approached them as quietly as possible, but a slight puff of wind blew from us towards them; consequently they got our scent: lifting up their trunks, and making a shrill noise, they dashed into the reeds. This I anticipated, and, running as fast as I could, just arrived in time to send the contents of both barrels of

my eight-to-the-pound smooth-bore gun into the stern of the hind-most cow.

“They were now completely obscured in the reeds. I sent the Bushmen round to make a noise, and told them to try and drive them to our side, while myself and the driver entered some short distance into the reeds; but soon found that we could get no farther, the water becoming deep and even muddy. We stood here for some time, waiting to see whether the Bushmen would succeed in driving them towards us, when two dogs unperceived by us got to the elephants, and presently we heard a bark from a dog, then a shrill trumpeting from the elephants, and down they bore upon us. We were obliged to clear the way in haste; but being deep in reeds and mud, we had some difficulty in doing so, and keeping in front of them, for the dogs were pushing on behind. They came close up to the edge of the reeds, one cow coming almost out; we had two good shots at her, putting both bullets into her ribs. With a loud trumpet-like noise she dashed back, and became separated from the rest. The dogs, finding she was wounded, kept to her. We tried hard to get another shot at her, but the reeds were so thick that we could not for some time get sight of her, till at last the enraged elephant made a charge at one of the dogs. The dog clearing his way out, she followed him till she was clear of the reeds, and stood with outspread ears. Her shoulders and head were now exposed; I levelled my gun, and took aim at her forehead, fired, and laid her prostrate.

“While we were standing round the cow, making remarks on her death, a Bushman came running up, beckoned to us, and then ran off. We followed as fast as we possibly could; he took us about a mile, when another Bushman came up nearly out of breath, took me by the hand, and, leading me to a *vley* of rushes and reeds, pointed into it. On looking into the reeds I saw the backs of two bull elephants, standing motionless as statues, with the exception of the moving of their ears; but I could not get a glimpse of either of their shoulders, nor of any vital part at which to take aim. For some time we stood watching them; but, the day fast declining, we had no time left for further consideration; so levelling the gun at the back of one of them, and drawing down the muzzle, as I thought, low enough for his shoulder, I fired, and the ball told loudly; they both wheeled round and rushed deeper into the reeds. Numbers of Bushmen now kept coming up and closing round the reeds; they brought some dogs with them, and three of these daring Bushmen went in and encouraged the dogs until they came in contact with the elephants. The trumpeting of the elephants at once told us that the dogs were at them; dashing at the dogs, and making their shrill trumpet-like noise all the time, and cracking and trampling down the reeds, so they continued for more than an hour. The sun was now nearly setting, and we were afraid we should have to leave them; but fortunately a Bushman arrived with some fresh and plucky dogs. They dashed into the reeds, and tormented the wounded bull so much, that they several times



brought him within gun-shot of us. Not an opportunity did we allow to escape, and soon put two bullets into him: at length the sun was all but down, when he made a charge at a dog, and thus gave me an opportunity of putting a ball into him which broke his shoulder, and brought him down with his head resting on his tusks.

"A Bushman, who was close to me at the time, gave a loud halloo, and in less than ten minutes many of his companions crowded around the elephant. Some of them ran up and stuck their assagais into him; the enraged animal, endeavouring to plunge upon his assailants, through his shoulder being broken, fell forward, under the weight of his body, and there lay prostrate. Three more shots finished his career. The sun being set, we bivouacked there for the night. We cut down a quantity of grass for our bedding, and made our supper off some elephant flesh. I was greatly amused at the Bushmen, who continued the whole night cutting away at the elephant; every now and then a dispute arose amongst them as to who should have the best piece of meat. Many roaring fires were blazing all around, and large quantities of elephant's flesh roasting at each; so the Bushmen continued feasting all night. In the morning I found they had got the upper tusk of the elephant extracted; but the lower one lay deep in the mud and water, and was not got out until near eight o'clock in the morning. The tusks being now extracted, four Bushmen accompanied us back to the waggon, two of them carrying the ivory. We found the cow elephant, which we had previously shot, entirely cut up, and more than half of it carried away: the trees around were red with the flesh which they had hung up to dry. The ivory had been already extracted and sent to the waggon: so we proceeded on our way, and reached the waggon about two P.M. The leader had prepared us a good dinner and plenty of coffee, so we sat down and made a hearty meal. The day being now far gone, and the driver and myself rather fatigued, we lay down and had a good sleep.

"Early on the 17th we continued our journey for four miles farther up this river (the Gonier); we then left it, and passed through a dense forest, which occasionally obliged us to use the axe. Travelled eight miles, and struck upon another river about twenty-five yards wide, and four feet deep, called by the natives the Ingotego. Here we outspanned for an hour, pushed on again, and halted for the night without water. Early next day we were again on the move, rode for about six miles, and came to another fine little river; it flowed rapidly, and was about sixty yards in width, and in some parts very deep. It is called by the natives *Mazeppa Petsie*, or, in plain English, 'Horse-dung.' It derives this name from the quantity of quagga-dung brought down by it when flooded. We crossed it about three hundred yards above its junction with the Tamalukan. The drift was deep, and the stream rapid.

"After crossing the river, we passed through a small but thick forest; and, striking the bank of the Tamalukan, continued up its course for ten miles. Here we were met by three Bakowas, who

stated that their canoes were waiting for us ; and, after proceeding a mile farther, we accordingly found three canoes ready to paddle us over. We unyoked the oxen, took the waggon to pieces, and by sunset our waggon and goods were safely landed on the opposite side ; the oxen swam through the river. The country between the Tougha and Tamalukan has every appearance of being a complete swamp. As far as the eye could reach, nothing but water and reeds appeared in view, except some little islands, formed by dark forest-trees. The whole of this country is more or less infested with the poisonous fly *tsetse*, and travelling through it with an ox-waggon is undoubtedly impracticable.

“ We continued our course up the Tamalukan for fifty miles ; then, leaving that river, entered a sandy country thickly covered with a grey and weather-beaten looking forest from sixty to seventy miles long. In this forest there are several *vleys* or pools of muddy water ; it is consequently frequented by buffaloes, rhinoceroses, and other wild animals that drink at the *vleys*. One night, as we were outspanned at one of these *vleys*, I lay watching till about midnight, when a buffalo came to drink within fifteen yards of me. I fired at him, but without knowing the result till the next morning, when the natives followed his blood spoor, and found him dead. It was a fine old bull.

“ On the 25th of August we reached the Mobabe, a large swamp about ten or twelve miles in width. Many small villages, inhabited by Bakowas, Bushmen, and others, are situated on its banks. The country around the Mobabe is in many parts infested with the *tsetse*, or ‘poisonous fly.’ The guide I obtained from the chief of the Lake, here refused to proceed farther, and turned back ; so Majando, head man of one of the Mobabe villages, now became our guide to Sebutoane’s country. He took us round the swamp ; and, after travelling for eighteen miles, we halted near a native village. After unyoking the oxen, I went up to the village, and found a number of natives sitting round their fires, roasting mice ; this they accomplished by fixing them on sticks, which they stuck in the ground in a slanting position over a slow fire. They feasted upon these mice all night. Next morning we resumed our journey, and entered on a large, level, and boundless plain, on which there was little or no grass, with the exception of here and there an odd patch very rank and coarse, more like reeds than grass ; yet hundreds of the blue gnoo, the sasabe, and quagga were to be seen passing in long files before our waggon. Of these we bagged three gnoos, two sasabes, and a quagga, of which our native followers made good use : little was left for the vultures. It took us six hours to travel across this plain, after which we reached another village ; but finding the inhabitants had to bring water from a distance of about five miles, I declined stopping for the night, but unyoked the oxen for an hour. When the moon rose, we inspanned, and pushed on until twelve o’clock at night.

“ Early next day we started again ; and, after travelling nearly the whole day, found that the water was still a considerable distance off,

and the oxen worn out by the deep sand through which they had pulled the waggon, besides being greatly weakened by the bite of the *tsetse*. I outspanned, and taking Prince, my Bakuain boy, and several other natives, and leaving the driver and leader in charge of the waggon, set off with the oxen to the water. After driving them about ten miles they suddenly came to a stand, lifted up their heads, and began sniffing the air. One of the natives went forward, and immediately returned, exclaiming, 'Shugoro!' I ran forward, and the moon shining brightly enabled me to see a rhinoster standing directly in our path. On my approach he trotted a few yards, and then stood. I levelled my gun, fired, and made a lucky shot, considering it was night: the ball, entering behind the shoulder, passed through the head. He ran a short distance, and then, grunting like a pig, rolled over to rise no more. A fire was immediately kindled, and the natives who accompanied us soon began cutting away at the carcase with the full intention of remaining there for the night, and requested me to do so also. My oxen having been already two days without water, it was not very likely I should accede to their request; so, after a great deal of remonstrating, I got two of them to guide us to the water, and after travelling five miles farther we reached the Tarrara, a *vley* of good water. Here I remained all the next day, shot a roan antelope, and at sunset started back again to where we had left the waggon.

"On the 29th, my oxen being in rather better condition, we inspanned them, and brought the waggon to the water, where we remained two days, during which time I sent two messengers to acquaint Sekeleto, now chief of the Makalolo, Sebitoane's tribe, that I was on my way to visit him. My oxen were now rapidly falling off, and were so weak that they could barely pull the waggon. On the 30th the messengers returned with instructions from Mataljana, a petty captain under Sekeleto, who has charge of the southern part of that great country, under the sway of the Makalolo, that I was to come on as speedily as possible. He also sent three men to meet me. The distance was reported to be a hard day's *trek*, and to be also greatly infested with the *tsetse*.

"On the 31st we started at five o'clock P.M., in order, if possible, to get through this dangerous country by night, and so to avoid the further destruction of my cattle by the poisonous fly. We pushed on, and passed the Zonda by night. Here my first ox died. In the morning we still found ourselves amongst the fly, and it was not until twelve o'clock at noon, that we reached the river Chobe. I was met in the most friendly manner by Mataljana, who immediately made preparations to get his canoes ready to convey my oxen across to the north side of the river Chobe, where they would be safe from the *tsetse* fly. It is singular that this river alone divides the country infested by these destructive flies, the north side of the river being entirely free from them. The Makalolo are rich in cattle, which are all kept in the country north of the Chobe and other neighbouring rivers. My oxen were taken over the river safely, and kept there so long as I remained on the Chobe. I found two of Sekeleto's head men had arrived from the

residence of that chief, to await my arrival, with instructions from their chief to inquire what I had got in my waggon, and whether I was a trader; if so, he would trade with me. As his messengers had to return, I availed myself of the opportunity for sending Prince and my Bakuain head man with a message and a present to his highness. They proceeded in a canoe, which was soon got ready and pushed off. The residence of the chief being about thirty miles distant down the river, it took them the whole day before they reached it.

"The third day Prince returned with several of Sekeleto's principal or confidential men; amongst whom was the father-in-law of the chief, who presented me with twelve buckets of Kafir corn, carefully put up in bark, worked together in the shape of a calabash. Each of these bark calabashes contained about a bucket of corn. He also presented me one of the same sort of calabashes filled with a kind of sweet earth-nut, a pot of good honey, and two slaughter oxen. These articles were all presented by the father-in-law of the chief: who at the same time stated that 'Sekeleto sent you this as a token of friendship; and being aware of the difficulty you must have had in penetrating into his country, he fears you must be hungry, and has therefore sent you food to eat;' and further that Sekeleto himself would be with me to-morrow. The whole of Sekeleto's men appeared pleased at meeting us. The chief did not arrive till late in the afternoon of the 5th. One canoe arrived first, bringing the intelligence that the chief would soon be here. Very shortly afterwards I perceived twelve canoes paddling up the river, all in a line, and in less than fifteen minutes the great chief landed with a considerable number of followers, and came up to my waggon. He was introduced to me by his father-in-law. After greeting him, I offered him a stool, and invited him to sit down. He is a young man of about twenty years of age. He was dressed in a pair of blue moleskin trousers, drab moleskin jacket, and broad-brim hat. He is far from good-looking, and has by no means a prepossessing appearance. He had but lately taken over the chieftainship from his sister, who ruled the tribe for some time after the death of her father, Sebitoane. It appears that she, having taken a husband, thought it advisable to give up the government of the nation to her brother, who is now the chief. British manufactures find their way up to this country, both from the east and west coasts. I saw several of the natives dressed in print garments, also in blue-striped shirts. According to their account, they are frequently visited by the Mambari, a tribe living far to the west, and who bring down these manufactures, as well as guns and gunpowder; and, pointing to my waggon-chain, they stated that the Mambari also possessed chains like that. These articles they bring down for the purpose of bartering for slaves, in which traffic they are often successful. While I was staying on the Chobe I was visited by several natives differing in language from Sekeleto's people, such as the Nohukolumba, Batoka, and Borotse people. These tribes have already been ably described by Dr. Livingstone."—FRIEND OF THE SOVEREIGNTY.

This interesting and valuable Journal has not been published beyond this point. Taking into consideration the unsettled state of that district, and the absurd claims of the Trans-Vaal Boers to their own exclusive "right of road" in all the approaches to the Desert, Mr. M'Cabe evinced much prudence in withholding from the public the rest of his narrative. He did not proceed further north; but, after accomplishing his purpose, returned safely to the Colony with his waggon-loads of produce in ivory, skins, curiosities, &c. The value of these articles, and of this trade, may be conceived from the fact, that these loads realized some £1,300 in the market, if my memory serves me correctly.

The reader must carefully observe that this journey was through the Kalaghare Desert, or rather on the eastern extremity of it, as from this point it stretches far west, and is very thinly peopled in many parts by native tribes: consequently European colonization cannot extend farther in that direction. The other route to these distant regions is probably nearer, and the parties travelling are not exposed to similar hardships. But it would be highly dangerous for parties to attempt it, who had not a good general knowledge of the country, and who did not understand how to manage in reference to oxen and people, and the best mode of arranging so as to provide against all the casualties which might arise. Without this practical knowledge they would be in danger of dying in the Desert from want of water, or of their cattle dropping, unable any longer to bear drought and fatigue. How great must have been the powers of enduring thirst, hunger, and labour, possessed by Mr. M'Cabe's oxen, in this unexplored wilderness! How merciful and wise are the arrangements of that Gracious Being, who, in the order of His providence, provides the cooling watery melon in the midst of the drought and the burning sand of the Desert, by which the most pressing wants of man and beast are supplied, and life is sustained! These melons must consist chiefly of vapour, or watery particles supplied by the atmosphere; which, when once imparted, are retained, and serve the most valuable purposes.

It must also be noted, that, at the point attained, the *tsetse*, or "poisonous fly," and the prevalence of deadly fever, have determined the bounds of colonization in that direction; and we find this natural demarcation existing across the whole space

of the continent, in that latitude, from the Mozambique Channel on the east, to the Atlantic or Southern Ocean on the west.

#### AN ACCOUNT OF THE DAMARA COUNTRY.

THE following interesting account of the country lying betwixt the Lake and the western coast, with the different tribes of inhabitants, their manners, &c., I copy from the "Blue Book," as given by Mr. Kolbe :—

"THAT country on the western coast of Africa, which commences from the 25th degree of south latitude, and which is generally called Damara-land, is inhabited by a nation divided into two principal tribes, the Ovaherero and Ovampantera. This country is bounded on the west by the Atlantic Ocean; its northern and eastern boundaries, however, are not yet ascertained. The bordering nations to the south are the Great Namaquas and the Hill Damaras; which latter is a Negro race that speaks the Namaqua language. To the east is a nation called the Ovatjaona. It is this nation that lives on the coast of the newly discovered Lake. There are also tribes residing near this Lake which speak a dialect of the Damara language, as we learn from the discoverers of the Lake. To the north of the Damara country resides a nation called the Ovampo, a Negro race, living in a fertile country in large villages, and governed by a King. They work in trades, and have agricultural habits. Slaves are exported from amongst them. They have no clicks in their language; and it so much resembles the Damara, that the two nations are able to converse with each other.

"To the south, Damara-land is hilly. The northern part consists of wide plains, covered with thorn-bushes, low shrubs, and grass. All the rivers are periodical: on their banks grow high and thick trees, chiefly of the acacia kind. Compared with Namaqua-land, the country is well watered. Besides mineral springs, wells are frequently found, which are dug by the natives; so that the want of water is not felt in travelling.

"The rainy season commences about October, and lasts till March or April. The climate, during the remaining months, is very agreeable, being clear and bracing, though sometimes piercingly cold in the night.

"The country abounds in wild beasts. Lions, leopards, rhinoceroses, hyænas, buffaloes, giraffes, zebras, gnus, roe-does, and other kinds of antelopes, are found in great numbers.

"The Damaras are a numerous people, being, as we suppose, forty thousand in number. They belong to the Kafir race. Their appearance, habits, manners, religious ideas, and particularly the similarity of the construction of the two languages, place this fact beyond doubt. They are nomades, and have no agricultural habits; but are very rich in cattle and sheep, on which they almost entirely live.

Some of the chiefs possess from six thousand to eight thousand head of horned cattle. On account of their few wants, (cattle supplying both food and clothes,) very little trade is carried on with other nations. Utensils, assagais, and other things made of iron, (which is much valued by them,) they procure from the Ovampo, and from the Colony, by means of the Namaquas.

“The Damaras are divided into tribes, each tribe being governed by a chief; who, again, has other inferior chiefs under him, that rule over villages containing from one hundred to four hundred people. They have no fixed laws; but the chiefs, although they have the power of governing arbitrarily, yet venerate the traditions and customs of their ancestors; so that tyranny is seldom heard of amongst themselves. The names of the richest and most powerful chiefs are, Katjokura, Omunaunda, Katjemaha, and Kahitzene. The latter is the most influential man among them; he unites with good sense energy and bravery. He is respected and feared both by the Damaras and Namaquas. The tribes are constantly in a state of enmity with each other, and frequent wars take place between them. In battles between the Namaquas and the Damaras, the latter generally are beaten; for they are not so well provided with fire-arms as their enemies, and betray much ignorance in conducting a war, and seem unacquainted with the disunion of the tribes. Their religion resembles that of the Kafirs and Bechuanas. They have no clear idea of a Supreme Being. Pointing to the north, they speak of Omukuru as the highest being they know of; but whether he is considered a god, or only as their great ancestor, is uncertain. They practise circumcision, offer sacrifices of beasts, and pray to the shades of the dead. There are many sorcerers and rain-makers amongst them.

“About six years ago, the mission among the Damaras was commenced by the Rev. H. Hahn and the Rev. H. Kleinschmidt, of the Rhenish Society; and this Society has now two stations in that country, New Barmen and Otjimbingue, both situated on the right bank of the Swakop River. The first is presided over by the Rev. H. Hahn, and the other by the Rev. J. Rath. The time has been too short, and the preparatory works (such as acquiring the language, printing books, building, &c.) too many, for us to see much success; but the work is encouraging: some hundreds of people attend the places of public worship, and send their children to the schools. Some of the Damaras are, at least outwardly, much improved; so that we may cherish the hope that the work will become prosperous.

“The country lying between the limits of the Colony and Damara-land is inhabited by Namaquas and Hill Damaras. The names of the chiefs are: Araham, of Nisbet Bath; Willem Franjman, John Binkes, and Umap, of Fish River; David Christian and Paulus Goliath, of Bethany; Narup, chief of the Velds Choendragers; Willem Zwartthoi, of Rehoboth; Oasip, chief of the Red Nation; Omral, of Elephant Fountain; Frederik Willem, of Stehmen's Dorf at Walwich Bay; and Jonker Africander, of Concordiaville. The highest estimate

of the number of people governed by these chiefs is ten thousand; the country which they inhabit is so waste and barren, and the supply of water so small, that very little intercourse can be held with Damara-land and the Colony. The shortest and easiest communication is by way of Walwich Bay.

“ (Signed) F. N. KOLBE,  
“ *In the service of the Rhenish Missionary Society.*”\*

#### DR. LIVINGSTONE'S FURTHER DISCOVERIES IN THESE REGIONS.

THE vast importance, moral and commercial, of the discovery of Lake N'gami and its tributaries, is now beginning to be developed. The subjoined brief account of Dr. Livingstone's latest movements, and of those which he has in contemplation, is full of interest. It is the substance of a communication read before the “Royal Geographical Society,” March 26th, and is copied from the “Athenæum” of March 31st, 1855:—

“‘DISPATCH from Loanda, respecting Dr. Livingstone's Exploration of Central Africa,’ communicated by Consul Brand through the Foreign Office.—Dr. Livingstone left the Cape of Good Hope in May, 1852, for the purpose of exploring the interior of the continent, and establishing Mission-stations beyond Lake N'gami, which, in company with Captain Oswell, he had discovered on a previous journey. After travelling for eight months, he reached the River Leeambye, or Zambeze, where it bends from a southerly to an easterly course, between 17° and 18° S. latitude, and about 24° E. longitude. He was received by Sekeletu, the chief of this country, in a most friendly manner. He acquired a knowledge of its geography, its inhabitants, and their language; and remained there, instructing the people in Christianity and civilization, for eight months. With the assistance of Sekeletu, he continued his travels up the Zambeze River and its affluent as far as 11° 30' S. latitude, into the Balonda country, the chief of which (named Matiamvo) is reputed to be the most powerful in this part of Africa. The subjects of this chief treated him with kindness, but his desire to push on for the west coast prevented him from visiting their master.

“In passing through the countries adjacent to the frontier of the Portuguese territory of Angola, he experienced great difficulties from the rapacity of the tribes, who now intercept the traffic passing between the coast and the interior, and are permitted to levy extortionate imposts on every thing which comes within their grasp. But having reached the limits of Angola, the Portuguese protected him from all annoyance, and assisted him to reach Loanda, where he was treated with marked attention and friendship by the Governor, the

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\* “Blue Book,” pp. 36, 37.