NOTES

ON THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE,

MADE DURING AN

EXCURSION IN THAT COLONY

IN THE YEAR 1820.

At nos hinc alii sitientes ibimus Afros.

VIRG.

LONDON:

JOHN MURRAY, ALBEMARLE-STREET.

1821.

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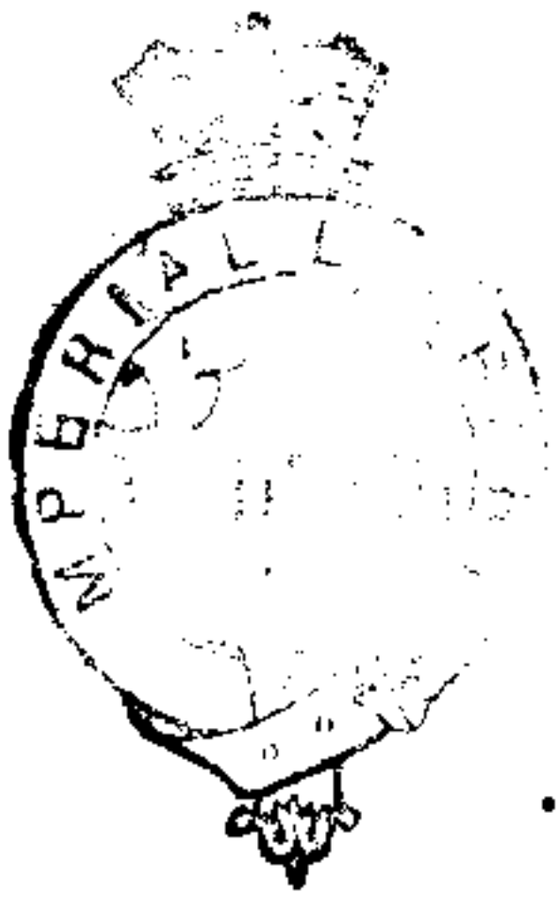

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IX.0.20

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

CHAPTER I.

Arrival at the Cape—Cape Town—Hotels—Mode of Travelling—Wynberg—Temperature.

On the morning of the 1st of January, 1820, we arrived at this new Land of Promise; a date too memorable to be easily forgotten, as being the first day of a new year dawning upon me in a new quarter of the globe. After a long and protracted voyage, where the eye has been accustomed to range at large over the blue expanse of waters, without one object to diversify and break the sameness of the view, the first appearance of land is really dazzling. Its outline, shape, and colour are more vivid and distinct, more intensely present to us than at any other moment of our lives; and we gaze at it with an ardour, that those only can conceive, who have experienced this long and unnatural separation. The sea, after all, is not our element; we are intruders upon the secrets of the mighty deep, and we feel that our arrival at the shores of mother

earth, though in a foreign and unknown clime, is, as it were, a return to home. At day-break the land of the Cape of Good Hope was a speck upon the horizon, that, slowly rising from its bed of waters, gradually unfolded its dusky form, and stood at length displayed in wild and naked majesty. The Table Mountain, with its fleecy canopy of clouds, is the most remarkable feature in the scene; but it would be vain to attempt a picture of the whole of this lofty promontory, which stretches its rugged arms into the sea, and, frowning like a mighty giant upon the sons of other climates that pour in upon his Cyclopean dominions, seems an appropriate introduction to the wilds of Southern Africa. Some traveller has declared, that the hills of the Cape, from their marks of vast antiquity, must have been a prior creation to the rest of the earth*; and you are not inclined to quarrel with this hypothesis upon first beholding their shrubless sides and worn summits, which seem crumbling and dropping away beneath the hand of time. They might serve for

> "The throne of Chaos, and his dark pavilion spread
> Wide on the wasteful deep."

* Shells and other marine substances have been lately discovered on these mountains, giving evidence that the Flood has been there.

Cape Town is too much frequented, and too generally known, to need any description. As the major part of its visitors, however, are persons on their way to and from India, remaining only a few days for rest and refreshment, it is probable that its defects have been overlooked, and its beauties exaggerated. Its external appearance is prepossessing, and it unquestionably may rank as a neat and pretty town. An Englishman is reminded that he is not in his own country, by the white-washed houses, the want of pavement and flags in the streets, and a few other peculiarities. The absence of shops, too, which bring the process and bustle of trade more immediately under the eye, imparts an air of stillness, of which the cause is not at first perceptible. All business is transacted in warehouses, or stores, as they are termed; but a stranger might imagine that none is going forward. The houses are constructed chiefly with a view to coolness, and to this, comfort and convenience, are not unfrequently sacrificed. The exclusion of light gives to the interior of a Dutch house a sombre appearance; and a spacious apartment, containing two or more beds, is not altogether so snug, as a room of smaller dimensions containing but one.

This is the first summer month. The sun is powerfully hot; the thermometer, in a large flagged hall, stands generally at about 80° Fahrenheit during

the day-time: we are seldom, however, without a breeze, more or less violent, from the S. E. and the mornings and evenings are delightfully pleasant. There are numerous lodging-houses here, both English and Dutch, besides several hotels: all are dear; and the best only tolerably comfortable.

The invalid gentlemen in the East India Company's service are permitted to retire to the Cape upon their full pay, for the benefit of their health: and these soldiers on furlough, having a greater abundance of rupees than discretion, have made the hotel keepers perfect adepts in the art of framing bills. We are at Morrison's hotel, kept by a Scotchman of that name, who has resided here these twenty years, where we are moderately comfortable, and at a somewhat reduced cost. The charge* is six rix-dollars per day, including all expenses. The house is upon the plan of an English boarding-house. A public breakfast at nine; a luncheon, or tiffin, as it is called, after the Indian fashion, (a most substantial meal, consisting of meats hot and cold, fruits, wine, &c.) at one; dinner at half-past six. This method is usual at the Cape.

We yesterday lounged as far as the Govern-

* The rix-dollar is worth about 1*s.* 10*d.* sterling, according to the present rate of exchange, which is greatly in favour of England, varying from 115 to 120 per cent. on good bills.

ment House, where all the world was assembled at the sale of the effects of a distinguished personage, previous to his departure from the colony. I was somewhat surprised to see drinking glasses sold in half dozens; here a soup tureen; there a salad bowl; old pointer dogs and double-barrelled guns; saddles detached from the bridles, and stirrups from the saddles, &c. This was enough to show, at all events, that we were in a country where the arts of money-making were neither unknown nor despised, and where it was no disgrace to a gentleman to turn a penny.

The tract of country, which may be viewed from the heights behind Cape Town, is of all others least calculated to raise the spirits or expectations of the agricultural adventurer. The eye expatiates at large over a vast sandy plain, which is shut in by a chain of naked and nearly impassable rocks; and though the numerous and gaudy flowers which are profusely scattered over this sandy isthmus, more particularly after the rains, may have charms for the eye of a botanist, the agriculturist is by no means satisfied with such painted sterility. Indeed, farmers and botanists seem to have quite opposite theories upon the subject of the picturesque.

The usual mode of performing journeys in this colony is in covered waggons, drawn either by oxen or horses, but chiefly by the former, on account of

the superior hardiness of the animal, their endurance of fatigue, and the facilities of feeding upon the road. For, excepting after harvest-time, it is difficult to procure fodder for horses upon a journey. These ox-waggons will average between twenty and thirty miles per day on the longest journeys: and as they contain within themselves meat, drink, and bed, you are at once rendered independent of any extraneous assistance; and, in this point of view, this mode of travelling possesses a decided advantage over any other. When it is found necessary, the oxen are unyoked, and turned out to graze upon spots of land by the road side, which have been reserved by government for this purpose. 'This is generally done in the day-time, at least during the summer months, when the cool hours of night are to be preferred for travelling.' No other food is requisite for these hardy animals beyond the scattered blades of coarse grass, and the prickly wild shrubs they pick up in these spots, termed, in the dialect of the colony, "*outspanning*" places; as the cattle on these occasions are unyoked, or *outspanned*: the operation of harnessing them together again is termed *inspanning*.

A span or yoke of oxen varies in number from fourteen to twenty; a span of horses consists of six or eight. A peculiarity invariably noticed in the

Cape cattle is the offensiveness of their breath, which is thought to be occasioned by the juices of the succulent herbs upon which they feed. The Cape ox does not appear to possess the mild and tractable disposition of the English animal; probably because they are not fed in stalls, and accustomed continually to the voice of man, and because less pains are taken in their early training. They are, in consequence, a little unruly in the process of *inspanning;* and, not unfrequently, a party has been detained upon a dark night, until morning arose to second their efforts. These teams are driven by a man seated upon the front of the waggon; an assistant boy is requisite in passes of difficulty, and is never omitted; but the guidance of the vehicle is effected by the aforesaid man, who, brandishing a huge piece of bamboo, with a leathern thong attached to one end, contrives to inflict such tremendous slashes as serve at once to stir the courage of the cattle, and to intimate his intentions, without the aid of reins; the use of which is in fact totally superseded by the method of plying this eloquent instrument. This flogging is not "mere sound and fury, signifying nothing," as the deep gashes upon the backs of all the unfortunate animals you meet will fully testify. Some traveller says he saw a piece cut out sufficient for a moderate beef steak, but the times have, I presume, degenerated; and I question whether the first

whip of the colony could now cut a mutton chop from a sheep's flank. The Hottentots are the chief coachmen of the colony; for which, and for tending sheep, they are supposed to possess a peculiar genius. Every farmer has several of them in his employ, for one or other or both of these purposes. As soon as they are of strength sufficient to handle the weapon, the young Hottentot lads may be seen running up and down a road flourishing and smacking this infernal whip, (which the furies might have been glad of), by way of fitting themselves for their future occupations in life.

In the horse-waggons, (which, by the way, is matter of great admiration to strangers), one man drives four or six horses in hand, with two leaders in front, who run free, obeying only the whip. But the waggons are of a construction which will not admit of their being easily overturned; the horses are only pony size; the streets are sufficiently wide, generally level, and with little passing to obstruct their progress, or put their skill to the test. Add, that in the streets they are usually preceded by a sort of running footman, who guides the two leaders at the different turns, and the difficulty and marvel are no more. As this is almost the only thing the Hottentots are said to do well, I am sorry to diminish their pretensions to a share of celebrity; but the truth must be told. One of the late

governors, finding this race of people sensibly decreasing under the oppressive tyranny of the Dutch, enacted several laws for their protection, which deserve all the praise to which humanity is ever entitled. But notwithstanding these salutary regulations, and the efforts of the missionary society, they are said to be still on the decrease; and in a few generations a genuine Hottentot will hardly be produced. Though their condition is capable of being ameliorated under a different government, and under different circumstances, they are at present an idle worthless people, and, as little improvement can be expected, their extinction can hardly be considered as a loss.

The Cape is well known to have enriched the botanical collections of all the cabinets of Europe, and there is said to be still room for the exertions of the curious in this department of science. The Dutch East-India Company's garden was formerly celebrated for its assemblage of rare botanical plants, but it has of late been suffered to fall much into decay; and, following the example of our institutions at home, the public are now excluded, and the flowers "blush unseen."

I have already said, that the country in the immediate vicinity of CapeTown is a flat, unprofitable, sandy waste. The village of Wynberg, however, at the distance of about six miles, is an exception to

this: indeed the whole of the road, from the town thither, is lined on either side with the villas of the merchants, and more opulent tradesmen of the town, who drive their buggies to and fro, like our London citizens, and repose from the fatigues of business in these rural retirements. The houses have large gardens and vineyards attached to them, with here and there a few acres of arable and pasture land. They are well studded with trees, principally the fir and English oak; the latter being planted in the gardens in thick rows, unite their branches in a compact arch above, which the sun cannot penetrate, leaving beneath a cool umbrageous walk.

> Umbram hospitalem consociare amant
> Ramis.

The orange and myrtle are often used for the same purpose. The former you may occasionally see made into a beautiful thick fence or garden inclosure, answering the purpose of our holly hedges, and clipped in the same manner. Myrtle groves and orange bowers are such sweet things, that we regret to see them thrown away upon so unpoetical a people as the Dutch. In this neighbourhood is the governor's country seat, and the houses of many gentlemen connected with the higher departments of the government. Indeed, Wynberg and its vicinity, (with some little violence of application), may be

called the Versailles of the Cape. The celebrated farm of Constantia, yielding the wine of that name, is distant but a few miles. It is a valuable property, belonging to a very respectable Dutch family; but the profits are much diminished, in consequence of their being obliged to furnish annually a large quantity of wine for the government. It is quite true, that the grape which yields the Constantia wine is confined in its growth to this particular spot, and has been found to degenerate when planted elsewhere.

The difference of temperature between the town and country at this trifling distance is striking enough. In the summer season the thermometer at Wynberg is generally ten degrees lower than in Cape Town. In winter, when the north-west wind prevails, the difference is not so great.

Cape Town, situated at the base of Table Mountain, and nearly encircled by lofty hills, receives an additional refracted heat from these barriers, by which, during the summer season, it is sheltered from the wind, unless when it blows with great fury from the south-east. The town was formerly surrounded with wood; but this supply has been gradually exhausted for domestic purposes, and the improvidence of the inhabitants has not led them to look forward to the wants of futurity. At the present day, therefore, little exists either for use or ornament; and one of the most laborious tasks to

which the slaves are destined, is the cutting of fire-wood in the mountains; a task which every morning sees renewed, which is as endless as the labours of Sysiphus, and as toilsome too. They may be seen towards night descending the rugged sides of the Table Mountain, bending under their load of wood which is attached to either end of a pole, and balanced with great dexterity across the shoulders. This is their common method of carrying burdens.

After several excursions in the neighbourhood of Cape Town, my first visits were to the Koeberg, or corn country, lying between thirty and forty miles to the north of Cape Town. The greater part of the grain brought to the Cape market is grown here; indeed, little else but corn is produced upon the farms in this quarter, which want nothing but water to make them very productive. But, in addition to this want of water, the time and labour consumed in the journey to the market, over a sandy, and, in some parts, a steep hilly road, are serious drawbacks; and to complete the list of objections to this portion of the colony, the prices asked for the farms are such as will deter most European settlers from purchasing. An estate in this country, with tolerably good farm-buildings, but very indifferent house, lately sold for £3000.

CHAPTER II.

Journey up the Country—The Boors—Their Houses—Manners, Customs, &c.

THE tract of country lying along the southern coast had been recommended to me as the most fertile part of the colony; and to this I directed my principal attention. I was fortunate in meeting a very intelligent companion, with whom, having provided myself with a stout Cape hack and a servant, I set forward upon my excursion. We preferred horseback, as being the most independent mode of conveyance, though not affording the convenience and accommodation of a waggon; and we had no reason to repent our choice. I should recommend this mode of travelling to all others, who are desirous of seeing the country: but a servant, accustomed to take care of horses, is an indispensable requisite, as the Africanos (by which name are distinguished all persons born in the colony, excepting Hottentots) think any attention to horses, beyond feeding and watering, superfluous trouble; and, in consequence, your steeds are so much sooner done up. It is usual, on these occasions, to hire a Hottentot guide; a disagreeable companion, whose attendance we dis-

pensed with; and we never repented having rejected the advice we were favoured with on this head. The roads, though very little indebted to art, are in general good, and hard; but not laid down with mathematical precision:—you commonly traverse fifty miles to accomplish a distance of five and twenty. The distances are computed by time, and not by local admeasurement. Thus, from Cape Town to Hottentot Holland is six hours. Where the road is not much frequented, and the time well established, this method is extremely imperfect, and in fact becomes a sort of ad libitum computation, which each individual makes, according to the speed of his cattle, or his mode of travelling. The boor always sets off from his own house at a gallop, and relaxes his speed only as his horse becomes exhausted. Thus, to the first two or three hours, during which he rides at a rapid pace, a much greater proportion of miles is allowed than to any succeeding hour; and the traveller, with his jaded horse, who does not understand this arithmetic, is liable to be continually deceived by such calculations. He expects, every moment, to find himself at the end of his journey;

> "But wilds, immeasurably spread,
> Seem lengthening as he goes."

It is customary to procure letters of introduction

to the magistrates or landrosts of the different districts through which you intend to pass; from whom you invariably receive a polite and hospitable reception; with such assistance and information as they can afford. They all speak English.

The peninsula of the Cape is shut in by a chain of lofty mountains, running nearly north and south to the sea, at the distance of about thirty miles from Cape Town. Through these mountains there are only two passes into the interior; known by the names, French Kloof, and Hottentot Holland Kloof. We went by the latter.

It is curious to see the farmers' waggons attempting this tremendous pass: tilting from one side to the other, while the oxen are sometimes literally compelled to jump from rock to rock; and the wind rushes down in gusts sufficient to alarm man and beast; especially with the prospect of no very easy bed beneath. The waggons are built low and strong, and carry not above one third of the weight of our English ones.

Beyond this range of mountains the country assumes a totally different aspect: you bid good bye to the sandy flats you have hitherto traversed, and enter upon a mountainous country, swelling in bold, deep, and broad undulations—hill after hill—thrown like huge billows, as far as the eye can range: but without any verdure to relieve the view, excepting

a species of heath, that shows like tattered rags upon the grey rocks. One had need of the imaginative powers of a Sterne to people such a desert. You may fairly ride a hundred miles without finding any cultivatable soil, save occasional patches in the clefts of rocks; and without passing more than a dozen human habitations. In fact, the lizards and snakes have it all to themselves.

The traveller in Southern Africa soon becomes sensible how much the delight of travelling depends upon adventitious circumstances, not necessarily connected with the ground he traverses; and that the contemplation of mere terrestrial nature, unstamped with any images of departed greatness, awakening no historical recollections, but harbouring in its bosom only ignorance and barbarity, becomes even an humiliating occupation. It is not the soil we tread on, but the "deeds that have been done in the clime," that speak like living voices, and awaken corresponding emotions within us—the imperishable fame of the mighty dead:

> "Quod non imber edax, non aquilo impotens
> Possit diruere,"

has never flung the witchery of its enchantment over this dreary region: its inhabitants have rotted away like the "grass of the field;" or if a "village Hampden," or a "bosom pregnant with

celestial fire," ever felt the glow of patriotism, or the inspiration of genius, no stone has arisen to tell the tale: the deserts are without pyramids, and the towns without a trophy. Man is here to be found but one step removed from the baboons that surround him; possessing all the barbarity, without the dignified independence of the savage. By the side of his wretched hut the Hottentot may be seen, seated in passive indolence; or, perhaps, regaling himself with the undressed entrails and blood of a sheep, while the partner of his life is picking a bone of carrion at his side. Although Rousseau laments our deviation from the path of primitive simplicity, and declares "que l'état de réflexion est un état contre nature, et que l'homme qui médite est un animal dépravé," few would probably feel inclined to exchange their depravity for such nature and garbage, even if they could regain their tails, by the experiment which Monboddo and other philosophers think we have lost by our degenerate habits.

Surely the pursuits and habits of such a life as this, however exempt from many of the evils which the more enlightened portion of mankind are destined to endure, will not bear a comparison with the occupations of civilized man, and the dignity of genius. It becomes humiliating to associate ourselves in idea with a class of beings so unspiritual, and to reflect, that the mind of a Newton dwelt in

such organized matter as composes the skull of a Hottentot.

It was in the delectable country I have above described, that I halted, after a toilsome ride of many hours, at a house, which, to my surprise, I found occupied by an Englishman and his wife. They had been induced to purchase this secluded villa in consequence of an advertisement in the Cape Gazette, which represented it as a beautiful and romantic retirement; and the wife was delighted with the thoughts of a removal from the bustle and solicitude of the world. Poor woman, she imagined, as Johnson said of Savage on his departure for Swansea, "that she should be transported to scenes of flowery felicity, like those which one poet has reflected to another, and had projected a perpetual round of innocent pleasures, of which she suspected no interruption from ignorance and brutality." But a few weeks had convinced her that solitude was another word for wretchedness, and that the rumbling of a hackney coach was music far more congenial than the breathings of the gentle south.

However, after riding 100 miles from the Cape, in an eastward direction, the aspect of things is considerably ameliorated. You meet with large tracts of strong clayey soil,—good substantial farmhouses thinly scattered, with considerable quantities of land under cultivation; but water is every where

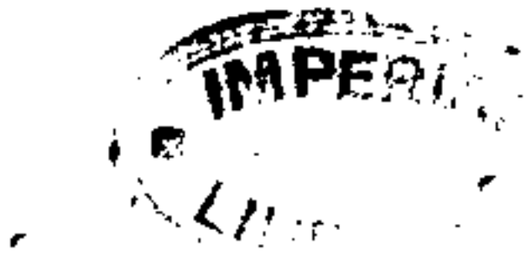
scarce,—cattle do not thrive,—there is no market for produce but at an immense distance; and consequently no encouragement to the labours of the agriculturist. These farmers live without concern; for they have every thing within themselves; their slaves and their sons are their masons, their blacksmiths, their carpenters, wheelwrights, &c.; the produce of the farm affords them a subsistence, which is never luxurious, but always sufficient. They drink their own sour wine; burnt barley is their coffee; and they sometimes make tea of a plant which grows on the hills. There is nothing of neatness to be seen; no attempt at ornament of any kind; no inclosures, unless perhaps round the vineyard or garden. This gives an air of extreme nakedness and wildness to the eye of an European. Their gardens are small, and in bad order, for they set little value upon fruit or vegetables of any kind. Pumpkins and watermelons are scattered throughout them, and are almost spontaneous productions. A few potatoes, and perhaps some cabbage, complete their stock of vegetables. Apricots, peaches, and nectarines grow wild, without any care; but they are not plentiful, for they are not articles either of use or luxury.

These farmers have no opportunity of realizing money; they occasionally sell horses and cattle, or send their waggons to Cape Town laden with grain, in exchange for which they take home groceries,

clothes, &c. articles for family consumption which they cannot manufacture at home.

But this is rather a journey of idleness and amusement than of profit. Their wealth consists in the numerous slaves which they have inherited from their fathers. These go on fructifying and increasing, like other live stock, and are valuable in a country, where there is so wide a field for labour with so small a population * to supply its wants in this particular. However, this species of property is daily sinking in value. The European settlers universally prefer white labourers, if they can be procured; and the few English and Scotchmen who have either been introduced into the colony, or the disbanded soldiers, who have offered themselves for hire, have been found so superior to the blacks in whatever they undertake, that even the Africanos are beginning to open their eyes, and to suspect the truth of a position, which has long passed current in the colony (but which is in fact an unfounded prejudice), viz. that white men are not able to stand the climate of the Cape. From the rapid influx of our own countrymen, it is fair to presume, that the use of slaves will gradually decrease; and time may

* The Hottentots are the only free people who work for hire, and they are useless excepting as herdsmen or drivers.



thus eventually effect that, for which justice and humanity have long been eloquent in vain. The black slave is generally thought to be much below the European in his mental powers *, and his ca-

* This supposition at least derives support from the writings of modern physiologists, who have recognised in the various races of mankind certain distinguishing characteristics; and have therefore agreed in ascribing to different nations different degrees of excellence, both in body and mind.—"Providence" (says Meiners) "has bestowed on the white and handsome races not only considerable prerogatives of bodily structure, but also of mental power. The whole division of the ugly dark coloured people is far below the white and handsome ones in the faculties of the mind," &c. But though these constitutional varieties, whether mental or corporal, are clearly traced in the different nations of the earth, it appears very doubtful to what extent (if any) climate, mode of life, and other similar causes usually assigned, can in reality have operated in their original production, or can continue to operate in their perpetuation.

If it were possible to decide this question, we might then speculate with more confidence upon the effects of slavery on the human mind, and ascertain how far the constant debasement and degradation to which he is subjected, is capable of modifying the intellectual character of the slave, and causing, by degrees, a permanent and hereditary degeneracy in the species. The tyranny of man over the domestic animals whom he has taken from a state of nature, has been thought sufficient to

pacity for learning. The truth of this, my limited opportunities of observation will not permit me to affirm or deny.

The extinction of slavery will, however, depend much upon this fact; for if the slave is found capable of so much intellectual culture, and moral improvement, as greatly to diminish the inferiority which now exists, or is supposed to exist, between him and the white man, they will still be valuable to their possessors, though that value must decrease in proportion to the increase of white labourers. The price of a good male or female slave is about three thousand rix-dollars; I have known six thousand refused. They are hired out, at from two to three pounds per month: these are prices far beyond the means of small capitalists; such as probably will compose the majority of settlers in this country. If the present race of Dutch boors in the interior are not rich in money, their posterity is still

account for their degeneracy; and may not something be safely allowed for the tyranny of man over man?

In the brute creation the effects of this tyranny are chiefly displayed in alterations of the physical structure, for the body is the subject acted upon; but in rational man, whose spirit feels the print of the chains, may we not expect to see this unnatural coercion productive of mental disfiguration, of deformity and degeneracy of soul?

less likely to be so. Their numerous sons will no longer have opportunities of obtaining government grants of land, and merely shifting their tents and families, as their fathers did before them, when become too numerous to compose one family; because all the eligible spots in the colony are already occupied. If their chief property, which consists in slaves, undergoes the rapid depreciation in value, which I have anticipated as probable, they will be debarred from the means of purchasing land; and, being mere mechanics by education, not attaining to the perfection of English workmen, they must, eventually, sink into the labouring order of society. Filled, perhaps, with some indistinct fears of future declension, by being suddenly brought into contact with a more active and bustling class, it is with the utmost jealousy they view the several European adventurers who have purchased tracts of land among them; and who are exerting an industry, vigour, and superiority in husbandry, which might awaken jealousy in people more enlightened than these Dutch boors. With still greater animosity and alarm do they contemplate the extensive plan of colonization now about to be acted upon by the British government. These feelings are not likely to be allayed by the marked and unequivocal contempt, with which some of the English, lately arrived, look upon their whole system of agriculture

(deservedly enough, it must be confessed); and the innovations which, in spite of their prophetic admonitions, are being daily introduced. They look upon the landing of a threshing machine with as much amazement, as the inhabitants of Troy did upon the wooden horse: and, as they are strenuous opposers of these new-fangled inventions, so they are proportionally mortified at the success of foreign ingenuity. But if convinced, it is against their will; and as their fathers lived in almost savage barbarity and ignorance, the sons are scrupulously averse to any deviations from the track of their progenitors.

The manners of the boors, notwithstanding, are prepossessing to travellers. There are no inns: you ride from house to house; and, as these are not very numerous, the chief difficulty lies in timing the stages so as to hit the different houses. I never, upon these occasions, met with any coldness of reception, although, perhaps, arriving at a late or inconvenient hour, or compelled, as in one or two instances was the case, to call the family from their beds. They invariably salute you with a "good day;" or "good night;" which is followed by an invitation to alight: the stable is pointed out, where your horse is provided with such fodder as they have; and yourself marshalled into the house. Like all persons similarly situated, they are curious as to

your name—whence you come—and the extent and object of your journey: questions which are not meant to be impertinent, and are easily answered, or eluded, as suits your inclination. They, in turn, are communicative upon whatever subject you may choose to be inquisitive. They frequently understand a little English; or, at least, some one or other out of their numerous establishment can serve as an interpreter. This knowledge, however, is limited to the interchange of a few words, and diminishes in proportion as you recede from Cape Town. Supper is their grand meal, which takes place shortly after sunset, and consists of mutton, roast or boiled, with potatoes, all swimming in sheep-tail fat, but not disgusting or unpalatable; the bread is white, but often sour: to this is added a large tureen of rice-milk, boiled with sugar and cinnamon; a very savoury mess. The latter sometimes precedes, and sometimes winds up the repast; but is rarely omitted. Some bad, sour wine is occasionally on the table; and some worse water; but little of either is drunk. The viands are rapidly devoured, with all due attention to the guests; and immediately the cloth is removed the whole party retire to their respective places of repose. The beds are of feathers, disagreeably soft for a warm climate; and you are indulged with a

the same materials; an indispensable comfort to a Dutchman; but an elevation too sudden for an Englishman. Fleas and other vermin are in abundance. A dish of coffee, or burnt barley, by way of substitute, and his pipe, is the only breakfast the boor takes: the former you may partake of with him; and, by asking for it, may obtain some bread and butter, and perhaps an egg, before you start. Their first meal is at eleven o'clock; very similar to the supper I have before described; but not so varied, or so substantial. You ask for your horses; pay the master of the house; and kiss the women, or not, as you feel inclined. I have been told, that no money will be asked, if none be offered—their own countrymen never pay. I cannot say, that I ever tried the experiment; but always found the price readily named, and the money accepted without any hesitation. This practice may be thought to derogate from the praise due to their hospitality; but the charge rarely exceeds what the forage of the horses may be supposed to amount to; and it would be unreasonable to expect that this should be supplied gratis, in a country, where the absence of all houses of public entertainment renders this claim upon them so frequent. For suppers, beds, and breakfast, the next morning, for three persons, and

charge never exceeded three rix-dollars; and frequently did not amount to two. I have heard of no country where travelling is more reasonable.

The boors, living principally on gross animal food, are exceedingly tall and large in their persons, and incline early to corpulency, which the inactivity of their lives tends to promote. With their pipes in their mouths, they are to be seen lounging for hours on the *stoop*, or terrace-walk of brick that extends along the front of the house. Their avocations lead them but little into the fields. Though game is abundant, they are not sportsmen by inclination. They will kill a buck to provide a substantial meal for the family; but partridges and pheasants are looked upon as a poor equivalent for the powder and shot expended in their destruction. They may be said never to walk, as the slightest distance is performed on horseback. The young men grow up rapidly into manhood; but instances of longevity are rare. I seldom saw a man bearing the marks of advanced age; and life is not often protracted to threescore and ten. There is nothing coarse or offensive in their address or manners: most of them read, though their studies are confined to the occasional lecture in the great family Bible. Their comforts are, perhaps, much upon a par with those of our under tenantry, only that the boor feels no

poor to support; and absolute want is a calamity not probable, and therefore not dreaded.

Their gardens, wherein, if any thing of rustic taste exists, we may expect to see it displayed, are often mere slips of uninclosed land, with water-melons and potatoes straggling here and there, but there is nothing for show. Flora and her scented train are absolutely discarded: there is hardly an ornamental tree to afford its shade, and spread its branches over a growing progeny, who might be seen sporting their infant and boyish days beneath its friendly canopy. Their houses look as if newly dropped from the clouds in the midst of a naked waste: nor is the interior more congenial to our domestic taste. The master and mistress, the children without number, slave boys, slave girls, and Hottentots, are seen running, higgledy piggledy, in all directions: the master holloas, the wife scolds in her shrill screaming voice, and slaves and children run through all the discordant notes of confusion; all apparently without meaning, and all for the want of a little arrangement.

It may be observed by the way, that the Dutch language, as spoken at the Cape, is admirably adapted for swearing and scolding: it has no piano. Their love-making must be that of Houyhnhnms.

The houses have not so much actual solid dirt as

but then, they have not our wet, changeable climate, and have little merit for such cleanliness as does exist. The floors, as I believe is the custom in some parts of Ireland, are coated with cow-dung, and always emit a disagreeable odour, besides harbouring a plentiful assortment of fleas and other vermin.

The slaves are supplied with little more than such slight covering as decency requires: Wellington pantaloons, made of sheep's skin, are a favourite costume. The women slaves have usually a leathern apron tied before, and depending half way down the leg; occasionally other parts of the person are covered; but the Hottentots are commonly to be seen waddling about, most disgusting objects: their flabby breasts hanging half way down the body, and their posteriors unnaturally protruded and shaking with accumulated fat. A Dutch author relates, that 'the breasts of the Hottentot women are made into purses, and sold in great numbers at the Cape of Good Hope. Whether the demand for this article be diminished, in consequence of the substitution of paper currency, I know not, but none of *these money-bags* are to be had now-a-days. The young Hottentot women are said to be models of symmetry, but it was not my good fortune to observe it, except-

dency to fat on the tail, however it may be accounted for, is common to the Hottentot tribe only, and is visible from earliest infancy—it is confined to the women and sheep.

The carpenter and blacksmith's shops, &c. in a large farm establishment, form a continued range of buildings round the dwelling-house, imparting an air of substantial independence. In their various departments the sons are usually the principal performers; so that they are not often in a condition to shake hands with a stranger, or do the honours of the house. The morality of the female part of the family is such as nature furnishes them with. They are removed from all opportunities of religious instruction; and as they cannot be supposed chaste by instinct, a pretty plain inference may be safely drawn.

In the house of one of the most opulent and respectable farmers in the colony, who had two grown up daughters, I observed the principal living room of the family garnished with some old Flemish paintings of no equivocal or doubtful meaning, which served, I presume, to develop youthful passions, in the same manner as short sentences from Holy Writ, and scraps from the Proverbs of Solomon, are often displayed in German text, and hung up in frames in our own country, as incite-

house the heads of the four Evangelists, brought from Holland, hung round a print too obscene to bear description, and which, had it been a personification of one of the cardinal virtues, might with good taste enough have been set like a precious gem, in a circle of such venerable guardians.

Extensive tracts of good corn land are to be seen lying between the village of Caledon and Zwellendam, at the distance of about 120 miles from Cape-Town; but they are too far removed from any market to be profitable to their owners. All the lands here are appropriated. Beyond the village of Zwellendam there are some good situations, with an outlet for produce, provided there exists no bar at the mouth of the Great Breede River, a point which has not been completely ascertained, though the better opinion, or certainly the most prevalent one, is, that the bar does exist.

About four hours ride from Zwellendam, and in the neighbourhood of one of the Missionary institutions, there is a valley of great fertility, with abundance of water, where several good farms may be purchased at moderate prices. Mr. ———, one of the earliest of our settlers, who arrived in the colony, about four years ago, with a body of 200 men, is residing in the neighbourhood just men-

considerable difficulties, which his energy and superior abilities have borne him through; but it is said, that the plans which he formed in the outset, he has not been able to carry into effect. His original object, I have been told, was the growth of hemp and tobacco. But though not deceived in his calculations in regard to soil and climate, yet difficulties and disasters of another sort impeded his exertions, and destroyed the means of pursuing his undertaking to advantage. He has now a large farm in his hands, upon which I saw no considerable improvements. Mr. ——— though meeting with little encouragement from the government here, conferred a most essential benefit on the colony, by the dispersion of so many useful labourers, especially at a time when nothing of the present extended plan of colonization was agitated at home. There is hardly a part of the colony where some one of these individuals may not be found exercising his trade, or selling his labours to great advantage; and the superiority of their workmanship, over that of the blacks or Africans, ensures them a high premium for their services.

I saw in George Town, in the interior of the colony, two masons working at two and a half rix dollars per day, exclusive of their meat, drink, and

may take place in the wages of labour from the expected influx of the English; but no change, I think, can reduce the industrious labourer or mechanic to the difficulties he is now experiencing at home. He will here earn from fifteen to twenty rix dollars per month, including his board and lodging.

CHAPTER III.

Mossel Bay and its Vicinity—Advantages of this Situation—Forest Trees.

Perhaps no situation in the colony offers so many combined advantages as the vicinity of Mossel Bay, or the tract of country extending from thence to the Knysna. There are some capital farms near the Bay; the soil not so strong as I had seen it in other parts, but inclining to sandy loam. It yielded immensely last year; and the wheat, as is generally the case, was of excellent quality. There is tolerable pasture for cattle, and good sheep walk, especially in the low land towards the sea, where there is plenty of herbage; but corn must be the principal object of the farmer in this quarter. The hills are covered with aloes, which may be turned to good account, when there is little to do in the field; or in dry seasons. The preparation is extremely simple and easy; one man will make three or four pounds in a day, and the price on the spot, at the time I was there, was sixpence per pound: however, it is an article which fluctuates in value, and if much was prepared, it is thought the market would be overstocked.

This situation possesses the advantage of an immediate outlet for the produce of the land. The bay, though not free from danger, is one of the best in the colony, and tolerably safe throughout the greater part of the year; and, as a coasting trade is already established from Cape Town to the Knysna and Algoa Bay, all vessels may, without going out of their course, touch at Mossel Bay in their way backwards and forwards. A year or two ago, the government, for the encouragement of the farmers, built a store-house on the Bay, and will now purchase corn upon the spot, at about twenty rix dollars per load under the market price. They have a small coasting brig to convey it away. It is rumoured, however, that no more is to be purchased in this manner after the expiration of the present season. Only two dwelling-houses have as yet been built here; that of the governor resident, Mr. Acken, and another occupied by an agent for a mercantile house at the Cape, who has stores of various kinds to sell to the farmers of the neighbourhood. A whale fishery has been projected, but never commenced upon; the trial is, therefore, still open to any adventurer. The whales are said to be not so numerous as in the other Bays. A small island in the middle of the Bay is so thickly covered with seals, that it is at times difficult to discover the colour of the rock. It takes the name of Seal Island. These

might become an article of traffic, or be used for many domestic purposes; but they are suffered to increase and multiply unmolested. They are shy and difficult of approach, but destitute of that vigour and ferociousness which their size and appearance seem to indicate, and therefore are easily destroyed. The drawback to this part of the colony is the want of rain and water. The latter runs in a very scanty stream, of the thickness of a man's wrist, down to the sea, and is slightly brackish. No wells have ever been sunk here. The district bears the name of Droogeveldt, or dry country; for in some years the rains totally fail, and with them the crops in course. Once in about four years the inhabitants of this country expect a dry season. An old man, who had lived many years upon the hills, told me, that he had in dry seasons driven his cattle ten miles to water. As a resource against this calamity, it would be desirable to possess a sheep and cattle farm (which may be purchased for 4 or £500,) about twenty miles further towards George Town, where the rains seldom fail; and then if the corn were destroyed by the drought, the loss might in some measure be counterbalanced by the produce of the second farm. * There is no timber in the immediate vicinity of the Bay, but there is an abundance at about twenty miles distance, which may be carried

without much difficulty. The ox waggons may go one day and return the next. The road is not good, but capable of great improvement. It is to be observed that this timber is government property, and cannot be felled without a permission to that effect; which, however, is not likely to be refused. There are excellent fish of various kinds in the Bay to be had for the trouble of catching them, and among the rest, oysters, which are a rarity in the colony: at present there is not even a boat. The hills are covered with a variety of game; bucks of different sorts and sizes, pheasants, partridges, snipes, wild peacocks, geese and ducks. The houses are not so good in this district as I had elsewhere observed.

It would be of incalculable advantage to all this side of the country, if a greater number of coasting vessels were embarked in the traffic, as at present there is a good deal of monopoly in this way, and freight is enormously high. It will startle a stranger to be informed, that the carriage of goods from Algoa Bay to the Cape, a voyage performed in from three days to as many weeks, but generally in a week or ten days, is as expensive as shipping goods from the Cape to England. There is, no doubt, danger in the navigation*; but as coloniza-

* The Bays are all dangerous, but Algoa Bay particularly so, according to all the nautical men with

tion takes place, we may confidently look forward, if not to a removal of the obstacles, at least to a more thorough knowledge of the coast, and a greater expertness, which will considerably diminish that danger. No export trade is allowed to any port beyond the colony; and this restriction has been imposed, I believe, from an apprehension of a scarcity of grain. A few cargoes are annually sent to St. Helena* and the Brazils with great profit; but a special permission from the governor is requisite for this purpose. However, in a little time, this prohibition must naturally give way before commercial enterprise and speculation. A vast continent like the Cape must, with the prospect of a speedy sale, to stimulate the industry of the farmer, supply a far greater quantity than the country can consume, and the overplus may with proper regulations and restrictions be exported to Rio Janeiro, and to St. Helena, the Mauritius, and elsewhere, with great advantage to the grower, and to the evident benefit of the colony at large.

Between Mossel Bay and George Town, I saw the

* St. Helena is now furnished with flour from England. A contract was entered into with a merchant at the Cape for the supply of this article for three years; but it was found necessary to break through the contract, on account of the dirt and sand with which the flour was mixed.

first forest trees; till then we had met with nothing but dwarf shrubs, the prickly mimosa, and some others, which occasionally relieved the wide and desolate prospect of uncultivated nature. But here in the chasms of the rocks and deep ravines, the yellow, the iron, and the stinkwood tree, displayed their rich luxuriance of leaf, and waved their arms like monarchs of the wilderness. It is impossible to describe the dreary effect occasioned by the continued absence of trees, which form the chief ornament of every landscape; and as impossible to give an idea of the delight with which you hail their return. Though the summer was far advanced, the foliage had lost none of its freshness and lustre; it was of a deeper, darker, more decided tint than the suns of the north could produce; but there was also the liveliness and freshness of leaves just called forth at the touch of spring; it was the dark-haired, melting beauty of Spain, compared with the fair blue eyes and golden tresses of the north.

All the forest trees are government property; but permission is granted to the proprietors of the different farms, in the neighbourhood of the forests, to cut down any quantity for their own use. If it be for sale, there is a tax of, I think, one rix dollar per load. I believe this was done with a view to prevent the destruction of the forests by an immoderate waste, or exportation to those parts, where

it is scarce; a misfortune which might have been prevented round Cape Town, by the timely interposition of the Dutch government. Whatever may be the reason, it is singular that so large a portion of the colony should be destitute of timber trees; for, excepting within the range of the violent south-east winds (which are not much felt beyond the Cape district), they appear to thrive remarkably well. It cannot be that they have been destroyed within any recent period, at least, for no traces of destruction are visible, and such a destruction could only have taken place to make way for the labours of the husbandman; but no such cause existed, and labour cannot be supposed to have exhausted itself in useless efforts, where no object was to be attained. The Dutch are said improvidently to have destroyed all the timber trees in the vicinity of Cape Town. This was probably the case: there was a continual demand for the purposes of building, &c. and we can imagine, that as long as a supply was at hand, their indolence would not permit them to think of the wants of posterity; but this cannot apply to the interior of the colony, where no such wants were felt, for no population that we know of, excepting a few wandering tribes of Hottentots or Kaffers, existed to destroy: and, in the best parts of the colony, there are extensive forests that have remained untouched. However

every where be planted, as, independently of their utility, it has been noticed that where there are trees, the rains are more frequent and abundant; but perhaps this very want of rain may prevent the growth of that, which it is here suggested might be the means of supplying it.

Buffon (Nat. Hist.) remarks, that "une forêt détermine les eaux de la pluie, en arrêtant les vapeurs." And if what he observes in continuation be true, it might lead to a supposition, that the sandy and barren tracts, of which so large a portion of the Cape is composed, were at some remote period thickly inhabited. "Dans un bois que l'on conserveroit bien long-tems sans y toucher, la couche de terre qui sert a la végétation augmenteroit considérablement, (comme les végétaux en pourissant rendent à la terre plus qu'ils n'en ont tiré) mais les animaux rendant moins à la terre qu'ils n'en tirent, et les hommes faisant des consommations énormes de bois et de plantes pour le feu et pour d'autres usages, el s'ensuit que la couche de terre végétale d'un pays habité doit toujours diminuer, et devenir enfin comme le terrain de l'Arabie Pétrée, et comme celui de tant d'autres provinces de l'Orient, qui est en effect le climat le plus anciennement habité ou l'on ne trouve que du sel et des sables; car le sel fixe des plantes et des animaux reste, tandis que toutes les autres parties se volatisent."

CHAPTER IV.

Property continually changing Hands—The Reason—Description of the Farm of Mr. T——— The Knysna—Timber of the Colony—Impediments to Travelling—Wild Beasts.

THERE is a continual sale of property in the colony; for independently of the common wants of society, the regulations of the orphan chamber are such, that where a party dies intestate, the whole estate is sold by auction for the benefit of the children, notwithstanding, it might be more to their advantage that the property shquld be retained. When estates come thus to the hammer, they are generally sold for their actual value, and at a moderate price, whereas in private contracts, enormous sums are demanded with the most unblushing effrontery. The Dutch are not fond of English neighbours, and therefore make a point of enhancing the value of any thing, whereof our countrymen are desirous of becoming the purchasers. To buy an estate from a Dutchman, it is requisite to assume an air of thorough indifference, and have your bullock waggons at the door as if upon your way, and merely calling by accident; to have it known that you are come for the purpose of purchasing

will never do. A contract with all these precautions is a tedious process, and, though it is more speedily concluded than a chancery suit, it not uncommonly lasts a year or two. Another great cause of the transfer of property, is, the poverty of the proprietors. Many of them have purchased estates with money advanced them by the government, upon the security of the land, and the bond of two persons; and being unable to keep down the interest, the property is brought to the hammer, and passes into other hands. In addition to all this, they have no local attachments; there is no pride of ancestry, no traditionary legends, no improvements in building or planting, to endear to them the spot of their nativity; so that it is commonly said, and I believe with truth, that a Dutchman will sell any thing, his wife not excepted.

At the distance of twenty miles to the east of Mossel Bay, I found Mr. T——, a very intelligent Scotch farmer, who arrived between two and three years ago, with a dozen of his own countrymen; and after a minute examination of the different parts of the colony, finally purchased the property upon which I found him seated. The estate, comprising, perhaps, 8000 acres, is a very fine one, and does credit to his choice, displaying every variety of soil, from the stiff clay to the sandy loam. The hills

running at the back of the house are clothed with the finest forest trees I ever beheld, and are of easy access. A copious and unfailing stream of water flows through the middle of the grounds. This is dignified with the name of river; but, in Africa, where every thing else is upon an extended scale, nature seems to be most economical in the article water. Her rivers are half-dried puling streams in summer, and swollen torrents in winter. Situated within a reasonable distance from the Bay, Mr. T—— is within half a dozen miles of George Town, where the landrost of the district resides. There is no want of rain here. The natural grasses were in some places between two and three feet high, rank and sour, of course; but they lose this defect after repeated ploughings. Rye grasses may be grown here; but, perhaps, it is only on this part of the southern coast, called the Antiniequas Land, that they will attain a growth sufficient to admit of their being made into hay as in England.

I observed here, for the first time, a quantity of wild clover; but the Dutch have nowhere attended to the cultivation of it, considering all improvements in agriculture as criminal innovations upon the sacred arrangements of nature, and therefore most religiously abstain.

Mr. T—— employs only the Scotchmen he

brought out with him, with the assistance of one or two Hottentots as waggoners, and one or two females in his kitchen.

I had here a fair opportunity of detecting the fallacy of the opinion, which so universally prevails, viz. that Europeans are unequal to the heat of the climate; for they all assured me, they experienced little or no additional inconvenience to what they felt in the summer months at home. If the sun is more powerful, its heat is tempered by cool breezes that blow from the sea during the greater part of the day, and are succeeded in the evening by a breeze from the land.

Mr. T——— declared to me, that he found no difficulty at all on this head, excepting that it obliged him to make some little variation in the appointed hours for the men to be in the field, from what he had been accustomed to in Scotland: thus the men lie by and refresh themselves with an hour's sleep in the heat of the day; while the first dawn of the morning and the late hours of evening are dedicated to labour. This point can surely need no further elucidation; and I shall only add, that several instances, corroborating the fact, occurred to my personal observation.

This gentleman had to struggle with many obstacles, which his perseverance and ingenuity have

enabled him to conquer. The Dutch laughed, and said it was impossible he should succeed. He had to encounter the prejudices which prevailed as to his novel system of agriculture, his plans of building, &c. His rejection of the use of slaves was alone thought a sufficient presage of his speedy downfal. He examined coolly and impartially before he attempted the introduction of European practice into Southern Africa; and without suffering himself to be led aside by the voice of ignorance and error, he acted according to the dictates of plain good sense, and has found his account in so doing.

It is necessary to attend to this circumstance, because it is the fashion at the Cape to caution settlers of every description, to beware of introducing any European methods into the colony, to the climate and soil of which they are said to be unadapted, and the example of one or two Englishmen is cited to back this advice. Now Mr. T——, as I shall have occasion to notice, by and by, is the only person who has given the thing a fair trial; for he is the only man whose means and knowledge of husbandry rendered him competent to the task. The few English who are settled upon estates in the colony are (with the exception of three or four individuals) half-pay officers, or reduced gentlemen of one sort or another; in short, not farmers: even

these have a decided superiority in point of activity and intelligence over the Boor. I have already endeavoured to show that this part of the colony possesses nearly all the advantages that can be combined; and I may add, that I saw no other, that as a place of settlement pleased me so well. There are several good places to be had by purchase, in the neighbourhood of the gentleman of whom I have been speaking; upon any one of which, a good farmer, landed upon the spot, with a capital of from 1 to £2000, and provided with a good set of labourers, would do well. It may be noticed, that the larger capital expended in the colony, that is, as far, suppose, as £10,000, the better are the chances of great and speedy returns.

The same quality of soil extends nearly to the Knysna, a distance of about fifty miles; but, in advancing thither, it will be found that the country in general is more adapted to grass farms. It would, therefore, be desirable to possess a grazing farm towards the Knysna, and a corn farm in the neighbourhood of Mossel Bay.

At George Town, the forest trees, which hitherto were to be seen but partially, being confined to dingles and ravines, or appearing occasionally in tufts and small groves, now rush boldly into the plain, and

tending considerably beyond Plettenbergh Bay, and embracing in its march large tracts of unexplored country. If we allow the general opinion respecting the obstruction at the mouth of the Breede River, to be well founded, the Knysna, situate about half-way between George Town and Plettenbergh Bay, is the only navigable river in the colony. This, however, is only practicable for about nine miles from the mouth, where it discharges itself into the sea, and ships of 500 tons may enter and lie with perfect safety within the limits just mentioned. There is, however, some nicety attending the entrance into the river, which requires the concurrence of a particular wind and tide, owing to which vessels are liable to be detained at the mouth. As the forest stretches along the banks on each side of the river, a considerable traffic in timber is carried on; but in consequence of the high price of freight and of labour, and the government tax upon exported timber, it is said that this has ceased to be a profitable concern. Deals are sent from England to the Cape market, at a cheaper rate than the timber of the colony from the Knysna.

The most valuable trees in the colony are the stinkwood tree (a species of quercus peculiar to South Africa), and the yellow wood tree, (taxus elongatus, Lin.); the former so called from a some-

what offensive odour which the wood emits, and the latter from the colour. They are excellently adapted for building, furniture, and all domestic purposes. These trees attain a height of forty and fifty feet, and measure in diameter from eight to ten feet. Many of them I observed covered with a mossy drapery that hung suspended in the air, a peculiarity noticed in various parts of America, and which recalled to my mind the words of a beautiful little romance. "Quand la nuit, au clair de la lune, vous appercevez sur la nudité d'une savanne, une yeuse isolée, revêtue de cette espèce de draperie, vous croiriez voir un fantome trainant après lui ses longues voiles." The iron-wood tree is so hard and close-grained as to be cut with difficulty, and as the Boors are not fond of damaging the edges of their tools, it is little used excepting for spokes of wheels and other similar purposes. The English oak grows well beyond the range of the south-east winds. The witteboom or silver tree is a native of the Cape, but is not found in the interior: its growth seems confined to the neighbourhood of Cape Town, where it is used chiefly for fire wood.

The neighbourhood of the Knysna combines every thing that is beautiful, and much that is useful in the colony of the Cape. The road winds pleasantly along through green pasture land, disposed in varied

and graceful undulations, with all the harmonies of shape to feast the eye and imagination. Groups of noble trees appear in every direction to heighten the scenery, forming an enchanting contrast with the flat barren sands, or still more barren hills, of which so large a portion of the colony is composed. There are two beautiful salt lakes, abounding with excellent fish. The land, however, is not generally adapted for tillage, being in many places rocky and poor, and on the opposite side to George Town there is a great want of water.

Upon the banks of the Knysna, and close to its mouth, has resided for many years a gentleman of the name of Rex, the proprietor of nearly all the land that can be turned to any account in this immediate neighbourhood. His estates have been said to exceed thirty miles in extent; but this must be understood with some modification.

There are good places near the Kromme River, beyond Plettenbergh Bay; but I have reason to think them by no means so eligible as those I have already enumerated. The same may be said of the country beyond the Lange Kloof*, to the north, and many

* The Lange Kloof is part of the continued chain of mountains that sweep across the colony east and west, and terminate beyond Plettenbergh Bay. The country behind these mountains is in many parts sufficiently fertile; but the steep, rugged ascent that must be

other parts of the interior; for however desirable in other respects, they are either too far removed from any market, or too difficult of access to engage the attention of the settler; and in point of attraction to the curious there is nothing left to describe where so many have described before. For whatever prospects of future wealth, to be derived from commercial intercourse, may be reasonably entertained by those occupying lands in the immediate vicinity of the Bays, it must be long ere the interior of this continent can hold out any such agreeable prospects. This must be the work of a long lapse of years, when towns shall have been built, and an increased population shall have gradually expanded itself into the wilderness; till then, the interior of the Cape must remain what it is now, an uncultivated waste; which, though in many parts displaying an inviting fertility, can only serve to supply the wants of a scanty population, that will vegetate in inactivity upon its surface, while wealth and civilization, and refinement, and luxury, as in the history of mankind they have ever been found to do, will pour in upon the more fortunate inhabitants of the coasts. The greater part, indeed, of

surmounted in order to convey produce to the sea, is for the present, at least, a barrier to agricultural enterprise.

this southern continent is so little favoured by nature, as to leave no room for expectation, that it can ever become, throughout, a flourishing and well peopled country. For the above reasons, then, the interior of the colony, however eligible, in many other respects, cannot for the present, it is conceived, arrest the attention of the settler.

Among the few obstacles that occur to impede the traveller at the Cape, should have been noticed, the sudden swelling of the rivers immediately after the rains, when fording becomes exceedingly dangerous, if not impracticable. On an emergency of this kind we were once compelled to have recourse to a Hottentot guide, who plunged fearlessly with his horse into the torrent, and bade us follow. So, indeed, we did, and though with some difficulty we stemmed the tide, and contrived to scramble up the opposite bank; it was not with such pleasant sensations as our guide, who, having little exposed to the water but his own greasy hide, from which the superfluous moisture trickled like water from a goose's wing, was as merry as ever. A second torrent stopped us effectually, and the Hottentot would not venture; he therefore took a circuituous track, entangled with brush-wood, and choked up with fragments of rock that wound round the edge

ficulty, sometimes sliding, and sometimes jumping down a sudden and abrupt descent, leaving our horses to follow as they best could, and to escape by miracle. Mine was a small Kaffer horse, that seemed quite at home in such a situation, clinging like a goat to the rock, and as safe upon four legs as I was on two.

It was upon this occasion only that we met with any of the wild beasts of the Cape. While halting for breath in a pass of great difficulty, I perceived upon a projecting fragment of rock, immediately over our heads, an immense wolf looking down upon us, and speculating, no doubt, upon some broken bones for supper: he moved slowly away as we retreated from him. We also saw, for the only time, the trace of a tyger, when on crossing a small brook, the Hottentot pointed out, in the sand, the foot-print of one that had come down to drink. Lions are nearly exterminated, and are to be found but in the remote parts of the colony.

I met on the road a Boor who was taking a couple of these animals, about three parts grown, to Cape Town for sale; they had been caught as cubs, reared in his house, and were so tame that no precaution was used but tying them to the waggon: 300 rix-dollars was the sum asked for both. In the neighbourhood of the Knysna, we were assailed with terrific stories about an elephant that went by

the name of " Old Tom," and was said to have destroyed several Hottentots. There, perhaps, may be a few elephants in that forest; but the stories appeared idle in the extreme. The hills throughout abound with baboons, whose discordant screams frequently startle the traveller; and on the plains there are ostriches; they run with amazing swiftness, and will not suffer you to approach them. When young they may be rode down with a good horse, and are taken by this and various other means. The feathers fetch from one to two rix-dollars a piece in Cape Town.

The Boors are good marksmen; their fowling-pieces, which none are without, are long and heavy, and charged with slugs or exceedingly large shot. English game dogs are in great request amongst them; but the breed is suffered to degenerate by a mixture with their own mongrels; no attention is paid to feeding them, and they are covered with mange and vermin. The different species of the antelope tribe, called by the general name of bucks, which are the only object of pursuit, are plentiful in most parts of the colony, and on the unfrequented plains are sometimes to be seen feeding in large herds. The exercise of shooting is always performed on horseback.

CHAPTER V.

Dutch System of Agriculture—Extent and Quality of the Farms—The Produce—Method of treading out the Corn—Cattle—Sheep—Horses.

It is time to say something of the Dutch system of agriculture, if, indeed, that can be dignified with the name of system, which is rather the rude effort of a savage, than any peculiar method adopted upon principles of utility, and gradually advancing to perfection by the experience of years. It is the same now as when they first colonized the country, and if their stagnant genius was not disturbed by the example of our countrymen, I question whether it would ever receive any improvement. Nothing, in fact, can savour more of primitive barbarity. Their plough is a couple of heavy boards nailed together, and armed with a clumsy share, which it requires a dozen oxen to work. Their harrow, if they use any at all, is a few brambles. Their waggons (which will carry about thirty Winchester bushels, or a ton weight, and are generally drawn by sixteen and sometimes twenty oxen) are well constructed to go tilting up and down the precipitous passes of the Kloofs with safety; but they have no variety for the dif-

ferent roads. The small one horse cart, so useful upon a farm, and upon hard roads, is unknown. The Dutch loan farms, the most common tenure in the colony, were originally measured out and allotted in the following manner. A stake was stuck in the ground as near the centre of the future estate as could be guessed, and a man, starting from thence, walked for half an hour in a straight line, to each of the four points of the compass, giving thus the radii of a circle that comprised a space of about 6000 acres. Small rents were reserved upon the grants, that were made renewable at the option of the government: this renewal is now grown into a customary right. Many of the farms have been enfranchised, and other alterations in the original tenures have taken place, which it would be unnecessary for our present purpose to point out; but no subdivision has been thought of, so that a farm or place is usually of the dimensions alluded to, viz. about 6000 acres. There were small freehold estates, originally granted, of about 200 acres in extent; but they are not numerous.

It is not uncommon for the farmer to possess another tract of land, at a distance from that upon which he resides, as a change for the cattle, when his own scanty supply of forage is consumed.

Of these extensive farms, the greater part is, of course, mere sheep and cattle walk; they break

up for tillage patches here and there, where the plough can be directed with the least difficulty, or the soil is the most inviting for the purpose. A slight scattering of manure is sometimes used, but more frequently none at all; and it is astonishing to see the crops this soil, even the lightest sands, will produce, with so little artificial stimulus*. When the land is somewhat exhausted by a succession of crops, they break up fresh ground, and the old is suffered to lie fallow, as they term it, for many years; that is, it is permitted to throw up plentiful crops of huge bushes and heath till its turn comes round again, which may be in about seven years, when there is the trouble of breaking it up anew. The sheep and cattle are permitted to stray at pleasure, or are, perhaps, entrusted to the care of a sleepy Hottentot.

The wheat† is generally heavier, and yields a

* I saw a field that had borne seventeen successive crops of wheat without any manure. It has already been observed by travellers, that these sands contain a great admixture of saltpetre, and that they rest upon a bed of clay, which is to be found at about a foot below the surface. It is this stratum of clay that has been supposed by some to impart the peculiar earthy taste to the Cape wines.

† Some samples which were exhibited at Mark Lane, in 1819, were confessed to be superior to our own.

finer flour than our own. It is all spring wheat, being sown from the month of April to June; perhaps the cone wheat might be introduced with advantage. The returns are very various in the different soils: I have heard some farmers declare they had reaped sixty and eighty for one; the average may be from twenty to thirty; but it is impossible to come to a true estimate upon this point, as no farmer can tell you the exact quantity sown upon a given quantity of acres. I remarked that they generally sow too thin, for as drought is the principal evil to be guarded against, the blades of corn when springing up thickly, would act as a shield to each other from the rays of the sun, and consequently retain the moisture longer. The seed is thrown in without any preparatory steeping. If with so little art and industry such abundant crops are produced*, it is easy to foresee what may be effected by the superior skill and perseverance of the English farmer.

Their barley is not so good as ours; in fact, it is rather what we call bigg. As it will not vegetate or sprout properly, the malt that is made of it is a mere substitute for English malt, which is always, if possible, procured for the purpose of brewing. A

*. A gentleman lately counted forty stems growing from one seed of barley.

brewery has been many years established at Cape Town.

The English double-furrowed plough and harrow, with all the machinery invented for the purpose of facilitating this important branch of husbandry, that can be used upon the strong soils at home, have in some instances, and may without doubt, in all, be used with perfect success. Mr. Duckitt has for years used a double and treble plough, which in the colony, I believe, bears the name of Duckitt's plough, and the more enlightened of the Dutch are compelled to admit its superiority.

Their method of beating out the corn is well known; the sheaves are spread on a circular floor, surrounded by a low wall, with which every farm is supplied. The farmer's whole stock of brood mares and colts are then turned in, and a black man standing in the centre with a long whip to enforce his authority; the whole herd are compelled to frisk and canter round till the corn is trampled out of the ear. This is termed *tramping* out; and if its origin be inquired into, it will be found to be as old as the Mosaic dispensation at least*. To say nothing of the uncleanliness of the practice, for it may be supposed that

* Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn. Deut. c. xxv. v. 4.

a score of animals cannot be employed a whole day without an accumulation of filth, which, mixed up with innumerable particles of sand, may account for the gritty taste discoverable in the Cape bread; it might be imagined, that the great wear and tear of horses, the tediousness of the operation, and the imperfect manner in which the end is achieved, would lead to the discovery of some less exceptionable method. But, strange to say, it is universally adopted and universally upheld.

On one of the best farms in the Koeburg district, from whence Cape Town is chiefly supplied with grain, I saw eighty horses employed. working by relays of forty at a time. The quantity of grain trampled out and winnowed in one day was forty muids*, (though the general average is not more than twenty-five). Fourteen men were engaged in the work. The loss of mares from the heat and laborious exertion amounted to £60, enough to have paid two-thirds of the cost, and freight out, of a threshing machine of four-horse power; £80 being the cost of such a one just arrived. This threshing machine will do the same work in the same time, with about eight hands, avoiding all mixture of dirt, sand, and without leaving a single grain in the ear; whereas, upon examining the straw after a

* Muids, $3_{1}{}'_{0}$ make a Winchester bushel.

tramping out, the work is found to be most imperfectly done.

The winnowing is performed by tossing the trampled grain in the air with shovels, or by exposing it to the wind in a seive, which, of course, separates the chaff from the grain; but this can only be done in a moderate wind, and as the violent south-east prevails in the Koeberg or corn district, this method is liable to continual interruption and delay. The straw being nearly reduced to powder by the process of tramping, is in part preserved to mix with the fodder for horses. None is kept for litter or manure, but whatever remains is blown away by the wind. Advanced prices have been offered by the Cape bakers for wheat properly cleaned, yet there are still advocates for the old system, and such is the infatuation of prejudice, and the obstinacy of error, that both Dutch and English opposed the introduction of the threshing machine; and when one was set going, since my arrival, for their inspection, upon the farm of an English gentleman in Hottentot Holland, some obstruction was secretly introduced into the machinery, which prevented its working, and had nearly destroyed the machine. However, this petty malice was defeated, and the threshing machine, to the amazement of the incredulous, carried the day.

Their corn stacks are built upon the ground in the

most slovenly manner, a prey to the thousands of large field mice that overrun the colony.

The oats are inferior to ours; the seed should be renewed: indeed, seeds of all descriptions, excepting wheat, should form part of the stock of the settler. Oats in the straw, cut green and dried as hay, are the common substitute for hay; but barley is esteemed the most nourishing food for horses, and is commonly used for that purpose as corn in England: a mixture of both is to be preferred. No grass is mown. In those parts of the colony where abundance of rain falls, the natural grasses are sour, and they have not been at the pains of introducing artificial ones, or of ploughing up, or burning the old ones. In the drier parts, the cattle browze upon a variety of prickly shrubs, and a short scanty grass, which is burnt up by the sun. Vetches and trefoil are unknown; but the former were tried by Mr. Duckitt, and found to succeed perfectly well. One or two hop plants were set in the governor's garden, and are doing very well. It is thought that in sheltered situations they might succeed. The brewery at Cape Town would take any quantity from the grower. Potatoes, carrots, turnips, and, indeed, most of the vegetables used for the table, are inferior to our own in flavour, probably from a want of proper attention. This observation will apply to many of the fruits, especially

the strawberry. The Cape market is ill supplied with vegetables, and they bear a higher price than at home. Potatoes are watery, and will not keep upon a voyage. Those of St. Helena are found to be better, and are in great request for this purpose. Indian wheat thrives capitally, and though neglected by the Dutch, has been used by Mr. T——— with great advantage as fodder for cattle. Turnips will grow only in the rainy season, when they are not wanted by the farmer, and they run immediately to seed. Tobacco succeeds perfectly well, and good samples of tea have been produced.

There is said to be no limestone in the colony; but shells are collected in considerable quantities on the coast, and burnt as a substitute.

The native cattle of the Cape are a hardy, long-legged, bony animal, more in the coach-horse line than fitted for the shambles. They are bad milkers, probably from the bad quality and scanty supply of forage. The best are those brought from Holland, and called the Father Land breed, which if well fed, and fatted, would almost bear a comparison with our Devonshire. Their colour is black and white. A cross with the Herefordshire would make an excellent breed, increasing the flesh and fat, and diminishing the superabundance of bone. As a milch cow, the Glamorganshire reds would be found a valuable acquisition. The Lancashire probably require too

rich a pasture. A dairy forms no part of an establishment here. Butter and cheese, if they have any, are usually obtained from Algoa Bay, and other remote parts of the colony; and strange as it may sound, a draught of milk is not easily procured in the summer season in the drier parts of the colony. I do not know that any art can remedy this upon the arid sands, where the rains seldom fall. When they do churn, it is without skimming off the cream; milk and all is thrown into the churn, producing a species of butter that in taste and appearance very much resembles what one may imagine coagulated buttermilk to be.

Sheep-tail fat is the ordinary substitute for butter, and is to be preferred to the lard and fat bacon which our poor are obliged to put up with at home.

One or two hand-churns have been introduced lately, and are much admired. It is needless to add, that churns, dairy maids, and all the paraphernalia are every where wanted.

The cattle in various parts of the colony are subject to a fatal disorder, called the lam or lame sickness*, which annually carries off great numbers. It is by

* It is so called because it first attacks the shoulders of the animal, and renders him quite lame. They have another disease very much resembling black-water. Very few spots in the colony are exempt from the lam sickness; but it varies in malignity in different places.

the Boors attributed to a plant that springs up at certain times of the year, and is eaten by the cattle. The farmers are particular in changing the pastures as often as possible, as it is thus thought to be mitigated. It is certain, that in many parts of the colony cattle cannot be kept at the same place above three months in the year, and in very few more than six. Upon conversing on this subject with Mr. T——, he said, he considered it as arising in a great measure from an insufficiency of food. To shelter the cattle from the attacks of wolves and other wild animals, they are every evening driven into a circular enclosure, formed of dead branches or stakes, and called a *kraal*; and during the period of this incarceration are unprovided with fodder of any kind. Mr. T—— invariably fed his with Indian corn, and had lost but very few from sickness. When we reflect that the animals are worked hard, this explanation of the matter may diminish the singularity of the phenomenon, though there is no doubt the sickness does prevail in spite of all this. A very fatal horse distemper, at times, runs through the country, which destroys the animal in a few hours after he is attacked. Horses on a journey are sometimes seized with this disorder, which first betrays itself by an involuntary shivering; pre-

rescue him from the crows and vultures. The farmers are cautious on these occasions to keep their horses in the stable, and it is observed, that it seldom attacks any but those at grass.

The price of a good ox is thirty six-dollars; they are seldom stall fed for the Cape Town market, but if a fat beast of that sort is going to be killed in Cape Town, he is infallibly paraded through the streets a day or two beforehand; one or two blacks attending with the instruments of execution flourished in the air, to give notice to customers, and the world at large, when and where the slaughter is to take place. The price of this choice food is raised from the usual one of threepence or fourpence, to one shilling or one shilling and sixpence per pound.

The sheep are wretched beasts, more resembling goats, with wool that might be taken for frizly hair, and is in fact only used for stuffing chairs, or such like purposes; the other parts of the body seem drained to supply the accumulation of fat upon the tail, which weighs from six to twelve pounds*; and, which being nourished to this unnatural size, at the expense of the whole carcass, might more reasonably excite sedition amongst the members, than the belly in Agrippa's fable. They are long-legged,

* The tail of a sheep which had been driven near 200 miles from the interior was known to weigh twenty-five pounds.

lanky, sinewy beasts, more shaped for racing than roasting, without an ounce of flesh to encumber their speed. You might discern the peristaltic motion without the aid of a microscope.

The Merinos, of which there are a few flocks, do very well: they are much degenerated for want of changing and a proper selection of rams, and are valued at about eight rix-dollars per head. Some choice rams, lately imported, have been estimated at £20 a piece. A settler could not do better than provide himself with a few Spanish rams. Wool that has been sent home, as it was taken from the sheep, has sold in London for three shillings and sixpence per pound; but if properly cleaned, picked, and sorted, there is little doubt but that it would have fetched near five shillings: the price in the colony is two shillings per pound; the duty is sixpence per pound.

The Ryeland, or Southdown sheep, would be a great acquisition here, for the Cape forms a detestable food.

The Cape horse, which is not indigenous, but was introduced originally from Java, is a small, active, spirited animal, a mixture of the Spanish and Arabian, capable of undergoing great fatigue, and as a saddle-horse, excellently adapted to the country; they may be bought in the interior for 100 rix-dollars and upwards. In Cape Town and

the neighbourhood, the price rises to double that sum.

As a draught horse for the farmer he is too small, and the introduction of a few of the Suffolk-punch breed would be a real benefit to the colony, as well as a source of profit to the importer. Two cart stallions were shipped to the Cape, a year or two ago, but only one lived, and his colts are expected to turn out very valuable.

A distinguished personage at the Cape is thought to have conferred a singular benefit on the colony, by bringing over several thorough-bred English horses, and disseminating a taste for racing. But it is difficult to imagine how the interests of an infant colony could be advanced by the introduction of an animal perfectly useless for any purposes of trade or agriculture, or by rendering fashionable an expensive and ruinous amusement. I have seen a single horse sold for £600, and a two-year old colt for £200. The blood of Sorcerer, Ploughboy, and Clinker has found its way into remote parts of the colony; and large sums of money are expended in rearing and training, which I fear will not be repaid in golden cups. Indeed the absurdity of the thing has manifested itself; for of late, not only have these animals fallen in price, but the last turf meeting was postponed for want of subscribers. So much for the turf. This

folly is, perhaps, only exceeded by the absurdity of establishing races at St. Helena, where there is a broiling climate, and not a mile of level land in the island.

Pigs* are scarce in the colony amongst the farmers, it is difficult to say why, excepting that there is some trouble in feeding them, and they cannot be turned out to graze like sheep. Poultry is for the same reason neglected. Indeed, mutton may be said to be the only food of the colonists.

* Some of the slave tribes are said to have a peculiar aversion to this animal, and cannot be induced to attend to it. This aversion is supposed to be founded in religious prejudice, many of them being disciples of Mahomet. The natives of Madagascar are very numerous in the colony, and among that people have been traced some remnants of Judaical observances, which have given rise to a conjecture, that at the dispersion of the ten tribes, a few scattered families may have wandered to this remote island.

CHAPTER VI.

The Fruits of the Colony—The Vines—Wine indifferent —No sufficient Reason yet assigned—Licenses for Selling Wine and Spirits—Salubrity of the Climate.

The fruits of the country are too well known to need any enumeration. Almost all the European and tropical fruits are to be found here, and in abundance. The rapidity of their growth is astonishing. I have seen the peach and apple tree bearing plentifully in three years from the stone or kernel, and in two when planted from cuttings. No cider has ever been attempted, though the apple, peach, and other fruits, which rot in thousands upon the ground wherever these trees have been planted, might thus be turned to good account. A quince hedge is the most common fence in the colony. The fruits as well as the vegetables are inferior to ours in flavour; but this is owing to a want of proper attention to their selection and growth, rather than to any natural defect. The pine apple has been brought here from the Mauritius, but does not thrive in the open air. The English currant and gooseberry have been tried, but without much success, and the climate is too warm for the cherry and the plum. The common hazel

and filbert, and the raspberry tree, are seen in only one garden of the colony. The castor oil tree, or Palma Christi, is common; and the raw berry is eaten medicinally by the inhabitants of the interior: its flavour is not unpleasant, and its effects are said to be similar to those produced by the extracted oil. The almonds are small but well flavoured. The wild olive of the country has not been displaced by that of Europe. The grapes, in size and flavour, are not excelled by any in the world; their growth is general; but good wine is produced in certain parts only, and those the driest of the colony. It will, therefore, generally be found, that a good yielding farm does not possess a vineyard that will make good wine; for where much rain falls to forward the labours of husbandry, the grape loses its flavour. The vines are not led upon trellis-work as at Madeira, and other places, but are pruned to the ground, and grow in rows, like currant bushes. This has been much condemned, but I have seen instances where the other method has been practised with an evident deterioration both in the quality and quantity of the fruit. The question, however, is not at rest, and experiments should be made upon a larger scale to determine it. The multiplicity of bad wines, sent from the Cape, has sunk the whole in the estimation of our countrymen, and it is now a drug in the market. Why the grapes of the Cape

should not yield good wine, is a question often asked; and for the most part very unsatisfactorily answered. The reason may partly be sought for in the process. The grapes, ripe and unripe, sound and unsound, with stalks and filth of all kinds, are pressed together, and no wonder that bad wine is the consequence. This is the general process amongst the Boors; but not all the pains and attention that have been devoted to the business, by one or two individuals of Cape Town, have produced any thing that can compare with the wines of Madeira and France. There is still a harshness and acidity peculiar to the Cape wines, and heart-burn has been observed to be a common consequence of drinking freely of them. These unpleasant effects may be owing, in many instances, to the bad qualities of the Cape brandy, which, whether owing to imperfect distillation, or whatever other cause, is one of the worst and most pernicious spirits ever produced, and is not unfrequently added to the French or Spanish brandy which is mixed with the wines; but, independently of this, it is obvious there exists some latent defect, the discovery of which seems to have hitherto eluded all investigation. Some have thought that the clayey soil, in which the vines take root, others, that suffering the fruits to grow so near the earth, are among the causes of this characteristic flavour in the wine. No doubt, soil and climate

have great influence in modifying the growth and flavour of fruits. The grape of Constantia loses its properties at the distance of half a mile from one particular farm, and the vines of France are known to make a totally different wine when transplanted into other countries of Europe.

But it is notorious that the best vineyards of this colony are upon the strong clays; and if the soil of the Cape really imparted any peculiar qualities, it would surely be discoverable in the fruit, so that it still remains a puzzle why good fruit should not make good wine.

The licenses for selling wines and spirits in Cape Town, and the vicinity, are annually farmed out by the government to the highest bidder: 33,000 rix-dollars was the sum given for them last year. The purchaser of these licenses employs the retail dealer, or public-house keeper, to vend his wine and spirits, which he takes good care shall be the worst and cheapest he can procure for that purpose. A continual demand is thus kept up for inferior wines, and useful competition is excluded. From the price at which the licenses sell, some idea may be formed of the quantity of pernicious wine thus retailed. Wine at the Cape now sells at from twenty to forty rix-dollars the half aum, a measure containing about twenty gallons.

If any one doubts the salubrity of the Cape

climate, let him be at the trouble of examining the troops that have been years on the station, and that doubt will speedily vanish. Its pleasantness will be denied by few, who have not fallen into the English habits of keeping late hours. The mornings and evenings are delicious. In the hottest summer months, horse exercise may be taken, even in the noonday sun, without much inconvenience: a continuance of this practice is not altogether to be recommended as safe; but it is sufficient to show the degree of heat that prevails. Cape Town is the least tolerable, on account of the rays refracted from Table Mountain; but when beyond the influence of this mountain, there is generally a breeze to moderate the heat of the sun. I have already shown that the European servant is not impeded in the labours of the field, and surely the master can have no fair cause of complaint. It is true there are frequent instances of sudden and violent illnesses, attended with rapid dissolution from inflammatory disorders. The abrupt variation of temperature, especially during the winter months, is not favourable to health; though the chief source of the diseases that prevail, among the lower orders, may be traced to the use of Cape brandy, which is retailed in the public-houses; but is it not strange, in a climate where nature has provided such an abundance of

your thirst"—that animal food, and that too prepared in the grossest manner, should form a greater proportion of the diet of its inhabitants than in the colder regions of the north? Surely this is a perversion of taste, to which in some degree may be attributed the rare instances of longevity that are to be met with.

——— sunt fruges, sunt deducentia ramos
Pondere poma suo, tumidæque in vitibus uvæ, &c.
Prodiga divitias alimentaque mitia tellus
Suggerit, atque epulas sine cæde et sanguine præbet.

CHAPTER VII.

The English all clamorous for the Introduction of their own Laws—Cursory View of some Parts of the Dutch Colonial Jurisprudence — Mode of Taxation — The Change of Property upon Marriage—And the Division amongst the Children upon the Death of the Parents —Divorce.

Upon the merits of the Dutch colonial laws now in force at the Cape, and whether it were advisable that these should be displaced by the English laws, I am not prepared to offer any opinion. It may not, however, be amiss to give a view of the popular feeling on the subject, and particularly upon such branches of it as are likely to affect the settler. The English, seemingly forgetful of the complicated evils of the Court of King's Bench and Chancery with its train of long-robed gentlemen, are to a man clamorous for the introduction of our own laws. I begin, therefore, to think that the gentlemen who are so abusive at home upon the learned profession, may be compared to drunkards, who rail at the bottle; for though a little law, like a little wine, is good for the stomach, too much upsets a man.

It is, I think, a fair subject of complaint, that, in an English colony, all law proceedings are in the Dutch language; an Englishman being heard through the medium of an interpreter: whereas it would be easy to hear trials in either language, and then the court would be open to no imputation of misconstruction. I have not, however, heard of any very harsh decisions, though there certainly prevails an opinion throughout the colony, that impartial justice is not to be obtained, and that there is a leaning to the side of the Dutch. I heard an English gentleman say in a mixed company, that if a Dutchman were to turn him out of his house, he should submit in patience rather than have recourse to law.

The criminal code is remarkable for its lenity: capital punishment is not inflicted without an admission of guilt; and, therefore, it is at the option of the condemned, either to linger out their days in the confinement of a prison, or undergo the sentence of the law. Hanging is the punishment for men, strangling for the women.

Before the arrival of the English, torture was used to extort a confession of guilt. It is objected that the judges and other members of the courts are linked together by family connexions, so that there is no opposition of interests; none of that wholesome rivalry, which excites a watchfulness over the

conduct of one another; and, as in our legislative assemblies at home, produces so many beneficial results to the community. But this is a grievance difficult to be avoided in a country where the government is so circumscribed, and the press has not yet been made a medium for the circulation of free opinion. There is, however, an attention and readiness in listening to complaints, and an effort to compromise petty disputes, instead of fomenting dissensions, which in an infant colony would, perhaps, be ill exchanged for the long eloquent discussions and tardy decisions of our courts. The expense, too, of obtaining judgment, though much too dear, is but trifling in comparison. There is also a certain discretionary power in a magistrate, which enables him to curb the insolence of those, who without infringing exactly upon the letter of the law, are abusive enough to disturb the comfort and peace of mankind. At home, a certain quantity of abuse is by the common law of the land allowed to the tongues of the vulgar; but this privilege is not extended to the Cape. A gentleman had occasion to complain before the chief magistrate of Cape Town of the conduct of an English farrier, in what he conceived to be the unwarrantable detention of his horse. The man was clamorous in his defence, and offered immediately to make an affidavit in support of it. "Silence, sir!" said the magistrate; "this gentle-

man's word is worth more than all your affidavits." He was an impudent rascal, and the magistrate knew it.

Two witnesses are necessary in court to prove any fact. This seems to have been originally derived from the Jewish law. "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin. At the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses shall the matter be established*."

With respect to the transfer of landed property by sale or mortgage, or in any other shape by way of security for money borrowed, I think the simplicity of arrangement admirable. Nothing of this sort is acknowledged as a legal transaction, but what takes place in the open court, which is assembled twice a week for this express purpose; any agreement or contract unattended with this solemnity is deemed binding only upon the honour and conscience of the parties. This remark does not of course extend to promissory notes, bills of exchange, and other transactions, strictly speaking of a commercial and pecuniary nature; to which it is only necessary to prove the signature or hand-writing. The diagram or chart of every estate is registered in the colonial office, and all charges and incumbrances whatever upon the estate are entered on

* Deut. c. xix. v. 15.

the chart, and become matter of record. If the property is to be sold or mortgaged, the sale or transfer is made in the public manner alluded to; all interested parties being assembled, and the fact of such sale or transfer registered upon the chart of the estate. Thus, at one glance, the incumbrances upon the property may be ascertained, and no man can give or accept a bad title. Much as we must admire the simplicity of this arrangement, which supersedes the necessity of our courts of equity, with all the complicate doctrines of modern trusts; it may be doubted whether the exposure of private affairs, and the notoriety of such a system, would answer the exigencies of a numerous and commercial people, and whether it be not, therefore, more deserving of our admiration than our envy.

But the laws between master and servant must form the subject of most anxious inquiry for the settler; and in this important branch, there must be confessed to exist a lamentable deficiency. In the remoter districts from Cape Town, the judges of assize meet only once in two months, in the nearer ones, once in every month, to decide cases of this kind. Until the case is heard before this court, the magistrate of the district can only commit the offending party to close confinement; his authority is requisite to proceed thus far, but to this limited jurisdiction it is restricted. A servant, therefore,

who runs away from his master, or refuses to work in the middle of harvest time, in a country where labour is scarce, is apprehended and taken before the landrost or magistrate. The offence is clearly made out, and he is ordered to await in prison his trial at the next assize. Till this takes place, which the servant contrives should be as remote as possible, the master is wholly deprived of his services, and after the sentence of the court is pronounced he is nowise benefited. The punishment is usually confinement in prison for three months, with the addition of, perhaps, hard labour, or flogging in extreme cases; but this is no compensation to the master, who has lost his labour in a critical season, and is destined to undergo a still further privation of it; add to this, a great share of the prison expenses are to be defrayed by him. This, it must be confessed, is an exceedingly hard case, and is continually occurring, where labourers are brought from England, upon contract, to work for a certain number of years: they become dissatisfied, refuse to work; then comes the complaint, and the remedy I have just stated. The law is too lenient to intimidate, and the prison serves as a comfortable retreat for the idle. One of the landrosts, in lamenting this circumstance, assured me, that men who had been condemned to three months imprisonment, with the additional punishment of flogging, have

committed the same offence upon the day of their release, to ensure themselves another three months lodging. As this evil, of all others, will be most sensibly felt by the settlers, it is hoped that some immediate alteration will take place.

A curious decision took place a little time ago; an English prentice boy had been flogged, according to an order, improperly and unwarrantably (as it afterwards appeared) given, by the landrost of the district. The boy made his complaint before the court at Cape Town, and the court decreed, that the master, and the man who had flogged the boy (in pursuance of a written order which was produced), should be fined in equal proportions.

Upon marriage, without special articles, the property of the husband and wife becomes a joint stock during their lives, to which the children are entitled in equal shares upon the deaths of the parents, unless a particular disposition by will shall have been made to the contrary; but it is to be observed, that, though a larger portion may thus be given to a favourite child, a parent cannot wholly disinherit his offspring without assigning sufficient cause, according to the rule laid down in the Justinian code.

The property of an intestate is sold by the Orphan Chamber, in order that an equal division may be made. Upon the death of one parent, the children

are entitled in equal shares to that part of the joint stock, which belonged to the party so dying; and in the event of the survivor marrying again, the interests of the children in such property must be previously secured to them.

Primogeniture, therefore, in imitation of the Roman law, is not only unattended with those advantages which have accompanied it wherever the feudal polity has prevailed, and in our own country, to an extent unknown in any other, but actually confers no privileges whatever.

Personal property, it should be observed, may be disposed of by will as the party may think fit; and it is now the common practice to make a will of the real property, appointing executors to divide it amongst the children, as the interposition of the Orphan Chamber is thus prevented.

The law of divorce is curious. A divorce is obtained upon application upon the simple grounds of domestic unhappiness, resulting from bad temper, or the like infirmities of disposition; and the parties are, with mutual consent, permitted to marry again.

Every farm in the colony of the Cape, with the whole stock upon it, is valued by certain commissioners appointed for that purpose, and taxed in a fixed sum according to such valuation. There is nothing, therefore, in the nature of our assessed taxes; the dif-

ferent objects of taxation not being particularized, but the whole lumped together and taxed *en masse*. An annual court is held in the different districts, in pursuance of public notice given in the Cape Gazette, at which the farmers are obliged to assemble and give in a statement of their effects; the tax is there collected; the court sitting from day to day till the whole is gathered in. It is difficult to speak with precision; but the taxes upon a well stocked farm of 6000 acres may, perhaps, be estimated at about 200 rix-dollars, which is independent of the duty or tax imposed upon every thing which is sent into the Cape market, and collected at the barrier, or toll-gate at the entrance of the town. Cattle pay one skilling (or three-pence English); and sheep one penny per head. Barley and oats ten skillings per load. Wheat three rix-dollars per load; so that a load of wheat, value eighty rix-dollars, pays a tax of five rix-dollars, including the two tolls, before it can enter the market. Wine, wood, vegetables, fruit, &c. are taxed proportionably. The farmers are, moreover, liable to be summoned in person to the frontier, in aid of the military, to serve against the Kaffers, when an invasion is apprehended from that quarter: a summons which effectually puts a stop to all farming operations, and consequently is attended with the most serious

loss and inconvenience. It is conjectured, that the position of the new settlement, and the arrangements that will follow, may (in part at least) supersede the necessity of this measure.

The police are allowed fire-arms and cutlasses, which they use at their own discretion. Not long ago, one of the police was sent to apprehend the carpenter of an English brig, then lying in the bay, who had refused to obey orders. The man offered some resistance, and the officer immediately shot him dead through the neck. This was conceived a proper execution of his duty, though not according to our notions of civil proceedings.

I have already noticed such peculiarities, and so much of the general outline of the jurisprudence of the Cape, as was thought necessary for the present purpose. More minute information may be gathered from the various publications upon the Cape, particularly from Barrow, vol. 2.

From the tenor of the foregoing observations it will easily be collected what prospects of success the emigrant has before him, and what difficulties he has to encounter. Emigration, however, is undertaken with views and hopes of so different a complexion, that it is impossible to state, generally, whether disappointment will or will not prevail. For where the measure and extent of expectation are uncertain, it is impossible to calculate with any certainty upon

the probability of failure or success. That a wide field is open for labour and industry is beyond a doubt; but if any man embarks for the Cape of Good Hope with the idea of realizing, by agricultural pursuits, large sums of money, or has so partaken of the prevailing delusion, as to imagine that he is to be exempt from the curse of toiling in the sweat of his brow, he will not be long in finding his mistake. Here is no manna to be gathered in indolence, and even sheep-tail fat does not overflow the land. Perhaps there is no country in the world where the mere necessaries of life are more easily supplied; but to ensure a comfortable subsistence no inconsiderable degree of exertion is requisite. A good economist of labour and of money, possessing a practical knowledge of husbandry, who can command from £1000 to £2000 when upon the spot, and who comes properly provided with steady men, cannot fail of succeeding: that is, he will be enabled to purchase an estate in an eligible situation in the colony, in the vicinity of one of the Bays, with house and buildings; the latter very indifferent, it is true, but timber will be within his reach, and he may improve at leisure.

His attention is particularly directed to that part of the colony lying between Mossel Bay and George Town, of which much has been already said, and which

of the colony as a place of settlement for an English farmer. The few places within the immediate vicinity of Cape Town, adapted to this purpose, bear a high price, and probably require the investment of a larger capital than such an individual can command. I think a thousand pounds might be advantageously expended somewhere about Wynbergh*, in the purchase of a place to be laid out as garden ground for the supply of the Cape market, and that of Simon's Town in the winter season, when its Bay is full of shipping.

If a settler comes provided with good letters of credit, and can prevail upon any two respectable inhabitants to become a security for him (for this is generally insisted on), he will obtain six or twelve months credit in the purchase of an estate, which is generally paid for by two or more instalments, according to the agreement; a certain portion of the money being paid down. Not unfrequently the principal is suffered to remain for years upon the security of the property and the bond of the two sureties; and there is, perhaps, no country where great purchases are so easily accomplished

* Wynbergh is distant between six and seven miles from Cape Town, and sixteen from Simon's Town; the road to the former being perfectly hard and good, and the latter very tolerable, with the exception of three or

with little money. More than one half of the estates in the colony are thus unpaid for, especially by the Dutch proprietors; and whatever exterior indications of riches may be visible, they possess in general but the mere semblance of wealth, without the substance.

Money is advanced by the bank at Cape Town, upon good security, at six per cent; but there is always a long string of applicants upon the list, and it is a rule to supply them in regular succession. The sum advanced will only amount to the value of one third of the property, if in the country, and one half if in the town. The emigrant will thus have the greater part of his capital in hand to lay out in stock of all kinds. Sheep and cattle are not dear; the former average three rix-dollars in the country, and four near Cape Town; the latter about thirty rix-dollars per head: a rise in these may be looked for.

It would be desirable that he should provide himself with a good stock of implements at home; such only as are adapted to strong soils should be selected, in consequence of the drought. The broad wheels and bodies of waggons and carts, ready to put together upon landing, would save time and labour, and probably expense. Seeds of all kinds, excepting wheat, should by no means be omitted. The greatest care should be taken in

selecting good and steady men whom he can depend upon, and these should be bound in articles to serve him for seven years. He may make his agreement with them upon as advantageous terms as possible at home; but he will find that he cannot, according to the present price in the colony, give less than fifteen rix-dollars per month, if he wishes to preserve content amongst his people; it is probable the price may fall as low as 12 dollars; but it is as well to agree for as little as possible, and to convert that into an act of favour which is in fact a measure of necessity. The wages of English servants in Cape Town vary from twenty to thirty rix-dollars per month. A good house and dairy maid will be found of great use, and married people will be on every account preferable to single ones. If an opportunity offers of bringing out, at a moderate cost, house furniture of any sort, chairs, tables, beds, &c. he will find his advantage in it. Mattresses are good, and as cheap as at home; but furniture is sold at a profit of £100 per cent, excepting occasionally at public auctions, which a man cannot always wait for, or make it convenient to attend. He will find it necessary to employ a Hottentot or two in his service; and if they are good men, he cannot hire them under fifteen rix-dollars per month; twenty dollars is not an uncommon price.

After all, he must not look forward to large or immediate profits; a coasting trade already established, which it is fair to presume will increase with an increasing population, will ensure him moderate and regular returns, subject to such casualties as are peculiar to this country; for there must be dry years and failing crops, sickness among his stock, and probably at first discontent among his people. Should an export trade from the colony be permitted, speculations upon a larger scale may be entered into, and greater sums of money realized. When once established, his expenses will be few: labour, the chief of these, will undergo a reduction in proportion to the influx of settlers; and with a very few exceptions, the land will supply all that is wanting for domestic use and consumption. His living will be plain but abundant; he will have a fine sky above his head, and breathe a delicious pure air: he will probably have opportunities of increasing his farms as his children grow up, or occasion shall require: he will have little solicitude about the future; and these are great things compared with the incessant anxiety which at home too frequently increases with our years, and embitters the evening of existence; but beyond this, his sources of enjoyment must be drawn from the bosom of his family; and it is to be remembered

that the question of emigration considered abstractedly as a mode of happiness or misery, is to be previously discussed by himself.

There are few farms rented; but this arises more from the infant state of the colony, and the desire which every man has of becoming a landholder, from the facilities of obtaining land, than from any disinclination on the part of the landed proprietors to let their estates upon lease. I think a practical farmer, who taking with him a good set of labourers, possesses capital enough to stock a farm and set himself going, say 6 or £700, might with activity and industry do well. It would certainly be a great improvement upon the present condition of that class of persons in England.

It is the fashion at the Cape (as was before observed) to discourage all attempts at innovation in their wretched system of argriculture, and to consider any deviation from the established method of the Dutch boors as the first step to ruin. This is equivalent to prognosticating the utter failure of every English settler; for he has it not in his power to sit down in the listless inactivity of the Boor; who possessing from his ancestors his house and land, and herd of slaves, has no expenses to contend with. The English settler must exert himself to defray the wages of labour, and perhaps, too (why should he not?), for many comforts in addition to

those possessed by the Boor. Besides, it will be his object to lay by something, to enable him to extend his possessions as his family grows up, and thus to secure a provision for his children. The examples of a few individuals who are said to have failed in their attempts are held up *in terrorem*, and he has not the means of refuting the absurdity.

Mr. ———, a gentleman whose kindness and hospitality few, who have been at the Cape, have not experienced, is the first example cited of one who found it impracticable to introduce the English style of farming. I had an opportunity of ascertaining, that by the superiority of the English plough, the occasional use of manure, and a few other trifling improvements upon the Dutch method, his crops were nearly double in quantity to those of any farm in the neighbourhood. He had a few Merino sheep looking remarkably well; and these were the only deviations that were observable from the common practice of the country. Here has really been no fair trial: the case, as far as it is in point, only goes to prove, that Mr. ——— has found his account in whatever he has introduced from England; and that further innovations were not attempted may be as reasonably attributed to inactivity, or a disinclination to depart from established customs, as to any conviction of their impracticability.

There are only three other Englishmen established upon estates in the colony whose proceedings have been a topic of discussion. Of these, one never was a farmer but an officer of the army, and his attention was directed to the growth of tobacco and flax. Another is a man of plain practical knowledge, who rents an indifferent farm in a bad situation, upon which he is doing as well as a man can who has the *res angusta domi* to contend with.

The only fair instance in the whole colony is Mr. T———, of whom I have already spoken at some length. Possessed of a sufficient capital in money, of good abilities, combined with experimental and practical knowledge, with a large fund of persevering activity, he set to work with his own countrymen upon the system he had observed at home, with such deviations only as his own good sense suggested to him. After an experience of between two and three years, he has found himself deceived in none of his calculations, and has established beyond a doubt, that the European system of agriculture may, with a very few exceptions, be imported with vast advantage into the better part of South Africa. He has been as successful as the most sanguine advocates for the cause could anticipate; and in a few years may probably be seen in the Cape the phenomenon of an extensive farm

thoroughly cultivated and enclosed after the manner of an English estate.

These observations are intended to apply only to the more elegible parts of the colony already pointed out, and particularly the Antiniequas land, in which is situated the estate of the gentleman of whom I have just been speaking. For a great proportion of the Cape being either totally unfit for cultivation, by reason of the poorness or rockiness of the soil, or destitute of those principal requisites towards forming a flourishing and populous country, viz. navigable rivers, wood, and water, must for ever remain a desert waste, or receive only such casual and tardy improvement as "the never ending flight of days" may bring with it.

If any one will be at the pains to institute a comparison between the better parts of the Cape of Good Hope and the western settlements in America, to which Mr. Birkbeck has directed the attention of the public, considered as a field for colonization, the preference will, I think, with some hesitation be assigned to the former. Both possessing choice tracts of land, suited to all the purposes of husbandry. That of the former is to be purchased at a cheaper rate, and not being encumbered with overgrown forest, is ready for the plough without the expense of clearing. If the rains of

heaven are poured in never-failing showers upon the Savannahs of America, the Cape can boast of a greater variety of produce as a resource in dry seasons. If the former abounds in noble rivers which waft the fruits of the interior to the different ports or distant market towns, the latter offers situations upon the coasts, in the vicinity of harbours, and within the range and sphere of commercial enterprize and speculation. If the climate of the one is more congenial to the habits and early prepossessions of an Englishman, that of the other is, it is conceived, more favourable to health, and eventually more agreeable*. Upon other points there is more of equality. If a spirit of lawless liberty, a levelling of all ranks in society, the pride and discussion of little learning, with all the jarring elements of a free constitution not properly amalgamated, be conspicuous among the sons of America, those of the southern continent have to emerge from a despotic government, where laws inefficient in themselves are said to be administered with gross partiality. If the Americans are crafty, insolent, devoid of all good feeling but their spirit of independence; the Africans are groveling in their habits, grossly igno-

* With the settlements at New South Wales, I am afraid the comparison would not hold so good; as may be seen by a reference to Mr. Wentworth's very interesting book.

rant, nearly devoid of social attachment and benevolence of feeling, and only less hateful because less significant. Both are nearly beyond the pale of religious instruction and observances, and are, therefore, possessed of the morality of savages; that is, are practisers of virtue only, as it squares with their misconceived notions of utility and convenience *.

* Montesquieu observes, "that even a false religion is the best security we can have of the probity of men."—Spir. of Laws.

CHAPTER VIII.

Cape Town—Society—Women—Merchants—Literature—Music—Slave Dances—Slavery—Politics—State of Morals—Table Bay—Table Mountain.

Cape Town, the capital of South Africa, has for some time past, amongst travellers at least, enjoyed the reputation of being a lively, pleasant town. How long its glories have passed away, I know not; but am very certain it is entitled to no such encomiums at the present day. The fluctuating condition of the individuals who compose the society of the Cape, will at once account for its instability and variation. The respectable part of the inhabitants may be divided into two classes: first, the military upon the station, and the invalids in the East India Company's service, who may be said to comprise nearly all that there is of gentility: and, secondly, the merchants; a most comprehensive word; among whom are to be found a few men, who might rank with that class on the Royal Exchange; and a vast number of the lowest order of money-getters. The invalided warriors of the East are permitted to wander, for their health, upon the high seas; and to retain their full pay, if their peregrinations are

not extended to the westward of the Cape. From this circumstance, and the attraction of good air, they abound, thick as "autumnal leaves," exhibiting a splendid specimen of disease—a variety of wretchedness!

These miserable gentlemen (if it be allowable to sport with human infirmity) might seem part of Milton's squadron of diseases.

> "All feverous kinds—
> Convulsions, epilepsies, fierce catarrhs,
> Demoniac frenzy, moping melancholy,
> And *sun*-struck madness."

A society, therefore, which is dependent upon such moveable gentry for its tone and brilliancy, must be subject to incessant changes; and, accordingly, the last removal of military made a woeful alteration.

There is, at present, little or no visiting going on at the Cape; and few amusements, either public or private, to enliven the hours of relaxation from business. Eating and drinking, however, in the absence of other attractives, are by no means forgotten, but engross at least as large a share of attention as in any other part of the world. What is wanting to their festivities in science—in "pomp and circumstance,"—is made up for in solid feeding. There is a pretty theatre, where amateurs performed; but the actors are dispersed;—even thea-

trical entertainments were too refined an amusement for the Dutch inhabitants of the Cape. Public dancing assemblies are held monthly during the winter season. I was present at one of them, and found but little to distinguish it from an English country assembly. The women, taken collectively, were much upon a par with our own countrywomen in face, figure, movement, and dress; but there was nothing above mediocrity—none of those strikingly beautiful and elegant forms, one or two of which are usually to be met with in a ball-room at home—the admiration of one sex, and the envy of the other.

It may be remarked, that the women have far less influence upon the general tone of society than with us; as is ever the case in less polished countries. The Dutchmen are of an inferior stamp: vulgar and awkward; with an attempt at smartness and fashionable deportment, which is visibly unsuccessful. The women dance well enough: the performance of the men is more conspicuous for energy than grace.

Nearly the whole of the residents of Cape Town, excepting, of course, the military, and members of the government, are merchants, traffickers in some shape or other; who pass their mornings in attending sales, and their evenings at the table, or in lounging before their houses. The English merchants, who are the most opulent, can boast of a few highly respectable characters, who would do honour

to any society: but many are mere unprincipled extortioners. Nothing is to be purchased in this town, in the shops, or *stores*, as they are termed, as an advantage is taken of a man who wants any article in a hurry; and cent per cent profit is expected on all goods sold in that manner. In addition to this, you have to endure a most intolerable degree of insolence. If the master of the store is engaged in eating, drinking, or smoking, you may wait in patience. Ladies have been requested to get upon a stool, and hand down, for their own inspection, the particular wares they were desirous of purchasing.

The public sales are the only places where things are sold for their real value: indeed, from this circumstance, there is little business done in any other manner; and every mercantile house has one or more of these sales during the week. They are usually held in the open street; and it is considered as nowise derogatory to the dignity of a merchant, to be seen at the auctioneer's elbow, displaying Bandana handkerchiefs, bundles of thread, or such like articles; or standing with a goose-quill behind his ear,

"arrectis auribus,"

ready to note down the names of the different purchasers of his wares. It was in this gentlemanlike situation, that I discovered, to my surprise, one of the most respectable and opulent merchants of the

town, in whose company I had dined the previous evening.

There is very little export trade at present: wine was the principal article; but the market at home is glutted with the bad adulterated wines, and has spoiled the sale of the good. A considerable quantity is sent home, in pursuance of private orders, to the friends of persons resident here.

Baths, which in a hot country are almost indispensable for refreshment, cleanliness, and health, are a luxury unknown in Cape Town. Sea bathing is not in fashion; the beach is much exposed; and on that part of it which is best adapted to the purpose, it is the custom to deposit the filth of the town, to be swept away by the tide.

The streets are overrun with dogs, who act in some degree the part of scavengers, as at Lisbon, Alexandria, &c.; but there is no want of neatness and cleanliness in the exterior aspect of things.

The Dutch are early risers. They make a point of attending the market, which is daily held at sunrise; and, as there are no public evening amusements, and little private society to tempt them to encroach upon the night, they go early to bed. At ten o'clock nothing is to be heard but the baying of the dogs, or the distant roaring of the tide. In the country, however, or the environs of the town, the summer nights are not altogether favourable to

repose. Stillness and solemnity are here no attributes of the Sable Goddess: the earth swarms with crickets and other chirping fry, that come forth to revel in the cool dews of night, like true Anacreontic spirits; as if

> "The busy day
> Drove them from their sport and play;"

and the air is filled with the incessant hum of insects; to say nothing of the musquitoes, whose operations are not confined to humming.

The English follow precisely the same mode of life as at home;—dine late; go to bed late; and get up late; drink Port wine and bottled stout; wear narrow-brimmed hats; and walk in the noonday sun. This attachment and close adherence to national habits, in defiance and contempt of all local customs, is characteristic of the English, wherever they are found. A late ingenious author gives a very pleasant instance of this:—arriving at Naples, he found "a regular double-wicket cricket match going on—Eton against the world—and the world was beaten in one innings!"—(Matthews' Diary.) A subscription pack of fox-hounds is regularly hunted during the winter season, for the recreation of the English, with very indifferent sport; for though game is in plenty, the country is uninclosed, and the glorious difficulties and dangers of the chase

"patientes pulveris atque solis," are occasionally precipitated into deep holes, formed by the ant-eater and other animals, and may return covered with the sandy honours of the field. I have not heard that any of them have been fairly ingulfed, like Curtius, for their country's weal.

Literature is wholly neglected. The chaplain of the garrison takes in a few pupils; but there is no school in the colony. A good schoolmaster is much wanted. Such as can afford it, among the English, give their children an education at home. The Dutch go without.

A fine collection of the Latin and Greek classics was left to the public, by an old German gentleman, who died here; and they are deposited in a room adjoining to the Lutheran church, called the *Public Library*. However, a friend of mine applying for admission, it was thought to be an innovation upon established rules, and so hazardous a step, that the colonial secretary was consulted upon the occasion!

There is a subscription reading-room, whose shelves are supplied with a very few novels, and books of travels; and one circulating library, to which Tom Jones and Humphrey Clinker have not yet found their way. Intellectual refinement is, in fact, at the lowest ebb, both among the Dutch and English. Their business and pleasure are buying and selling. I could not help thinking of the so-

liloquy in Seneca's Epistles:—" Let me be called a base man so I am called a rich one. If a man is rich, who asks if he is good? The question is how much we have, not from whence, or by what means we have it. Every one has so much merit as he has wealth. For my part let me be rich, O ye gods, or let me die; for there is more pleasure in the possession of wealth than in that of parents, children, wife, or friends!"

" Hæ tibi erunt artes:"

For the polite arts, of course, can have no admirers in such a community as this. Music, the first of the sister arts that finds its way amongst an unlettered people, is cultivated with little assiduity, and with a success hardly proportioned to that assiduity. The Hottentots are the best natural musicians; and, I think, altogether, the best vocal performers I heard. The voices of the women are sweet, rich, and in excellent tune. At a distance of two hundred miles in the interior of the colony, I heard several of them singing, in parts, the psalm tunes which they had learned at the Missionary Institution. One sang the air, another sustained a second part, confined chiefly to the third below. Sometimes a third part, by way of bass, has been attempted; though not so perfect in the execution, but still without the slightest violation of harmony. This they call, in Dutch, " singing gruff and fine." The men do not appear

to possess, or, at least, they do not exert this talent; and how the women acquired it, I could not discover; nor were they able to inform me. All that I could gather upon the subject, from those to whom, like myself, it had been a matter of astonishment, was, that being naturally gifted with fine ears, they fell into it instinctively; for, at the Missionary Institution, nothing beyond the plain chaunt, or melody, is taught; the men and women singing the same note upon different octaves. If this be correct, it is a singular phenomenon, that a horde of savages should, by instinct or accident, have attained that of which the polished and luxurious Greeks are supposed to have been ignorant *.

* That there exists a natural sympathy between sounds, tending to form that harmonious combination which is distinguished by the name of concords, the most simple experiment places beyond a doubt.

"Harmony," (it has been well observed), "is not an adventitious quality in sonorous bodies, but is in some sense inherent in every sound, however produced. Every sound is as much made up of three component parts as a ray of light is composed of seven primary colours."

It is difficult then to conceive, that a refined people, who arrived at such perfection in sculpture and painting, should have remained such barbarians in musical science; and still more difficult to conceive, that the stupid Hottentot should have stumbled on a discovery

But though not easy to trace to its true source, it has probably originated in the military music, which some of the Hottentots have occasionally heard, and which has operated powerfully on the minds of a people, who, like the other savage tribes, are ardent lovers of melody.

The numerous slaves of various nations at the Cape, are not behindhand in their fondness for, and no less enthusiastic admirers of, music. It rouses all their energies, and awakens the most lively passions, but they do not betray any of the genius of the Hottentot. Their songs are confined to the compass of three or four notes, which are eternally reiterated in a low plaintive voice, which would scarcely pass for a musical effusion, and certainly not for an expression of gaiety, did not the countenance and gesture put it beyond a doubt.

Their instruments are of the rudest construction. A hollow piece of wood, with two strings of catgut, or two thin bits of steel, not unlike a tuning-fork, which, being struck with the finger, and put into a vibratory motion, emit a low twang, compared with

that was denied to the subtlety and enthusiasm of Greece. Perhaps the hypothesis concerning the ignorance of musical combinations amongst the Greeks is built upon too slight a foundation, for the little that has been handed down upon this subject seems hardly to warrant the conclusions that have been drawn.

which the music of a hurdy-gurdy, or a Jew's harp, would be a perfect Apollonicon. Yet, simple as these efforts are, and remote from the science of an itinerant bagpiper, upon these rude sons of nature they produce as powerful emotions as the strains of a Linley or a Cramer upon the more refined inhabitants of Europe. A week of unremitting toil, and the tyranny of an unfeeling master, are all forgot in the tumultuous delight of the Sunday-dance to these simple instruments.

This is the only indulgence and relaxation which is permitted to the slave. It is, therefore, eagerly anticipated and prosecuted with proportional ardour, when the moment of enjoyment arrives. After divine service, they assemble in a plain in the suburbs of the town; the dance is begun to the instruments I have before described, accompanied with a few notes of the voice, at times rising into the wildest shrieks, and then subsiding into a low querulous sound, while the irregular beating of a log of wood, hollowed and covered at one end with an undressed sheep's skin, in imitation of a drum, adds to the noise, and increases at once the wildness and animation of the scene. Men and women, young and old, join promiscuously in it; but there is no prescribed order, no arrangement of partners, or visible attention to the females;—all seem engrossed by some powerful emotion, which at times breaks out

into wild exclamation, but at other times imparts an air of profound abstraction.

The general dance at times gives way, whilst some individual steps forth, and performs a *pas seul*. with abundance of grimace and action, interspersed with soliloquy, the meaning of which it is impossible for a stranger to discover, but it is listened to with rapturous exclamation by the rest of the party. This dancing is certainly not an exhibition of grace and elegance; it is not even a display of that vigour which the elasticity and buoyancy of youth may produce. The spirit which actuated Goldsmith's pair,

> ——"That simply sought renown,
> By holding out to tire each other down,"

is not known among them; probably a week of toil may have exhausted that springiness. If these dances be, as is usual with most savage nations, meant to display or excite that sensibility which mutually attaches the sexes, the choice of attitude and gesture to convey this expression is certainly most singular. The amusement, however, is continued with unremitting ardour and profuse perspiration, without the aid of tea or small beer, until sun-set, when a civil officer in attendance gives the signal for retiring, and the parties quietly disperse to their respective homes.

Without entering into the long-debated question,

how far the colony at large would be benefited by the total abolition of slavery, I cannot say that the condition of the slaves at the Cape struck me as being peculiarly miserable. It is as much the interest of the master to keep his slave in good condition, as his horse. As the property is valuable, they invariably have the best medical attendance in sickness, and such comforts as are necessary in that situation. Though their toil is incessant, and their indulgences much fewer than those of a European labourer, they have not in general the appearance of being overworked; for they are early inured to hardship and spare-living. If they are sunk below the level of their fellow-creatures, we may perhaps argue, that they cannot be supposed sensible to the pain of degradation, when they have never enjoyed a more elevated state; or to feel the want of liberty, when they have not known, or ever aspired to the character of freemen.

In fact, only suppose the sensibilities of his nature deadened, and the difference in the condition of the slave and white labourer is hardly perceptible. The portion of both is a life of unremitting toil, servitude, and dependence; and if we reflect, that the slave has no apprehension of want;—that he has no harassing solicitude on the score of providing for

which the other equally toils for in the sweat of his brow, and oftentimes in torturing uncertainty, the balance will be still more equal. This, however, is not admitting a right in any human being to fit his victim, by early and continued degradation, for wearing his chains; a slight extension of such a privilege might justify the Eastern despot in furnishing his seraglio with its mutilated attendants. In a moral point of view, the consequences of slavery are more striking. It is necessary that the slave should be depressed in the scale of human beings by ignorance; for knowledge would awaken the energies of the soul, and "tell them they are men;" but that a large portion of our fellow-creatures, whose menial offices and occupations are precisely similar to those of our own countrymen, should be devoted to superstition, and debarred from all moral improvement, is a singular feature in the state of servitude. Why a population of blacks are to be shut out from the light and advantage of Christianity, detached from the common chain of human beings *,—why they are not to know the social ties of kindred, to solace themselves, like the other

* A slave (as such) is not permitted to become a Christian at the Cape. Of this sacred calling his debased situation is supposed to render him unworthy. Hence he can never marry.

wretched ones of the world, by the anticipation of future happiness, is a mystery I cannot explain. If slavery be incompatible with such things in its present ameliorated state, it is indeed a bad cause.

When the Spaniards first became acquainted with the natives of America, we are told that they looked upon them as animals of an inferior order, and it was with difficulty that they could be persuaded that they belonged to the human species. It required the authority of a Papal bull to counteract this opinion, and to convince them that the Americans were capable of the functions, and entitled to the privileges of humanity. Though that age of darkness has passed away, one would imagine that this preposterous opinion still prevailed in Southern Africa.

This practice is contrary to the invariable rule observed in the Spanish, Portuguese, and French colonies, by which every master is compelled to procure religious instruction for his slaves; and this seems to be according to the true spirit of Christianity, (See Epistle to Philemon, *passim.*). Indeed, the diffusion of Christianity has unhappily been made a plea for this odious traffic.

The slaves are by far the most numerous class of domestic servants at the Cape, and the women are invariably used as the nurses and companions of the young children of the family. The influence of

these persons upon the young mind is well understood, and occasions the strictest scrutiny into character in our own country. What then must be the pernicious effect of early and continued intercourse with a class of beings so degraded and demoralized? Much of the laxity in morals, and that general tone of levity observable among the upper orders of society, may be traced to this source; and while slavery exists in its present form and extent, it seems in vain to hope for any thing like virtuous principle and morality amongst the lower orders of society.

Instances of cruel treatment are, I believe, rare, especially since the great increase of English in the colony. However, it must be confessed, that a notion universally prevails, that slaves are not to be treated with kindness; and perhaps a saying that is said to pass current in the French West Indian islands, will serve with tolerable accuracy to express the general opinion here, viz.

"Battre un negre, c'est le nourrir."

The politics of Europe are not a subject of much interest, or a topic of frequent discussion, amongst the inhabitants of the Cape. The newspapers are irregular in their arrivals; indeed they depend almost entirely upon the captains of ships, for such as they may casually have provided themselves

with, and appear to be well reconciled to the privation. The general listlessness and inactivity of mind that prevails upon all subjects unconnected with the shop, betrays itself in nothing more visibly than in this.

There is a miserable weekly gazette published under the immediate superintendance of the government, containing little else but mercantile advertisements, with, now and then, a few garbled extracts from the London papers.

The only printing-press in the colony is that which furnishes forth this choice publication, and is the property of government. It is of course a subject of complaint, that another press should be prohibited. That such prohibition does exist, or has ever been called for, I think extremely doubtful. Beyond the few individuals connected with the government, it would be difficult to find any one capable of editing a journal, and still less easy to find public spirit to support one. There cannot surely be a doubt that the dissemination of useful instruction through the medium of a free press would be beneficial to the colony at large.

There are few of the elements of republicanism to be discovered here, nor can I find any point of resemblance between these Africans and the old Spartans, but in their common admiration of thieving, both mistaking *rascality* for a proper degree of

dexterity and ingenuity. A swindler is called a *slim fellow* at the Cape.

There are a Lutheran, a Calvinistic church, and numerous dissenting chapels at the Cape; but the lessons of religion are little taught, and still less put in practice. The moral virtues seem not to be implanted by nature. 'There is no law of nature that I know of, which teaches the restraint of those dangerous propensities, the indulgence of which infringes upon the peace and order of society. Nature does not prohibit the coveting another man's wife, or another man's goods, but rather seems to say, "If this thing hits thy fancy, take it to thyself,—if this man troubles thee, even put away his life." Have, then, those philosophers by whom virtue is termed, "tyrannic custom," and faith, "an obscene worm," maturely considered the nature of man, when they talk of disencumbering him of his shackles; for he does not appear to move with greater ease or dignity without them.

Decency is seldom openly outraged in the disgraceful manner we daily witness at home, though vice has an unlimited sway in the walks of private life. There is more temperance and moderation amongst the female part of the world, because a lack of chastity is more a thing of course. Where women can be profligate without shame, they rarely exhibit to the eye those grosser excesses which in other

countries, where disgrace and infamy are attached to the indulgence of these "venial delights," so frequently shock us. Conjugal fidelity is rarely to be met with here. The men have their slave girls, without any disagreeable feelings on the part of their wives; and these, again, have their cicisbeos with the good will and permission of their husbands. An intrigue with an unmarried young lady, under a promise of marriage, has this unpleasant consequence attending it: if the lady can bring proof of such promise, and chooses to exact the performance of it, the party is compelled either to marry her or to leave the colony.

As there are few heiresses, marriages are usually contracted either from motives of personal affection or a desire of posterity. Now, as the former of these objects may be attained without the shackles of matrimony, which is by many considered essential only for the purpose of legitimizing the issue, they sometimes have recourse to a very delicate sort of arrangement, which is worthy of notice. The parties meet together under a provisional contract or promise of marriage as man and wife: if the lady conceives, the ceremony is performed in good time; if there is no appearance of progeny, their innocent pleasures may be prolonged without detriment, till passion is satiated, or other motives may induce a separation. I am sorry to say, our own country-

men are, as usual when from home, most forward in every excess. This is an old saying in Italy: "Inglése Italionato è diavolo incarnato."

The word delicacy, which has undergone such revolutions, and at this day means such different things in different countries, may be said to have no place at all in the Dutch Cape nomenclature. As an instance of this, the ceremony of marriage is usually performed in open church on Sundays, during the hours of public service. On such occasions men are apt to sneak into church, and sneak out again; but a young lady of the Cape is not satisfied unless she can display her unblushing charms and her wedding dress to the gaze of an unlimited number of spectators. A Dutchman was engaged to be married to an English lady residing at the Cape, whose father had stipulated to pay down a certain sum of money, by way of portion, on his daughter's wedding day. The day arrived, and the bride and bridegroom, with the friends of both parties, assembled in splendid attire at the father's house, on their way to church. At length, every preparation for the ceremony being completed, all rose up to go, when the bridegroom, instead of leading his fair bride to the altar, paused for a few moments, in an attitude of calculation, and then suddenly advancing to the father, and striking his fist upon the table, broke

party. "I tell you vat, if I no get the rix-dollars, I no take the vife."

Slave girls, when possessed of any personal charms, are an invaluable property. They are sent forth elegantly equipped, and are immediately hired of the owner, either by the month or year, or perhaps purchased altogether by some enamoured admirer. If this property should belong to a lady, the traffic is not considered as indelicate, but an honest source of emolument, which it would be fastidiousness to decline. A married lady, of great respectability, was possessed of a slave girl, whom she had regularly hired to an East India officer by the month; but the girl had the presumption to engage in other amours, and he made a complaint of this impertinent conduct to the mistress in the public dancing assembly, with an intent of having her punished. The lady very composedly told him the fault was his own, that he ought to purchase the girl at once.

"Ex unâ disce omnes."

This is a very disgusting, but a very true picture of natural morality.

The pusillanimity of the Africanos was conspicuous enough in the last capture of the Cape. The epitaph in Westminster Abbey, which so nobly commemorates the family of the Lord Lucas

of Colchester, wherein it is said, that "all the brothers were valiant, and all the sisters virtuous," might be aptly reversed to pourtray the qualities of an African family.

Table Bay is resorted to only during the summer months, when the south-east wind prevails: during the winter season, the north-west pours in from the Atlantic a mountainous sea, that no force of tackle can resist, and which annually strews upon the shore one or more wrecks, the victims of its fury.

It is singular that the English government, at least, should have made no provision against the accidents that are continually occurring in this Bay. Though small craft are frequently swamped close in shore, there is not a life boat to offer its assistance. A little time ago, a misfortune of this kind took place, which cost several lives, and among others, that of a fine young man, whose singular fate will long be remembered by those who witnessed it; he had clung to an oar for support, and borne upon this, he was drifted out before the wind and sea into the Atlantic, in the presence of numerous spectators.

The south-east is the periodical wind here from December to June; but it is only in the Cape district that it blows with great violence. The white fleecy cloud that rests upon the flat surface of the Table Mountain, and is the invariable prelude to this airy

torrent, has been noticed by all travellers; but at times, the cloud assumes a darker hue, and hangs far over the perpendicular sides of the mountain "like rent and shattered tapestry." The extraordinary violence with which the wind rushes down to Cape Town may be attributed to a sudden expansion of air, occasioned by the increased temperature within the area upon which the town stands.

There is a chasm of great depth in the Table Mountain, through which, following the bed which the torrents have worn for themselves, the ascent may with some difficulty be achieved. Botanists are attracted thither by the great variety of plants that are to be met with, and others occasionally make this laborious excursion from motives of curiosity. On approaching the summit, the chasm gradually closes in upon you, and the toil increases every moment; but here, ready to sink with fatigue, the pedestrian (at least, if he be foolish enough to attempt this expedition in mid-day, as I did) will be in extacies at hearing the splashing of water. Large round drops, falling one by one from an immense height, like tears wrung from the hard rock, have worn for themselves a little basin below, where they lie so cold and pure, that Diana herself would not dread staining her lips in such delicious nectar. There is neither cross, nor cup, nor inscription, however, for there are no pilgrims here.

The top of the mountain fully justifies the name which has been given to it; being perfectly level for a considerable extent. Above the solid rock, there is a stratum of black boggy earth, which is covered with heath, and a profusion of bulbous rooted plants, and wild flowers. The view is grand and interesting. You approach fearfully, and looking over the perpendicular sides, discern, below, the town with its white houses and gardens looking like a fairy encampment: its streets dwindled to a space, fit only for Queen Mab to drive her nut-shell chariot. Far on the right, the blue rocks form a wavy line, that marks for a time the boundary between land and sea, and finally fades away; while full in front lies the measureless ocean, wrapped in distant mists, an emblem of eternity, contrasted with the petty works of time.

CHAPTER IX.

Arrival of the Settlers—Their Location—Quality of the Soil, &c.—Probabilities of Success—Description of Men embarked in the Undertaking.

It remains to say something of the New Settlement, which has so much and so long engrossed the attention of the public at home.

The Kaffers, a bold and warlike people, had long carried on a sort of border warfare with the Dutch boors, whose possessions lay along the frontier of the colony, driving off the cattle and moveables, burning the houses, and committing other acts of violence incident to such predatory warfare. These outrages were retaliated by the Boors whenever an opportunity offered. In the early part of the year 1819, the Kaffers were observed to collect in larger numbers, presenting a more determined and formidable appearance, and at last made the furious attack upon Graham's Town on the frontier line, which, as is well known, ended in their expulsion beyond the colony with considerable slaughter. A considerable tract of country lying to the north-east

of Algoa Bay, which had been laid waste by the inroads of these warlike savages, thus became open to occupation, and it is to this quarter that the recent colonization from England has been directed. It is only through this spot that the colony is open to the incursions of the Kaffers, being protected on every other quarter by barriers which nature has interposed.

It is said to have occurred to the original proposers of this plan, that a settlement in this situation would be an effectual protection to the colony, or in other words, that our countrymen would form a very excellent stop-gap to the inroads of these formidable invaders. However this may be, the tide of emigration, which had rapidly set in for the western world, and the political state of the country, called loudly for the interference of the legislature, and the colonial department issued their proposals respecting the colony at the Cape. With what avidity these proposals were received, owing to the difficulties of the times, is well known. How far the result has kept pace, or is likely to keep pace with the public expectation, it remains to consider.

Towards the beginning of April, 1820, the first of the transport ships, with settlers on board, arrived in Table Bay; and the others, to the amount of twelve or fourteen, followed in succession, at con-

siderable intervals. The last of them anchored in* Simon's Bay, about the middle of June. As the ships arrived, they were detained only so long as was found necessary for watering, provisioning, &c.; and were then ordered to Algoa Bay, without permitting the people to land. This may seem a harsh, but it was a necessary precaution; and in a few instances, where it was disregarded, much mischief and confusion ensued. Allowing for the voyage up and the necessary interval which elapsed between their disembarkation at Algoa Bay and their arrival at the place of settlement; the first of the parties may be said to have been fairly on the ground by the latter end of May. The last could not have arrived before the end of June. It may be observed, that as the rains are expected to set in some time in May, and as that and the following month is the proper season for breaking up the land, and commencing farming operations, it would have been highly advisable, that the parties should have been settled upon the different allotments by the beginning of that month. A little earlier, even, in the summer would have been preferable, as the people would then have enjoyed the advantage of a few dry weeks

* Simon's Bay is resorted to in the winter when a heavy swell setting into Table Bay, with a north-west wind, often proves fatal to the vessels that imprudently come to an anchor there, in that season.

for constructing huts, and meeting those various difficulties that present themselves at the beginning of such an undertaking.

Such part of the military field equipage, beds, blankets, tents, &c. as could be spared from the arsenal of the Cape, were ordered to be furnished by the storekeeper-general. No instructions, whatever, respecting the settlers, were sent from the government at home, excepting an order to pay the deposit money at the stipulated time.

As fast as the people disembarked, they were encamped under the tents at Algoa Bay, until waggons could be procured, and every thing put in readiness for their march up the country, to the different places of their destination. This journey usually occupied from seven to nine days. The men walked; the women, provisions, and implements of husbandry, were carried in the waggons. These were provided at the expense of the heads of parties, and the money deducted from the deposit. The same plan was pursued with respect to the provisions, which were furnished by the government at the rate of sevenpence a head per day*. Such of them as chose to purchase tents, agricultural implements of British manufacture, provisions, and,

* The quantity allowed to each was one pound of

in fact, such necessaries as were thought requisite for the occasion, and which could be procured, were permitted to do so, to a certain extent, at prime cost; a government store having been opened at Algoa Bay for that purpose.

Some of the parties suffered a good deal from the heavy rains, when encamped under the tents, previous to their march up the country. Men, women, and children were seen up to their knees in mud; and the blankets and bedding were drenched with water; but, luckily the season was unusually dry; the rains fell late; and not much sickness prevailed. It is but justice to add, that no exertion was omitted on the part of Sir Ruffane Donkin, the acting governor, and the heads of the colonial department; the former of whom superintended in person the disembarkation at Algoa Bay, and the removal of the parties to the place of settlement. The transport department appears, in one or two instances, to have been remiss in not providing proper officers for the undertaking; and much confusion, discontent, and suffering, was the unavoidable consequence. It required no small degree of discretion to preserve peace and order amongst a body of men embarking under such circumstances, unaccustomed to the miseries of a sea voyage; provided with few comforts; uncertain and anxious as to the future; and without any fixed occupation, to avert the

murmurings of discontent. Blame also attaches to the heads of parties, for having, in several instances, detached themselves from their people, and electing deputies to fill their situation during the voyage. The voyages were, unhappily, longer than usual.

The soil of the new settlement partakes of the general character of the Cape soil; that is, very various within very narrow limits: but, upon an average, it will bear a comparison with the best parts of the colony. It inclines generally to sandy. Care is taken that the allotments should have water upon them, or within reach; but the supply is frequently scanty; and will be, generally, found insufficient for the purposes of husbandry.

If we except a few houses, dignified with the name of Bathurst Town; Graham's Fort, a small garrison town, containing, perhaps, a hundred houses, is the only town of the settlement. A few houses have been built at Algoa Bay, the inhabitants of which are occupied chiefly in salting butter, and drying fish, for the Cape market, for which the situation is sufficiently well adapted. This butter is sent down in considerable quantities from the district of Graff Regnet, which lies far in the interior, at the back of the new settlement, and is the great grazing country of the colony.

It is impossible to view with indifference this at-

tempt to colonize the quondam territory of Kaffraria. Accordingly, its progress has been anxiously watched, and opinions are much divided as to its future failure or success. The more prevalent opinion at the Cape is, that the settlement will altogether fall to the ground. Yet perhaps we may more safely affirm, that a few of the most determined characters will surmount the difficulties of the undertaking, and eventually succeed. But as this word success has meanings as various as are the hopes and expectations of different individuals, it may be deserving of a little farther consideration.

An emigrant may be supposed to embark upon an expedition of this sort from one or other of the following motives. Either he is anxious to emancipate himself from the troubles which an increasing family, the difficulties of the times, or other causes, may be fast entailing upon him. He may for this purpose collect a small capital from the sale of his effects, and expect, with resolution and industry, to procure a comfortable and independent subsistence, and to leave his children what he could not at home, —a good tract of land, which will secure them at least from want. Or he may look upon the Cape as a rising colony, where a grand field is open for enterprizing exertion, where a man may grow rich, and retire in a

few years to his own country, to enjoy the fruits of his industry.

Or, in fine, he may, as I suspect to be generally the case, entertain a sort of compound expectation, partaking of both the former.

Surely a man leaving England from the first of these motives cannot be ultimately disappointed. If his party be well selected, and he possess a few hundred pounds, to defray the first expenses, his land will procure him the means of subsisting, and this is nearly all he can look forward to. It must be confessed, he has to combat the discontent of his people, the inefficiency and tardiness of the laws to remedy s evil, which I have elsewhere noticed, and the disadvantages of a climate, where the rains * sometimes cease to fall for a whole season, and the scanty supply of water is dried up. With the exception of the last calamity, which is more peculiarly the curse of Africa, these or similar difficulties are to be encountered in all new settlements, and have been a thousand times overcome; and it is to be observed, that no attempts have hitherto been made to remedy this natural deficiency of water, by sinking wells, or other artificial means,

* It has been observed, that the rains fail about once in seven years; but in some parts of the colony once in five years.

Experience only can decide how far this difficulty can be got over.

But to the settler, whose hopes are not bounded within such reasonable limits, whose object is the attainment of wealth, and the retiring after a few years of labour with the fruit of his industry, more serious obstacles will present themselves. In a new country like the present, where all will be landed proprietors and growers, he cannot look forward to any internal trade, till the mechanic arts and manufactures are introduced, which must be the work of a long lapse of years. At present, no farther advances can be made to an internal commerce than the interchange of a few commodities, the bartering of produce for labour, for implements of agriculture, or the like. The only avenue open to the acquisition of wealth must be by means of an export trade either to Cape Town, by coasting vessels, or to other neighbouring ports, as Rio Janeiro, the Isles of France and Bourbon, St. Helena, or even to England, where many of the products of the Cape may be sent with advantage. But two considerable obstacles occur. The nearest allotment of land is distant from Algoa Bay at least between sixty and seventy miles; the farthest may be 120 miles: so that the land carriage for this distance will be a work of great labour, and there is no

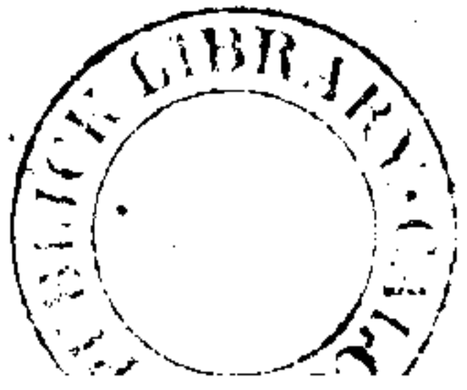
navigable river in the settlement. The next obstacle is the badness of the harbour.

Algoa Bay is completely open to the south-east winds, which blow with great violence three or four months in the year, and render it a precarious situation for shipping. It is conceived that these two obstacles will prevent any rapid export trade from the new settlement from taking place, even supposing they can grow more than is sufficient for their own consumption.

It is obvious, that the proprietors of land in the neighbourhood of the Knysna and Mossel Bay must possess a decided superiority, as there is an immediate outlet for the surplus produce of the farmer. There is no land, it is true, to be obtained by government grants in the last named situations, and every thing is consequently to be purchased; but it may be remarked, that the extent of the allotments of the new settlement, though sounding considerable in European ears, will, in many places, where the land is poor, be found insufficient for a farm in South Africa, where labour is scarce, and to be economized among a multiplicity of objects to which it is to be directed. Where artificial grasses cannot be immediately introduced, or the natural ones greatly improved; above all, where the pastures, scanty in themselves, are liable to be burnt up by a scorching sun, and where rain is uncertain,

cattle and sheep require an immense extent of country to wander over, and even then a frequent change is necessary to save them from the sickness which often prevails. Hence the Dutch farms are of an amazing size; and, in addition to the principal one, it is not uncommon for them to possess another smaller farm at a distance, to which the stock is removed as occasion requires. To this it may be added, that the mixture of poor and rocky soil will be generally found to be much greater than in a farm of similar extent in England. It is doubtful, then, whether it will not be found needful to increase the estates, either by petition to government, if land has been reserved in the required situations for this purpose, or by purchasing of each other the government allotments after the probationary term is expired, or by buying up tracts of land farther in the interior.

The allotment of one of the principal settlers near the mouth of the Great Fish river, amounting to 10,000 acres, proportioned to the number of families he took out, contains, according to his own statement, (as related to me) only about 1000 acres that are fit for cultivation. This is probably (if true) a much greater proportion of barren ground than may generally be expected; but it is sufficient to show that all has not been done which will in many instances be required, especially by those who



look forward to exporting produce; and the only advantage which the settlement affords over the more eligible situations of the colony is that, of having for nothing what elsewhere is to be purchased. The allotments are, after the expiration of ten years, to be subject to an annual quit-rent of £2 for every hundred acres, a rent that few, if any farm in the colony, (excepting in the immediate vicinity of Cape Town, or other choice spots) would bring at this day. This will probably not be insisted upon.

It may be anxiously inquired whether there is nothing to be apprehended from their neighbours the Kaffers. To this it may be answered, the Kaffers came down a year ago, when there was as large a military force stationed upon the frontier as at this day; whether the present establishment of our countrymen, with their herds and kine, their fair wives and daughters, may wear an imposing or inviting aspect, is matter for conjecture only. They received a severe check the last war, and may not perhaps again be eager to court defeat. One of the greatest grievances the Boors experienced was their liability to be called upon to serve against the Kaffers; no substitutes were permitted, the farms were sometimes left nearly deserted, and tillage abandoned. This liability still exists, but a local militia will probably be formed among the settlers on the frontier, which will secure the inhabitants of

remote districts against the recurrence of a similar grievance: married men were exempted from this service.

From wild animals there is little to be apprehended. Lions are nearly extinct; tigers and wolves are plentiful; the former are of a small species, but neither the one nor the other is much to be dreaded, as they invariably recede on your approach, and are never known to attack without provocation. Cattle and horses must be secured from their attacks during the night; and this is done by driving them into a small enclosure, fenced in with stakes and branches, and called a kraal. It is said that a horse would be secure from attack if left out with a saddle on. Wild hogs are very numerous in some parts of the colony, and they occasionally come down in great numbers into the gardens, rooting up every thing within their reach. A gentleman of my acquaintance was beset by these ferocious animals in his garden, and narrowly escaped with his life.

Serpents are abundant, and nearly all venomous, but the bite rarely proves fatal if the remedy is applied. Eau-de-luce taken internally, and applied externally, is commonly resorted to on these occasions. In the case of children, however, the event is often otherwise. In a village through which I rode, two children had died that week from the bite of the puff-adder; this species is one of the

most common, and his attack is difficult to guard against, as he coils himself round, and springs several feet from the ground. But this is only when trodden upon, or otherwise provoked. One of these adders, accidentally trodden upon, sprung with such violence on an English gentleman, that he fell flat upon his back from the force of the blow.

Porcupines are found in some parts of the colony, and are thought delicate eating. I supped one evening upon a roasted one, without discovering its merit.

It may be added, that no introduction of the English laws into the new settlement is in contemplation; and it is, perhaps, worthy of remark, that no inhabitant of the colony has taken advantage of the government proposals.

From the preceding desultory remarks, it may be collected, that the resolute and persevering efforts of the intelligent farmer, possessed of a little capital, whose party has been well selected, will hardly fail of obtaining for himself and family a comfortable, though not a luxurious subsistence, and a comparative affluence, with freedom from solicitude, to what that class of the community are now enjoying at home. He will probably have opportunities of gradually extending his possessions, and his children will inherit a fair portion of mother earth, which will pour out its fruits in abundance. As population increases, and a gradual approximation to

refinement and luxury takes place; as the artificial wants of society demand a supply; an internal commerce will be slowly set on foot, and may open to succeeding generations the avenues to opulence: this perhaps is all that is to be hoped for at present.

The foregoing remarks relate principally to the agriculturist; because, though metallic ores exist in abundance in various parts of the colony, and, it is believed, in the new settlement, which, with the different manufactures, may, at a future day, with profit, engage the attention of the colonist, it is conceived that agriculture must be the first, and, for some time, the principal object of his labours. We have considered what may reasonably be expected in the new colony; but, to carry our speculations one step farther, let us for a moment inquire what is to be expected from the class of individuals actually embarked upon the undertaking.

It is probable that, as the candidates were very numerous, those were selected who had some influence with the colonial department; and I am afraid that little attention was paid to their qualifications for colonizing. Amongst the number, are to be enumerated half-pay officers of the army and navy, tradesmen, clerks in government situations, townsmen in fine, and not (what they should have been) practical farmers in the strict sense of the word. If such men are baffled in their attempts,

their failure should not operate to the discouragement of the next set, who will probably be chosen without influence, as competition must be nearly at an end, and will, from their condition and habits of life, be better fitted for the undertaking.

The labouring men have too generally been picked up about large towns; they had more the look of manufacturers than ploughmen; and I thought the proportion of tradesmen, or those exercising the mechanic arts, too great. Thus there were clothiers, hatters, printers, engravers, brass letter-founders, musical instrument-makers, &c.; men whose labours must be nearly useless in an infant settlement.

The heads of the parties themselves seem to have entertained the most erroneous notions upon the subject of emigration. They apparently concluded, that it was merely shifting the scene from Middlesex to Kaffraria; and that the elements of a society, like the materials of a patent house, may be shipped from England and put together in Southern Africa. Thus, one gentleman had provided himself with types, and a printing-press, with a view to setting up a Weekly Courant, and another had accommodated his wife with a sedan-chair. Two teachers of the piano-forte (and there may have been more, for aught I know) were among the number; and a poet of great respect-

the poet-laureate of England, was ready to invoke the Muses of Kaffer-land. Though it is not meant to impute any man's poverty to him as a fault, it will be found to be as great a bar to his advancement in this as in every 'other undertaking' in life. Indeed, a small capital in money seems an absolute requisite for such an attempt, though it has, in a great many instances, been overlooked.

The infatuation was not confined to the heads of parties; the men seem to have looked upon their emigration from home as an escape from labour rather than a transportation to a life of toil. They expected a country of unbounded fertility, that would yield its fruits without the sweat of the brow. In fact, they looked for an amelioration in their condition, which was to be effected by the mere change of country; and if, as the appearance of too many of them would indicate, they have been little accustomed to vigorous labour at home, it is not likely that a life of labour will prove agreeable to them here. Besides, being engaged under articles to serve for a certain number of years, (the plan generally pursued) they find the wages of their labour considerably below those of the other white men in the colony. Many of them have been foolish enough to estimate the rix-dollar at 4s.

present rate of exchange, is only 1s. 10d.*; and I am afraid that some have been unprincipled enough to take advantage of this ignorance. Under these circumstances, it is not wonderful, that considerable discontent has manifested itself; it has even been reported, that serious disturbances have broken out, and that it has been found necessary to take away all fire-arms.

A party of near 500 men was located at about 180 miles to the eastward of Saldanha Bay, with what prospect of success is not yet known.

One or two large parties who were settled upon some government lands by the Sonder-end river, at the distance of about seventy miles to the east of Cape Town, have already abandoned the place allotted to them, having found the land unfit for cultivation.

Some others are returned to Cape Town, having given up the undertaking; several individuals have engaged passages home; and more have applied for a passage at the government expense, which has of course been refused.

His majesty's ministers were particularly anxious that clergymen should accompany the expedition;

* One party made a complaint of this deception having been practised on them before their leaving England.

conceiving, no doubt, that the encouragement of religion was the best method of insuring habits of industry and sobriety. Whether by design or accident it is difficult to say, but in addition to the regular clergymen provided, there was a most copious sprinkling of preachers, to grace the new settlement with their eloquence, and disperse the light of God. How far the efforts of these gentlemen are likely to be beneficial, may be collected from their practice on shipboard, where these religious parties, as they were termed, were embarked. There was constant discussion, with dissensions and divisions innumerable—"satis eloquentiæ, sapientiæ parum" —an incessant ranting about virtues, with no endeavour at the attainment of any. Such ignorant pretenders are not likely to diffuse the mild lessons of Christianity, or to benefit the cause of social order.

Such, then, are the individuals, from whose loins are to spring the future lords of South Africa. If their moral habits and general character would induce us to form no favourable augury of their future greatness, we may be less inclined to indulge in gloomy forebodings, when we consider that Rome, the mistress of the ancient world, was founded by a band of robbers; and that the mighty empire now rising in the West was at no distant date the receptacle of crime and infamy.

It is not likely that the new colony at the Cape will ever become a flourishing society, while there exists a perpetual temptation to the labouring and most useful classes of that community to secede from the settlement, and sell their labour elsewhere upon more advantageous terms. The stability and prosperity of every society must depend upon that relation of interests, which, by rendering the respective classes dependent upon each other, forms a common bond of association. When this principle of union, and harmony of parts, is wanted, society, like an ill-adjusted machinery, will destroy itself by its own efforts at advancement. Unless then it be in the contemplation of government to continue sending out supplies of colonists, this fate seems peculiarly to threaten the new settlement at the Cape.

It is conceived that, for a long time, the wages of labour must be very low, to come within the means of the settler. For even allowing that the allotments of land are sufficient in extent and quality to admit of the growth of more grain than they can consume, and that the dangers of Algoa Bay are not such as to prevent a coasting trade from being carried on, still, on taking into calculation the wear and tear, the difficulties and delays of the land carriage, and the cost of freight and insurance, the

profits left in the hands of the grower will hardly be adequate to any heavy expenditure.

As the settlers have provided themselves with labourers at a considerably lower price than they could possibly have done in the colony, the unavoidable consequence seems to be, that the moment their present engagement expires, they will disperse themselves over the country, where they can work upon more advantageous terms. In fact, many who had come out without any express agreement, were only prevented from doing so, by a law of the colony, which does not allow a servant to quit the master bringing him out, for the period of a year. The settler will thus be reduced to the alternative of either retaining these labourers at an increased salary, which, it is presumed, he will not be able to afford, or of making a division of his property, by way of commutation for their services, and eventually subverting that ownership, which he has been selected to enjoy; a measure which, by destroying the relations of master and servant, would retard a new society in its advances to improvement. To obviate this, and to insure the stability of the settlement in its present form, the grand endeavour must be, to reduce the price of labour throughout the whole colony. This can only be effected by continuing to send out settlers upon the plan of last year, or affording facilities to industrious labourers and mechanics to proceed to the Cape on their own account.

Perhaps this object would be much forwarded, by selecting and sending out children of both sexes, from ten to fourteen years old; an age at which they would be highly useful, and more easily reconciled to the change of habits incident to their removal to a new country. If thought necessary or expedient, they might be articled, for a certain time, to residents at the Cape.

Our public charitable institutions would, probally, afford numerous objects, whose prospects in life would (to say the least) undergo no deterioration from such a change; and whose previous education, from its tendency to form industrious and respectable characters, would be an infinite recommendation to the choice of such objects. It cannot be supposed that the thus disposing of a surplus population would be detrimental to the interests of the mother country; and it appears to be a measure likely to produce most beneficial results, under the present circumstances of the new settlement at the Cape.

Above all, it would be desirable, if possible, to avoid any mixture of slaves; as, in addition to bringing the settlers in contact with an indolent and unprincipled class of men, the being subjected to the same offices and occupations as the blacks is one of the most fertile sources of discontent and disaffection amongst the Europeans. Luckily the high price of slaves leaves little ground for present ap-

CHAPTER X.

Hints to Emigrants.

A PERSON proceeding, at his own expense, to settle at the Cape of Good Hope should leave England about the month of October, so as to complete his voyage some time in January. He will then have the summer months before him to explore the country, when travelling is not impeded by the swelling of the rivers, and a plentiful supply of fodder for horses can be obtained. By the time he has visited the principal parts of the colony, chosen his situation, and made his arrangements for settling, the season for farming operations will be at hand: whereas, should he arrive in the winter season, the rains will prevent his excursion into the interior, and he will be detained some months in very expensive idleness. Living is very dear at Cape Town. The charge at the principal hotels is six rix-dollars per day, and the private boarding-houses are not more reasonable. If a party be sufficiently numerous to occupy a house or cottage, either in the town or in the en-

quence of the scarcity of timber, of the cost of furniture and of labour, the houses let at high rents; but meat is cheap: beef threepence per pound, and mutton twopence; fish still more reasonable; and fruit, of which the melons, grapes, and oranges are excellent in their kind, sells for a mere trifle.

A horse is an indispensable requisite, as distances cannot be performed on foot in a hot climate; for even when the sun is not overpowering, a dusty road, upon which scarcely a drop of rain falls for six months, is by no means inviting to the labours of the pedestrian. In fact, nobody walks at the Cape, excepting in the public promenade in the governor's garden from four to six, when one of the military bands is playing for their entertainment, or on the stoops or raised platforms before the houses. Most families have their waggons,—a spacious jaunting car, upon springs, covered with cloth or canvas, and open at both ends; and some of the principal persons drive English equipages. The lowest sum for which a horse can be kept at a livery stable (of which there are several in Cape Town) is forty rix-dollars the month. The hire of one by the day is five rix-dollars. The cheapest method is to take a stable and lay in your own stock of oats and barley.

spection, as the mysteries of horse-dealing are as thoroughly understood, and as much practised, as amongst our more refined spirits in the north. A good judge of horses will do well to wait till he goes up the country, as he may there purchase them for one half the sums that are asked in Cape Town. English horses are the most esteemed; though, as riding hacks, they do not appear so well suited to the colony as their own breed.

Money may be taken out in good bills upon England, which bear a premium of 115 or 120 per cent. Spanish dollars fluctuate much in value; in the short space of six months they have varied from four shillings and fourpence to five shillings sterling, the dollar. In this coin the troops are paid. Money may also be advantageously laid out in many articles of merchandize, which will ensure a handsome profit; but this should be done with great caution.

The agriculturist should provide himself with all necessary implements of husbandry*. Till very lately nothing of this sort has been transported from England, it having been supposed that the

* Specimens of ploughs, &c. made purposely for the Cape, may be seen at Hill's, 422, Oxford-street, London; where any information upon this subject may be obtained.

implements of English manufacture were unfitted for the dry soil of the Cape, and those that have been lately sold have fetched a high price.

It is almost superfluous to observe, that good letters of introduction will be of the utmost importance. These, indeed, should never be omitted by the traveller; but at the Cape they will be found particularly useful, where a man's word, or that of his friends, will often "pass for more than he is worth." From the principal inhabitants he will meet with a reception, that in polite and friendly civilities cannot be exceeded, and is entitled to the highest encomiums *. Hospitality seems to be the peculiar virtue of new and semi-formed societies; by which, however, is not meant the hospitality which waylays a man on the main road, for the purpose of compelling him to dinner, because he is a stranger, (which some writer has declared to be the true acceptation of that word) but merely a sedulous attention to the wants and accommodation of the individual who brings such recommendation as entitles him to notice. This hospitality appears to diminish in proportion to the refinement of society.

* The author gladly seizes this opportunity of acknowledging his obligations to his friends at the Cape for the unremitting kindness he experienced during his stay amongst them.

The voyage to the Cape occupies from eight weeks to three months; a portion of time too inconsiderable, perhaps, to justify making any elaborate provision for it, but yet sufficiently long to allow of much real suffering, if the arrangements for the voyage are not judiciously made. Those who go for the first time to sea have much to endure, and much to learn, which it seems we can only acquire by experience, as if it were a necessary sort of ordeal to go through. The comforts of a sea voyage (such as they are) depend much upon an attention to various minutiæ, which those who are acquainted with, forget to communicate to others. In the first place, we are apt to be particular in the selection of a ship; but I believe the selection of a captain is generally of more importance. There needs exist but little apprehension of going to sea in a leaky or rotten vessel, but there is great danger of being shut up for three months with a man whose arrogance, whose boisterous and overbearing manner, may mar the comforts of a whole voyage. To judge is a work of some nicety; for a captain on land is a totally different animal when placed on his quarter-deck. It may be taken as a rule, that none of his asperities (if any be observable) will soften down, but will rather swell into rougher deformities. In engaging a passage, nothing must be taken for granted. Every thing should

be stipulated for in writing, even to the allowance of water and bread and cheese; for when once at sea, there is no appeal from the sovereign will of the captain: besides, it will establish a clear understanding on all points. Unless it be the plan adopted by all, I should recommend nobody to think of laying in any part of their sea stock, excepting wine. It may in some instances save a few pounds; but if this is not essentially an object, it would be well to avoid a continual source of confusion and disputes. A passage to the Cape may be procured for fifty pounds, or from that to one hundred pounds, every thing being found by the captain. Linen that is intended for use on a voyage should be contained in several small trunks in preference to one or more large chests, which are always difficult to move or open in a small space, and are often placed where it is nearly impossible to get at them. Light clothing, of a colour that will not soil, should never be omitted for hot latitudes, as a stock of nankeen or jean pantaloons are not improved by the tar which melts upon the deck, and still less by the only ablution they will receive at sea, to wit, making them fast to a rope, and towing them at the ship's stern.

People eat and drink enormously on ship-board, at first from the effects of sharp sea air, and after-

serve health. Dried fruits and lemon-juice are the best medicines to lay in. Sea-sickness is an unavoidable evil to many constitutions; but probably a dose of physic before going to sea would diminish its violence, and shorten its duration; resolute exertion and occupation the first few days, and remaining upon deck, are the best remedies. A ship is, indeed, " a prison with the chance of being drowned;" and the first stock which its inmates have to draw largely upon is patience, which should therefore be kept close at hand. But though it is a prison, it is not the confinement suited to study or meditation. The motion, the perpetual intrusion, the complication of noises, the very creaking and labouring of the vessel, a music to which no ears but a sailor's can ever be perfectly attuned, are all obstacles to any thing like serious application. When you have arranged yourself in some snug corner, your back against a cabin door, your legs firmly planted against the table, a sudden heel of the ship dismisses your book to the other side the cabin, and yourself perhaps after it. If it is calm, you are repeatedly called upon to look at a strange sail, a dolphin, a shoal of flying-fish, a shark, or a booby. You sit down again, and the steward interrupts you to get at the ship's provisions. You growl and sit down a third time, when half-a-dozen

calm weather, it is all noise and storm within; when foul, it is confusion within and without. It seems, in fact, impossible to abstract yourself for any length of time from that element of whose presence you are, in one way or other, incessantly reminded. For these reasons, a man may spare himself the trouble of unpacking his library. A few light entertaining books are probably all he will make use of. When the weather will permit, writing, which is a sort of bastard occupation, half corporeal and half intellectual, is well suited to speed the flagging hours of a day at sea.

On arriving at the Cape, some few formalities are to be gone through at the Colonial Secretary's office. This department is excellently conducted by the present colonial secretary, Colonel Bird, who is always to be seen, and ever ready to bestow his time and attention upon those who may have occasion for his interference or assistance.

The settler (if, indeed, he has not contented himself with the distorted accounts that have, from time to time, appeared in the newspapers) will not have been materially assisted by the books he has consulted. It is a subject of universal complaint, that there is no work which conveys that species of information which is peculiarly essential to a person proceeding to settle at the Cape. This cannot be

been in demand; and few persons, either capable of or inclined to such a task, have hitherto been among the settlers of the country. Besides, to write requires leisure and easy circumstances, not often the lot of persons in that situation. The books usually consulted are Vaillant and Barrow; but principally the latter, which may be called the standard work upon the Cape. The former, though abounding in minute and lively description, is not precisely the book from which the emigrant will reap much advantage. In the latter is contained much accurate and valuable information; but not having been written with this object in view, the observations that would be particularly useful to a settler are, of course, to be culled out from a mass of other matter; and that which would strike, if presented in a more pointed form, is lost in its diffusion throughout two large quarto volumes. Both these books are of somewhat ancient date. In the 43rd number of the Quarterly Review, will be found an account of the Cape of Good Hope; by far the most accurate and intelligent that has lately appeared. But the article is evidently written from recollections or observations of long standing; and some changes have taken place in the lapse of years. Thus, Hout Bay, though a very desirable situation, has long been appropriated. All the cultivatable soil there is divided into three farms; for

the best of which, several thousand pounds have, to my knowledge, been refused. A settler, then, will, in all probability, arrive at the Cape with every thing, or nearly every thing, to learn. His difficulties will not be easily removed. The flat sandy waste,—the naked hills,—the thirsty, burned up soil,—will present, at first, a prospect of desolation that will fill him with apprehension and dismay, and is enough at once to crush expectation. He will make anxious inquiries, to which he will receive the most vague, contradictory, and unsatisfactory answers. The inhabitants are not, like the Americans, travellers by inclination. Many have consumed long lives without having passed the great chain of mountains that cross the colony at the distance of thirty miles from Cape Town, and few have been two hundred miles into the interior. The military who have hastily journeyed backwards and forwards to the frontier are not likely to have made many useful observations; and, in fact, the grossest ignorance prevails respecting the interior of the colony. Thus, while some writers at home are talking of a land "overflowing with milk and honey," I have heard it boldly affirmed, in a large mixed company at one of the public hotels at Cape Town, "that there was not a blade of green grass to be seen in the colony." This deficiency in knowledge is, however, allied to a

talks, and advice of the most alarming nature is poured in from all quarters. In this conflict of opinions, the judgment is bewildered, the choice perplexed, and the only road of escape from the irremediable difficulties which seem threatening you on every side, is to mount your horse, see every thing, and believe nothing but what you have seen.

CHAPTER XI.

Concluding Reflexions.

It may not be improper to close this subject with a few reflexions upon emigration, considered with reference to its operation upon human happiness. This is indeed an emigrating age, an age in which not only the poor and destitute, but even those who by birth and education have been formed to move in the higher walks of life, have abandoned their homes for an asylum in a foreign country. It is to be feared, however, that it is a step often productive of unhappy results; that it is either rashly entered upon, or that we are not sufficiently acquainted with ourselves in our capacity of social animals to estimate correctly the loss and gain, the advantages and disadvantages of such an undertaking. The sum of our enjoyments is made up of a thousand petty gratifications and indulgences, whose value is not taken into calculation, for we "note them only by their loss." In considering this question we are apt to go back, and divesting ourselves of the artificial trappings with which

civilization has encumbered us, to regard ourselves as still in our original independent nakedness, free to move where it listeth us, upon the surface of this habitable globe. But though the world were "all before us," we are no longer free to choose our place of rest; we are become creatures of society, bound by a thousand ties to a particular spot of earth, connected with a thousand objects; the very hills and trees, the face of material nature, are so many links that circumvent us; and if a man would not willingly pull up an old post with the sight of which he has been long familiar, what motives can be sufficiently powerful to burst these heart-strings asunder? Dr. Smith has accordingly remarked, that "man is of all luggage the most difficult to be transported, that he takes such root wherever he has been planted, that long after all nourishment has been extracted from it we find him cling to the bare rocks, and rather wither than be torn away." But surely the example of the thousands that have been poured out upon the woods of America, and the multitudes that are crowding to the shores of Africa, would lead us either to suspect the truth of this position, or that there is something extraordinary in the circumstances of the present day to cause this violent uprooting of mankind.

There seem to be two periods in the annals of the human race to which emigration is peculiarly

incident. In the early condition of mankind, when the arts of agriculture are yet unknown, and the laws of property not established, man is a wanderer by choice upon the surface of the earth,—where the chase is most easy, where the pasture most inviting for his flocks and herds, where the stream is the purest, or the shade most refreshing, he shifts his tents and his possessions. Such, according to Tacitus, was the state of the ancient Germans: "Colunt discreti & universi ut fons ut campus ut nemus placuit." But this simple state is not of long duration; agriculture, trade, and commerce, find their way, substituting for the independence of a more primitive condition, a complication of artificial wants and pleasures, that render mankind dependent upon each other, and knit together the grand fabric of society. Then follow wealth and luxury, which pamper beyond the sound vigour of health, till kingdoms, overgrown and bloated with disease, make an effort to dispel the humours which repletion has occasioned. To this latter period we seem to have arrived; the poor and indigent have been cast forth as the supernumeraries of society, and the rapid emigration of the last few years is at once accounted for.

To exist is the first object, no matter where, for poverty leaves no room for sentiment, and those whom absolute want has driven from the mother country have probably made a good exchange:

"Ubi bene, ibi patria" is their proper motto. Civilization and refinement have proportionably operated but little upon the condition of the peasant, the mechanic, or even the petty landholder, who compose the great mass of emigrants. To obtain a sufficiency of food for themselves and children, a roof to rest under, with a very few comforts in addition, are the limits of their expectations at home; and the comparatively easy attainment of these and more than these in another country will amply compensate for any pain which the trial may cost them. Well qualified for encountering the privations, the difficulties, and fatigues that await them on their first arrival in a new country, hardy, active, and industrious, they are at once in their proper sphere of action and at home. Their wants are easily satisfied; their pleasures few, simple and natural; their rustic sports, their nook in the chimney corner, the flaggon of ale, the news still older than the ale, &c.; these, or such things as these, may be had in any quarter of the world. Their affections have been divided amongst so few objects, their range of acquaintance has been so circumscribed, that nearly all that is dear to them may be the partners of their fate; their bodies, muscular and robust, are not a prey to an acute sensibility that might embitter their happiness with useless regrets, with fruitless comparisons, and gloomy retrospection.

Such are the men who seem formed for the task of colonizing a new country. But emigration has not stopped here; what indigence has begun, the contagion of example seems to have extended where indigence was never known, amongst those who have perhaps been obliged to submit to some diminution of the comforts, luxuries, and distinctions which the refinement of the age has introduced, but who have never felt the real grip of poverty. No doubt there are privations of as painful a nature, privations that wound as keenly as the sting of poverty, and between two evils the sufferer should be left to choose for himself; only let him consider dispassionately, and not fly from the pain which he knows to its full extent, to that which being yet unfelt he fancies can more easily be borne. It is a common delusion to imagine that the pain which is inflicted on one part of the body, would be more supportable if removed to any other. Many have emigrated rather than endure the drudgery of a business, the toil of a profession, the "insolence of office." Some for reasons still more frivolous, seduced perhaps by the gaudy descriptions of a newspaper, and more, for no reason at all.

The gentleman, the man of education, who has been nurtured in luxury, and bred in the forms of elegance, whose body is unfitted for labour by habits of effeminacy, whose increased sensibility has closely

connected him with a thousand objects upon which his happiness (perhaps unsuspected by himself) depends, is not indeed a migrating animal, that can thrive in a wilderness. To satisfy with ease the mere wants of nature, which is nearly all that a new colony offers, is of itself no source of positive satisfaction to him; it does not enter into his plan of life, it is a matter about which he has never felt concern, respecting which he has therefore no solicitude to remove, and thus to him, the grand, the proper object of emigration is wanting.

Society, the great charm of our existence, a charm whose influence is duly appreciated only after having experienced something of the miseries of solitude, he must be content to resign. The great bulk of emigrants will be always composed of the illiterate and destitute, "no compeers for him." Even where there are exceptions to this, distance, the difficulties of communication, want of conveyances, of commodious dwelling-houses, and the multiplicity of avocations necessarily attendant upon such an undertaking, are serious obstacles to social intercourse. Books are looked upon as an excellent substitute for society, as a means by which, though in profound solitude, we can keep up our acquaintance with the world. But books are the recreation of leisure hours, of which a settler will probably have few at his command, of a body unfatigued by

exertion, and a mind at ease. Where trees are to be felled, houses to be built, sustenance to be provided, there will be little leisure, and less inclination, for researches of taste and intellectual labours. It may moreover be doubted whether books do not lose much of their charm in solitude, where their contents must be silently devoured, where the instruction or pleasure they convey cannot be communicated and discussed. Reading is not always a work of mere pleasure; if it be a pleasure, it has been first an effort. The desire of excelling, of adding weight to our opinions, and brilliancy to our conversation, of advancing our interests in life by a knowledge of arts and affairs, are greater stimulants to the acquisition of learning than any inherent thirst for information. Where reading can tend neither to utility nor ornament, where it is reduced to a solitary enjoyment, a walking alone amongst the ghosts of history, it is not unlikely that it will be gradually abandoned,—and what have we left?

It is not however to be wondered at, that men of the description alluded to should be found amongst the number of emigrants. The love of retirement has ever accompanied genius and sensibility, poetry has been lavish in its praises, and philosophy has sought to recommend it to mankind. Cowley tells us that "his desire had been for some years, though

retire himself to some of our American plantations, not to seek for gold, or enrich himself with the traffic of those parts, the end of most men who travel thither, but to forsake this world for ever, with all the vanities and vexations of it, and to bury himself there in some obscure retreat, but not without the consolation of letters and philosophy." "Such folly (to use the words of Johnson) is not peculiar to the thoughtless or ignorant, but sometimes seizes those minds which seem most exempted from it by the variety of attainments, quickness of penetration, or severity of judgment." They who have the most enlarged capacity for happiness, who are the most quick in discovering the emptiness of all our enjoyments, are, in fact, the most likely to be desirous of change. An ardent and restless imagination troubles the settled purposes of their youth, diverts the current of life from its proper channel, and sends it wandering forth in all the mazes of uncertainty. Alas! all our wandering leads only to the conclusion that "Good and ill are universally commingled and confounded—happiness and misery, wisdom and folly, virtue and vice; that all advantages are attended with disadvantages; that an universal compensation prevails in all conditions of being and existence."

Perhaps the most powerful temptation to emi-

grate is the prospect of returning at some future period enriched with the spoils of industry, of being enabled to pass the evening of existence in the home of our youth. Few go without this hope, and yet it seems an idle expectation: it depends, in the first place, upon the accumulation of wealth, in which the emigrant may be unsuccessful. But, supposing his golden dreams fulfilled, is it possible that years of toil and seclusion should not have unfitted him for the walks of polished life? To settle in a new country is a work of labour and difficulty, to which the whole energies must for a time be directed; and in the homely occupations of this situation, the modes, the practices, and observances of refined society, must drop piece-meal away, like the useless embroidery of a garment when exposed to rough and unwonted usage. Soil and climate will do their work upon him; the very newness and wildness of the scene, to which he is transplanted, will impart to him something of its character, and fit him, by a sort of regenerating process, for the theatre of his labours. The exotic plant is received into the bosom of the earth, it lives and flourishes; but is no longer the same. Changes are also daily taking place in the form and features of society, which, being gradual, are not perceptible, and to which we accommodate ourselves without any effort whilst borne along with

the crowd. But twenty years of absence would make it a new world, and if we could imagine the desire of returning to be still predominant, that a man could have wandered so long upon the surface without taking root, he would, probably, find the companions of his youth in the grave, his friends dead or estranged, and himself forgotten; and like the captive after his lengthened confinement, he would turn away from a world that was grown strange to him, to lay his bones in the solitude he had forsaken.

Many emigrants are anxious for an emancipation from the restraints of society, and have delighted in the idea of acting without control or observation, of being able to breathe at large. It may, however, be suspected, that the shackles of society, like the clothing of the body, become natural from being habitual, and that, divested of one or the other, we are not restored to the native dignity of our nature from which we have long ago degenerated, but are rather left in uncomfortable nakedness. The retirement of which men are really enamoured is indeed a remove from the crowd, but only to a little distance, from whence the return is short and easy, where the hum of population comes mellowed to our ear like the distant murmuring of waters, and where the repose and quiet of our retreat are en-

joyed from perpetual contrast. Absolute solitude is but little favourable to human happiness; labour, doubt, fatigue, and anxiety, all that complication of interests that keep alive hope and fear, seem necessary to sweeten the hours of domestic ease and tranquillity; where these are wanting there will succeed wearisomeness, disgust, and melancholy. Distance alone, the consciousness of the impossibility of communication, works upon the sensibility of our nature in a manner inconceivable to those who have not experienced it. Years may pass over our heads without our once seeing a particular friend, who dwells perhaps in one of the sister kingdoms. We are certain that if divided by the Atlantic we could not be more effectually separated. Pass the Atlantic and the heart is ever travelling over the wide waste of waters, wearying itself in efforts like those of a dreaming man to grasp an empty shadow. It seems as if by some mockery distance brought us in closer contact with those far away, acting like a glass that magnifies tenfold the objects that are removed from it.

After all, to indulge in the visionary delights of emigration (visionary to such as are unqualified for the undertaking), is only an extension of that delusion which we are daily and hourly practising upon ourselves. We live on in the pursuit of some

phantom of happiness, that is ever destined to fly before us; few would be pleased to pass a portion of their best days again, and yet we are consoled for the disappointments of the past by some airy prospects of future good, nothing wiser from the experience of the years that are gone, and life is consumed in a "dream of expectation."

"Victuri semper agimus nec vivimus unquam."

The subject of emigration is like an unexplored field, where the imagination may wanton at large, pleasing itself with sweets of its own creating, fertilizing the waste, and building bowers of happiness into which the ills of life shall never dare to intrude. The hours we thus pass in pleasing prospects are the happiest of our lives*: a celebrated author has observed, that the "joys of fruition never equal those of anticipation; in the latter case," he quaintly adds, "we cook the dish for ourselves, whereas in the former, nature cooks it for us."

Can it then be wondered at, that such agreeable delusions are indulged in, even if the desire of change

* "The pleasures of imagination are much higher than any which are derived from a rectitude of judgement."—Burke.

were not implanted in our nature? To be really content in the respective situations in which we are placed, seems, from the experience of mankind, to be almost impossible.

" ——— nemo quam sibi sortem
Seu ratio dederit, seu fors objecerit, illa
Contentus vivat."

In the case of emigration, all that can be done, is to give a proper direction to the inquiries of those who are speculating upon a change so serious and permanent in its consequences, to point out a few of the most prominent evils likely to be attendant upon a bad choice. All that emigrants have to expect has been well summed up in an official document from the American government. " If the emigrants possess property, they may reckon upon finding the means of increasing it with moderation; if they are poor, but laborious, and know how to be satisfied with little, they will succeed in gaining enough to support themselves and their families; they will pass an independent but a laborious life, and if they cannot accommodate themselves to the moral, political, and physical state of the country, the Atlantic ocean will be open to them to return to their native countries. They must bend their characters to necessity, or they will assuredly fail in all their schemes of fortune: they must throw off, as it were,

their European skin, and they must direct their thoughts rather forwards towards posterity than behind them to their ancestors." Such are the prospects an emigrant has before him, and, perhaps, as a general rule, from which it may be collected how far such prospects should influence a man to change his condition, we cannot do better than adopt nearly the concluding words of the same document. "It should require a principle of motion, not less powerful than want, to remove a man from his native country, and the tombs of his ancestors."

Since writing the above, the annexed report has appeared in the Cape Gazette. The observations that, in the course of these Notes, have been thrown out respecting the rivers and bays within the limits of the colony, were suggested by conversations with captains of merchantmen, and others, who seemed qualified, from their experience, to give an opinion upon the subject; and they, moreover, derive weight from the concurrence of the most intelligent writers*, and the best informed persons of the colony. They are not altogether in unison, however, with the substance of the following Report, which, as being apparently the result of a more minute survey than has hitherto been made, and coming from an officer of his majesty's navy, may be deemed not an unacceptable appendage to the foregoing sheets. It is therefore left, without farther comment, to make its own way with the public.

* It must be confessed, that there is not, in the whole sea-coast of this extensive colony, a single bay, that is not either insecure for shipping, or otherwise objectionable. See farther, Barrow, vol. ii. p. 289, &c.

CAPE TOWN GAZETTE.

The following Report has been transmitted by Captain Fairfax Moresby, C. B. of his Majesty's ship Menai, to his Excellency the Acting Governor.

"Remarks on the Rivers and Coast between Cape Recife and the Mouth of the Keiskahama; with a particular Description of Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay, Southern Africa.

"Cape Recife is situated in latitude of 34° 02′ S. Longitude 25° 39′ E. of Greenwich. It is a low, rocky point; the breakers extend one mile and a half into the sea. The coast from this point runs N. 32° W. four miles to Beacon, or Rocky Point. Off this point lies a bed of rocks; but sufficient water for ships to pass within a small dangerous rock, over which the sea breaks in bad weather, bearing from Beacon's Point W. $\frac{1}{4}$ N. by compass; and Cape Recife S. $\frac{1}{4}$ W. This rock is a small pinnacle: we frequently tried to heave the lead upon the top, but never had less than twenty feet. Ships of large tonnage should, therefore, give Beacon Point a good birth, in approaching Port Elizabeth.

"From Beacon's, or Rocky Point, to the landing-place at Markham's Cove is N.W. by N. by compass nearly three miles, sand-hills, covered with bush. Immediately over Markham's Cove is Fort Frederic, at present the only land mark by which

stranger is guided to the anchorage; and this, from many positions, is not easily distinguished; but a pyramid, about to be erected as a private memorial, half a mile to the south-east of Fort Frederic, will stand conspicuous to ships approaching the land.

"From Markham's Cove to Ferrara's River is N. 13° E. by compass nearly four miles. Between this point and Beacon's Point may be considered the anchorage of Port Elizabeth: the water deepens gradually from the shore; the bottom is hard sand, in which the anchors hold well. Where merchant ships have generally anchored, the ground is not so clear as further out; arising from numerous anchors that have been left: but should Port Elizabeth ever become a place of commercial consequence, chain-moorings, or even anchors of a larger size, with chain-cables, should be laid down for those ships that wish to approach near the shore, for the purpóse of loading or unloading. The expense would not be very great; and a small tax, for such accommodation, would be cheerfully paid.

"I do not make this remark from the insecurity of the bay; for I consider it, at all times, equal to Table Bay; and, for six months, very far its superior.

"His majesty's ship Menai lay off Port Elizabeth from the 29th April until the 25th June, 1820:

could not communicate with the shore; with a south-east wind a swell rolled in; but never any high breaking sea. Ships have, from time to time, rode during the whole year in this bay; and some of his majesty's ships have rode out the heaviest south-east gales that have been known.

" Had I my choice of trusting my ship, for the year round, to Torbay in England, Palermo Bay in Sicily, Table Bay, or Algoa Bay, I should, without hesitation, prefer the anchorage off Port Elizabeth, Algoa Bay.

" From the 1st of April to the 1st of September, the wind scarce ever blows from the south-east; and calculating, upon the average, the number of days that ships can communicate, and carry on their commercial occupations, Port Elizabeth infinitely surpasses Table Bay.

" In proof of what I have said, not a single accident happened in landing the settlers from England (who amounted to 1,020 men, 607 women, and 2,032 children), from the period of their arrival, in the middle of April, to the day of our departure, on the 25th of June. It is true, that two small coasters were wrecked last year, on the same day; but if their loss is attributed to the right cause, it will be rather to their want of good tackle than the force of the wind:—even from these vessels not a man perished.

" No ship should anchor nearer the shore, until the bay is cleared of anchors, than six and a half fathoms, unless they have chain-cables: thus, in considering Port Elizabeth a safe anchorage, it may naturally be looked forward to as a point to where the coasting trade of the colony can be carried to an extensive scale. Between Port Elizabeth and Table Bay, the anchorages are numerous; and there are few masters of coasting vessels in England, Holland, or France, who have not hourly more dangers to encounter; and more difficulties to surmount, than the trade from Port Elizabeth to Table Bay.

" As the export port to the Isle of France, &c. Port Elizabeth is admirably situated; and as a place for refreshment, during the winter months, few seamen would risk their ships in Table Bay, or encounter the delay in beating up to Simon's Bay, with a north-west wind, when Port Elizabeth affords much easier access, and articles of refreshment at a more moderate price.

" The bay abounds with fish; and this will be, soon, one of its most important exports. Fresh water there is abundance of: at the expense of a few hundred rix-dollars it might be carried to the beach, in a stream sufficiently strong to water any number of ships.

" The thermometer, during our stay at Port

Elizabeth, at noon, varied from 66° to 59°. The nights were cool, the mornings fresh and invigorating. High water at full and change 3 h. 40 m. Tide rises about six feet.

"Ferrara's river is closed at the mouth by a bank of sand, except at spring tides, and is not worth notice; from hence to the mouth of the Zwartkops is N. E. by E. $\frac{1}{2}$ E.; two miles to the shore, sandy and flat. The surf rolls in much higher with every sort of weather than at Port Elizabeth.

"The Zwartkops, in latitude 33° 51′ 24″ S. longitude 25° 34′ 45″ E., is a river of the first consequence, if Port Elizabeth should continue to flourish. From the accompanying survey of it, the capacity of its water is evident; and I have little doubt, that when commercial gain shall stimulate the merchant to enterprise, the Zwartkops will be found capable of admitting ships of considerable tonnage. In fact there is now in the river the remains of a Dutch ship of 200 tons; and there were but few days when boats could not have come over the bar whilst we remained at Port Elizabeth. Ships may anchor off the Zwartkops to wait for tide; but I do not consider it so safe as the anchorage off Port Elizabeth. From the Zwartkops to the Ruga River, situated in latitude 33° 47′ 19″ S. longitude 25° 48′ 36″ E., is five miles. The coast sand-hills, with a flat sandy beach. The mouth of this river is closed,

and the water peculiarly salt, that flows into a small lake; and from hence to the Sunday River, is E. 4° 35′, S. nine miles. The mouth of this river is situated in latitude 33° 43′ 06″ S., longitude 25° 45′ 33″ E. of Greenwich. Between this point and Cape Recife may be denominated Algoa Bay.

"The Sunday river runs into the sea close to a remarkable rock, which I have denominated Read's Monument, in remembrance of a fine youth, a midshipman of the Menai, who perished, with three seamen, in the execution of their duty, whilst surveying the coast.

"On its northern side the bed of this river is deep, but the surf beats with violence over the bar across its mouth; and as here the coast is exposed to the constant rolling swell, little chance of its ever being useful to commercial purposes offers. There are times when boats can enter or leave Sunday River; but from its mouth commences that wild inhospitable coast, that refuses shelter to any class of shipping.

"The island of St. Croix, in latitude 33° 47′ 30′ S. longitude 25° 41′ 07″ E., lies S.. 57° 50′ E. of the Ruga three miles and a half, and S. 71° 10′ W., from the mouth of the Sunday six miles: it is about two miles and a quarter in circumference. Another small rocky island, which I have called Brenton's Isle, lies S. 46° W. of St. Croix one mile and a half distant, and about three-fourths of a mile in cir-

cumference. Off the mouth of the Ruga, S. two-thirds of a mile, is the Island of Jahleel, about the same size as Brenton's Isle. Round these islands there is good anchorage; and in the event of necessity, a ship might find partial shelter near St. Croix. These islands are inhabited by immense numbers of seals, which at times literally cover their surface.

" The coast, from the mouth of the Sunday River, runs to the eastward, towards the Bosjesman's river. The mouth of this river I did not examine; from reports I received it did not appear to merit attention.

" From the Bosjeman's River, the coast continues the sameness of appearance,—sand-hills covered with bush.

" The Bird Islands are alone visible along the whole line of coast.

" The mouths of the Karega and Kasowka were nearly closed, a weak stream alone running over a bed of light sand. The winter torrents, no doubt, will at times fill the beds of these rivers to a great extent. Farther eastward is the Kowie, a river that promises fairer than any I have visited, (except the Zwartkops), at some future time to admit ships over its bar. Like all the other rivers I have visited, it receives its inland stream into an extensive basin, from which it forces its way, through a narrow

channel on its eastern side, into the sea, not wider at low water than twenty yards: this stream runs in a S. S. E. direction; the surf broke across a bar about one-fourth of a mile from the entrance, but not violent; and at a low tide there must have been several feet of water. What leads me to expect more from this river than the others I have visited, is, that the water appears deep close to the shore, and there are two extensive beds of rocks, which bore by compass S. E. by S. from the river's mouth about two miles and a half. If there is anchorage under those rocks, ships might perhaps be able to wait the convenience of tide before they attempted to enter the river.

"The next appearance of a river to the eastward is the Kleine Monden, which has apparently at times three outlets to the sea; but they were all closed when I saw them, and I suspect are only open at spring tides, or when the mountain waters come down.

"From the Kowie to the Great Fish River's mouth, the coast has a more verdant appearance; the sand-hills are covered with luxuriant bush; but there is not an inlet or curve of any sort that offers shelter for ships. The surf rolls in high breakers along the coast.

"The country at the mouth of the Fish River is

rally clothed with bush; when I arrived, the water was at the lowest ebb; from the S. W. side a sand-bank projects to within twenty yards of the N. E. side; the current was running through this channel slowly into the sea, and I could trace its stream gradually decreasing in breadth, until finished in a point, making the mouth of the river form the base of an equilateral triangle: from this point part of the ebb is thrown back on the flat beach, runs to the westward, and finds an outlet close to the rocks on the western side; at this spot the water appears deep. At the breadth of ten yards the sea did not break successively, but at times there was an interval of five minutes, when a boat could easily have landed; but when it did break, it was with treble the violence of the constant rolling surf along the sand before the river's mouth. The entrance of the river E. S. E. and W. N. W.; the stream inclines a little to the S. W., after passing the extreme point, where the sea broke with violence across.

"The position of the Fish River may be easily ascertained, at sea, in a fine day, by some distant hills of an undulating form, bearing N. N. W. per compass. These hills are then between the ravines through which the river flows.

"The Great Fish River, at particular seasons, swells to a considerable height; at these times, from

possibly enter; but when the causes have ceased that filled its bed, the river becomes a mere stream, and for several months in the year, I much doubt whether the strength of water would turn a mill. I think the water is sufficiently deep to admit ships to anchor off the river's mouth. As the tide rose, the surf increased, but at dead low-water there must have been several feet on the bar. Not the least appearance of shifting sand, or rocks, were observed amongst the breakers. The land, on the western bank of the Fish River, near its mouth, is most beautiful, being a rich black earth, with a covering of luxuriant pasture.

" I crossed this river at the first ford from the sea, about six miles inland; here the stream meanders through a deep and bushy ravine. We led our horses down on Friday the 12th of May, and were near an hour in descending. When we reached the bank, the tide had not sufficiently receded to admit our crossing; in an hour it was effected, and when the tide was perfectly out, there was but a very small fresh water stream.

" From hence, to the Becca, we continued in an E. S. E. direction: we crossed this river at a ford where the tide reaches at springs; there was scarcely any water in its bed. From this ford to the mouth of the Becca is about six miles. I remained here to witness the effect that the ebb and flow of the

tide had on the bar. The stream runs S. W. into the sea, is not more at low water than twelve or fourteen fathoms across, but deep. This river bids fair to admit coasting vessels from the following causes.

"The water clear of the river's mouth appears deeper. The mouth is so narrow, and the river so confined, that the tide is more rapid than at the Keiskahama, or the Fish River; the breakers are not more than would be expected, at a depth of eight or ten feet, and resembled what is generally seen of rivers' mouths that are known to be navigable. The coast, however, is still as inhospitable as what I have hitherto seen. From the mouth of the Becca to the Keiskahama is about fifteen miles in an E. S. E. direction; there are several small streams, up which the sea flows five or six miles at spring tides, but the sea rolls in high breakers along the coast.

"The first view of the Keiskahama is the most flattering to those who visit it for the reason I did, viz. to ascertain whether it was open at the mouth for the purpose of commerce. An extensive basin of water receives the inland stream; the extreme points between which the Keiskahama flows, when its bed is full, bear from each other N. E. by E., and S. W. by W. about one mile distant; but this bed can only be full when the mountain torrents are

the cause. It was nearly high water when I visited it, the mouth of the river then about seventy or eighty yards across, the stream running S. into the sea, strong and deep. Part of it is forced back along the shore, similar to the Fish River; but the greater part runs close along the low, rocky shore, forming the N. E. point; its breakers here were evidently not so successive, and I do not despair of there being a channel at high tides for small vessels; but the wildness of the coast, with the flat that reaches one and a half or two miles seaward, blight the hope that this river can ever be constantly open to the most enterprising trader. It is not at present, nor, calculating upon probabilities, can ever be, the resort of the king's ships; the tides are too feeble, and of too little elevation to serve any great purpose; about seven or eight feet was the highest I could decide by the marks on the shore that the tides rose. I remained until low water; the river then did not exceed forty yards in breadth. The ravine through which the Keiskahama serpentines runs in a N. W. and S. E. direction. The entrance may be known, at sea, in clear weather, by a range of mountains in the interior, one standing by itself, rising in a conical shape, flattened at the top; and a short distance to the

bear N. N. W. they are on with the Keiskahama. The N. E. point of land, close to which the river flows into the sea, is low and rocky, running from a remarkable little green hillock, detached from the one where the bank begins to rise: the S. W. point is a sandy hillock. Along the coast the sand is covered with bush, through which, at different places, it is visible.

"Having given an account of the rivers between Cape Recife and the Keiskahama, I shall close with this general observation. That from the straightness of the coast, few ships will ever venture to approach them; that although they are generally called rivers, they are mere streamlets when not filled by mountain torrents or heavy rains. It is true that the Fish and Keiskahama Rivers, close to their mouths, appear magnificent sheets of water; but as I crossed the Fish River six or seven miles from its entrance, almost dry footed, the Becca without wetting my shoes; and as I am told, the Keiskahama has a ford at an equally short distance from its mouth, they are in themselves but streamlets: the tide does not rise sufficiently high to make them what are called in England tide harbours.

"If, therefore, trade is ever carried on, it is my opinion, that by Port Elizabeth, or the Zwartkops alone, it can be effected with security.

lamentable shipwrecks between Cape l'Agulhas and the Keiskahama; no doubt, the greater part of these would have been avoided, had a light warned the mariner of his danger. The expense of erecting a light-house on Cape Recife and Cape l'Agulhas would not be very great, and the expense of lighting them very trivial. How willingly every navigator to and from India would contribute to the expense of these buildings is well known; and if but one ship had been preserved by such a beacon, that has buried her crew and cargo on the sandy shores of Africa, it would pay for years (if money alone is to be considered, and not the life of man) the expense of a light-house."

FAIRFAX MORESBY,
Captain of H. M. S. Menai.

7th July, 1820.

ST. HELENA.

ST. HELENA.

Che Fama avrai tu più, se vecchia scindi
Da te la carne, che se fosse morto
Innanzi che lasciassi il pappo e'l dindi,
Pria che passin mil anni?

It is only in the day of his power, when his glories fall upon a dazzled world, refracted and multiplied from a thousand satellites, that man is truly a spendid and illustrious object. Rob him of these adventitious aids, and he sinks into a mere animal with all his wants and weaknesses. His great acts are not written upon his forehead; they leave no visible halo round his temples; their fame is no part of his personal possessions; it is something gone forth from him, "beyond him, even before his death,"—a pale twilight that owns no apparent kindred with the sun that has set. If the solid palaces of kings be overthrown, or moulder away in the silent lapse of years, the broken column, the massive arch, the wide ex-

tended ruin, subsist through ages, and proclaim the noble purposes to which such strength and beauty were dedicated; or speak of the illustrious dead, who dwelt within their ample halls; but in the fallen hero what vestige shall we find of high thoughts, and gigantic projects, that had their birth-place, their cradle, and their palace there? As well might we look for the proud swell, the overwhelming might of ocean, in the sleep of an unruffled calm.

Few will approach St. Helena without feelings of deep and lively interest, expecting to find the imperial exile an object upon whom every eye is riveted, about whom every tongue is busied; "shorn, indeed, of his beams," but still "majestic though in ruin."—This glow of enthusiasm, however, is quickly allayed in the utter apathy and indifference that discovers itself upon the subject of the great Napoleon. My first question, when introduced on board the Admiral's ship, previous to going on shore, was,—"How is the Emperor?" and by way of answer, was referred by the officers to the English newspapers lying in the cabin window, intimating that this was the latest intelligence they could give me of that personage. The same spirit prevails in the town, nor can I recollect, during my stay at the island, to have

heard the name of Buonaparte mentioned. If his suite or establishment is ever alluded to, it is by the general appellation of the "French people." Thus if curiosity is not satisfied, inquiry is speedily at an end. It is said to be the policy of the governor to discourage all conversation on the subject; probably any interference on his part is unnecessary. Men are soon weary of worshipping mere abstract greatness, that has no longer power to awe, nor benefits to confer. The frogs jumped upon their king of wood.

St. Helena is a natural prison, produced, as it is supposed, like some other islands in these seas, by the action of subterraneous fire. The remains of a crater are still, I have been told, visible in some part of the island. By the way, Napoleon and an extinct volcano are well placed beside each other. "Par nobile fratrum." As viewed from the sea, it looks like a square bastion of solid rock, which the dusky birds that hover round its summit might hold against a world in arms. On sailing round to the leeward of the island, James Town is descried, literally built in a deep chasm of the rock, of width sufficient only to admit of a few streets, which the reflected rays of a vertical sun would render insufferably hot, did not the south-east wind blow steadily down this aperture at all seasons of the year. If it were necessary to add any thing to the

descriptions that have already been given of this island, we may imagine a thunderbolt to have been hurled against the solid rock, like the spear of Æolus against the cave of the winds, and to have divided for itself a passage in a zig-zag direction from one side of the island to the other.

The town contains but one principal street, about a quarter of a mile in length, and has nothing to attract attention; the houses are low, and built upon a small contracted English scale, and are by no means so well adapted to the climate as the cool brick floors and roomy apartments of the Cape-houses. The station is not healthy, and though less disease prevails than formerly, dysentery carries off great numbers at the approach of the rainy season. The climate does not appear at all congenial to the habits and constitution of John Bull. The sailors, who, with their yellow skins, are hardly distinguishable from Chinese, told me that they hated it in three days after their arrival, and they had been there three years. Longwood house, Napoleon's present residence, is not visible from the town; it stands upon an eminence sheltered by some trees at about two miles distance; but the interposition of a continued series of hills makes it necessary to wind about for at least five or six miles before you reach it. The friendly civility of a military acquaintance procured

dollars furnished a tolerable hack, upon which I set forth to view the island.

The interior is beautifully diversified, and abounds in bold and romantic scenery. The patches of soil lying between the rocks are well clothed with verdure, at least during the rainy season, and I observed a few acres of rich mould that had been turned up by the plough. It produces, however, little else but vegetables; live stock is sent from the Cape; the China ships leave the produce of the east, and England does the rest. It is well studded with houses, whose little shrubberies and garden enclosures impart an air of neatness and trim order, that is, perhaps, rather a consequence of the limited sphere for exertion, and the necessary concentration of labour, than the effect of taste or industry. There is really no room for negligence to display itself. In ascending, the air becomes agreeably cool, and at this season of the year (July) a cold mizzling rain falls every day. Sentinels are posted at short intervals, who demand your pass, and in arriving at the gate of the avenue that leads to Longwood house, it is given to the lieutenant on guard, who summons the officer in attendance on Napoleon to show you through the grounds. Longwood is an indifferent farm-house, to which a few rooms have been added for the accommodation of its present inhabitant, forming all together a mean, ill-looking and irregular lath and

plaster building, neither commodious nor extensive. The grounds are without beauty, and show few marks of culture; some stunted and straggling trees are their sole ornament, and though the house stands on the highest habitable spot on the island, the town and shipping are shut from the view, and it is only "supreme in misery." At a distance is caught a glimpse of the solitary ocean, that element which defied the power of the Ex-emperor, and whose waves are now as watchful guards around his prison-house. The new house is not a stone's throw from Longwood; nothing was wanting to its completion, at the time I visited it, but some articles of furniture, that were daily expected from England. It is a plain convenient house of only one story, containing a suite of living rooms, a hall, a library, a billiard and bath room, apartments for Count Montholon and family, the two chaplains, medical attendant, and the officer on guard. Count Bertrand and family occupy a small cottage close adjoining. Beauty of design has not been much studied in the plan of this edifice, which is in all respects plain and simply commodious, and apparently well suited to the present circumstances of Buonaparte. During the progress of its erection his wishes were consulted; but being, perhaps, unwilling to contribute in any shape towards the building of his own prison, he declined any interference beyond a request, that there might be

no dark passages, and that the rooms might be so contrived as to admit of his taking walking exercise within doors. This request has been carefully complied with; doors of communication open into all the apartments on one side of the house, affording him ample room to expatiate to and fro, and revolve the uncertainty of human events. The sentinels will be so placed as not to be visible from any of his apartments.

Napoleon carefully avoids all observation; a weakness that seems hardly worthy of a great man, who might be supposed thoroughly indifferent to the idle gaze of curiosity, which cannot be frequent enough in St. Helena to be really obtrusive. Perhaps it is a last resource, where other helps are wanting, to maintain something like dignity and personal interest, for kings and emperors look prodigiously like other men upon close inspection. Misfortunes, moreover, have something sacred in them, when endured in privacy, as if disdaining the consolations of human pity and condolence, and the spirit that will not brook to commune with its kind has generally credit for high and lofty feelings that have placed it above life's "weakness and its comforts too." People here ascribe this conduct to a less dignified motive, namely, his displeasure at the appointment of Sir Hudson Lowe, for on his first arrival he was by no means averse to society: be this as it

may, Napoleon keeps aloof from all but his own suite; and one half of the garrison have never seen him. From the same motive it is presumed he has entirely left off riding, formerly a favourite exercise, though the island affords a retired ride of about nine miles in extent, on the side opposite to James Town.

Of the arrangement and distribution of his time, his domestic habits and occupations, I was enabled to collect the following particulars. He rises with the sun; at six o'clock he is in his garden, where he employs himself till breakfast, either in working or directing the operations of several Chinese, whom he has at his disposal. Between breakfast and dinner he passes some hours in his study, and it is thought he is busied in preparing historical memoirs for the press: it is generally believed here that some of his papers have already been sent to England. About three o'clock he walks, but never exceeds the boundary of the garden, the wall of which screens him from observation. His dinner is served up at four, and at this meal he is commonly attended by Count Montholon, and sometimes by Count Bertrand. This is the only society he ever indulges in, to enliven his evenings, and render confinement more tolerable. Gardening is the occupation in which he appears to take peculiar delight, an occupation well suited to the silent dignity of melancholy, and to which

kings have often had recourse in their retirement or misfortunes. Without being too laborious, it is sufficient to prevent the mind from incessantly brooding over its own miseries. To watch the growth of plants, to inhale the scent of flowers, is a new and simple pleasure: it is like turning to the pure embraces and smiles of childhood after the artificial luxuries, the jading pleasures and satiety of a court. Scipio, indeed, when in banishment, was content with walking along the sea shore with his friend Lælius, and making ducks and drakes in the water; a somewhat humbler, but by no means a contemptible amusement. A square patch of ground, of about an acre in extent, enclosed with a mud wall, is the principal theatre of the labours of Napoleon. He has sown it with cabbages and other vegetables, which, to say the truth, do not make a very goodly show; but his horticultural taste is not without precedent, for Sir Thomas Browne observes, that some of the ancients "commendably affected plantations of venemous vegetables, some confined their delights unto single plants, and Cato seemed to *dote upon cabbage*." Through this plot runs a straight gravel walk, at one end of which is fixed in the ground a rustic wooden chair, painted green, and before it a stone table; at this he frequently dines alone upon the plainest food, withdrawing afterwards to a bower at the other ex-

tremity to take his coffee, and arrange his plans for the ensuing day. To facilitate the operation of watering he had cut a little channel down the middle of the walk, by which the water was conveyed from a spring to several round holes, about two feet in depth, dug purposely to receive it. Here, in his flowered dressing-gown, his green slippers, and his head bound round with a crimson silk handkerchief, may be found the once mighty emperor, wielding a watering pot, turning up the soil, or culling simples; hurled at once from the palace of the Thuilleries, the senate-house, and the camp, to the lowly and primitive labour of man, "to till the earth in the sweat of his brow." The annals of royal horticulture, commencing with hanging gardens of Babylon, may close with this of Napoleon's. A small hole in the outward wall stuffed with a sod, removeable at pleasure, served as an observatory; from whence, while resting from his garden toil, he could peep forth, and view what was passing in the world below.

Here at least is a new study of the Ex-emperor; instead of venting his discontent in useless murmurs, or nursing it in sullen indignation, we find him philosophically resigned to the turns of fate; and instead of dethroning kings, crushing empires, and planting new dynasties, quietly employed in untenanting snail-shells, demolishing worms, and

sperity, surely he must be allowed the praise of "suffering well." His friends may, perhaps, fondly contemplate in him a second Cincinnatus, leaning on his spade till his country shall again command his services; while he, perhaps, like Diocletian, already prefers his cabbages to the purple. I walked up and down this scene of imperial gardening with considerable interest, trying, but in vain, to discover some marks of the master hand. It was a very kitchen garden in the most homely sense of that word; and the genius that produced such transcendent effects upon the plains of Austerlitz and Marengo, seems to have served him but little in his encounters with earth and stones.

From this rock of ocean, almost inaccessible by nature, and guarded with a vigilance that, far from relaxing its Argus gaze, has attained a systematic watchfulness, escape seems impossible, excepting by one of those chances which human foresight cannot provide against. Is this remote possibility sufficient to keep alive expectation and make life tolerable, or is it that Napoleon has calmly resigned himself to the stream of events, content, like Mæcenas, with mere existence? in either case, is it ignoble thus to live on, rather than to have played the Roman part; to be satisfied with a place on earth after having sat among the gods?

In the history of the new world we read, that

'when Gonzalo Pizarro was about to give battle to Gasca, and to decide at once the fate of the Peruvian empire, his principal officers and a large body of troops deserted to the enemy. Pizarro, seeing all irretrievably lost, cried out in amazement to a few officers who still faithfully adhered to him, 'what remains for us to do?' 'Let us rush,' replied one of them, 'upon the enemy's firmest battalion, and die like Romans.' Dejected with such a reverse of fortune, he had not spirit (says the historian) to follow this soldierly counsel, and with a tameness, disgraceful to his former fame, he surrendered to one of Gasca's officers*."

No doubt the effect would have been more complete, the close more appropriate, had this meteor of the day been quenched in the full blaze of splendour, rather than have lived to waste gradually away, to flicker on at last like an expiring taper; but, if life has still its charms, it is surely silly to die for an empty sound, that cannot reach the ear of dusty death; besides that Napoleon is said to have had a religious horror of anticipating the hour of dissolution.

The character has preserved its unity throughout. Most men would have sought to die; Napoleon has chosen to live; and this instance seems to deepen the tints of the picture which Madame de

* Robertson's America.

Stael has drawn of him, when she says, " It has been observed, that Buonaparte could be thrown into confusion when another danger than that of war was set before him; whence some persons have ridiculously enough inferred that he was deficient in courage. His hardihood surely cannot be denied; but as he is nothing, not even brave, in a generous manner, it follows that he never exposes himself but when it may be advantageous. He would be much vexed at the prospect of being killed, for that would be a reverse, and he wishes to be successful in every thing; he would likewise be vexed at it, because death is disagreeable to the imagination; but he does not hesitate to hazard his life, when, according to his views, the game, if I may be allowed the expression, is worth the risk of the stake."

No attempt at escape has ever been made; but in the early days of his confinement, when he betrayed less reserve than at present, he seems to have amused himself with alarming the good people of St. Helena. On one occasion, when riding out, he suddenly put spurs to his horse, and, galloping down a precipitous descent, was out of sight in a few minutes. The officer who accompanied him, not choosing to follow at the peril of his neck, made the signal of escape, and in an instant the whole garrison was under arms. In the mean time

Napoleon had returned home, and was found taking his coffee with his usual composure. No personal communication ever takes place between him and the governor, for whom he entertains a cordial aversion. This is, perhaps, good policy on the part of the governor; an interchange of civilities, a friendly intercourse with such a man, might lead to a relaxation of vigilance, to a dispensing with many of those forms which have been adopted for security, and ultimately lead to dangerous consequences. Napoleon appears to possess, in an extraordinary degree, the talent of conciliating the affections, of gaining the hearts of those about him. The frequent removal of the officers who have been appointed to his household, and who, either won by his address, or pitying his misfortunes, have successively been tempted to drop some of that punctilious precaution which they had been instructed to observe in all rigour, is a sufficient proof of this. Every thing in the shape of book, newspaper, or letter, that goes to Longwood, passes through the hands of the governor: the private letters of the officer who is in attendance are not exempted from this scrutiny, and he is required to communicate the particulars of the most trivial conversation. Jailers, doubtless, and hangmen, in the present constitution of society, are as necessary to fill up their parts, as drovers and butchers; but it is impossible

to contemplate without some degree of odium an office, whose functions are perpetually at war with the best feelings of our nature, and "where the heart flies out before the judgment, it saves the latter a world of pains." Notwithstanding, however, the efforts of the governor, it is said that the French people contrive to obtain occasional intelligence from sources that have hitherto baffled all attempts at discovery, and the island is often very uneasy under its charge.

Napoleon still occasionally acts the emperor: the rags of royalty cleave to him like the tunic of Nessus. When Admiral Plampin waited upon him, in form, on arriving on the station, he received him with his hat on, his arms folded; and after exchanging a few words, the admiral remaining standing, Napoleon turned upon his heel and broke up the conference. Lord Charles Somerset, on his way from the Cape, sent in his name, with a request that he might be permitted to pay his respects in person. His lordship's servant was dismissed with this only message, that there was "*no answer**."

The complaints that have from time to time appeared in the English newspapers, respecting the

* This seems to have been a repetition of the scene that was acted when the Countess of Loudon was there.

bad quality and insufficiency of the supplies for Longwood, appear to be without foundation, and have probably originated in some of Napoleon's suite; he himself being not only abstemious, but even indifferent to the pleasures of the table. This, indeed, at the present day, forms a frequent point of comparison with the *canaille* of Paris between him and the ruling monarch of France, whom they pronounce unfit for grand designs, "parce-qu'il mange tout." I met upon the road a large provision cart, which is daily sent up to Longwood, laden with every thing the place affords; this to be sure is not always of the most luxurious description,—but St. Helena is not Paris. The truth is, they are happy to have opportunities of venting their feelings of personal dislike to the governor, in complaints of any sort; and thus petty inconveniences, which would otherwise be borne with cheerfulness, are aggravated into serious evils.

The amusements of this island are very few; society is entirely restricted to the naval and military messes, and languishes even there. Madame Bertrand soon after her arrival exchanged visits with the officers' wives, and would no doubt have proved a great acquisition; it was signified, however, to the husbands that their services would be dispensed with if this intercourse was continued. The family of the Balcombes, at whose house Na-

poleon first resided, and of whom so many pleasant anecdotes were told in the English newspapers, are no longer at St. Helena; indeed, if universal assent be considered as amounting to a proof, it is an island of ennui and misery. Living is so enormously expensive that none who have a ship, to resort to, think of remaining on shore.

Races have been introduced by the English, and, in the absence of higher-bred cattle, a few Cape hacks are cantered up and down the hills: a competition, one would imagine, for broken bones rather than for golden cups. However, it serves as well for betting, as galloping maggots, and like bad fish recommends good sauce. A more agreeable and natural recreation which this place affords is fishing, particularly for conger. There is something terrific in this amusement that adds to the charm; for where there is perfect security attention becomes languid from an insufficiency of excitement. To jerk out a gudgeon always gives me a slight palpitation of heart; but to pull out of the sea a huge conger, whose wide distended jaws display two frightful rows of teeth ready to devour you, whose form, at first coiled up in serpent convolutions, gradually unfolds its long dimensions as it is slowly upheaved from the water, is really a sublime sport. A sailor, who had never seen one of these monsters, fishing at St. Helena, drew up his line on feeling the bite,

but when this portentous apparition met his view, he had no doubt of its being some spirit of the deep, and letting go the line he forthwith dived over the other side of the boat, declaring that "he could face any fish, but not the devil." The conger grows here to an immense size, and is in truth a formidable animal, unless disabled before he has time to commence an attack. When one is caught, the method is for the fisherman to hold him suspended above the water by the rope or line to which he is hooked (an operation which requires a steady hand and firm nerves), and for a second person to be ready with a heavy staff, the proper application of which will break the spine, and destroy the power he possesses of raising himself upon his tail when taken into the boat *.

Sunday, at St. Helena, is a wretched day. At home it is a day marked by peculiar observances, at which most of us assist. It is a solemn pause in the strife, the bustle, and career of mankind; a short breathing space that suffers us to feel our existence—an oasis of the desert, which, while it serves for rest and refreshment, serves also to mark our progress and the velocity of ourcourse. At St.

* Amongst the few curiosities of this place, I cannot avoid noticing a phenomenon in language in the shape of an abreviation. The short for Margaret is (horresco referens) Pudgee.

Helena, the ocean ebbs and flows with its ceaseless roar; the sound of the church-going bell is a faint dull peal that hardly vibrates in the air; within the church a few old people and sickly looking soldiers—without, a few lounging officers. Life stagnates in this climate. "Those rays that irradiate only, and gild our honeysuckled-fields at home, do scorch and parch this chinky gaping soil, and put too many wrinkles upon the face of our common mother the earth." The appetite must be excited by strong stimulants, and it would seem as if the common plain exercises of religion were too simple to rouse attention. Would the broad-wheeled waggon of Juggernaut, with its infernal baggage and accompaniments, have such drowsy votaries?

Buonaparte has no chapel, either in his new or old mansion, but an altar is fitted up in one of the rooms of the new house, and appropriated to the celebration of mass on Sunday, at which he invariably assists.

What the religious opinions of Napoleon are, or whether he has adopted, from study and reflexion, any settled opinions of his own upon this subject, it would be difficult to ascertain. Had he lived in other times, his equivocal faith might have brought upon his mortal part the fate which befel the bones of Nostrodamus, who was buried

half in and half out of the church at Marseilles; because, as Spon relates, they could not satisfy themselves whether he was a wizard or a prophet. Probably, though he encouraged the established religion of France, as a means of maintaining social order and a subjection to constituted authorities, he was himself indifferent as to any peculiar system of worship, but thought with Rousseau, that homage was equally acceptable to the Deity, under whatever form it might be presented. The man who in publicly addressing the Mufti, in the pyramid of Cheops, adopted the usual Mahomedan salutation of "Glory to Allah, there is no true God but God, and Mahomet is his prophet," &c. was, at all events, no very rigorous disciple of Christianity. In his address, however, to the deputation of clergymen, who waited upon him at Breda, we find him talking of "having met, in Bossuet and the maxims of the Gallican church, with principles that, agreeing with his own, had prevented his becoming a Protestant." The text upon which he dwells with peculiar and emphatic energy (and which was, perhaps, the fundamental principle of his Christianity) is, "Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's.' He tells them, "I am of the religion of Jesus Christ, who said, 'Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's,' and conformably to the rules of the same gospel, I give unto God the things that are God's."

Cæsar's share he certainly exacted with rigorous scrupulosity; what he gave to God it would be less easy to discover. However, misfortunes may perchance have "changed his hand and checked his pride;" we now see him attentive to the forms of worship, to exercises of piety, when his example can be no longer imposing, when his indifference would pass unregarded.

It is supposed at St. Helena, that his chosen friends, the partners of his exile, are tolerably weary of their banishment, and would gladly return; and, in this gradual abandonment of human affection, he may, perhaps, be anxious to secure for himself the favour of that Being who will not "in his old age thus desert him."

The soldier, it might be imagined, whose life is full of jeopardy, whose course is as perilous as the Mussulman's road to heaven along the bridge of Al-Sirat, and much worse rewarded (as instead of Houris he has nothing but half-pay and broken bones in the end), would naturally be contemplative and religious. A thoughtless and unconcerned gaiety is, however, the more usual characteristic of that profession; for if, as Montesquieu somewhere observes, the dangers and contingencies attendant upon this state were steadily surveyed, existence would be rendered insupportable from gloomy foreboding and apprehension. Their career is upon

the uncertain footing of a precipice; to look below would turn the brain, and the eye is, therefore, gladly averted upon every passing object that can arrest attention and dissipate uneasy thoughts;— they gather flowers upon the edge of a yawning gulf. A city guard, on the contrary, whose martial avocations threaten no serious dangers, are in all respects a sleek, sober, contemplative body of men, possessed, perhaps, of the better part of valour. It has, notwithstanding, been noticed by an accurate observer, that of those who have acquired celebrity in monastic houses and religious orders, for the extraordinary austerity of their lives, the majority have passed their early days in camps.

Upon the whole, a man will leave St. Helena with no very exalted notions of human greatness. He will see a little of the cold reality of things; which, should he happen to be a young cadet, a candidate for newspaper glory, may go near to spoil his vocation for arms. If he be inclined to form comparisons, he may perhaps ask himself, in what consists the difference between the greatest demi-god of the earth, and the hero of a pantomime. The feats of both are performed in the blaze of light, the pomp of scenery, and the plaudits of a gaping multitude; but, after some unhappy jump, hissed and discarded, what remains to either?— The broken wand, the tarnished dress, upon which

a few spangles, faintly glimmering "in piteous lack-lustre," are just sufficient to indicate that this was a harlequin.

If he be disposed to philosophize, he may, perhaps, recal the following passage from Wollaston. "A man is not known ever the more to posterity, because his name is transmitted to them: he doth not live because his name does. When it is said, Julius Cæsar subdued Gaul, beat Pompey, changed the commonwealth into a monarchy, &c. it is the same thing as to say, the conqueror of Pompey was Cæsar; that is, Cæsar and the conquerot of Pompey are the same thing, and Cæsar is as much known by one distinction as another. The amount, then, is only this, that the conqueror of Pompey conquered Pompey, or somebody conquered Pompey; or rather, since Pompey is as little known now as Cæsar, somebody conquered somebody. Such a poor business is this boasted immortality; and such, as has been here described, is the thing called glory among us!"—*Religion of Nat. del.*

THE END.

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