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NARRATIVE
OF THE
LOSS OF THE SHIP HERCULES,
COMMANDED BY
CAPTAIN BENJAMIN STOUT,
ON
THE COAST OF CAFFRARIA,
THE 16th OF *JUNE*, 1796:
A L S O,
A CIRCUMSTANTIAL DETAIL OF
HIS TRAVELS
THROUGH THE
SOUTHERN DESERTS OF AFRICA,
AND THE COLONIES,
TO
THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.
WITH
AN INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS
TO
THE RT. HON. JOHN ADAMS,
*PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS OF
AMERICA.*

LONDON, PRINTED:

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1800.

WARRALL

THE TOWN OF WARRALL

AND THE DISTRICT OF WARRALL

IN THE COUNTY OF WARRALL

IN THE PROVINCE OF WARRALL

IN THE KINGDOM OF WARRALL

IN THE EMPIRE OF WARRALL

IN THE WORLD OF WARRALL

IN THE UNIVERSE OF WARRALL

IN THE COSMOS OF WARRALL

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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

JOHN ADAMS,

PRESIDENT OF THE CONTINENTAL CONGRESS
OF THE UNITED STATES OF

AMERICA.

S I R,

IF this volume be transmitted across the Atlantic, and should find its way to your hand, receive it as the voluntary homage of a native American, who from his earliest life hath been taught to venerate your virtues and your talents. A work, like the present, which has for its object the diffusion of science, the promotion of civilization through the unexplored regions of Africa, and the establishment of colonial settlements in that fertile but neglected quarter of the earth, cannot be addressed to any individual with more propriety than to you—Succeeding our illustrious Washington in the chair of the people, your constitutional influence must be extensive, and there lives a powerful advocate in your bosom, for the success of every measure that has a tenden-

cy to alleviate the sorrows of humanity. The untutored tribes of America have already experienced the beneficence of your nature, and I am now desirous to arrest your attention and interest your feelings, on behalf of those wandering children of nature, who are scattered over the deserts of the African world ; a race of unoffending mortals, long persecuted by those *enlightened Savages*, who, under the appellations of *christians* and *Dutchmen*, settled themselves by violence on the southern promontory.

To me, Sir, this is a subject that takes full possession of all my affections. Cast, with sixty of my people, on the shores of *Cassraria*, after combating the horrors of a tempest, which I believe has but few parallels in the history of naval misfortune (and which will be fully described in the succeeding narrative,) I found in the natives a hospitality, and received from them a protection, which on many of the shores that belong to the polished nations of Europe I might have sought for in vain. These unfortunate inhabitants of *Cassraria*, who have been so often and so wickedly denominated savages, that delight and revel in human slaughter, I found possessed of all those compassionate feelings, that alone give a lustre to, and adorn humanity ; living in a state of perpetual alarm from the persecuting and avaricious disposition of the colonists, and instructed by their fathers to consider a *white*

man as a being, who never hesitates to murder when plunder is in view. Still a justifiable revenge yielded to the virtuous impulse of compassion, and our necessities were generally relieved, without even the prospect of a recompence. When thrown, by the raging of the elements, on the sandy shores of their country, we were all unarmed, not having saved from the wreck a single article, either for our defence, clothing or subsistence ; in this situation, we were completely at the mercy of the natives ; but instead of remembering and revenging the wrongs they and their predecessors had endured from the *savage whites*, they made a fire to dry us ; they slaughtered a bullock, which they gave us for our subsistence ; they conducted us to a spring of the most limpid and wholesome water, and when we were enabled to travel, furnished us with guides through the deserts of their country. Such was the conduct of a people, who have been described as barbarians, possessing no other semblance of the human character than what they derived from their formation.

After having attempted thus to pay the debt of gratitude to my liberal benefactors on the continent of Africa, I shall now endeavour to draw your attention to those commercial benefits which I conceive may be obtained by establishing a colony from America, on that part of the coast where the ship I commanded was unfortunately wreck-

ed, or on some other part of the southern continent, which may, from its fertility, invite a settlement. I shall give you my sentiments freely on this occasion, because I do not conceive that any of the European nations have a right to interpose. The *Dutch*, who formerly possessed the Cape of Good Hope, but which, on my arrival there, I found in possession of the *English*, encouraged colonization to a certain degree, and their people have, within this century, proceeded into the interior, cultivated lands, and formed settlements 400 miles distant from the Cape. As these colonists advance, they hunt the unfortunate natives as they do the lion and the panther, dispossess them of their lands by force, rob them of their cattle, and, by every possible means, endeavour to effect a total extirpation of the original and unoffending inhabitants. This inhuman conduct must surely meet the execration of every man not totally lost to the feelings of humanity; but still it may be alledged, that, having once possession of these lands, no matter how obtained, their right is established, and they cannot be dispossessed by a foreigner, as such a conduct is not warranted by the law of nations. I shall admit (but for the purpose only of elucidating the matter in question,) that successful violence gives a title to the possessor, and that the colonists, as far as they have penetrated, are lawfully entitled to these

estates ; still this argument does not apply, so as to exclude an American, or any other foreigner, who settles at a distance (suppose 100 miles) from the most advanced colony belonging to the government of the Cape. It has never been understood when the Dutch took possession of the *Cape of Storms*, as it was originally styled by the Portuguese, that they also claimed a title to the whole of the southern part of Africa ; such an undefined and unlimited claim, must at once appear not only presumptuous, but preposterous ; and on this ground I argue, that the people of any nation have an unquestionable right, provided the natives give their assent, to settle on such parts of the southern continent of Africa, as do not interpose with the lands already in possession of the colonists. The particular spot where I think a settlement might be established with considerable emolument to the adventurers, and to the nation from whence they came, I shall endeavour to delineate in the course of this address, and which, both in fertility and beauty, may vie with the most cultivated and admired countries in either *Europe* or *America*.

There is no quarter of our earth so little visited, or known to Europeans, as the continent of Africa. And yet the exploring and colonizing of these vast regions, were undertaken nearly 3000 years ago. TYRE, once so famous for her riches and her com-

merce, sent out a colony which settled at Utica, on a fine bay of the Mediterranean, rendered memorable in history by the death of the second Cato. About seventy years after the establishment of the commonwealth at Utica, the parent city, encouraged by the success of the former emigrants, fixed another colony within thirty miles of them, on a peninsula of the same coast, and about the same distance north west of that spot where the city of *Tunis* now stands. This they named *Cape Carthage*, and here was founded that celebrated Republic which shook the Roman empire to its centre.

Carthage, though a commercial and enterprising Republic, flourished at a distant period. Their city was founded 98 years before that of Rome, 846 before the christian æra, and lasted more than 700 years; it was then rased to its foundation by the Roman legions, cammanded by *Scipio Africanus*, and under the consulate of *Cn. Lentulus* and *L. Mummius*. This, Sir, was an epoch, when navigation was but imperfectly understood; and, although they afterwards became superior to all the cotemporary nations, in the management of their shipping, and stretching out their arms eastward and westward, waisted their commerce to Mauritania, Gaul, and beyond the Straits and Pillars of Hercules; yet, even in their progressive state, they were intent on exploring and settling their own continent after the

example of their parent country. As a proof of this, we have it recorded that *Hanno* made a voyage with a considerable fleet round Africa, by order of the senate, for the settling of distant colonies in that part of the world; and there is still extant a Greek version of a treatise drawn up by Hanno in the Punic tongue, descriptive of his voyage and adventures during this memorable undertaking. We are therefore instructed by this part of Carthaginian history, that during the time of Hanno they had bestowed a very serious attention on the sure settlement of the most remote parts of Africa; and it is also certain that nothing prevented them from carrying their intentions into execution, but the long and exterminating wars in which they were engaged with the Romans, and which at length ended in the destruction of their Republic. Had *Carthage* triumphed over *Rome* in the third Punic war, it may fairly be presumed, that at this day great part of the continent of Europe, now in a state of luxuriant cultivation, would have been a desert, and Africa the happy seat of all the sciences.

I have touched upon this part of ancient history, as it contradicts the assertions of some authors who have represented the apparent indifference shewn by the Carthaginians to the southern parts of their own country, as totally arising from an opinion that most of those provinces were compos-

ed of an unproductive mass of earth that could not be brought to any profitable cultivation. This is certainly a mistake ; but whatever doubts might have been entertained respecting the climate and natural fertility of this portion of the earth, until the year 1652, when the Dutch seized on the Cape, they can have no weight at present, as we now have sufficient information to govern our opinion respecting those points. Within the last thirty years, several intelligent and enterprizing men have penetrated the interior more than 400 miles from the most advanced colony belonging to the Cape, and their opinions are perfectly in unison with mine. *Dr. Sparman, Colonel Gordon, Major Patterson, and Monsieur Valliant*, visited the countries inhabited by the wandering *Hottentots*, the *Auteniqua* country from the mountains to the sea, the *Gonoquais*, the *Cassrees*, the *Namaquois*, and a variety of other parts inhabited by people generally denominated SAVAGES, and the opinion of these gentlemen respecting the natural productions of the earth, the climate, and the immense advantages that might be derived from colonizing these parts, merit indeed a very serious consideration. *Monsieur Valliant*, whose enthusiasm for the improvement of natural history led him into Africa, speaking of the countries through which he travelled on his way into *Cassraria*, gives the following description of them, and accom-

panies it with observations both interesting and curious.

“As I got further from the colonies,” (says this wandering naturalist) “the country was still more beautiful; the soil rich and fruitful. Here nature appeared in all her majesty; the lofty mountains offering from every side the most delightful and romantic views I had ever seen. This prospect, contrasted with the idea of the parched and barren sands about the Cape, made me think myself at a thousand miles distance.

“What! exclaimed I, shall these charming fields, these hills and vallies be for ever uninhabited, except by the lion and tiger?”

“What a being is the sordid speculator, whose views, bounded by commerce, port fees and customs, can prefer the storms and dangers of Table-Bay, to the safe riding, or natural and charming ports, that are so common on the oriental coasts of Africa.”

On this occasion, a question naturally arises, which, from its importance, I think deserves an unequivocal and decided answer. How comes it, that so many known advantages could have so long escaped the vigilant and commercial spirit of the Dutch? To elucidate this question, and remove any difficulty that may arise from the slow advances the Dutch have hitherto made into the interior, I shall give you the reasons adduced by the same traveller, as they appear

to me, not only highly apposite, but just and conclusive.

“The advantages the company and colonies might draw from this fine country,” (says Valliant) “could never have escaped the observation of the Governor, who once visited it; but the truth is, public good is usually subordinate to the private advantages of some needy adventurers who are interested to suppress every thing that tends to the diminution of their profits. What is a Governor? Generally an unfeeling being, blind to the public good, who is not stimulated, nor has any energy but for his own private advantage; who consents to exile himself from his native country for a time, and the first article of whose political creed is, that being rapidly to acquire a large fortune, every means tending to the accomplishment of his views, are good and lawful. Full of these ideas he departs for his government, arrives, realizes his designs, and returns to his country to insult his fellow-citizens by an insolent display of that pride and riches, which must one day open the eyes of his superiors to means of redress, that would not fail to operate to the advantage and prosperity of a numerous colony. He is replaced by a successor who enriches himself in his turn, and the farce is thus played a hundred times over.”

I believe, Sir, this gentleman has drawn the curtain and developed the material fea-

tures of this political drama. But he should not have confined his observations to the conduct of the Dutch *governors*, but explained the policy of the Dutch *government* respecting their settlements in Africa. This being once understood, there will be no difficulty in accounting for the slender progress these people have hitherto made in the interior.

The facts are thus explained.

The government at home, when they founded a settlement on the southern promontory of Africa, encouraged for some time, all those of an adventuring disposition, who were desirous of settling in these parts, and likewise transported a great number of their criminals to the Cape, especially those who had some knowledge in the cultivation of land, or were bred to some mechanical employment.—In a few years they advanced from 30 to 40 miles, formed settlements that amply repaid their labours, and opened a new source of commerce to the parent country. The grape flourished beyond their most sanguine expectations, and from which they produced the Constantia wine so highly valued at this time throughout the nations of Europe. Oranges, citrons, figs, and corn, were soon found to yield the most abundant crops, nor were their cattle less fruitful in their propagation and quality.

The prosperous situation of the first adventurers, tempted others to quit Europe, and settle in Africa. They proceeded farther into the interior, and found the lands as they advanced from the Cape, increase in fertility. They reared cattle and corn in abundance, but were not so conveniently situated for trade as those who were settled nearer the Cape ; it was, however, fruitless to complain, as they had no other market. Again, others came, and advanced still farther, until at length their numbers became formidable. The first settlers as they increased in wealth increased in haughtiness ; they erected mansions on an expensive scale from the Cape to Table-Bay, formed pleasure grounds and gave entertainments in the Asiatic stile of magnificence. These people, although frequently insolent to the Governor, were however, easily managed, as their properties were contiguous to the Cape, and of course within the grasp of his authority.—Those who were farther advanced having smarted under restrictions and goaded by persecutions, were less tractable and frequently made a common cause with those colonists, who being still farther advanced from the seat of government, paid but little attention to the mandates of authority. To such lengths did they proceed in their opposition to the orders of the Governor, that on a certain occasion, when he threatened them with military execution as

a punishment for their disobedience, the sent him word, that every soldier he dispatched on such business, would be sent back to him in *pickling tubs* ; at the same time, giving him to understand that they could bring 10,000 men into the field.

The Governor perceiving their strength and disposition, proceeded no farther than menaces ; but this transaction confirmed the opinion which was long entertained by the Dutch government, that if colonization was not *checked* in Africa, their settlements in that quarter would be endangered. From the adoption of this policy, founded on the apprehensions of the government at home, we learn the true reason why a greater part of the southern continent has not been settled since the Dutch took possession of the Cape in 1652, and accounts for the heavy restrictions that have been laid upon the colonists in general.

Some of these restrictions, however, are, in my opinion, not only unjust, but impolitic likewise ; and that you may be competent to form a correct judgment on this occasion, I will state a few occurrences that came under my own observation during my abode with the farmers on the confines of Caffraria.

On my arrival at what is called the first christian settlement, I experienced a very cordial and hospitable reception. My people were supplied with whatever they could

spare, and this relief was administered upon terms that manifested a genuine disinterestedness. On my describing the beauties of the countries through which we passed, and at the same time expressing astonishment at their being unoccupied by christian settlers, I was informed, that so desirable an event could never take place, as long as the Dutch remained in the possession of the Cape. “ We are, (said these people) although living on the confines of the deserts, so barbarously persecuted by our rulers, that we are unable to proceed. In our neighbourhood, and on our own farms, we have the richest *lead-ore*, and so near the surface, that we can scrape it up with our hands ; and yet, were we to melt and use a single pound of it, the punishment would be *transportation to Batavia*. On our coast, particularly near the bay of Algoa, we have the finest timber in the world ; and, although it could be conveyed to the Cape by sea at the most trifling charge, yet our government supplies their settlement with that valuable commodity from Europe, and, as you may suppose, at an expence which must be enormous. We live in hope however, (continued these colonists) that some nation more liberal than ours, will form a settlement on the eastern or western coast, that we may get supplied with such articles as are necessary to our situation, and will trade with us on principles of mutual advantage.”

Throughout the whole of the colonies as I journeyed to the Cape, I found this sentiment universally prevailed; they were all desirous of having some trading and liberal people settle either on the East or West coast, at a certain distance from the most advanced colony belonging to the Dutch. This prevailing disposition in the colonists, I mention for the purpose of demonstrating the practicability of the measure I recommend; for it is certain, that any opposition from the Cape to such a settlement must be nugatory, as it would be supported by the united strength of all the colonies.

The limits of the Dutch colonists have been hitherto confined to the borders of Caffraria, and in some places to the borders of the Fish-River. The following anecdote will explain the sentiments of the natives respecting this limitation.

When the christian farmers had generously supplied my people with necessaries, and which I have before stated, I made them acquainted with the loss of the *Hercules* near the mouth of the river Infanta. After several consultations on this subject, they resolved to pass into Caffraria with a certain number of waggons, and proceed to the wreck. To get possession of the iron was the chief object of the undertaking, and they solicited one *Abraham Moore*, who was my steward, to accompany them. I gave him permission to return, and they accord-

ingly proceeded on the journey. When they arrived on the beach near which the Hercules was wrecked, the Caffrees assembled in considerable force, and in a menacing tone of voice, desired to know "*how they dared to pass the Fish-River.*" The colonists acquiescing in the justice of this interrogation, purchased their permission to remain for a certain time, by giving them beads, trinkets, and some other trifles with which they seemed perfectly satisfied.

This anecdote, in some degree, corroborates what I have before stated, that a settlement in those parts, provided it is with the consent of the natives, and which could be obtained at the most inconsiderable expence, could not be fairly opposed by any power possessing the Cape. These people, although denominated Savages, are still the proprietors of these countries, never being dispossessed of them; the inheritance is in them alone, and they have an unquestionable right to dispose of it to whatever nation they may think proper, and for such a consideration as they may deem an equivalent.

The part of Africa, which in my opinion invites at this day a new settlement, is Caffraria. This country, which skirts the Eastern coast for many hundred miles, and stretches into the interior to a considerable extent, abounds in timber of the best quality; possesses many excellent harbours; is blessed with the richest pasturage that feeds

innumerable herds of the finest cattle ; the lands during the season favourable to vegetation are carpeted with flowers that perfume the surrounding atmosphere, and their shores are frequented by fish of every quality and description.

Such natural blessings lead us to contemplate the happy consequences that must necessarily arise, not only from the cultivation of so fine a country, but the civilization of a race of mortals, whose only *crime* is their *colour*, and whose misfortunes since the first settlement of *christian savages* in their country, no feeling heart can contemplate for a moment, without horror and compassion.

In *Caffraria*, and throughout the greater parts of the southern continent, the climate and the soil seem to demand the cultivation of the *grape*. In no country which has been yet discovered, could a greater variety of of excellent wines be produced. The vineyards of *Constantia*, which are situated near the Cape, and flourish in a sterile soil, when compared to those of *Caffraria*, elucidate this fact ; and the experiments which the farmers have been able to make in the more advanced stations of the colonies, leave no room for controversy on this subject. *Tobacco* has been raised in the Dutch colonies by such of the farmers as could procure a plant ; and although few were acquainted with the necessary treatment, either in its growth or manufacture, the produce in

some places has been such, as to exceed their most sanguine expectation. Here the barbarous policy of the Dutch government interposed, and the poor colonists were discouraged from rearing this indispensable commodity; they were obliged either to send or travel to the Cape for their tobacco, as well as most other articles, which they obtained by barter, and at an expence which seemed to exceed all bounds of usurious dealing. The *sugar-cane*, although not native to these countries, it is supposed could not fail in the southern parts of Africa; the soil, the climate, every thing invite the experiment. On my consulting those people in Africa who were acquainted with the growth of the *sugar-cane* in the West-Indies, and the nature of the lands on which it flourished most, I found they were decidedly of opinion, that in the southern parts of Africa this commodity might be reared, and brought to as high a degree of perfection as in other parts of the globe. They went still farther, and avowed it also as their opinion, that not a *spice* which grew in *Ceylon*, or the *Dutch colonies* in the *East*, but would flourish in the southern part of Africa. *Fruits* of almost every denomination have been reared in the colonies; *oranges, lemons, citrons, figs, apples, pears, apricots, peaches, &c.* have been cultivated in certain districts, and most of them with every imaginable success. There could be no difficulty, therefore, in extend-

ing these productions to every part of the southern continent.

Such are the capabilities of this delightful country ; and, as I apprehend, nothing is wanting to perfect the whole but the exertions of a wise and liberal government, I have recommended the establishment of a colony from America in these parts to your consideration. I must, Sir, at the same time, acknowledge that some very cogent reasons may be adduced to shew the impolicy of such a measure. It may be fairly alledged, that America hath deserts of her own to clear away and cultivate ; that she hath Savages on her own borders to civilize, and establish as useful members of a regular community ; and as the countries under the dominion of the United States are of such prodigious extent, and but feebly populated, all plans for colonizing foreign parts must be relinquished, or at least suspended for a century to come. These reasons, I own Sir, have considerable weight ; but still they are not, in my opinion, so entirely conclusive, as to preclude all further consideration of this important subject. A single settlement on the coast of Caffraria would, in my opinion, amply repay the expence, and the number of people necessary to the completion of such an undertaking, including both sexes, might be confined to *one thousand*. These surely could be spared, and might be obtained without difficulty. The people of A-

merica must have several articles essential to their commerce which they cannot find at home, but might be had in profusion from a settlement in Africa. The naturalist, whether his genius led him to the study of ornithology or botany, would have a noble field in these regions for his researches, and the natives rendered savage by long and reiterated persecutions, would, by kind and gentle treatment, soon embrace the advantages arising from a state of civilization.

These unoffending people have been most grossly abused ; they have been described as beings of the most savage disposition, delighting in blood, and of a nature as cruel and untractable as the fiercest animals of their deserts. But these, Sir, are the calumnies of their *Christian persecutors*, and have been fabricated for the atrocious purposes of deception. Take the reverse of this picture, and you will perceive the genuine character of the native African ; compassionate, generous, hospitable to those who do not come to injure or destroy him ; truly grateful for benefits conferred, and not yielding in this cardinal virtue, to the most benevolent pupil of the sciences. Without ever having entertained the most distant consideration of a Supreme Being, or the existence of a future state, his virtues are dictated by the genuine feelings of his nature, and expecting no reward, nor dreading any punishment in a future life, for his conduct in this, stands a

pre-eminent character on the roll of virtue and philanthropy. I speak of these people as I found them ; and from this knowledge I form an opinion, that so far from their interrupting any settlement of the nature I have before alluded to, they would hail the American, when they were convinced of his justice, as their friend, their protector and deliverer.

I have before observed, that on my arrival at the Cape, I found that settlement in the hands of the English ; and as it is not improbable but when that happy period arrives, when the European nations shall close the present scene of human butchery, this settlement may become a part of the British empire, I shall venture to describe the good consequences that in all probability will arise to *England* from the possession of this settlement and its dependencies.

The British at this time receive their tobacco from America ; but they are so wealthy and enterprising a people, and so intent on making settlements abroad, especially such as have the least tendency to improve their commerce, that it would be ridiculous to imagine, so great a benefit as the cultivation of this article in the south of Africa, could escape their notice. The inhabitants of the Cape, and the colonists in general, entertain a strong predilection in favour of the British, and the sagacity of the English government will soon point out the means of perpetuat-

ing their friendships. I can foresee, that on the eastern and western coasts, settlers from England will be established, and the natives treated with more humanity and policy than what they have hitherto experienced. If by any chance, the West-India islands should be lost to them, or any natural convulsion of the seasons render them for a certain time unproductive, the British settlements in Africa might amply supply the deficiency, and their markets of rum and sugar be universally supported. Corn, fruits of all kinds, skins of various denominations, ivory, tortoise shell, ostrich feathers, and many other articles, that would give their trade a wonderful augmentation, might be all had from these parts.

The advantages arising from the possession of the Cape, and those which might be derived from colonizing the southern part of the African continent, are fully understood at this time by the English and French governments. This was clearly manifested in the course of the negotiation which took place at Paris, early in the summer of the present year. When *Lord Malmesbury*, who was the plenipotentiary on the part of England, came to discuss that part of his mission which respected the Cape of Good Hope, he strenuously insisted on this settlement being ceded to the crown of England. *De la Croix*, who acted in a similar manner on the part of the French republic, as strongly insisted

on its being restored to the Dutch ; and in giving his reasons for making this requisition a cardinal point in the negociation, discovered a very competent knowledge of the subject. He very sagaciously observed, that the Cape, in the hands of the *Dutch*, could be of very little use, except furnishing a convenient place for shipping to touch at, on their voyage to the East-Indies ; but in the hands of the *English* (said De la Croix) the southern territory of Africa would be colonized, and a new source of commerce in all probability arise, the advantages of which are incalculable. Here the republican plenipotentiary entered into an elaborate and perspicuous discussion of the subject ; demonstrated what the active genius of the English, moving on so great a scale, would produce, and how the present trade of the European nations would be injured, by opening to that nation, such a new and fertile source for commercial adventure. From these discussions, the people of both nations have acquired a more competent knowledge of the subject than formerly ; and this gives an obstinacy to both their demands, which I believe in a great measure impedes the way to reconciliation.

In stating what occurred on this subject at Paris, I give a certain weight to my own opinion. It is true, I have lately traversed a considerable part of the southern continent of Africa, and form my judgment from

what I have *seen*, and from what I have *learnt* of the natives and the colonists ; but it is to be supposed that both the English and French plenipotentiaries have been very properly instructed on this important subject, altho' they never visited the countries, for the possession of which they were contending.

The people of England formerly considered the Cape as a *half-way house* to their settlements in the East-Indies, and appreciated its value in proportion to the accommodation which was given to their shipping ; but at present they are better informed, and now understand, that, although the possession of that settlement must be of considerable benefit to their Asiatic commerce, as a place of refreshment and supply, still, this advantage bears no proportion to those which may be derived from the cultivation of the interior. I am perfectly convinced they are right in this opinion ; but it is not improbable, they are as yet unacquainted with the full extent of the benefits that may be derived from the settlement of these countries. If on the map a direct line be drawn from Cape *Agulhas*, which is the southern extreme of Africa, about N. N. E. as far as 25 degrees South, which takes in *Delagca* bay on the East coast, and that part of the West which is but little frequented, it will be perceived that a surface of territory may be acquired of a prodigious extent, and comprehending countries on which na-

ture has bestowed her choicest favours. This portion of Africa is fairly open to the government of the Cape, provided the natives can be induced to consent to the establishment of European colonists, and their acquiescence could be soon obtained, by gifts of little value to the donor, and their allegiance secured by a kind and liberal treatment in the course of their negotiations. The country, once established on these principles, would soon become productive, and ultimately prove of more value to the British empire, THAN ALL THEIR SETTLEMENTS IN THE EAST AND WEST INDIES PUT TOGETHER. I know, Sir, this will be considered as a bold assertion ; but it arises from a positive conviction in my mind ; and therefore I deliver it as an opinion, which has been the result of general observation and enquiry.

In treating of the southern continent of Africa, I cannot, however, subscribe to the reports of some pretended travellers, who have represented the *whole* of these regions as highly prolific. I understand this is not the case. In the countries of the Little and Great *Namiquois*, *Kabobiquois*, *Heuzouanas*, &c. which either skirt or are contiguous to the western coast, there are sandy deserts of considerable extent ; but there are likewise immense plains of the finest pasturage ; and it is generally supposed, from what has been already gathered on the margin of their

streams, that minerals of the first class are to be found in their mountains. In the eastern parts, which include Caffraria, the country of the *Auteniquois*, *Genequois*, and various tribes of the *Hottentot* nation, I perceived a most luxuriant soil ; and on reaching the summit of their mountains, the eye frequently reposed on such a glowing scene of pastoral beauties, that to faithfully delineate the whole, would require the inspired genius of Tasso, or the MANTUAN. These plains are generally frequented by a kind of antelope or gazelle ; and it is not unusual to perceive from the mountain tops, thousands of these beautiful animals, alarmed by the lion, the tiger, hyæna or the panther, scouring over the valleys to secure a retreat, and forming a moving scenery, of the most exquisite beauty.

The natives, as they seldom eat bread, are but little acquainted with the cultivation of corn. Beyond the habitations of the colonists, a field of corn is scarcely to be seen ; but I believe no part of the world abounds in such flocks of cattle, or furnishes a greater plenty of game. These countries are just what nature made them, and the inhabitants, who erect their huts, and form their *kraals* on the first spot they find that affords pasturage for their cattle, remain until it is consumed, and then wander to some distant part, in search of a more propitious vegetation. The plough, here, never turn-

ed up the soil, the uses of it are unknown, and the natives live mostly on the produce of the chase. If they are not successful in hunting, and the hoerde labours under a temporary want, they sleep away their time, until, pressed by famine, they again renew the dangers of the forest.

In these excursions, they frequently encounter the *lion*, the *rhinoceros*, the *hippopotamus*, the *buffalo*, the *hyæna*, the *panther* or the *tiger*. All are their food; and they frequently devour them without touching the fire. The oxen, which they possess in such abundance, it might reasonably be supposed, would protect them from want; but the natives prefer the flesh of the wild and carnivorous animals of the desert, to the most delicate and nutritious parts of the sheep or the ox. The latter are kept by them, chiefly, as beasts of burden, or for the purposes of war; and in training them for offensive operations, they discover a most extraordinary sagacity. They not only instruct the ox to charge an enemy with all his strength, but in the confusion of the battle, to distinguish his friends, and assist them in the combat. These creatures are also instructed to protect their flocks from the ravages of such wild animals as range the deserts in quest of food, and are tremendous in their conflicts with them. In many of these countries, oxen are so numerous, that one of the finest, not trained to war, may be frequently pur-

chased for a single *nail*, and a sheep given in exchange for a *glass bead* or a *bit of wire*.

It has been remarked by several intelligent Europeans, who have penetrated into the southern continent of Africa, that most of the hordes they visited were composed of people of great natural sagacity, and of an active and enterprising disposition. In civilizing these tribes, it would be necessary to take especial care, that all the European colonists, who have hitherto advanced into the interior, should be prevented from acting offensively against the natives, and that the new comers on the eastern and western coasts should purchase the lands they immediately occupied, from the native proprietors, and observe the same conduct as they proceeded into the country. In all their dealings with the savages (for so they are called) a most rigid attention should be observed; and as some of their communities are highly tenacious of female continence (although others are of a contrary disposition) all improper connexion with their women should be severely punished. Totally unacquainted with the use or management of fire-arms, they should be kept for some time in that state of happy ignorance, until, by a mutual intercourse with the Europeans, they become enlightened, and learning to cultivate the lands, establish a local habitation. To effect this desirable purpose, the utmost care should be also observed to

keep them unacquainted with every kind of spirit. Such of them as have already tasted these intoxicating poisons, will sell their all to possess them. Although in their dealings, they will frequently reject articles of real utility, such as iron, tobacco, &c. yet the moment a bottle of *rum* or *brandy* is produced, their resolution sinks, and a single glass is sure to conclude the bargain. The consequences are often dreadful; once intoxicated, they become really savage, and, despising danger, rush into enormities of the most tremendous description.

Throughout the greater part of the southern continent of Africa, which I have before delineated, the natives have no settled places for their residence.—They occasionally wander from place to place, as their necessities direct, and frequently commence hostilities with each other, for the possession of certain districts, where vegetation is more productive, and water contiguous. As they conceive all right to be derived from power only, the strongest hooorde takes possession, until they find it necessary to seek again some new habitation, or yield in their turn to a succeeding conqueror.

In this state of nature live a people that might be rendered civilized, and happily engaged in all the useful occupations of society. But I have heard, Sir, of a tribe of Africans, who inhabit the mountains of these parts, that are naturally so untractable

as to preclude all hope of their ever being induced to mingle with any society but their own.—These are denominated *Bosbis-men*, or *Men of the Woods*, and have been described by travellers, as vagrants of the different hordes, who after being expelled by their brethren for bad conduct, have united in the mountains, formed a community of their own, and rob, murder and desolate without distinction.

This account, Sir, is not entirely correct. The *Bosbis-men*, it is true, wage perpetual war with every horde, and plunder wherever they come. They are not, however, the outcasts of other tribes, but a *distinct race of men*. The Africans in general, at least such as came under my observation, are a tall, robust, active people. On the contrary, the *Bosbis-men* are perhaps the most diminutive race that have been yet discovered in any part of the world. They very seldom exceed four feet six inches in stature, but are as nimble and alert as their gazelles. In the day time, they generally keep in their *kraals* on the mountains; but at night, they descend in pursuit of plunder, frequently travel to a distance almost incredible, and return to their habitations before the morning dawn. Such a people should most certainly be exterminated, if not capable of civilization; but this idea arises from a total ignorance of the human character. *Man* is only a *savage from habit*; he is ever capable of

receiving instruction, and analysing in his own mind by the powers of his reason. Possessing the organs of speech, he can communicate his ideas; and when moulded by education, the *savage* is seen no more, but he enters into society with all those advantages which other men experience from instruction. To say, therefore, that any race of mortals are *naturally savage*, and of course not capable of enjoying the blessings of civilization, is a dogma arising from ignorance, or a want of due consideration.

The war now raging in Europe, may, for some time, prevent any settlement of the nature I have attempted to describe, from taking place. But it is probable, that when the nations are at rest, the government possessing the Cape of Good Hope, will direct its most serious attention to this settlement. At the present moment, the delightful country of *Caffraria*, and many of those situated on the western coast, are fairly open to American adventure, or to any other nation that may consider these countries as deserving their consideration. If the Cape be restored to the *Dutch*, a very different policy, from what they have hitherto observed, should be adopted. How far the late revolution, which has taken place in Holland, will change the national character of these people, and, by expanding their minds, teach them to found their commerce on the principles of *humanity* and *justice*, time alone

must discover. If, on the contrary, the Cape of Good Hope be ceded to the crown of England, I make no question but the British will soon establish colonies on the eastern and western coasts, which, in conjunction with their southern possession, must effectually shut out every other nation from interposing with that part of Africa.

At present, if we take a view of the general state of Europe, and in considering this subject, direct our attention more especially to England, we shall observe how essential to her future commerce, the colonizing and cultivating those parts must ultimately prove. The French Republic have accomplished an object which for centuries they have been attempting in vain, and which they conceive must, in the course of a very few years, give their trade a decided preference to that of England. They have conquered the *Belgic provinces*, and the Emperor hath ceded these countries for ever to the French Republic. *Antwerp*, the great depot of European commerce, about 250 years ago, looks proudly and confidently to a sudden resurrection; she was despoiled of her trade by shutting up the river that nature gave her; but the French, who have restored this navigation, exultingly declare, that by opening the *Scheldt*, they will shut the *Thames*. Without giving full credit to this expectation, we may reasonably suppose, that as most of the trade of London came

from Antwerp, much of it will return, and that the French, diffusing the spirit of commercial enterprise throughout the whole of their republic, may soon induce the English to look to Africa, as a new source of profitable speculation. I do not enter into the present avowed policy of both nations, that France and England must be either both monarchies, or both republics ; the sword, it is said, must determine this point ; but to whatever side the scale may preponderate, both France and England must still be trading nations, and foreign possessions their peculiar care.

The English have dependencies, particularly in the East, of immense extent, and they enjoy the advantages of a considerable population. But who can tell where the revolutionary principle that now makes such gigantic strides throughout the continent of Europe will stop at last ? If, from any unforeseen occurrence, the British settlements in India should become independent, their possessions in Africa would amply recompence the misfortune ; and, although such an event is not considered in England as within the scope of probability, yet I have seen in India what was sufficient to convince me that to guard against such a contingency, would, at this day, be a prudent measure in the British government.

Perhaps it may be observed, that when the spirit and disposition of the present times

are considered, England will not be induced to plant colonies in Africa, as such a measure might lay the foundation of a future independency formed on the principles of the representative system. I do not imagine, Sir, that any apprehension of this kind deserves, at present, a moment's consideration. What may happen, in the revolution of centuries, it is impossible to foretel; another Palmyra may be raised in Caffraria, and the deserts, now the habitations of the lion and the rhinoceros, may, in future ages, be the favorite seat of the muses, and vie with the ancient Balbeck in the magnificence of her palaces. But, Sir, these are possibilities which even the telescope of the mind can hardly distinguish. The same objections might be started against the British settlements in new South Wales, and with infinitely greater weight, as they are contiguous to their provinces in India; and, in time, may become one of the most powerful nations of the earth.

The Dutch colonists, I have before observed, menaced the government of the Cape in more instances than one, and have shewn a disposition to be freed from the Batavian yoke; but these colonists were, in the first instance, badly chosen, and afterwards as badly managed. Most of them were convicts from Holland, and when sent into the country bordering on the Cape, were in a great measure left to their own discretion.

To regulate the future conduct of these people, and prevent all depredations on the natives, it will be only necessary to place settlements on the eastern and western coasts, and establish a line of communication across this part of the continent. By these means the present colonists would be prevented from advancing into the interior, unless by permission of the government, and their conduct always subjected to the controul of the laws. In a few years the whole might form a regular establishment, and wisely conducted, would remain for centuries the most valuable possession of the crown of England.

I have hitherto, Sir, in the course of this address, principally considered the settlement of the Cape, and those countries which might be fairly obtained from the native proprietors, as containing within themselves all the means necessary to a most extensive and profitable traffick. But as they are situated in the neighbourhood of one of the largest and finest islands in the world, the African colonies become invaluable. It is perhaps unnecessary to observe, that I mean the island of Madagascar. This country, which is nearly 1,000 miles in length from North to South, and 300 in breadth, is situated not 350 miles from the S. E. coast of Africa, and abounds in *cattle, corn, fish, fowl*, and all those animals and vegetables found on that continent.

It has been a subject of much astonishment, that no European power hath as yet made a permanent settlement on the coast of this prolific country, or traded with the natives for scarcely any thing but slaves.—Now, Sir, what a scene is here displayed to the genius and commercial spirit of the English. If they retain the Cape of Good Hope, they at once command the island of Madagascar ; and that a most extensive commerce may arise from the joint co-operation of the two countries, under the controul of a liberal and enlightened government, is a fact that admits of no doubt or controversy whatever.

By endeavouring to explain the advantages, that, in my opinion, would arise to the States of America from a settlement in Africa, I have done no more than what I conceive to be my duty.—Born in that country, I feel the predominant impulse of our common nature, that gives the heart an interest in all that concerns its native home. But, Sir, as I have been apprehensive that you would consider a settlement of this description as a measure which American policy forbids, I have likewise directed my observations to the English nation, whose prosperity has ever had a second place in my affections. Their ministers seem to understand the value of their late conquest in Africa ; and therefore, it is to be supposed, will struggle hard to preserve it. On this

occasion, I will venture an assertion (which I know, in the estimation of some people, will be considered as stretching beyond the bounds of probability) that if England, on the termination of hostilities, relinquishes all her other conquests, and although she hath expended during the last five years, two hundred millions in the prosecution of her contest with the French Republic, still, if she preserves the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, she will ultimately be a gainer by the war.

I am now, Sir, to describe those scenes of horror and misfortune which threw me and my people on the shores of Caffraria, as well as those which succeeded on our travel through the deserts. The narrative will form a melancholy detail; but I have been invited to publish it, and I have acquiesced from a belief, that some useful information may be derived from a genuine description of the natives and their country. It is not improbable but some, either from curiosity or policy, may in a short time visit these regions; and others may be thrown, like myself, on their coasts naked and defenceless. To remove, therefore, such prejudices as have arisen from the extravagant and deceptive tales of those travellers who have represented the natives as monsters, that delight only in human slaughter, becomes a duty, as it may encourage future adventurers in their pursuits, and relieve the unfortunate from unnecessary apprehensions.

Such are the leading motives that direct my present conduct ; and when I contemplate the known features of your mind and character, I indulge the pleasing hope of being honoured with your attention and approbation.

I am, Sir,

With the utmost deference

And veneration,

Your ever faithful servant,

THE AUTHOR.

London, 20th November, 1797.

NARRATIVE
OF THE LOSS OF THE
SHIP HERCULES, &c.

CHAPTER I.

Sailing of the Ship Hercules from Sagar-roads in the province of Bengal.—Description of the Tempest.—Dreadful situation of the ship.—Second mate and three men ordered into the long boat.—Raft prepared.—Carpenter and sailors address the Captain.—Remarkable instance of prejudice and intrepidity in a Lascar.—The Captain holds a consultation with his officers.—Determines, if possible, to run the ship on the eastern coast of Africa.

THE American ship HERCULES, which I commanded, and whose fate will be described in the succeeding Narrative, arrived at Bengal about the month of December, 1795. My intention was to take in a private freight for Hamburgh, but not finding one that would answer my expectations, I chartered my ship to the British

East-India Company, who were at that time busily employed in shipping rice for England. Intelligence having reached the settlements in India, that a failure of corn throughout the whole of Great-Britain was likely to produce a famine, the most active and laudable exertions were made in India to supply the markets at home with rice ; and I received on board upwards of *nine thousand bags*, with directions to proceed to London with every possible dispatch. The crew, most of which I engaged in India, consisted of *Americans, Danes, Swedes, Dutch, Portuguese*, but chiefly *Lascars*, amounting in the whole, men and boys, to about sixty-four persons. The necessary arrangements for the voyage being completed, I sailed from Sagar-roads on the 17th of March, 1796.

Nothing material occurred during the voyage, until the first of June following, at which time we reached the Latitude of about 35. South, and 28. 40. East Longitude. It then began to blow a gale from the westward, and which obliged us to lay too under our mizen stay sail for about six days.— During this time, the gale continued to blow from the West, but increased progressively until the seventh, when the contentions of the sea and winds presented a scene of horror ; which, perhaps, the annals of marine history give us no example. Although bred to the sea from my earliest life, yet all I had ever seen before, all I had ever heard of or read, gave me no adequate

idea of those sublime effects which the violence and raging of the elements produce, and which, at this tremendous hour, seemed to threaten nature itself with dissolution. The ship raised on mountains of water, was in a moment precipitated into an abyss, where she appeared to wait until the coming sea raised her again into the clouds. The perpetual roaring of the elements echoing through the void, produced such an awful sensation in the minds of the most experienced of the seamen, that several of them appeared for some time in a state of stupefaction; and those less accustomed to the dangers of the sea, added to this scene of misery by their shriekings and exclamations.

The terrors of the day could only be surpassed by those of the night.—When the darkness came on, it is impossible for man to describe, or human imagination to conceive a scene of more transcendant and complicated horror. To fill up the measure of our calamities, about the hour of midnight, a sudden shift of wind threw the ship into the trough of the sea, which struck her aft, tore away the rudder, started the stern post from the hauden ends, and shattered the whole of her stern frame. The pumps were immediately sounded; and in the course of a few minutes, the water had increased to *four feet*. I immediately ordered one gang to work the pumps, and the remainder were employed in getting up rice out of the run of the ship, and heaving it overboard, in

order, if possible, to get at the leak. After three or four hundred bags were thrown into the sea, we got at the principal leak, and found the water pouring into her with astonishing rapidity. In order therefore to decrease as much as possible the influx of water, we thrust into the aperture, sheets, shirts, jackets, bales of muslin, and every thing of the like description we could find. Had not these exertions been attended with some success, the ship must certainly have gone down, although our pumps delivered fifty tons of water in an hour.

These pumps, to the excellent construction of which I owe my life, were made by Mr. MANN, of London, and I mention his name on this occasion, not only as a testimony of my sincere esteem, but for the purpose of recommending such useful talents to the general attention and encouragement of the community.

As the next day advanced, the weather appeared to moderate. The men worked incessantly at the pumps, and every exertion was made to keep the ship afloat. We were at this time about two hundred miles from the eastern coast of Africa.

On the ninth, although the violence of the tempest had in a great measure subsided, yet the swell of the sea was tremendous. I ordered, however, the long-boat to be got out ; but having reason to suspect that some of the crew would endeavour to make off with her, I directed my second mate and

three seamen to take possession of her. I gave them arms, and also express orders to shoot the first man who attempted to board her without my permission.—I also instructed them to keep afloat, but to stick by the ship until we came to an anchor.

The men having taken their stations in the boat, I ordered a raft to be made of all the large spars, which was accordingly done. The whole when lashed together measured about 35 feet in length, and 15 in breadth. As I apprehended the ship could not make the land, and was convinced, in case of her going down, that all the people could not be received into the long-boat, I determined not to neglect any measure that presented even a chance of saving the whole.

When my second mate was preparing to obey my orders and take command of the long-boat, the carpenter requested me earnestly to leave the ship.—On my reprimanding him for not attending to the pumps, the man burst into tears, and declared, that the whole of the stern frame was shook and loosened in such a manner, that he expected every hour she would go down. The miserable appearance of this man, and the affecting tone of voice in which he delivered his apprehensions, I perceived had already increased the terrors of the crew. I therefore told him, that I would perform my duty, and stick to the ship until I was convinced from my own observation that all hope of saving her was at an end.—He repeated his

solicitations, and I then commanded him to leave me, assuring him at the same time, that unless he made every exertion to encourage the people in their duty, and immediately go himself to the pumps, I would, however painful to my feelings, have him thrown into the sea. He retired, and exerted himself afterwards with a manly perseverance.

I was immediately addressed on the departure of the carpenter by many of the sailors, and on the same subject.—They were so clamorous, and differed so much in their opinions, that I was nearly going to extremes with some of them.

I mention these circumstances as a caution to future navigators, who are entrusted with a command. They too frequently listen to the opinions of their people in time of danger, who are generally for quitting the ship and taking to boats, masts, yards and spars formed into rafts, or whatever timbers they can lash together ; indeed, as the prejudices and sentiments of the common sailors on these occasions are so various, it is not to be supposed that any thing can arise, from such a mistaken conduct, but confusion and misfortune.

A crew, such as mine, composed of people of various nations, require indeed from their commander a peculiar attention. It may happen, that by humouring their *religious prejudices* at a particular moment, an essential service may be obtained ; and as

the following remarkable anecdote tends to elucidate this opinion, I will state the circumstances precisely as they occurred.

At a period when the tempest raged with the utmost violence, I had directed most of the crew below, particularly the Lascars, to work the pumps. One of them, however, I perceived coming up the gang way with a handkerchief in his hand; and on my enquiring what he was about, he told me, and in a tone of voice that discovered a perfect confidence in the measure he proposed, that he was going to make an offering to his God. "This handkerchief," said he, "contains a certain quantity of rice, and all the rupees I am worth; suffer me to lash it to the mizen-top, and rely upon it, Sir, we shall all be saved."—I was going to order him back again to the pumps; but recollecting that in so doing I might throw both him and his countrymen into a state of despondency, and thereby lose the benefits of their exertions, I acquiesced. The Lascar thanked me, and I soon beheld this child of prejudice mount the tottering ladder without discovering a single apprehension. He lashed the handkerchief to the mizen-top-mast-head, fearless of all danger, and arrived in safety on the deck. After assuring me *his God* was now my friend, he went below to inform his brethren, that he had done his duty; all the Lascars seemed transported with joy, embraced their virtuous companion, and then laboured at the pumps

with as much alacrity and perseverance, as if they had encountered, before, neither apprehension nor fatigue. To their unceasing labours, I owe in a great measure the preservation of my people.

The shift of wind which threw the ship into the trough of the sea, and tore away the rudder, was fortunately but a squall of short duration, not continuing above a quarter of an hour. Had it lasted but a little longer, the ship must have been torn to pieces. The wind came round to its former quarter, and moderated gradually.

After the long boat had been delivered to the care of my second mate, and the raft completed, I held a consultation with my officers, and they were all decidedly of opinion, that it was impossible to save the ship, and that we had no other chance to preserve our lives, than to make the land and run her on shore.

The people, when informed of the issue of this consultation, appeared to work with renovated spirits. We kept up this disposition by assuring them we should soon be within sight of land, and that by constantly working at the pumps, the ship would be kept afloat, until we reached the shore.

The ship for some time being unmanageable, frequently standing with her head from the land, which all our efforts could not prevent, I got a rudder made out of the top-mast, and fixed in the place of the one we had lost; but it was found of little

use without the help of the long-boat, which I ordered therefore to be hauled athwart the stern, and this served, although with the greatest difficulty, to get her head towards the shore, the wind being variable from the eastward. A cable could have been got out, that might have answered tolerably well to steer the ship; but the people could not be spared from the pumps to attend rousing in on the tackles, or guise, as occasion might require.

On the evening, however, of the 15th, we discovered land, at about six leagues distance. All on board at this moment expressed their joy in shouts and acclamations. The ship still kept nearing the shore with five feet water in her hold.

On the 16th, in the morning, being then about two miles from the land, and the wind from the westward, I ordered the anchor to be let go, that a last effort might be made to stop the leaks, and, if possible, save the ship.

But her stern was shattered in such a manner, that, after holding another consultation with my officers, it was finally resolved to run the ship on the coast then opposite to us. Another gale threatened us, and no time was to be lost.

I immediately ordered my second mate, who was in the boat, to come on board, and I then delivered into his custody the ship's register, and all the papers of conse-

quence I had. After providing him and his three men with water and provisions, I ordered him into the boat again, with directions to keep in the offing ; and that after we had run the ship on shore, provided we got safe to land, I would search for some inlet into which he might run with safety. I desired him also to look out for signals which would be occasionally thrown out from the shore to direct his course. He faithfully promised to obey my instructions, and then returned to his boat.

CHAPTER II.

Ship run on shore on the Coast of Caffraria.—Dreadful situation of the crew.—Their manner of landing described.—Their reception by the natives. Some curious and interesting particulars respecting Captain Coxson, commander of the Grosvenor, lost on the same coast, in 1782, and of several of his people, particularly a Lady, who is now living with a Caffree Chief.

WE were now on the coast of *Caffraria*, within a few leagues where the river *Infanta* disembogues itself into the sea.

A dreadful crisis approached, and we agreed to meet it with becoming fortitude. I therefore gave directions to let the head sail, to heave the spring well taut, in order to get her head towards the shore, and then to cut the cable and the spring. My orders were obeyed with the greatest promptitude.

After running until within something less than half a mile of the shore, *she struck* on a cluster of rocks. The swell at this moment was tremendous; and from the ship's thumping so violently it was scarcely possible for the men to hold on. In this situation she remained for about three or four minutes, when a sea took her over the rocks, and carried her about a cable's length nearer the shore where she again struck, and kept heaving in with a dreadful surf, which every moment made a break over her.

The lashings, that held the raft, having given way, and the spars carried to a considerable distance from the ship, we lost all hope from that quarter.—At length, one of the crew, who was a black, plunged into the waves, and by exertions which seemed more than human, gained and seated himself on the raft.—He scarcely remained in that situation for ten minutes, when the whole was turned over, and the man completely enveloped in the sea. In a few moments, however, we perceived him in his former seat. Again he endured a similar misfortune; and a third succeeded.—Still he buckled the waves, and gained the raft, until at length, after suffering two hours of fatigue, which, until then, I could not possibly imagine human nature could survive, he drifted on shore.

The natives, who had kindled several fires, appeared in great numbers on the shore. They were mostly clothed in skins, armed with spears, and accompanied by a vast number of dogs. A party of them seized the man who had landed, and conducted him behind the sand-hills that line the coast, and which hid him entirely from our view.

Twelve of my people now launched themselves on different spars, and whatever pieces of timber they could find. They braved all difficulties, and at last gained the land. No sooner had they reached the beach, than the natives came down, seized and conducted them also behind the sand-hills. As it was

impossible for us, who remained on board, to discover what they were about, and observing several parties of the natives appear at different times on the shore, but unaccompanied by any of my people, we conceived that all those who had landed were massacred, and that a similar calamity awaited the whole of us. We, who had remained on board the ship, were obliged to shelter ourselves in the fore-castle, as the wreck, becoming a fixed object, the sea made over her, and there was no other part where we could remain, even for a moment, in a state of security.

During the whole of the night, all was uncertainty. Some were of opinion, that, to avoid being tortured by the savages, perhaps thrown into the fires we had perceived on shore, it would be more advisable to resign ourselves to a watery element, as in that situation we should only endure a few struggles, and then life would be no more. Others entertained different sentiments, and were for making the shore in as compact a body as possible : “ We shall then,” said they, “ attack the savages with *stones*, or whatever we can find.” This was overruled as a measure impracticable ; there was no possibility of six men keeping together, but if such a number could, by a miracle, get on shore without being divided, the natives could destroy them in a moment with their spears. The whole of this miserable night

was spent in such consultations ; and as the next sun was to light us to our fate, we trembled at his approaching the horizon.

When the day appeared, we looked towards the shore ; but not an individual was to be seen. Distraction was now visible in every countenance, and what death to choose the principal consideration.

At length, about the hour of nine in the morning, the scene changed in a moment. A delirium of extacy succeeded, which no pencil can portray, no being can conceive, but those who beheld it. All the people who had landed the day before, were observed making towards the shore ; and we soon perceived them beckoning and inviting us to land. In a few minutes, every spar, grating, and piece of timber that could be procured, were afloat, and completely occupied ; some with two people, others with more, according to its size. I immediately stripped off my shirt, put on a short-jacket, wrapt a shawl round my waist, in the corner of which I put a gold watch, and, keeping my breeches on, seized a spar, and launched into the sea. For nearly three quarters of an hour I preserved my hold, and drifted towards the shore. Sometimes I was cast so near, as to touch the rocks with my feet, then hurried away to a considerable distance ; again I was precipitated forward, and in a moment afterwards carried off by the returning sea. At length a

sudden jerk occasioned by the swell, strained both my arms, and I was compelled to quit the spar. At this instant although a considerable distance from the beach, a wave that was proceeding rapidly towards the shore, bore me along, and in a few moments cast me senseless on the sands. My people, who were on shore observed my situation; they ran down, and, snatching me from the danger of the coming waves, bore me to a place of security. I was insensible at this time, but soon revived, as they placed me near a fire, and used every means in their power for my recovery.

The first subject of my enquiry, when my faculties returned, was, of course, the fate of my unfortunate crew; and I enjoyed the heartfelt pleasure of beholding them all around me, except those in the long-boat, and one man, who perished near the shore.

I then addressed myself to the natives, but on this occasion I laboured under the difficulty of not being understood. I knew nothing of their language, and for some time I endeavoured to explain myself by *signs*. Fortunately there was a Hottentot present, who had lived with the Dutch farmers, and could speak their language. My third mate was a Dutchman, and these served as interpreters.

This difficulty being happily removed, I endeavoured by every means in my power to secure the friendship of the natives. I

thanked them in the name of my whole crew, and on the part of my nation, for the liberal and humane assistance they had afforded us in the hour of our misfortune, and solicited their future kindness and support.

This being as I conceived at no great distance from the spot where the GROSVENOR was lost in 1782, I inquired of the natives, whether any of them remembered such a catastrophe. Most of them answered in the affirmative, and, ascending one of the sand-hills, pointed to the place where the Grosvenor suffered.

I then desired to know of them, whether they had received any certain accounts, respecting the fate of *Captain Coxson*, who commanded the Grosvenor, and who was proceeding on his way to the Cape, with several men and women passengers, who were saved from the wreck. They answered, that *Captain Coxson* and the men were slain. One of the chiefs having insisted on taking *two* of the *white ladies* to his *kraal*, the Captain and his people resisted, and not being armed, were immediately destroyed. The natives at the same time gave me to understand, that at the period the Grosvenor was wrecked, their nation was at war with the colonists; and as the Captain and his crew were whites, they could not tell, provided they had reached the christian farms, but they would assist the colonists in the war. This affected my situation so directly, that

I desired to know on what terms the *Cassrees* and the *colonists* then stood.——“We are *friends*,” said they, “and it will be their fault if we are not always so.”

This answer relieved me from a very serious embarrassment ; but the fate of the two unfortunate ladies gave me so much uneasiness, that I most earnestly requested of them to tell me all they knew of their situation ; whether they were alive or dead ; and if living, in what part of the country they were situated. They replied, and with apparent concern, that one of the ladies had died a short time after her arrival at the *kraal* ; but they understood the other was living, and had several children by the chief. —“*Where she now is,*” said they, “*we know not.*”

After I had received every possible information on this melancholy subject, we employed ourselves principally during the remainder of the day in assisting the natives to save whatever came on shore from the wreck. When they got a piece of timber, they placed it immediately on the fire as the readiest method of procuring the iron, and which they sought after with the most persevering diligence.

When night came on, the natives retired, and we were left to sleep under the sand-hills, without covering and without food. The weather was boisterous, the wind blowing hard from the westward, and the cold severe. We therefore consulted in

what manner we should dispose of ourselves until the morning, and we at length resolved, that some of us should keep watch during the night, and the rest place themselves near the fire, and, if possible, obtain a little rest.

The night passed without any of us enjoying a moment of repose.—Our bodies on one side were heated by the fire ; but the cold chilled the other in such a manner, as to render the pain hardly supportable. The sand, driven by the winds in prodigious quantities, filled our eyes, ears and mouths, as we lay under the banks, and kept us in perpetual motion.—We likewise entertained apprehensions respecting the natives. I had in the course of the day requested them to assist in preparing for our journey towards the colonies ; but they received these solicitations, as I thought, with coolness, and did not seem willing to part with us so soon. Perplexed with these suspicions, and suffering the most disagreeable inconveniences from our situation, we waited the approach of morn with the most impatient solicitude.

CHAPTER III.

The Caffree Chief presents a bullock to the crew.—The Captain gives him a pair of paste knee-buckles, and hangs them to his ears.—The Savage highly pleased.—The Captain's interesting conversation with the Chief, about the existence of a Deity.—Former accounts respecting their opinion on the subject refuted.—The Caffrees procure several shirts, jackets and trowsers from the wreck.—Do not know how to put them on.—Instructed by the Captain and his people.—The Caffrees suspected of having an intention to massacre or detain the crew.

AT length day appeared, and the Caffrees returned in greater numbers. Their Chief knowing we were in want of food, brought us a bullock, which they immediately slaughtered by knocking the animal on the head with clubs, and penetrating its sides with their spears. It was skinned almost in a moment, and they cut it up in lumps, which they placed on the fire to singe rather than to roast, and then devoured their respective shares with the highest satisfaction. The beast, as it was given to us, it might be supposed, would be left for our disposal; but the Caffrees were hungry, and they knew nothing of European etiquette. It is true, they presented the bullock to us as a donation; but they saw no reason why they should not dispose of the greater part of it.

On cutting up the animal, I observed they paid a more than ordinary attention to the paunch. Several of the Caffrees laid violent hands on it ; and after giving it a shake for the purpose of emptying the contents, they tore the greater part in slips with their teeth, and swallowed the whole as it came warm from the beast.

Our meal such as it was, being finished, we proceeded to the shore, and I observed the long-boat at a considerable distance. We threw out signals but could not perceive that they were observed. The ship was dividing very fast, and the gale increasing ; many things were therefore cast on shore, which the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring. A *cask*, however was thrown on the beach, at the sight of which I confess all my apprehensions were redoubled. It contained *sixty gallons of rum*, a quantity sufficient to have intoxicated the whole of the natives, although they amounted to at least 300. I had heard of their fondness for such liquors, and dreaded the consequences of their being inebriated. The only way left, was to steal to the spot where the cask lay, and stave in the head without being perceived by them. This I happily accomplished, and they afterwards stripped the vessel of the iron hoops, without discovering what I had done, or what it formerly contained.

In the general search on the shore, one of the Caffrees had picked up the ship's com-

pals. Not knowing what it was, yet pleased with its formation, he delivered it to the Chief, who immediately took it to pieces ; and after contemplating the various parts, took the copper-ring in which it hung, and suspended it from his neck. He appeared highly pleased with the ornament ; and this circumstance, induced me to present him with one still more *glittering*, and of course, in his estimation, more *valuable*. Recollecting that I wore a pair of paste knee-buckles, I took them out, and after having prepared two loops, I hung one upon each of his ears. The moment this was done, the Chief stalked about with an air of uncommon dignity. His people seemed to pay him greater reverence than before, and they were employed for some time in gazing at the brilliancy of the ornaments, and contemplating the *august* deportment of their *chief magistrate*. The European may smile at this recital ; the exhibition of my *knee-buckles* may indeed provoke his risibility ; but when he treats the feelings of the *savage* on this occasion with contempt, let him bestow a thought on the *star*, the *garter* or the *coronet*, and then make a sensible distinction if he can.

As this donation gave me a powerful interest with the chief, I resolved, during my stay with the Caffrees, to procure every possible information respecting the customs, manners and opinions of these people. Some

travellers have reported, that the natives of Caffraria are the only Savages on the southern continent of Africa who entertain any idea of a Supreme Being. Others have asserted, that *all* the inhabitants of these regions, are totally ignorant not only of such an existence, but are also strangers to any opinion respecting a future state.

To be convinced how the matter really stood, I embraced the present opportunity, and entered into conversation on this subject with the chief, through the medium of our interpreters. After giving him a further description of the tempest, and the miseries we had so recently endured, I added, "that, as it was the pleasure of the *Almighty* to afflict his creatures, it would be impious in us to repine at his will."—The *savage*, after some consideration, declared, he did not understand what I meant by the *Almighty*. I explained to him my ideas of the Divinity. That he was a Being of such transcendent power, as to create the *world* on which we lived, the *sun*, *moon* and *stars*; and that they all moved and were directed by his hand. His countenance on this occasion demonstrated that his mind was a perfect void respecting such opinions; but after a few moments of reflection, he asked, if the Being I had described, possessed a power sufficient to controul the *seas* and the *winds*? I answered immediately in the affirmative. Then, said he, "can you tell me his

reasons for suffering the tempest to throw you and your people on our coast?" I replied, that his reasons for so doing were above our comprehensions ; but that, as he was not only all-powerful, but just, we should remain satisfied that all his acts were good and beneficent. When this was explained to the Chief, I observed a *smile* on his countenance ; but starting, as if a sudden and hostile thought had seized his mind, he desired to know, if *my Almighty* could "tame the *wild animals* of the deserts?" I replied, that he certainly could. "If this be true ! exclaimed the *savage*, he must be a very wicked Being, for he suffered a LION to *kill* and *eat* my FATHER." As I had obtained the information I wanted, and observing the passions of the man highly agitated at the recollection of his father's melancholy fate, I thought it necessary to change the conversation, and we immediately proceeded towards the shore.

The principal part of my people, and most of the Caffres, were employed during this conversation on the beach ; and I had the satisfaction to observe, they had procured several pair of trowsers, many shirts, jackets, pieces of timber, and some cordage. I had before picked up *four shirts* and a pair of trowsers, which I then wore. The natives seemed highly pleased with their new habiliments, but they did not know how to put them on. Some had placed the hind part

of the shirt before, and others had done the same with the jackets and the trowsers. The moment I perceived their mistake, I went up to one of the Caffrees, who was endeavouring to button the collar of a shirt behind, and adjusted his dress. My people did the like with several others; and these civil attentions pleased them so much, that for some time all was merriment, dancing, singing, and good humour.

Their revels being ended, I again addressed the Chief on the subject of our departure. I requested he would send a guide with us through the deserts to the first christian settlement, and that nothing should be wanting on my part to recompense his kindness. He paused for a moment, and then very coolly replied, that he would gratify my wishes. I begged to know the time when he would suffer us to depart. He gravely answered, "when I consider that matter you shall be made acquainted with my determination." These answers I own alarmed me. The countenance of the savage appeared to discover some hostile measure that was lurking in his mind; and yet his former conduct was so liberal and humane, that I had no just grounds for suspecting his integrity. I perceived, however, the natives consulting together in parties, and from their gestures we could not interpret anything favourable to our wishes. What still added to our uneasiness, was their abrupt

departure. When the day was drawing to a close, they disappeared, and left us to rest under the sand-hills, as on the former night.

We recruited our fires with some timber from the wreck, and then placed sentinels as before. The wind blowing hard from the same quarter, we were again tormented with clouds of sand, and a chilling atmosphere. June being one of their winter months, we had to encounter the severities of the season. It was impossible to shift our quarters, as we could not procure timber to light new fires, and the Caffrees might be displeased at our not remaining in our former situation. The night passed in consultations and gloomy predictions. I told my people not to do any act that might have the least tendency to displease the natives; to give them every thing they asked for, as the inhabitants of these deserts were only to be dreaded when provoked. But, at the same time, if contrary to our expectation they made an attack, or endeavoured to detain us after a certain time, then I hoped we should firmly unite, and either force our way or perish in the conflict.

My people heard me with great attention, and faithfully promised to observe my directions.

When the sun made his appearance, we mounted the most elevated of the sand-hills to look out for the long-boat; but she was

not to be discovered in any direction.—In a short time we perceived the Caffrees advancing. Most of them had assaygays in their hands ; others furnished with clubs ; some were decorated with ostrich feathers, and their Chief wearing a leopard skin, with my knee-buckles suspended as before. They saluted us in a very friendly manner, and we accompanied them to the beach. The wind had increased during the night, and several parts of the ship came on shore. One of my people had picked up a hand-saw, and as he perceived the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring iron, he hid it in the sands.—This was a valuable acquisition, and became of infinite service to us in the course of our proceedings.

CHAPTER IV.

The natives in a sham fight shew their manœuvrings in battle.—Manner of throwing the assaygay described.—The long-boat and crew never seen or heard of more.—Cassree Chief consents to their departure.—Provides them with guides.—Conducts them to a brook of fresh water which ran through the hollow of a sequestered wood.—Apprehensions of the crew respecting the Cassrees described.—Natives and the crew remain together all night in the hollow.—Fresh alarms.—Cassree Chief presents the Captain on the next day with another bullock.—The departure of the crew on the ensuing morning, and the kind behaviour of the natives on that occasion described.

HAVING secured all we could obtain at present from the wreck, I requested the Chief to order some of his people to shew me how they used their ASSAYGAYS. This is a spear of about four feet six inches in length, made of an elastic wood, and pointed with iron, which they contrive to poison so effectually that if it wounds either man or beast, death is the inevitable consequence.

My wishes were immediately gratified. They first placed a block of wood on the ground, and then retired about seventy yards from the spot where it lay. The chief then told me, I would now behold their manner of fighting when engaged in battle. These compliances, as they seemed to remove my former suspicions, gave me great

satisfaction. A party of about thirty began their manœuvrings. They first ran to a considerable distance; then fell, as if motionless, on the ground; in a moment they started up, divided, joined again, and ran in a compact body to the spot from whence they originally set out. After halting for about a minute, they let fly a shower of assay-gays at the mark, and with a precision that was truly astonishing. After several exhibitions that displayed a wonderful dexterity in the management of the assaygay, they came up smiling to where we stood, as if they wished us to deliver our sentiments on what we had just seen. I applauded their courage, their conduct, and their agility, and assured them, that *when I reached the Cape*, I would represent them all to the Governor as a people that deserved every consideration and encouragement. When this was interpreted to the Chief, I looked him steadily in the face, that I might observe what effect it produced. He observed only, and with great composure, *that he understood the Cape was at a prodigious distance*. I did not think it prudent to press him so soon again on the subject of our departure. I therefore requested he would suffer me to throw an assaygay, and I had the honour of receiving one of his own for the experiment. I appeared such a novice to the Savages on this occasion, that the Chief instructed me how to throw it with effect. This is done

By giving a trembling motion to the wrist, and as the shaft quivers, it is delivered by a sudden jerk, aided by every strength the arm can afford. I improved so much on the second trial, that I had the honour of a smile from my preceptor, who appeared to say, *if you continue with us, we will make you an adept.*

Not a word more passed this day about our departure. The natives retired as usual on the approach of night, and we to our sand-hills. All were employed to gather wood for our fires; and after procuring a sufficient quantity, we stretched ourselves on the ground, and in spite of *wind, sand and cold*, slept until the morning.

When day appeared, we were again all employed in looking out for the long-boat; but she was not to be seen.—We began now to despair of ever hearing of her again.—Indeed our worst predictions were afterwards fulfilled, for we never heard of or saw her more.

The Caffrees did not visit us this day until the sun had proceeded two hours in his course; but at length they came.—As little now was to be procured from the wreck, I begged the Chief to inform me, if he had appointed a guide for us, as I proposed taking my departure on the *next day*. “I shall furnish you with *two*,” said he. These joyful tidings were delivered with so much frankness, that my mind was relieved at once from all apprehension and suspicion.

Desirous of having the Hottentot who served us as an interpreter to accompany us through the deserts, I gave the Chief to understand how much the services of this man would not only contribute to our pleasure, but our safety. The *honest savage*, however, had anticipated my wishes; he had previously mentioned it to the Hottentot, who had consented to proceed with us to the first christian farm. Another of the tribe, who was better acquainted with the country, had likewise agreed to be of the party; and this information which I communicated to my people, diffused a general joy and satisfaction.

After assuring the Chief and the Caffrees in general of my unalterable friendship, and that our guides should be rewarded to the extent of their wishes, I told him we had endured great distress for want of water, and begged to know where we could procure some. "I will conduct you," said he, "to a spring of excellent water; it is not far from this place; and, if you think proper, we will proceed directly to the spot."—No sooner was the proposal made than we set out; the Caffrees singing and dancing as they proceeded, and my people, although not without suspicion, in tolerable spirits.

After travelling westward about four miles through a delightful country, we came at last to a wood, in the bosom of which we perceived a hollow. The Caffrees descend-

ed first, and when we all arrived at the bottom, the Chief pointed to the brook. We drank of the water and found it delicious. Our thirst being allayed, we looked about us, and from the dismal appearance of the place, our fears were again renewed. My people were mostly of opinion, that nothing less was intended by the Caffrees than to massacre the whole party in this sequestered place ; that we were decoyed here for that purpose ; and that every man should prepare to defend his life. I endeavoured to quiet their apprehensions, and at last succeeded.

The Caffrees having told us we had better remain here during the night, we began to prepare wood for our fires. All hands went to work, and by the assistance of our hand-saw, we procured some dry trees and under-wood that afforded us a very comfortable fire. One of the Hottentots who was so rich as to possess a tinder-box, struck a light ; and this accommodation being not only highly useful but unexpected, gave new spirits to the whole of my people.

The natives, as the night came on, did not retire as usual to their kraal. This gave a fresh alarm to my men ; and although I endeavoured to calm their apprehensions by every means in my power, still I confess their uneasiness did not appear to be without some cause. We were obliged however, situated as we then were, to abide the event, and we

prepared for the worst that could happen. Our watch was set as formerly ; but the *Cassrees* huddling together, were soon lost in sleep. This place, however dismal in its appearance, afforded us tolerable shelter for the night ; we were no longer troubled with clouds of sand, and the severities of the wind and cold were mitigated by the friendly shade afforded us by the trees.

We were roused by the savages as the sun appeared, and we departed from this supposed Golgotha in tolerable spirits. We had, however, consumed the last pound of our bullock before we left the sand-hills, and our party began to dread an approaching famine. I mentioned the distress of my people to the Chief, and he promised to relieve us. We had journeyed but a few miles when the *Cassrees* told us we must remain where we were that night. We accordingly set to work to procure fire-wood, and had scarcely completed this necessary business, when the Chief presented us with *another bullock*. It was soon dispatched, skinned, cut into pieces of about four pounds each, and we then proceeded to dress them as provision for our journey. This was a business of so much importance, that most of the day was spent in accomplishing it.

The night passed with less apprehension than before, and when the morning came, we prepared for our departure.

The moment now arrived when the real intentions of the Caffrees were to be developed. The natives came about us, and assisted in dividing the provisions. Each man was to carry his own stock, which amounted to about three or four pound of beef; this with some biscuits, which a few of my people contrived to preserve from the wreck, was to serve us until we reached a christian settlement. So far from any appearance of hostility, the natives seemed to view our departure with regret. I took the Chief by the hand, and thanked him for his great and friendly attentions to me and my unfortunate crew; assuring him at the same time, that if I survived the journey, it would ever be my first consideration to render him and his people some essential service. He thanked me, and then requested I would tell the colonists our ship was lost at sea, and so distant from the land, that no part of her could possibly reach the shore. He also desired me to place the utmost confidence in my guides, as they would certainly direct me for the best. After my people and the natives had exchanged some mutual civilities, we parted, and gave one another a last and affectionate adieu.

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CHAPTER V.

Description of the country near the wreck.—Genuine character of the Tambouchis delineated.—Cause of the last war between the Colonists and Caffrees explained.—Why the Tambouchis did not suffer the crew to depart sooner.—Their reasons.—Narrative continued.—Crew destitute of shoes.—Countries through which they passed described.—Alarming situation of the party at night.—Not molested by the animals of the deserts.

BEFORE I proceed in this Narrative, I will endeavour to give the reader some idea of the country that lay before us when we landed on the beach ; a few traits likewise of the general character of the natives, and explain their motives for not suffering us to depart until the fourth day ; and which for some time, appeared so ambiguous, as to give both me and my people the most serious inquietude.

During our miserable abode under the sand-hills, we frequently contemplated the scene before us. Nearly as far as the eye could travel, we beheld a country finely wooded, and considering the season which was their winter, producing a most bountiful vegetation. Their cattle appeared in such prodigious numbers as to baffle calculation ; and their condition, which was equal to the best fed oxen in Great-Britain, clearly demonstrated the richness of their pasturage. Sheep were not to be discovered, nor

could we perceive the most distant traces of agricultural labour.

The country in our view was of an immense extent, yet surrounded by a chain of hills that appeared to contain the fountains of those numerous rivulets which glided through the plain in a variety of directions. The *mimosa* tree appeared native to the soil, and the woods were so beautifully interspersed, as to give the lands all the appearance of a plantation originally designed by art, and afterwards perfected by the hand of elegance. In my opinion, the whole wanted nothing but villages, corn and inhabitants, to render this spot an enviable abode for the most enlightened and luxurious of our countrymen.

The natives who received us on the shore, and whose humanity we experienced in the hour of our misfortune, are a *Caffree* tribe, known by the appellation of *Tambouchis* or *Tambuckees*. They have been described as the most *ferocious*, *vindictive* and *detestable* class of beings that inhabit the vast and fertile territory of *Caffraria*, not yielding even to the *Boshis-men*, in every act of massacre, inhumanity and devastation.

A calumny so undeserved, so atrocious, and possibly so mischievous in its tendency, I cannot suffer to pass without censure and contradiction; nor can I at this moment reflect on the genuine character of these people, without considering their calumniators as a banditti of *christian* russians, who pro-

pagate these slanders for the purpose of covering their enormities ; and which, if not stopt by the hand of power must eventually lead to a total extirpation of a harmless and unoffending race. Had they really been *savages*, and felt like their *christian persecutors*, “ no compunctious visitings of nature,” they would have destroyed the whole of my unfortunate crew, and this massacre might have been perpetrated without the natives running even the hazard of a punishment. The clothing of my people, although of little value in a country of trade and civilization, would have been to them a most important acquisition, or they could have gratified, nay, even *satiated* cruelty, by stripping and leaving us naked to all the horrors of the wilderness, a prey to famine, or the wild and ferocious animals of the deserts. But these humane, yet *calumniated savages*, FELT AS MEN whose souls were truly affected at our misfortunes, and acting from the virtuous impulse of their nature, voluntarily gave to the unhappy, *consolation* and *support*. We were mostly *whites*, but still they were our friends. The black and voluminous catalogue of miseries, which they and their progenitors had so long endured from *savages* of our colour, faded at once on their remembrance when they beheld our distresses.—Such was the conduct, and such are the native feelings of the *honest*, *honest* TAMBOUCHIS.

The profligate character ascribed to these

unoffending people, originated in motives of still superior wickedness. The *colonists* are the *fabricators* of these tales, and propagate them throughout the country, and at the Cape, with uncommon industry.—

When the natives incensed at an unprovoked and designed aggression of a colonist, retaliates and kills a *white man*, the intelligence is sure to be conveyed immediately to the seat of government, but without ever so much as hinting at the real cause of the dispute. The poor savages are described as a heard of *wolves* prowling throughout the country, and devastating wherever they come. The *christian* farmers seizing this opportunity, immediately assemble, penetrate the country of the people they call their enemies, and then massacre *entire hoordes* without any distinction of sex or infancy. Their object being chiefly to get possession of the *cattle*, they drive whole herds before them, and then wait until they hear of more being within their reach, when a similar depredation is committed. To illucidate this matter still further, I shall here relate an anecdote which I learnt in the course of our proceeding towards the christian settlements.

One of our guides suddenly called out to the party to halt. On my desiring to know his reason, he said, “be so good as to look attentively on the spot where you now stand; it is an unfortunate place, but worthy your consideration.”—Not observing any thing

that particularly arrested my notice, I requested he would explain himself.—“On this spot,” continued the *savage*, “two of my countrymen a few years since were employed in attending their cattle. At that time we enjoyed a profound peace with the colonists, and harboured no suspicion of their intending to injure us. In a moment, however, our two men were fired upon from yonder thicket. One fell dead on the spot, the other being only wounded, was so fortunate as to make his escape. The settlers then took possession of our cattle, and drove them home to their farms. Intelligence of this *murder* and *robbery* was soon conveyed throughout the hordes, and occasioned the last war between the *Colonists* and the *Caffrees*.”

The poor fellow told this melancholy story with so much feeling and simplicity, that I could entertain no doubt of his veracity. I then asked him if *all* the *colonists* were of this abominable disposition? He answered, “*I hope not* ;” and indeed, on this occasion, I conceive it would be unjust in me to publish any thing that might be mistaken for a *general censure* on the whole of the *settlers*. There are exceptions, and I think it necessary this should be understood, as I have known many of them who hold the general conduct of their *marauding neighbours* in the utmost abhorrence, and wish for nothing more sincerely than their expulsion from the colonies.

Our two guides likewise explained the

reasons why the *Caffraes* detained us so long. They told us, that when they consulted together respecting our departure, it was resolved not to suffer us to proceed until they got every thing that could be procured from the wreck. They conceived we would inform the colonists of our misfortune; and that notwithstanding they had no right to pass the *Fish-River*, still they knew the settlers would come in search of plunder, and which really happened, as I have observed in my introduction to this Narrative.

I then asked one of the guides, if his countrymen had, during our stay under the sand-hills, ever meditated our destruction. The *good savage* seemed offended at this question; he shook his head, and emphatically declared, they never once entertained such an inhuman thought. "No, no, no," he said, "that would be a very bad thing. — We kill nobody but in war. — No, no, no, indeed no!" his answer was thus interpreted to me, and dismissing the horrid appellation of *savage* at once from my recollection, I embraced him as my *deliverer* and my *friend*.

NARRATIVE CONTINUED.

We did not take our departure on the morning of the 23d until the sun was well up. Our guides were intelligent, and gave us to understand that we must on no account

travel early, as the wild beasts constantly rose with the sun, and then ranged the deserts in quest of their prey. As we were all unarmed, a single *lion*, *leopard* or *panther*, could have destroyed the most of us. It became, therefore, highly necessary we should not stir until these animals had satisfied their hunger, and were retired for the day.

Notwithstanding this cautious and necessary advice, and which was given with a laudable earnestness for our preservation, still my people were so desirous of getting on, that they grew uneasy ; but the guides could not be induced to quit the fires until about nine o'clock ; at which time we all proceeded, and in good spirits.

Not more than three or four of our party were at this moment in possession of shoes. We had many hundred miles to travel over unknown countries, to ascend mountains of stupendous elevation, penetrate woods, traverse deserts, ford rivers ; and yet we were to combat all these difficulties *bare footed*, not having saved above four pair of shoes, and even these but in sad condition.

As my feet were naked, like most of my peoples, one of them offered me an old pair of boots which he then wore ; but I refused them. My habiliments were a short jacket, a table-cloth, which I found on the shore, wrapt round my loins ; a shawl over it ; four shirts which I wore at the same time ; a pair of trowsers and a hat.

We bore to the westward, on our setting out, for the purpose of obtaining fresh water in the course of our journey. Our guides observed, that near the coast the water was generally brackish; we therefore struck into the interior, and were not entirely disappointed in our expectations.

The country through which we travelled, was beautifully variegated with hills, dales, extensive plains finely watered, but less wooded than the former. The grass appeared of an extraordinary height; but in the course we pursued, not a human footstep could be traced; no cattle, no sign of cultivation could be observed. We were not interrupted by any beast of prey, although we constantly perceived their dung. At length, after travelling about thirty-five miles, we began to feel the want of water.

After searching for this indispensable aliment with the utmost anxiety and attention, we were so fortunate as to discover, before sun-set, a brook that run near the corner of a wood; and here we determined to rest for the night. We began, therefore, to prepare a sufficient quantity of fuel. The wood was chiefly composed of trees that partook in some degree of the nature of our thorn: we cut several and arranged our fires. One of the Caffrees struck a light, and the whole, in a few minutes, was in a blaze. The tinder which he provided was of a particular description; it consisted of a pithy substance extracted from a reed, and

so tenacious of fire, that a single spark from the steel caught it in a moment. The weather being cold, we resolved to sleep close to one another ; but the guides told us, the place we had fixed upon to rest during the night, was known to be infested with *leopards* ; and that, if they scented the party, nothing could prevent them from destroying some of us. This intelligence induced us to enlarge our fires, and we began to consult upon other measures that were likely to contribute also to our preservation. But such is the powerful influence of sleep over the harrassed soul, that our conversation had scarcely commenced on this important subject, when we were all relieved from any sense of danger, by gently falling into the arms of *Morpheus*, and where we remained in perfect security until the morning.

No sooner had the sun peeped above the horizon, than we were all roused by the tremendous roaring of *LIONS*. Never were men in a situation more truly alarming. Had they discovered us during the night, we must have been torn to pieces when sleeping, as not an individual could attend the watch, or keep awake even for an hour. — We therefore congratulated one another on finding we had all escaped, and set out about seven in the morning in company with our guides.

We soon arrived at the bank of a small river, which being perfectly dry, we crossed

without difficulty. Shortly after we came to another which we likewise passed in a few minutes. We reached at length some highlands, from the tops of which we discovered several beautiful vales clothed with long-dry grass, small clusters of trees, and in other places, forests of considerable extent, skirting mountains of different elevations.

In the course of the day, we were in great distress for want of water, and lost much time in the pursuit of it. Indeed we almost despaired of finding any, as the earth appeared so dry as to exhaust all the brooks we had visited. Luckily however, about sun-set, we discovered a small rivulet that ran near the skirt of a forest; and, although the water was not good, yet still it relieved us from a dreadful situation.

We had this day travelled about thirty miles, and therefore determined to remain where we were during the night. All hands, therefore, went immediately to work for the purpose of getting fuel.—We had seen no wild animals in the course of the day, but frequently observed the dung of the elephant and the rhinoceros.

As our situation for this night was as dangerous and deplorable as on the preceding one, we determined to enlarge our fires, as the only means of safety we had left. This was accordingly done, and we had the pleasure to find, when the day appeared, that not an individual was missing of the whole party.

CHAPTER VI.

The captain and his party stop by a BAD TRIBE of CAFFREES.—An enraged CAFFREE described.—They arrive on the summit of a mountain, which affords a prospect transcendently beautiful.—Fortify themselves against the attack of wild animals during the night.—Thirty-six of the crew, unable to proceed, are left behind.—The captain, and twenty-four of his people, go on—Find a Christian habitation deserted—Arrive next day at JAN DU PLIESIES, a Dutch Settler.—Their reception, together with the character and family of the colonist described.—Waggon and guards sent for the relief of such of the crew as remained in the desert.

WE set out this morning, shortly after sun-rising; and, as we were to travel through a wood of considerable extent, our guides told us to be upon our guard, as we should certainly be interrupted by wild animals, as they resorted to this place in prodigious numbers. We determined, notwithstanding, to brave all dangers, and accordingly proceeded. We indeed escaped the *lions*, the *panthers*, the *rhinoceros*, the *elephant*, &c. but unfortunately, about noon came up with a hooorde of *Caffrees*, that were distinguished, by their own countrymen, as a *bad tribe*. We spoke at first to some *Caffree* women, who behaved kindly, and gave us one or two *baskets* of milk. These are made of twigs, wove so closely together, as to hold water.

We had proceeded but a short way, after receiving this instance of female liberality, when we were stopt by twelve *Cassree* men, armed with spears, and clothed in leopard skins. Our guides, alarmed at the appearance of these savages, flew to the banks of the *great Fish-River*, which at that time was not more than two hundred yards from the place where we stood. We repeatedly called to them to return; but in vain; they immediately crossed the bed of the river, which was dry, and, having reached the opposite shore, ascended an adjoining mountain with the utmost precipitation.

The savages brandished their spears, and appeared by their gestures to menace the destruction of us all. We could not understand what they said; but we supposed they demanded from us whatever articles we possessed; and as these principally consisted of the little stock of provisions we had left, and our clothes, we determined not to part with either.

One of my people had a knife, which was slung over his shoulder. A *Cassree* perceiving it, made a snatch at the handle; but the owner resisting, he lost his hold. This so enraged the savage, that he lifted up his *assaygay* with an apparent intention of dispatching the object of his resentment.

At the moment he stood in this attitude, a more finished picture of horror, or what we understand of the *infernals*, was perhaps never seen before. The savage wore a leop-

and's skin ; his black countenance bedaubed with red ochre ; his eyes, inflamed with rage, appeared as if starting from their sockets ; his mouth expanded, and his teeth gnashing and grinning with all the fury of an exasperated demon. At this instant, the *tout-en-semble* of the figure would have been a subject highly deserving the pencil of a *Raphael*.

The savage was diverted from his purpose, and dropt the assaygay. We instantly proceeded to the river, and crossed it in pursuit of our guides. They were standing on the summit of the mountain when we came up, and expressed the utimost satisfaction at our escape. They gave us a terrible description of the people we had just left, and assured us, if the remainder of their hoorde had not been hunting at the time we got to the *Fish-River*, not a man of us would have survived.—Our guides also told us, they were the most abominable hoorde throughout the whole of *Cassraria*.

Our conversation lasted but a few minutes, when we resolved to descend the mountain, and pursue our journey. We had scarcely put ourselves in motion, when a scene of the most extensive and luxuriant beauties burst in a moment on our view. The danger we had just escaped, engaged our attention so entirely, when we gained the summit, that we did not immediately perceive the world of beauties that now lay spread before us. All stood for some time

in a state of rapture and amazement. The country was mostly a level, yet pleasingly diversified with gentle elevations, on the tops of which we could perceive clumps of the *mimosa tree*, and the sides clothed with shrubs of various denominations. A thousand rivulets seemed to meander through this *second Eden* ; frequently skirting or appearing to encircle a plantation of wood ; then suddenly taking a different direction, glided through a plain of considerable extent, until it came to a gentle declivity ; here it formed a natural cascade, and then, following its course, proceeded in an endless variety throughout the whole of the country.

As we stood gazing on this sylvan scene, we perceived innumerable herds of animals, particularly of the species of the gazelle, scouring over the plains ; some darting through the woods, others feeding or drinking at the rivulets. As far as the eye travelled in pursuit of new beauties, it was most amply gratified, until at length the whole gradually faded on the view, and became lost in the horizon.

We were so wrapt in extacy at this landscape, that we forgot our danger, and remained too long upon the mountain. We at length descended and proceeded on our journey.

Before the day closed, we fixed on a place where we were to remain until the morning. It was near a wood, mostly composed of

that kind of thorn which I have mentioned before. Several of these we immediately cut, not only for the purpose of fuel, but to form a barricade or defence against the wild animals during the night.

After completing our fortification, lighting our fires, and *supping* in the best manner possible, we lay down to rest ; but our sleep was constantly disturbed during the night, by a herd of *elephants*, brushing through the wood, passing and returning almost every moment. Had not our fence been erected the preceding evening, we should, in all probability, have been trampled to death by these monstrous animals. We had the good fortune, however, to escape ; and, about seven the next morning, we proceeded on our journey, in company with our guides.

We likewise travelled this day through a delightful country. The land, in some places, seemed to be composed of a red and yellow clay, and the valleys appeared covered with a very thick and long grass, but not a sign of *agriculture* was to be observed. In the course of the day, we perceived a few deserted huts, one of which we entered. We paid severely for our curiosity, as those who ventured in, were in a moment covered entirely with fleas.

We sometimes found water ; but it was brackish, although we were at least 50 miles from the sea. We kept at this distance during the most of our journey.

We brought up for the night, after tra-

velling about 35 miles, at the skirt of a small forest, and provided fuel, with a temporary defence, as before. Our provision being nearly exhausted, we were obliged to eat sparingly, although most of us were ravenously hungry. Before we went to sleep, I was alarmed to find that many of the party complained most violently of *fore feet*. This misfortune, I was afraid, would occasion our separation, and of course the death of several.

About seven in the morning we again set out ; but many of my people dropt a-stern in the course of the day, being almost worn out with fatigue. In this situation I thought it incumbent, on such of the party as could travel, to get forward, and provide a place where wood and water could be had. I was of this company ; and that all those who remained behind might find their way, I ordered the Caffree guides to set fire to the long grass, which served, during the night, as a point of direction. I was in expectation of their coming up with us before the morning ; but we were sadly disappointed. We remained stationary until the sun appeared, and then went on.

Not one of the people we had left behind appeared this morning ; but the guides gave us to understand we would reach a Christian settlement in the course of the day, where assistance would certainly be had. This intelligence gave us new spirits ; and we travelled with an unusual alertness, un-

til we came to a farm house. Here we expected relief; but none, alas! was to be found: the whole place had been deserted for some time; we were obliged, therefore, to sleep again in the air, and leave our absent and miserable companions to all the horrors of the desert.

This was not a night of sleep, but lamentation. We sat round our fire, and spoke of nothing but our absent mess-mates and their unfortunate situation. They were left defenceless, without food, hardly able to stand erect, and in a country where the ferocious animals were most numerous. They were likewise every hour in danger of an attack from the *Boshis-men*, who swarm in these parts, and destroy the unhappy objects of their vengeance by arrows that are poisoned. The sensibility of my people on this melancholy occasion, displayed the genuine character of a sailor. Men who could brave all the dangers of the tempest, and face death without a trembling nerve, even in the cannon's mouth, could not, however; speak of their distressed and absent brethren without a tear. Their own misfortunes were forgotten; and their only consideration, during the night, was their unhappy mess-mates, whom they never expected to behold again.

We remained here for more than an hour after the rising of the sun. It was possible, we might see a few of our people straggling towards the spot where we then were, and

this chance detained us ; but not an individual was to be observed. Out of *sixty* that composed the party, when we left our *savage* friends on the beach, *thirty-six* were so maimed and worn down by fatigue, as to be unable to travel : these remained in the deserts, if not already destroyed, and had no hope of preservation, but from our exertions.

The guides informed us, we were certainly near a Christian settlement that was inhabited : the last we saw, had been destroyed by the *Caffrees* during the war with the *Colonists* ; I therefore determined to proceed, where relief could be obtained, with every possible dispatch. My people followed me with redoubled energy ; the salvation of their companions was the incentive, and that consideration banished every idea of danger or fatigue.

We travelled without a single halt for about three hours, when one of the guides, who was advanced, roared out, in a transport of joy, “ I see a *Hottentot*, attending a flock of sheep.” It was the voice of a *seraph* proceeding from a *Caffree*. We all ran to the place where he stood, and at a considerable distance, observed a man attending a flock of at least *four thousand*. We moved in a body towards the shepherd, who seemed at first to be alarmed ; but perceiving we were mostly *whites*, and unarmed, he stopt until we came up. I requested of him to direct us the nearest way to the first settle-

ment, which he did, and at the same time informed us, the proprietor was a *good man*; the distance, he said, was about *three hours*. The pleasure diffused throughout the party, on receiving this information, it is impossible to describe. I embraced this opportunity, and went on; a general joy succeeded, and who should be foremost, the principal consideration.

At length—*extatic reflection*!—we came within sight of a *Christian farm*. “Come on, my lads,” said I, “we are safely moor’d at last; and our people in the deserts, will be soon relieved.” Some tottered as they stood, overcome by joy, and could not move; others appeared as in a trance, until at length about ten followed me, and we entered the house of

JAN DU PLIESIES.

Fortunately, this was a settler of the best order about sixty years old, born in Holland, but had resided in Africa for many years; humane, generous, and possessing a heart that appeared to be the constant mansion of a virtuous sympathy. His cottage was formed of clay, thatched with a kind of reed, and furnished with a few stools, a table, and some kitchen utensils. His family consisted of five or six sons, their wives and children, together with a daughter, making together about twenty people. His stock, however, was considerable, not less

than *twelve thousand sheep*, and *one thousand oxen*.

After the alarm, into which we threw this good man on our first appearance, had subsided, I told the story of our melancholy disaster, and implored his assistance for the relief of my unhappy people who were left behind. He could not listen to the relation, without discovering by his countenance the tenderness of his nature. His face, which was naturally *pallid*, became, at certain intervals, of a *crimson hue* : these emotions appeared to me as the effervescence of sensibility, and to exhibit, in glowing colours, the complexion of virtue.

As no time, he said, should be lost in preparing for the relief of my unfortunate people, he immediately directed two of his sons, to harness *eight oxen* to a waggon. His orders were obeyed with a cheerfulness that evinced an hereditary goodness, and that it had descended, unimpaired from the sire to his children. They were directed to travel all night ; and our guides described the spot where we left them, so minutely, as to avoid all possibility of a mistake. The waggon was soon out of sight, and we all sat down to partake of a sheep, which our liberal host had ordered to be killed for our entertainment.

CHAPTER VII.

Remarkable story of a RHINOCEROS; related by the colonist
—The farmers generally discontented with the Dutch gov-
ernment at the Cape—Neighbouring colonists arrive at
DU PLIESIES—Their conduct described—Waggon returns
with twenty-three of the crew—Thirteen strayed—Re-
ward and dismiss the Caffree guides—Recommendatory
letter given by the Farmer to the Captain in the Dutch
language—Their departure from DU PLIESIES—Arrive
at another Christian settlement—Their reception and de-
parture—Proceed on the journey—Boshis-men described
—The party travelling through a valley, in great danger
from the Boshis-men—They get through without injury,
and enter a champaign country.

WHEN our meal was over, the worthy colonist began to interrogate us respecting our journey through *Caffraria*. He could not possibly conceive, he said, how the *Tambouchis* could be induced to suffer our departure. They were such a *horrid race*, that nothing was so gratifying to their nature as the shedding of human blood. The *Boshis-men*, he also observed, were so numerous, and so perpetually on the look out, that he was amazed at our travelling with any degree of security; but when he considered that we came through a part of *Caffraria*, so infested with carnivorous animals, that people could never travel safely but in parties, and well armed, he declared our being then in his house appeared to him a kind of *miracle*.

I took this opportunity of giving our worthy host a proper idea of the *Tambouchis*. His mind had been poisoned by some of his *depredating* neighbours, and never going on such parties himself, had entertained these prejudices without having any opportunity of knowing the contrary. He appeared much pleased at the conduct of the *Tambouchis* during our abode in their country, and declared this circumstance alone would relieve him from many hours of uneasiness.

His sequestered mansion was nearly surrounded by trees, on which were hung to dry, the skins of *lions*, *tygers*, *panthers*, and other destructive animals, killed in the vicinity of his own habitation. I observed also the carcases of two enormous creatures, lying near the door, which had the appearance of being recently destroyed. He told me they were two *rhinoceroses* that his sons had killed but the day before on their own land. This gave rise to a narrative respecting these animals, which the good man related with great circumspection, and which appeared to me so very extraordinary, that I determined to record it for the satisfaction of the curious.

“ These creatures, said the farmer, are more savage, and infinitely more to be dreaded, than any other animal of the deserts. Even the *lion*, when he perceives a *rhinoceros*, will fly from him on the instant. I had a proof of this, said he, about two years ago. As I was traversing my lands in

the morning, I perceived a *lion* enter a thicket, about the distance of half a mile from the place where I stood. In a few minutes after I observed a *second*, then a *third*, and a *fourth* came; they seemed to follow one another at their leisure, and in less than an hour, I counted *nine* that entered the same wood. Never having seen so many of the same species together, I was desirous to know the event of their meeting, and I concealed myself for the purpose. After waiting for rather more than an hour in my lurking place, without either seeing any of them, or hearing any noise from the quarter where they lay, I began to despair of having my curiosity in the least gratified. At length, I perceived a *rhinoceros* of uncommon magnitude approach the wood. He stood motionless for about five minutes, when he arrived at a small distance from the thicket, then tossed up his nose, and at last scented the animals that lay concealed. In an instant I saw him dart into the wood, and in the space of about five minutes afterwards I observed *all* the *lions* scamper away in different directions, and apparently in the greatest consternation. The *rhinoceros* beat about the wood in pursuit of his enemies for a considerable time; but not finding any, he broke cover at last and appeared on the plain. He then looked around him, and, enraged at his disappointment, began tearing up the earth, and discovered every sign of madness and desperation. I remain-

ed quietly in my retreat until the animal disappeared, and then returned to my house."

This anecdote I thought worthy of being published; but I now return to my narrative.

We slept this night on sacks, which our host had arranged for our accommodation. During the time we were at breakfast on the succeeding morning, our benefactor entertained us with some very interesting observations respecting the country where he resided. He particularly stated the hardships, which the colonists endured from the restrictive orders and persecuting conduct of the government at the Cape. "I have lead ore, said he, on my own farm, so near the surface that we can scrape it up with our hands, and yet we dare not touch it—If we were known to melt and use a single pound of it, we should be all *transported, for life, to Batavia.*" It was from this honest man I obtained the above information, and which I have before mentioned in my introduction to this narrative. He made no scruple in declaring that if any liberal and trading nation would form a settlement on the *eastern* or *western* coast, he would in conjunction with his neighbours, provide them with provision to the extent of his ability, and trade with them, regardless of any order to the contrary he might receive from the Cape—Indeed such are the sentiments of all the central and advanced colonists throughout the southern parts of Africa.

Before we disposed of the sheep we had for breakfast, our benefactor had dispatched messengers to his neighbouring friends, desiring their assistance to get us on towards the Cape. Several of them came, and behaved with the greatest tenderness and liberality. They went so far as to say, that such of the crew as were desirous of remaining in the country until they had perfectly recovered, should be accommodated at their houses; and as they travelled once in every year to the Cape, they would take the first opportunity of conveying them thither. I thanked them for their kindness, but declined accepting their proposal, as our intention was to make the Cape with every possible expedition.

This conversation was interrupted by a *Hottentot* servant who ran into the house, and declared the "*waggon was in sight.*" All flew to meet it, and I had the heart-felt consolation of perceiving *twenty-three* of my unfortunate people, chiefly *Lascars*, laying down in the machine. On their arrival at our habitation, the two sons of *Du Pliesie*, informed us, they found them near a wood perfectly resigned to their fate, having given up all hopes of relief. The preceding day, *thirteen* of their companions had separated from them; but where they had strayed to, not one of them could even guess at. These poor fellows I never saw again; but I had the pleasure to hear, since my return to Europe, that after enduring for a long time

the most unexampled miseries, they *all* arrived in safety at the Cape.

We were now *forty-seven* in number, and as we were to proceed in waggon, I had the satisfaction to know that such as were afflicted with sore feet, or weak through hunger and fatigue, would not again be separated from their companions.

My next consideration was to reward our faithful guides.—How to do this, made me for some time extremely uneasy. At length, a very unexpected information relieved me from this embarrassment. One of my people gave me to understand, that a sailor, who was of the party, had possessed himself of a dozen of my *table-spoons*, and likewise several *tea-spoons* before he quitted the wreck, all of which he had then about him, I immediately went up to the man and demanded my property ; he returned them without a moment's hesitation, giving me to understand, at the same time, that he intended restoring them to me when we arrived at the Cape. Four or five of the largest spoons I gave the farmer, who in return delivered to me *two oxen* of an extraordinary size, and a like number of *sheep*. These I requested our two guides to accept of as a reward for their labour and fidelity. They thanked me heartily, and set out on their return to the *fertile* and *delightful* plains of *Caffraria*.

Our benevolent host now provided us with a waggon and two sets of oxen, each

set containing *eight*. They were occasionally to relieve each other on the way, and two or three *Hottentot* servants were appointed as drivers, and to take charge of the relaying cattle. One of the farmer's sons, completely armed, was likewise directed to attend us, and the waggon was stored with provision and water sufficient to supply us until we arrived at the next settlement.

Before we took leave of this excellent man, I begged of him to give me a recommendatory letter which I might shew to the farmers as we proceeded, and which, I entertained no doubt, would secure to us a favourable reception. He immediately acquiesced, and gave me the following epistle in his own language.

“GOODE VRIENDE—Weest soo goet, helpt Dese Alenschen. Doont Coapwaanst het synn Amercanders Syluy heeft haar schep Verlooren An de oven seyvan De Rivier genoot De Biga De Caffers heeft De mense by meyn Gebraecht,

“UE unient,

“JAN DUS. PLIESIES,

“Doude.”

TRANSLATION.

“Good Friends,

“Be so good as to help these people forward towards the Cape. They are Americans who have lost their ship beyond the river *Biga*: the *Caffrees* have brought these people to me,

“Your friend,

“JOHN DU PLIESIES,

“the elder.”

We took our departure from the hospitable mansion of the benevolent *Du Pliesies*, on the morning of the second of July. We travelled through a country possessing many of those variegated beauties I have before attempted to delineate. Our guard was perpetually on the watch, lest the *Boshsis-men* or the wild animals might dart upon us unperceived. About eight in the evening, however, we reached the second farm in perfect security. Our journey was about *thirty-five miles* this day, and all my people in good spirits.

The owner, whose name was CORNELIUS ENGLEBROCKS, we found also a beneficent character. His cottage was poor indeed ; but all that he could afford he gave us with cheerfulness. I produced his neighbour's letter, which he read with great attention, and then said, " my friend is a good man, and I always valued him ; but you wanted no other recommendation to my poor services, *than your misfortunes.*"

We remained here during the night, after partaking of a frugal repast which our host had provided, and which was given with many innocent apologies for its scantiness.

Before our departure on the ensuing morning, the farmer generously presented me with *nine sheep*. I begged of him not to insist on my taking so many, as we could be supplied occasionally on our journey. " You cannot be sure of that, replied our worthy host. Drive these sheep before you,

and if you are not well treated as you proceed, this little stock will be your support."

The poor man lamented he could not let us have a morsel of bread.—We live, said he, the year round chiefly on mutton and game ; but seldom enjoy the luxury of a loaf. He insisted, however, on my taking the sheep, which I accepted with many thanks, and we then departed on our journey.

During the four or five succeeding days, we travelled on from house to house, generally at fifteen or sixteen *hours* distance from each other, and were received at all of them with a disinterested hospitality. I relate these occurrences with a scrupulous attention to fidelity, because the colonists, without distinction, have been represented as a *ferocious banditti*, scarcely to be kept within the pale of authority. I believe *most* of these people at certain times commit those depredations I have already described, and therefore deserve exemplary punishment ; but it was my good fortune to meet with a deserving class, and I consider it as an indispensable duty to preserve their characters from the *general* opprobrium.

During several days travel we could get but little bread, and not much water. The countries through which we passed, were alternately hill and dale, and often afforded the most romantic prospects. We frequently perceived vast quantities of wolves, and often such droves of that species of deer which the farmers call *spring-buck*, that we

supposed one flock alone could not contain less than from *twelve* to *fourteen thousand*. Indeed many of the settlers informed me, they have seen double that number at one time; and have frequently killed *three* at a single shot. We likewise saw vast quantities of *guinea-fowl*, which, after a shower of rain, are easily caught by the farmers' dogs.

The *zebra* or *wild ass* is common in these advanced colonies, and we saw many of them—*Ostriches* were likewise numerous. I have seen four of them together, and without being much alarmed at the appearance of our caravan. We had such plenty of venison at the houses where we stopt, that our stock of *nine sheep*, furnished by honest Englebrocks, was diminished but *three* in the course of six days.

The farmers were accustomed to the depredations of wild animals, and were therefore acquainted with their haunts. They frequently pointed to certain spots where the *buffaloes* frequented, and other places where the *lions*, *tigers*, &c. &c. were known to reside. But these creatures, however tremendous to an European, are not so alarming to a *Hottentot* as the *Bosbhis-men*. I heard so much of these savage people, that I particularly wished to see a man of the same tribe. A lucky circumstance occurred that gratified my curiosity. A colonist, at whose house we sojourned for the night, had, many years before, engaged a party of *Bosbhis-men*, and killed several; but was so fortu-

nate as to preserve an infant, whose mother it was supposed had been slain during the hunt. He was taken home to the farmer's and reared as one of the family. When I saw him, he was about *twenty-five years old*; but not more than *four feet two inches* in stature. His nose was not a prominent feature, but merely a piece of skin that lay flat over the nasal aperture; and although his make was athletic, yet no gazelle could be more alert or agile in its motions. When I enquired respecting the supposed origin of these people, I was universally answered, "*they are a distinct race*," and indeed their look and figure, when taken together, are sufficient demonstrations of the fact.

The *Boshis-men*, when they are sufficiently strong in number, attack and kill the *Hottentots* and *Caffrees* wherever they find them; and the *colonists* hunt the *Boshis-men* as they do the *lion* and the *tiger*.—A farmer never thinks of giving quarter to these people; but slay them the very instant they are in their power.

The bow of the *Boshis-men* is about *two feet and a half* in length, and their arrows of which they generally carry a competent stock, about *two feet two inches* from one extremity to the other. They are made of a certain reed, pointed with a bone which is poisoned, and constructed so artfully as to remain in the wound after it penetrates. If it draws blood, the opinion is, that no cataplasm, however skilfully compounded, nor

medicine yet discovered, can save the wounded object from destruction.

As we proceeded on our journey to a farmhouse, we passed one day through a dismal valley of about three miles in length. Our conductors informed us, this place was called *Boshis-men's path*; and they held their muskets presented the whole of the way, as if they were going to fire at some particular object. The road was narrow, and the hills on each side of considerable elevation. A thick brush wood covered the sides of the hills, except where the rocks appeared; and in the secluded cavities, formed by these masses, lay concealed *whole boordes* of these extraordinary people. Our guides were constantly desiring us as we proceeded thro' this valley, to be upon our guard, as they knew the *Boshis-men* were there, and *looking at us*, although we could not *perceive them*. "They will fill you full of arrows in a moment," said the guides, "if you do not take especial care of yourselves." This caution, I soon found, was essentially necessary, as we observed their tracks so fresh upon the ground that a whole swarm of them must have passed but a few minutes before our arrival.

The formidable appearance we made, I believe prevented them from attacking us. We got through this valley, however, in safety, and then entered upon a champaign country. The farmers told us, they frequently assemble to the number of forty or

fifty, and go in quest of the *Boshis-men*, whom they destroy without mercy if they come up with them; but they often escape, as they run with unparelled swiftness, and climb the rocks with the most astonishing agility. These people rear nothing for their subsistence, but live by plundering the country, and on the fruit of a small tree, which is called *Boshis-man's bread*. The body and branches of this tree, when roasted, eat something like a *plantain*.

CHAPTER VIII.

Pass in safety through the BOSHIS-MAN'S PATH.—Beautiful vale of LONG CLUFF described.—Humourous conversation of the crew.—Reach the settlement of a blind colonist ; their reception and entertainment described.—The crew separate.—One of them marry in the country.—Perceive vast forests of the ALOE-TREE.—Captain reaches ZWELLINGDAM, and proceeds to the LANDORSE-HOUSE.—His reception.—Arrive at the beautiful settlement of STALLENBUSH.—The place described.—Arrives at the Cape.

THE colonists I found as we proceeded, raised some tobacco ; but it was of a bad quality, owing, perhaps to their not being sufficiently acquainted with the manner of rearing it. They all expressed a wish to have seed from America, and to have people from that continent established in their neighbourhood. An American well acquainted with the growth and manufacture of this plant, must, in a few years, if settled in these parts, become not only independent but opulent.

Having passed, on the seventh, the *Boshis-man's path* in perfect security, we began to consider ourselves released from their attacks, and therefore went on with unusual cheerfulness. We proceeded through a delightful country, abounding in gazelles, and plentifully stocked with *porcupines*. We found their quills in vast quantities on the ground, and a great number of their holes. I had the curiosity to examine several of

them, and judging from the quantity of earth that lay at the entrance of their habitations, I conceived they must have penetrated to a considerable depth. We stopt this day at a farmer's, and exchanged our remaining sheep for an equal number of fresh ones. Those we possessed, were drove so far, that most of them became feeble and emaciated; but the colonist was a liberal man, and parted freely with his property, though he lost by the exchange.

From the 8th to the 16th of June, our journey was not interrupted by any disagreeable occurrence. The countries thro' which we passed, displayed every mile we travelled a change of new beauties. The mountains were in many places of stupendous height, and the valleys, decorated with wood, were astonishingly fertile in vegetable productions. One of the most extensive of these valleys, took us no less than *three days and a half* in passing. It is called by the settlers *Long Cluff*, and affords, perhaps, as many romantic scenes as can be found in any spot of the same extent upon the face of the earth.

The hills for seventy or eighty miles run parallel to each other. The lands between are wonderfully rich, and produce vast quantities of a plant similar in its smell and taste to our *thyme*. On this fragrant herb are fed immense quantities of sheep and cattle; they devour it with great eagerness: and it gives the mutton a flavour so like our veni-

son that an epicure might be deceived in the taste. The valleys are generally level from *eight to four* miles in breadth, and in several places intersected with rivulets, on the borders of which we frequently perceived whole groves of the *aloe-tree*.

As we travelled through this vale, I was occasionally diverted by the observations and good-natured contentions of my people, who were thus amusing themselves as they went on, regardless of the past, and but little attentive to the future.

- On or about the fourteenth, we reached the settlement of an old and blind man. He had a large family, and appeared to possess a comfortable independence. When he heard our story, the good farmer *burst into tears*, and ordered a glass of brandy to be given to each of the crew. After this unusual and cheering repast, he directed some mutton to be delivered to my people, and gave them a pot to dress it in. He then requested I would mess with the family, which I did, and when supper was ended, this worthy creature informed me, he was so pleased with our escaping the dangers of the sea and the *Cassrees*, that he would celebrate our meeting with a *song*. He immediately began and sung with the voice of a *stentor*. A general plaudit succeeded; and then our honest benefactor, addressing himself to me, said, "Now, Captain, I have a favour to ask of you. Pray desire all your people to *sing*." It was impossible to avoid laughing.

at this whimsical request ; but I thought good humour at such a moment should not be interrupted. I therefore desired an American sailor who sat near me to sing one of his best songs. He no sooner began than all the *Lascars* tuned their pipes ; this set a going the *Swedes*, *Portuguese*, *Dutchmen*, and all the crew, each party sung in their several languages, and at the same time. Such a concert I believe was never heard before ; but the liberal and merry old colonist was so entertained with their *musick*, that he had nearly dropt from his chair in a fit of laughter. I mention these little anecdotes to shew the disposition of some of the people who are settled in these parts ; and that notwithstanding there are many who are perhaps dead to the feelings of humanity, still there are others of a very different description, and highly merit our protection and esteem.

I was provided this night with a sheep's-skin, on which I rested under the roof of the farmer's cottage ; but there was not room for all, and therefore most of my poor fellows were obliged to sleep in the air. A similar inconvenience had happened so frequently since we reached the colonies that we determined to separate. We were now out of the reach of the *Boshis-men*, and therefore we might travel in less numbers, and with security. At some of the farms we had passed, the proprietors could not furnish us with a waggon, and therefore, altho' I was generally accommodated with a horse,

my people were obliged to walk ; from this untoward circumstance, several who were unable to travel had remained with the settlers. They received every encouragement to stop, especially such as were in the least acquainted with the cultivation of land, or bred to any particular trade. One of my crew, who was a cooper, having stopt at a farm-house, was immediately employed ; and having mended all the tubs with an expedition that astonished the proprietor, he gave him a pressing invitation to remain. The farmer was an honest worthy man, and the stranger acceded to the proposal. This accident, I have been informed since, has been attended with no less consequences to the cooper, than his marrying the farmer's daughter, and being settled on the spot as an independent colonist.

On the morning of the seventeenth we separated, and I took with me my chief and third mates, together with one or two more who were solicitous to accompany me. The country, as we advanced, increased in population ; and the farm-houses were, in several places not more than *two hours* distance from each other. Many of them were beautifully situated, and their lands produced grain, oranges, figs, and lemons in abundance. Their grapes likewise appeared to flourish, and supplied them with wine and brandies which they vended chiefly at the Cape. We saw vast herds of deer, partridge-

es out of all number, and immense tracts of land covered entirely with *aloe-trees*.

The colonists are not sufficiently acquainted with the means generally used in preparing and analyzing this valuable drug. The lamentable consequence is, that whole forests of the *aloe-tree* which the hand of nature so bountifully presents, are suffered to decay; but which, if skilfully managed, would produce an inexhaustible and immense revenue to the settlers.

From the 17th to the 21st we travelled a mountainous country; but the valleys constantly presented farms and habitations where the industry of the husbandman was amply rewarded. Their flocks of sheep were prodigious; but their cattle were not so numerous, nor in such good condition as those we had seen in the more advanced colonies.

On the 22d we arrived at *Zwellingdam*, and proceeded to the *Landorfe-house*. The *Landorfe* is the *chief man* of the place, and his settlement consists of about sixteen or eighteen houses, surrounded by a delightful country, and producing grain, vegetables for culinary purposes, grapes and fruits of almost every description.

This gentleman gave me a very hospitable reception, took me into his stables, where he shewed me two fine *zebras* which he was endeavouring to reconcile to the harness. The next morning he furnished me with a

horse and guide to conduct me to his brother-in-law's, that nothing might be omitted on his part to secure me a favourable reception at the Cape, my worthy host gave me a very kind letter to his friend *General Craig*, Commander in Chief, acquainting him with the loss of my ship, and the miseries we had endured in our travels through the deserts. He also requested the General would do me every service in his power, which he would acknowledge as an obligation conferred upon himself.

We arrived at the settlement of *JOHANNES BRINCH*, at *Stallen Bush*, on the third or fourth day, after travelling a country highly cultivated, and producing immense forests of the *aloe-tree*. The farmers live here in affluence, and I continued to experience the most liberal and kind attention during the remainder of my journey.

On my arrival at *Stallen Bush*, I waited on *Mr. Brinch*, whose reception I can never mention but in terms of the most fervent gratitude and esteem. His residence is one of those delightful places which, from its natural situation and fertility, wraps the beholder, the moment he perceives it, in a kind of extacy. The vines here are reared with great attention, and are highly productive. Grain, vegetables, and fruits, yield abundant crops ; and *camphire-trees* of very large dimensions thrive also on this settlement. Indeed the whole seemed to be so precisely what it should be, that any altera-

tion must be a deformity. The people here dress well ; but nearer the English than the Dutch style. They have nothing of that sullen taciturnity belonging to the character of the *Hollander* ; but are sprightly and good humoured.

My habiliments when I reached this happy spot, were in a deplorable condition ; and this being soon perceived by the excellent lady of the mansion, she ordered my *stock of linen* to be washed, and provided me with such necessaries as I wanted for the present.

I remained two days under the roof of this liberal and benevolent gentleman. He pressed me to stay longer ; but I was desirous of reaching the Cape, and therefore declined his hospitable invitation. In the morning, therefore, he provided me with a horse and guide, and I took my departure from *Stallen Bosh* on the 30th in the morning. Our journey was but short, as we arrived the same evening at the *Cape of Good Hope* ; and although emaciated in my frame, yet in tolerable health.

CHAPTER IX.

GEN. CRAIG's reception of the Captain stated.—ADMIRAL ELPHINSTONE's liberal and noble conduct described.—List of the settlers who behaved kindly to the Captain and his crew delivered to Admiral Elphinstone by his own directions.—General observations.—The Captain arrives in England.

THE only thing now wanting to complete my happiness, was the arrival of my poor people. The major part of them were *creeping* after me to implore relief, and they looked to my exertions as the medium through which their miseries would be alleviated.

Every painful reflection on this occasion at once subsided, when I considered that a *British officer* had the command at the Cape. I had a letter to *General Craig*, from his worthy and respectable friend the *Landorfe* of *Zwellingdam* ; but the situation of my people who had survived such a series of calamities, could not fail, as I conceived, to awaken the feelings of humanity ; and I knew this virtue to be the predominant characteristic of a *British soldier*. I therefore entertained no doubt but the Commander in Chief would give me every assistance in his power, especially when I recollected that we were the last people who had travelled thro' the colonies since the conquest by the *English*, and that I could speak more directly,

perhaps than any other person respecting the attachment or hostility of the settlers to the British Government. In this point of view, I became an object of great *political* importance to the Commander in Chief, and fully impressed with these reflections I waited on *General Craig*: but alas! *friendship, humanity, policy, and even politeness* were not then at *head-quarters*. His answer was: —“ *I have nothing to do with the business, you must go to the Admiral.*” —I shall here throw a charitable veil over the conduct of *this General*; and only observe, that when I had recovered from this sudden stroke of inhumanity, I departed without ceremony, and instantly flew to

ADMIRAL ELPHINSTONE.

Here the contrast was indeed complete. The Admiral received me with every mark of tenderness and commiseration. He assured me, that as my people arrived at the Cape, they should be accommodated until they could find means to ship themselves for their respective destinations. His promises are not made and forgotten. During the six weeks I remained at the Cape, about thirty of my people, chiefly *Lascars*, arrived, and in a state of absolute nakedness. The Admiral immediately gave directions for their relief, and when recovered, sent them to *Cape-town* to join one of the Company's extra ships bound to Bengal. Such was the conduct of the brave, humane and gen-

erous ELPHINSTONE. He participated in the miseries of my people, and frequently lamented their misfortunes in terms that did honour to the SAILOR and the MAN.

I offer this public testimony of my veneration and respect for an officer whose professional character will fill a bright page in the annals of his country, and whose generous nature entitles him to a distinguished place in the TEMPLE of WORTHIES.

On my second visit to the Admiral, he interrogated me respecting the colonists. I rejoiced at the opportunity of repaying him, in a certain degree, for his liberality, and I gave him a faithful and long detail of what I had observed of these people during my travels through their country. Of this I shall speak more at length in the concluding part of this work. His observations discovered a comprehensive and penetrating mind. He left nothing untouched that he thought necessary for his information. After I had described the general conduct of the settlers throughout the whole of my journey, he desired to know, if I could recollect the names of those farmers who had treated me and my people with so much kindness.—I told him, I believed I could recollect the most of them, and in a short time afterwards delivered into his hand the following list.

John Du Pliefies, Cornelius Englebrach, Philip Cone, Johannes Slaywers, Peter Fanforus, Peter Gorse, Theodores Mullar, — Millar, Captain of Militia, Peter De Praise, Baron De

Long, Jacobus Stane, The Landorfe of Zwellingdam, Peter Kemp, Johannes Brinch, Hendrick Hopper.*

When the Admiral had perused the foregoing list, he emphatically said, "I will order presents to the amount of *one hundred pounds* to be sent to these honest people as a reward for their humanity." This measure evidently united a sound policy with an endearing liberality, and I am perfectly convinced has had every effect the worthy Admiral expected. Indeed I became so well acquainted with Admiral Elphinstone's conduct at the Cape, and the general character he bore there, that I believe nothing could more effectually secure the attachment of the people to the British government, than his remaining with them for some years after the conclusion of a peace.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

IT was about the third or fourth day after we entered the colonies, that I heard of the Cape being in possession of the British. This information determined me to observe what effect the conquest of that settlement by the English had upon the Colonists. I constantly introduced the subject wherever

* I publish these names, not only in justice to the people themselves who should be distinguished as honest settlers, but for the information of those who may hereafter visit the countries where they reside.

I came, and I found that notwithstanding they all execrated the *Dutch Government* for their oppressive conduct towards them, and wished for new settlers on the oriental and western coasts, still they were not unanimous in their opinions respecting the *English*. Some were violent in their observations on this subject, and declared, that if the Governor had sent them word of an enemy being on the coast, they would have mustered *eight thousand strong*, and marched directly to the Cape. Others seemed perfectly satisfied with the change, and hoped the British nation would not conclude a peace without having these countries ceded to the Crown of England. Upon the whole, I conceived, that a majority of the colonists were still in favour of their old masters ; but that a wise and liberal government at the Cape, would soon dissolve all their ancient prejudices, and attach the settlers in general to the British nation.

As I have only touched, in my introduction to this Narrative, upon the necessary conduct which, in my opinion, should be observed towards these people, I shall be more explicit in my following observations.

I have before stated, that many of the colonists live by murdering and plundering the unoffending inhabitants of the deserts. These abominable transactions should certainly be prevented in future, and I have pointed out the most likely means to accomplish it, which is, by forming settlements

on the coast of *Caffraria* and the *western* side of this extensive continent. But supposing this humane and political measure to be fully accomplished, still there remains a work to be performed of infinite importance to the prosperity of these countries, and the government of the whole.

What I particularly allude to on the present occasion, is the mode to be adopted for civilizing the natives of those delightful countries, situated from *three to five hundred miles* northward of the *Fish-River*.

On considering this subject with attention, I own some very potent objections have taken possession of my mind respecting the usual manner of colonizing which, for centuries past, the enlightened nations have invariably pursued.

It cannot have escaped those people who are conversant in history, that since the establishment of christianity in Europe, no *savage* country has been settled from that continent, without having *missionaries* or *clergy* of some order accompany the adventurers. The *piety* of the measure would at this day be applauded, if *experience* had not taught us the *impolicy* of it ; for I believe it will be found, that hitherto the adoption of this practice has been seldom attended with a single good consequence. But without recurring to the histories of *Mexico*, and the eastern world, to elucidate this opinion, I shall confine my observations to the *savages* in Africa, and what effect I conceive would

be produced by the introduction of any order of *clergy* amongst them.

The people inhabiting these regions, are destitute of every intellectual acquirement. They have not the most distant conception of the existence of a Deity, nor of future rewards and punishments. Notwithstanding this, if *humanity* and *benevolence* constitute *morality* they are a *moral* people. They likewise possess intelligence, but that teaches them to reject, as preposterous, every thing that appears inconsistent with their *reason*.

There would be little difficulty in convincing them of the existence of a God, because they perceive motion, order and regularity, throughout space; nor would it require *sacerdotal learning* to establish on their minds a perfect conviction of a future life. Both these truths should be propagated, as their political and moral conduct would, in a great measure, be established by their belief of these doctrines; but here we should stop. The moment a *divine* began to preach the *sublime mysteries* of our faith, the *savages* would be confused; they could never imagine that any particular spot of this globe was so immediately the object of God's favour, as to be enlightened by his especial grace in preference to the rest of the world. They have sagacity sufficient to discover that men of every country, colour and description, are his children, and, of course, must be alike objects of his care. To press, therefore, on their minds, a doctrine which pre-

cludes *reason* and substitutes *faith*, would not only be ineffectual but dangerous, as it might weaken their opinion as to our superior understanding, and, of course, lead them to despise what they should reverence.

But there is another reason that fully elucidates my opinion on this important subject. If the savage countries in Africa, which I have before described, be colonized from England, it is certain that people of different religious persuasions will visit and settle there. What then must be the evident consequence? plainly this, that what they hear on one day delivered as sacred truths, they will find contradicted on the next.——The poor savages, however ignorant, will soon perceive, that notwithstanding our boasted learning and information, we have not been able to agree amongst ourselves on matters so essential to our temporal and spiritual happiness; and if they are not disgusted with these different sentiments, they will be divided into *sectaries*, and from thence must rise contentions and reciprocal animosities which generally terminate in wars, persecutions and blood-shed.

We have sufficiently experienced in *Europe* the mischiefs that have arisen from *theological* prejudices, and I hope they may be avoided in *Africa*, if the natives are to become objects of British civilization. The uses of the plough, which in a great measure secures a local residence; the manner of rearing vegetation for all the purposes of civil

life ; erecting of comfortable habitations, and forming them into towns and villages, together with all the useful arts may be taught them, and these necessary avocations will employ their time, secure their attachment, and eventually make them useful members of a regular community. These important ends may be fully accomplished without confusing them with mysterious doctrines which they can never be sufficiently educated to embrace or understand. Indeed the attempt, I am convinced, would be ineffectual if not dangerous, and therefore I object to the establishment or introduction of any theological system on the continent of Africa.

I do not address my sentiments on this occasion to any description of persons, who from early habits, have been taught to view the most important subjects through the dark mist of prejudice.—Were I to act otherwise, I must commence an endless warfare with the *passions*, and my intentions, however good, be liable to misconception and reproach. No man I believe, at this moment, entertains a more profound respect for those truths which are promulgated under the divine authority of the christian dispensation than myself ; but as I earnestly wish the *Cape of Good Hope* may remain for ever an appendage to the Crown of England, I have been induced to offer my objections to such measures as I thought would defeat so glorious a purpose, and, at the same time to recommend others that had a tendency to se-

cure it. On such an occasion, the *politician* surely may be allowed to check the honest zeal of the *church-man*, without being fairly subjected to the reproach of *impiety*. It is upon this plain and reasonable ground I have ventured my opinion respecting the introduction of theological doctrines into the *wilds of Africa* ; and if these sentiments be found worthy of attention ; or if in the present work I have furnished a single hint that eventually may be found useful to the *British Nation*, I shall not hereafter repine at the calamities which I have suffered ; but humbly thank Providence for raising the storm that threw me on the desert shores of **CAFFRARIA**.

As my return to Europe was not attended with any remarkable occurrence, I shall now only add, that I took my departure from the Cape in the *Saint Cecilia*, Captain PALMER, and arrived in Crook-haven (in Ireland) about the middle of November, 1796. In a few days afterwards we set sail for England, and as we made our passage in a short time, I soon found myself *once more in London*.

F I N I S.