

## PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

### ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

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I.—*Report of an Expedition of Discovery, through the countries of the Great Namáguas, Boschmans, and the Hill Dámaras, in South Africa.* By Captain J. E. ALEXANDER, 42nd Royal Highlanders, K.L.S. Read 22nd January, 1838.

IT is remarkable that, during the three centuries and a half which have elapsed since the celebrated Portuguese navigator, Bartolomeo Diaz, first doubled the "Stormy Cape," the progress of discovery should have advanced so slowly, that up to this day the whole of the western region of Southern Africa, to the north of the Orange River, has hitherto remained a blank on our maps;—the Great Fish River, supposed to extend upwards of 300 hundred miles in length from north to south, and said to receive, both from the eastward and from the westward, more than twenty tributaries, is there only indicated by a dotted line;—of the range and height of its mountains and elevated plains no trace exists;—and of its geological structure and general features we are utterly ignorant. Gordon in 1777, Paterson in 1778, Le Vailant in 1781, and Thompson in 1827, may have reached, *in this direction*, the southern bank of the Gariep; but neither in the last or present century is it recorded that any European traveller has crossed, within 400 miles of its mouth, to the northern bank of the Orange River:—but where the spirit of enterprise has not yet reached, a nobler spirit has directed the steps of other wanderers; and, for nearly a quarter of a century, a few missionaries have from time to time endeavoured to spread the truths of the gospel in the district of the Orange River, and one, the Rev. Mr. Schmelin, performed a journey of some extent, several years ago, through a part of Great Namáqua land.

To penetrate farther to the north, then, in this direction, and to endeavour to become acquainted with the Dámaras, a nation

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\* Barrow in 1797, Truter and Somerville in 1801, Lichtenstein in 1805, Burchell in 1809, Campbell in 1813, Thompson in 1827, Hume in 1834, with many others, and lastly, Dr. A. Smith in 1835, have crossed the Orange River, but that was between 23° and 24° east longitude, near its mid-course, or about 400 miles from its mouth. W. Van Reenen also, in 1791, ascended the Great Fish River, but his account is not published.

inhabiting between the 21st and 24th parallels, and only known to us by report, seemed to be now the chief object of geographical research, since the recent journey of Dr. A. Smith had rendered it needless to proceed with the Delagoa expedition. Accordingly, after mature deliberation, with the authority of His Excellency Sir Benjamin D'Urban, and by the advice of those best qualified to give an opinion in the colony, I determined to explore the country to the north of the Orange River, west coast, as the best means of promoting the great object for which I had left England, and carrying out the views of Her Majesty's Government, and of the Geographical Society.

Having made the necessary preparations, as detailed in former letters already published, I quitted Cape Town on the 10th September, 1836, and travelled to the northward towards Clanwilliam, with considerable interruption from rain. My party consisted of seven attendants—four Europeans, one Bengalee, and two stout Bastards (as the Cape term is for any dark man, with an admixture, however small, of European blood); two horses, a waggon, and span of fourteen oxen; and half a dozen dogs, which are the best sentries in the wilds:—my waggon was freighted with arms and ammunition, besides beads, cutlery, and, above all, tobacco, to purchase provisions in the interior, and to make my way among the natives.

The country, at this season of the year, was exceedingly beautiful—wild-flowers, seen only in conservatories in England, appeared on every side; there was nothing arid or barren in the landscape, but a verdant carpet, variegated with gay colours, was spread before us; in the distance, and on the right, were the lofty peaks of the primitive range of the mountains of Drakenstein, averaging in height more than 2000 feet above the sea.

The Dutch farmers seemed to be generally amusing themselves in following stein-boks, with horse and hound, and shooting them with their long roërs or rifles.

Our travelling dress consisted of grey broad-brimmed hats, covered with ostrich feathers on account of the heat; grey or blue smock-frocks, over cotton shirts; leather trousers, and buskins of untanned hides: we had neither stocks, socks, nor gloves; and the only preparation for going to sleep in our sheep-skins, during the year we were out, was taking off our shoes, shaking the sand out of them, and putting them on again, for fear of hungry dogs or hyenas eating them.

On our right we next saw the district of the Twenty-four Rivers, described in such glowing colours by Vailant, and then crossed the Berg River by a punt. After toiling through the heavy sands under the Picket Berg (which it is supposed would be a favourable situation for the growth of coffee), I left the waggon at Uitkomst, the residence of a worthy Dutch farmer of

the name of Vanzyl, and rode about twenty miles to the east to Clanwilliam.

From this last village, seated in a sort of basin, about half a mile from the eastern bank of the Olifant River, I made two excursions to the Cedar Mountains, ten miles farther to the east. They are a fine primitive range, the peaks of which rise from 1600 to 5000 feet above the sea, and have a very picturesque outline. The heights given to me, and said to have been measured by Baron von Wurmb, were, Sneeuw-Berg, 5000 feet; Groene-Berg, 4860; Rondeberg, 2990, &c.

The principal rock of the higher parts of the Cedar Mountains appears to be an ash-coloured quartzose sandstone; the secondary range contains many marine petrifications, shells and fish, at a height of 2000 feet above the sea. There are also black, red, and striped jaspers, hornblende, garnets imbedded in argillaceous schist, numerous ores of iron, much quartz, and a great variety of beautiful agates.

The valleys between the hills are rich in a dark-coloured vegetable mould, which is exceedingly productive. Corn, tobacco, and some wine are here produced; whilst there is a constant and abundant supply of water, which is more or less chalybeate.

I was particularly interested about the cedar-trees, "the glories of Lebanon," which formerly covered this beautiful range of mountains, and which in part still do so. They occupy ravines in the higher parts of the range, perhaps as high as 3000 feet, and one cut down in 1836 measured thirty-six feet in girth, whilst 1000 feet of plank were sawn out of its giant arms.

No care has hitherto been taken of these valuable trees; the farmers, the Bastaards, and Hottentots, living in the neighbourhood, cut them down without leave or license, and burn the grass, to improve the pasture, by which many old trees, and thousands of young plants, are annually consumed.

As the cedar-trees might, if preserved, become of great advantage to the colony generally, I represented, in the proper quarter, the manner in which they are constantly and wantonly destroyed; and it is to be hoped that means will be taken for preventing the future waste of that most valuable and imperishable timber, with which the temple of Solomon was built.

There are many Boschman caves in the Cedar Mountains: they are generally at some height, varying from 300 to 1000 feet above the valley, and are not of any great depth, say 30 or 40 feet, but they are very interesting, as containing the drawings in red ochre of a wild people who have for some years disappeared from this locality. In one cave there is a spirited representation of a combat with bows and arrows; in another, a flock of large-

tailed sheep and lambs are accurately delineated: I was really surprised at the fidelity of the outlines.

From Clanwilliam I passed on to a place called Heerelodgement, where, under a huge overhanging rock, are many names of old travellers and hunters, from 1714 downwards, among others, F. VAILANT, 1783, is carved. Swimming my waggon over the Olifant River (which once in four or five years overflows its banks, when the increase is a hundred fold), I passed by the Rhenish Mission Institution of Ebenezer, and with two of the worthy brethren rode about twenty miles in a W.S.W. direction, to the mouth of the Olifant River.

Rocks abound at its mouth, and it would be difficult to make it accessible for vessels without a great deal of cutting. Plans are continually brought forward to enter the barred mouths of the South African rivers, but if pains were taken to improve the landing at Table Bay and Algoa Bay, by means of good piers, that would be a sufficient improvement for some years to come.

Continuing northwards, with a range of mountains on our right, and passing onward towards the Groene River, we found the country less fertile than before, covered with shrubby plants, and with much brackish-water, whilst the Boors, from July to October, inclusive, live in mat-houses for the purpose of changing their pasture-grounds.

On the 10th of October, I ascended the Kamies or Lion Mountain, a continuation of the Cedar Mountain range, and took up my residence for a time at the Wesleyan Mission Station of Lily Fountain, containing about 800 persons, to make arrangements, by despatching messages to native chiefs about the Great River, for my further progress.

A remnant of the nation of Little Namáguas has been saved by missionary exertion, and settled on the table-land and in the valleys of the Kamies Mountain, the highest peak of which, about five miles south of Lily Fountain, rises about 5000 feet above the sea, which would seem to be the highest point of the range; to the eastward the view is bounded by near hills, but to the west it extends over gradually-decreasing ranges to the Atlantic Ocean. Under the old Dutch rule the free natives were almost driven entirely out of the colony, with the exception of those who remained as slaves to severe task-masters.

Having been requested by the governor of the Cape to inspect the mouth of the Orange River, I left my people to collect objects of natural history on the Kamies Mountain, and to prepare packs for bullocks when we might be forced to abandon the waggon, and rode in a north-western direction about fifty miles, to the house of Mr. Schmelin at the London Mission Station of Komákas

(signifying red clay). Descending from the Kamiesberg, we rode over a grassy plain; at 25 miles the country became hilly, and at Keerom, or 'turnabout,' is a remarkable smooth rounded hill of granite, about 300 feet high, round which the road wound and gradually inclined to the northward to Komákas; where are five fountains, and five or six huts, containing about thirty Namáguas, but at times as many as twenty huts, and upwards of one hundred people, are collected together here. On to the north-west the ground rises to 1000 feet above the sea. Here I ascertained the existence of a new bay called Rooé Wall, or Red Wall Bay, forty miles south of the Zwarlintjies River, and at the mouth of the Spook River. There is good anchorage for schooners and small craft in this bay, which it is to be hoped will be turned to account to open a market for this part of the colony.

Quitting Komákas, we continued to the northward over a sandy plain covered with shrubs, having a range of mountains on our right, and hills to the left: I saw many ostriches and stein-boks on the road, with the prints of zebras. The worthy old German missionary Mr. Schmelin, and two Rhenish missionaries, accompanied me to ascertain if the mouth of the Orange River was fit for a new station.

The labours of the missionaries in this part of South Africa have been attended with much success, and it is to be hoped that they will be encouraged to extend their field of usefulness further into the benighted interior, so that wars between the tribes may cease, and that trade, civilization, and Christianity may be promoted. At 25 miles crossed the dry bed of the Kowsie River about 20 miles from its mouth, and travelled to the northward over sandy plains with bushes; to the eastward, a range of mountains about 1000 feet high; and to the west, undulating hills of 300 feet. At 20 miles from the Kowsie, reached Ukribip, where are some Namáqua huts; a few miles beyond is Kama, a village of ten huts; the range of the Kamiesberg appears to extend in a north-north-west direction, about 20 miles on our right, reaching to the banks of, and perhaps 30 miles beyond, the Orange River. After 60 miles of travelling over the same description of country, we reached the village of Aris, on the banks of the river, at 25 miles from its outlet into the Atlantic.

Where I first saw the Great or Orange River, it was 500 yards across, and the banks were lined with black ebony, willows, mimosas, &c. The river was at this time shallow enough to be easily forded, but we saw marks on the trees and banks indicating an occasional rise to a very great height.

The Little Namáguas, and some Bastards, living here, have flocks and herds, but subsist principally by the chase, and by the produce of a seal island, which I found to lie between the mouths

of the Orange and Kowsic Rivers; the latter is the boundary of the colony. The natives are clothed in sheep-skins, some of which are made into trousers and petticoats; and they would willingly exchange their stock for cloth and cutlery. They sell valuable seal-skins for five shillings each.

The land is flat about the mouth of the Orange River, and on the north side is good pasture. The breadth of the entrance at the beginning of November was about 170 yards, whilst inside was a lake about four miles across, and abounding in wild fowl. The air was darkened and filled with the cries of wild geese and ducks, flamingoes, pelicans, gulls, &c. Here is most excellent shooting-ground for the sportsman, and 'harder' and 'springer' fish abound for the seine.

I saw no rocks at the mouth of the Orange River; there is probably, however, a shoal of sand outside, but with care it seems that the mouth of the river could be entered by a schooner. I never heard that any soundings had been taken at the mouth of the Orange; indeed, the increasing wants of the colony demand a far more detailed survey of the south, south-eastern, and south-western coast of Africa, than any that exists at present. About 30 miles east-south-east of Aris, at a distance of four days' journey, with a waggon, from the mouth of the Orange River, and near the south bank, I made, by means of a Bastaard, the discovery of a great mass of copper ore, of so rich a quality, that, by analysis of Sir John Herschel, at the Cape, to whom a specimen was sent, the ore yielded 65 per cent. of metal.\*

This copper is quite accessible, and it might be either smelted on the spot with Orange River wood, of which there is plenty, or it might be floated down to the mouth on rafts, which rafts might then be sawn up and sent to the Cape, where wood is always in great demand for building.

Honey is found in such quantities about the Orange River, particularly in the months of December and January, that a Namáqua, who had a waggon, assured me, that in two days, whilst on a honey hunt, he loaded his waggon with skin-bags of honey above the side planks; a trade in bees'-wax therefore might also be carried on here; whilst on the coast there are extensive beds of muscles for shell lime. The climate is very healthy for Europeans.

I found iron also not far off, but on the north side of the river, and as the site of these valuable ores is far beyond the colony, no expense would be incurred in purchasing a right to work them. The natives also would be pleased to see strangers among them,

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\* Another specimen from the same place, assayed in London, yielded 28 per cent.

if they were kept under proper control. Of course careful surveys ought first to be made of the region of the ores, before any speculation is entered into, to avoid unnecessary risk or loss.

After a few days we retraced our steps to the Kamiesberg, and on crossing the Kowsie River, on the 6th of November, the thermometer was 103° Fahr. in the shade. This was now the beginning of the hot season.

I found at Lily Fountain Mr. Edwards, the Wesleyan missionary, just returned from the Cape, from whom I received every civility and assistance.

Nov. 16.—Having completed our arrangements we left Lily Fountain on our journey to the north, escorted, by the Governor's order, by a Field Cornet and twelve mounted Boors, armed with long guns, as far as the warm bath, to produce a proper effect on the Namáguas, and to show them that the expedition was a government one. None of the Boors had been at the Orange River before; and, what with the fear of lions, Boschmans, and their old runaway slaves, they did not at all relish the expedition; and I believe, from the crying we saw at leave-taking, that their wives and children never expected to see them again.

Descending from the elevated station of Lily Fountain into the plain, we crossed the dry bed of a tributary to the river Kowsie, and continued to the northward; hills about 300 feet high on each side of the road; no cultivation, and hardly an inhabitant to be seen. About twenty miles we halted at *Silver Fountain*, where are a few huts; ten miles further north reached the Copper Berg, a range of granitic mountains, without wood, about 1000 feet in height, two miles to the east of the road. Nearly ten miles to the south-west of this spot is a conspicuous mountain, called the *Vogel Klip*, or Bird Stone, about 1200 feet in height. Proceeding to the northward we passed through a stony valley, with bushes of mimosa; and about twenty miles farther reached *Bezondermeid* (Strange woman), a London Missionary station, under the charge of the veteran Mr. Wimmer; here are about thirty Namáguas. Beyond this, to the N.N.E., black hills, about 500 feet high, are scattered over the plain on the right, till we reach a range of sand-hills, within a few miles of the Orange River; here, turning due east, we travelled along their southern foot for about fifteen miles, to *Kárahús*, or Koran-ford.

The country, on both sides of the Orange River, is exceedingly barren and dreary for many miles from the river. Bare and black hills are surrounded by plains of yellow sand, with very scanty vegetation. One of my horses being totally unable to walk, from sheer starvation, I bought another from a Dutchman, which was better able to live on bushes.

Nov. 25.—Arrived at the Great River, we found Mr. Jackson,

a Wesleyan missionary, with the chief Abram, and sixteen swimmers, on the opposite bank ready to assist us over; but we forded the Orange River, which was only waist-deep, without much difficulty, and I looked with wonder on the wild and grotesque forms of the granite hills which enclosed its banks. The valley through which it here flows, in a due west direction, is about half a mile broad, the bed of the river from 400 to 500 yards; its banks are well wooded with willow, mimosa, &c.; the hills, both north and south, rise upwards of 500 feet above the bed of the stream.

Travelling north-east for two days, over the same description of country, I arrived, on the 27th of November, at Nabis, or the Warm Bath, the most northerly mission station, and 450 miles from Cape Town. Here I intended to halt till the thunder-rains of the beginning of the year should enable me to advance.

The station of Nabis, or Nisbett's Bath (as it is now called), is among rocks, and on both banks of the 'Hoom River, a branch of the Orange. A great plain spreads around, occasionally visited by lions, whilst spring-boks, ostriches, and zebras, are not unfrequently met with. Black conical hills of 200 and 300 feet elevation are seen here and there on the plain.

The tribe of Great Namáguas, who reside principally at the Bath, live in fifty or sixty circular huts, composed of arched boughs covered with rush mats; they sleep on skins; these and the wooden cylindrical vessels for their milk are the chief articles of furniture they possess.

The men and women of the Great Namáguas are taller than the Namáguas we had formerly seen; but they have the same high cheek-bones, small eyes and noses, and yellow (Malay) complexions. Men and women generally wear skin dresses, some mantles or karosses, others cut their clothes after the European fashion. The tribe of Abram (the Bondelzwart) is too remote from the colony, and the tribe bears too indifferent a character as yet, to be visited by traders.

One of the first things I did was to clear out the sand and stones from the Warm Bath, which is generally at 103° of Fahr., with a stream six inches broad by one and a half deep. Myself and people set the example of bathing, which was soon so perseveringly followed by the Namáguas, that it was only at night we could get near the bath, at the risk of meeting with a lion there.

I employed my people in shooting, in preparing the packs, and in training pack bullocks, which were exceedingly difficult to be procured ready trained. I bought as many sheep, too, as I could, for beads and handkerchiefs, as a stand by, in case of our being occasionally without game.

What facilities would not camels afford to travellers in this land!



—patient, enduring, eating any shrubby plant, and carrying the load of three bullocks—by means of camels the Equator might be reached without great difficulty, and yet no one at the Cape has had the enterprise to introduce a few from Bombay even by way of experiment.

I made two excursions from the Bath—first to Africaner's kraal, about 80 miles to the eastward: our road lay over the same barren plains in a south-east direction for about 40 miles, during which we crossed one small stream, the Kururú, or Noisy, flowing towards the south; at 50 miles we reached Naros, within five miles of the bank of the Orange River, and then turned north-east to the village of Africaner, the well-known robber-chief. We found a few of his descendants, altogether about 30 persons, living beside a fruitful garden, in which tobacco, melons, and calabashes, were raised, and to which the water of a tolerably abundant spring was led out. We returned by a more direct route in two days and a half to Nabis. The other excursion was down the 'Hoom River, to the range of hills called Twanos, about 500 feet high, 12 miles in a south-south-east direction from the Bath.

In the beginning of 1837, the heat at the Bath was very oppressive, daily it was 100, and sometimes 110, in the shade. We saw rain-clouds occasionally in the distance, but none came to us. The stream of water at the Bath, too, became more feeble, the grass turned black with the heat, and, tired of waiting for rain, I determined to risk a move, and accordingly, with a lightened waggon, some pack-oxen, and a flock of sheep, I journeyed northward.

Jan. 18, 1837.—Abram and sixteen of his people, armed with guns, reluctantly accompanied me, and ascending along the banks of the 'Hoom River, for six days, we passed near the spot where Trelfall the missionary was murdered a few years before, whilst attempting to travel towards the Dámaras with only two men. At Kanús we left the waggon on the banks of the 'Hoom, with half my party, and on the 24th proceeded to the north-east, for about 40 miles, into the recesses of the 'Karas (or sharp) Mountains, to endeavour to recover by negotiation some cattle and sheep, of which my old interpreter, Chaubep, had been deprived by a robber-chief. On the evening of the second day we reached the banks of the Keikap, or Witch River, which flows to the south-east, and continued to the northward along its western bank, crossing two of its small tributaries, to Henrick's Place. The 'Karas Mountains vary in height, the most elevated reaching 3000 feet above the plain.

We found the Rob Roy of these wilds in a mountain glen: at first he made a show of resistance to us, by drawing out about 30 musketeers, but eventually he was compelled to surrender the

cattle; he threatened the waggon, too, with an attack, but surrounding it with an abbatis of bushes we defied him.

We returned from the Karas to Kanús, and in crossing the plain saw many spring-boks, zebras, a cameleopard, and the *spoor* of a lion. On reaching the camp I dismissed Abram and his people, whom I found to be great cowards.

*Jan. 29.*—We continued our journey to the north-north-west, quitting the banks of the 'Hoom, and travelling over grassy plains; on our right were mountains about 15 miles distant. At 26 miles crossed three streamlets flowing to the south-west; 10 miles beyond passed through a *poort*, or pass, between hills 500 feet high, and crossing a grassy plain, with mimosa shrubs, reached the banks of the Kaap, flowing to the north-west; thence across undulating stony plains, 40 miles, brought us to Nanebís on the banks of the Kamop, or Lion River, flowing west to the Fish River.

*Feb. 22.*—Left Nanebís, and inclining to the north-west for twenty miles, we came to the 'Oup, or Fish River, flowing to the southward, through sandy banks; stream about 80 yards broad; mimosa, *dubbee*, and ebony-trees scattered along its banks, and crossed it on the afternoon of the 24th.

*Feb. 26.*—After much trouble with our guides, we continued our journey to the westward, but finding no water we turned more to the west-south-west, where a line of trees indicated a stream, and at 15 miles crossed the dry bed of the river Nukaníp (Black bulb), and found bad water by digging, and suffered much for want of it. Continuing our journey to the north-west, across plains of Koran (bustards), we arrived at the deserted mission station of Bethany on the 6th March. Here, on a rising ground, are the roofless remains of a church and some houses, with a fine spring of water; it is now tenanted by 50 Namáguas. Kúisip, a Namáqua chief, and three men, now offered to accompany me to the sea, for presents of muskets, ammunition, &c., which offer I was obliged to accept, although they brought with them between thirty and forty hungry followers, men who could devour 10 lbs. of wild flesh per day. Most of them wore the kaross or skin-mantle, also part of a jackal's skin in front attached to a waist-belt, whilst behind dangled a square-cut piece of leather; a few of this escort had guns, the rest carried bows and arrows, javelins, and clubs.

Quitting Bethany we travelled to the north-north-west 20 miles, when we crossed the Koan-quip River flowing south, and continuing on the same course, leaving the Tamuhap, or Dropping Hills, above 400 feet above the plain, on the left, we passed over fine grassy plains, with mimosa bushes, and saw herds of zebras, &c.

*March 13.*—A descent to Tuais, or Muddy Spring, on the bank

of the Gnuanuip, a tributary of the Koan-quip, to the east of which extend the range of Unuma, or Bulb Mountains, in a north and south direction for upwards of 50 miles.

*March 18.*—Again crossed the Koan-quip, coming from the north-west; noticed here a conspicuous table-mountain in the Unuma range, bearing north-east, which I called D'Urban Mount, rising about 2000 feet above the plain. Proceeding northward, we crossed several beds of streams, which appeared to flow in a south-easterly direction, towards the 'Oup, or Fish River, the principal drain of this part of Africa. In the 'Oup there is always abundance of water; and fish, chiefly of the *silurus* tribe, in the deep pools.

We had already experienced many of the inconveniences attending African travelling—such as the bullocks straying for hours, and sometimes for a day or two, in search of grass and water—for at night we could not do otherwise than drive them as near our bivouac as possible, and see them lie down, before we betook ourselves to our sheep-skin coverings and stony or sandy bed.

We were also occasionally much distressed for water, had long and painful searches after it—dug with our hands, and with a spade and pickaxe, many times in vain, at the site of old pools; at other times we smelt the fetid water ten yards off, the only supply for ourselves and for the cattle. It surprised me often that we did not get seriously ill from the thick and polluted water we were forced to put up with, occasionally more like chocolate than the pure element.

There being of course no roads, the waggon gave us occasionally much annoyance and occasioned great delay; it would at one time stick fast in heavy sand, whilst half-a-dozen hands lifted the wheels, and the driver plied, with great shouting, his immense bamboo whip—then a precipice was to be descended, the stones were removed and the waggon carefully conducted with hide ropes down the steep. It is difficult to conceive greater trials of patience than what occur on a South African journey, through a new country.

*March 21.*—We reached Aanabip, a chain of ponds; to the west was the range of the Tarup Hills; we now entered on the great plain of Kei-kaap, a dreary barren flat, which we crossed in a north direction for a few days' journey; here we saw the mirage two or three times, whilst we were in much distress and trouble for water. We were now in the country of the Boschmans.

One day Kúisip, the chief, after looking at the ground, set off at a gallop on his ox, followed by two or three of his men; I followed, expecting to fall in with some large game, as we had just

before surrounded and shot some zebras. We pushed on rapidly for a mile and a half, and then came to a hollow place, where, among the shrubs, were three hovels, composed of stakes and bushes; by one of these sat an old man—dark, dried up, and covered in part with a kaross of spring-bok skin—his bow and arrows lay beside him; he was engaged cooking some leaves in a small earthen pot, and two or three naked children crawled about on the ground beside him. This was the first family of Boschmans we saw.

Subsequent to this we saw many Boschmans, and as we were now (on the 21st of March) in the country of rhinoceroses, we saw hunters following on the spoor or track of these huge animals, to destroy them with their javelins, which they do from behind circular enclosures of stone, breast high, darting their light weapons into the tough hide as the rhinoceros passes, the monster having been previously scared from his lair by stones thrown at him.

I saw the manner the Boschmans frighten the lion from its dead prey, by shouting and springing about, in order that the "children of the Desert" may have a share; their manner of making fire with two sticks; of creeping on game; and remarked that they had no scruple to give up their women to the Namáquas for a piece of meat or tobacco.

*March 24.*—Still traversing the Keikaap, its surface covered with thorny bushes. In the east, about two miles distant, were flat-topped mountains, rising more than 1500 feet above the plain, not improbably the step of the table-land, or terrace, which we afterwards crossed on our homeward route; to the west were hills between us and the sea. The three or four streams which cross the plain in a south-easterly direction are bordered, as usual, with thorn-trees.

*March 30.*—An extensive plain lay before us, covered with grass and scattered bushes; bounding the view to the north was a range of flat-topped mountains, of 2000 feet elevation; their sides were bare and scarped, and broken in one place by a deep ravine; this was the Kópum'naas, or Bull's Mouth pass. Proceeding from it, and winding through the plain in a south-westerly direction, was a line of high trees, marking the course of the Chúntop River, the favourite resort of large game. The landscape was very beautiful, and we were highly excited with the prospect of much sport. Twelve rhinoceroses were seen in one day; two of which charged me, but I avoided them among bushes, and got a shot at the last as he passed me. We had plenty of wild flesh at the Kópum'naas, and all night long the Namáquas "stamped the marrow-bones."

*April 3.*—The Bull's Mouth pass winds through mountains of

between 2000 and 3000 feet elevation, for a distance of forty miles nearly. The first part of the valley of the Chüntop River was rather narrow, but beautiful with the red and grey colours of the rocks which hung above it, and the bottom covered with the fantastic forms of various species of mimosa; under these the tracks of the huge rhinoceros was everywhere seen under his favourite trees. The valley opened out and the mountains receded on each side of us, leaving a plain between them of a few miles in breadth. We travelled through the pass first north, then west, and then north again, descending the course of the Chüntop till we reached Ababies, or Calabash Kraal.

With considerable labour we cleared a road through the Bull's Mouth, whilst baboons cried angrily round us, and for the first time a waggon was dragged through it, with difficulty. Beyond the pass we came to a region of fig-trees, each of which was about 60 feet high, and covered with ripe fruit. A dozen Boschmans (men, women, and children) were in a hole in the bank of the Chüntop River, and lived on the fruit of one of these fine trees.

*April 6.*—We next reached the dreary Desert of Tans, which is an immense plain of grey sand, undiversified by a single bush or shrub, and with only single blades of white and sun-burnt grass waving here and there; heat, and glare, and an awful silence were round us in this horrid waste. In the far distance, to the north-east, full forty miles, were black mountains; amongst which, most conspicuous, was a huge flat-topped eminence, rising 4000 feet above the plain, (from which I gave the Desert its name,) called the Tans or Screen Mountain, for it shuts in all the neighbouring heights. On our left were ridges of sand.

Here we nearly all perished for want of water; the thermometer was at 100°: we came to no water for two days; many of the people threw themselves down on the sand, and desired to be buried, and others were forced to resort to the last means to endeavour to allay their raging thirst. For three days the poor oxen had had nothing to drink, and could not bellow, though they tried to do so. I thought, though I did not say so, that it was impossible we could escape; but at length, on the 8th of April, with great suffering, we reached the bed of the Kúisip or Root River, flowing to the west, but with the loss of both my horses, some oxen, sheep, and dogs. Water was immediately carried back, in the stomachs of wild animals, to the more feeble of the party who had resigned themselves to their fate, and happily all the people were saved.

Where we first saw the Kúisip, its bed was between black and frowning cliffs; those on the north bank were part of a great and nameless mountain, whilst our precipitous descent on the south

was, at least, 600 feet to the water, which lay in long pools in the dark channel, 100 yards wide.

As far as we could see up the river, which was no great distance from its sudden windings, impending and perpendicular sandy crags enclosed it, whilst down the river its bed is similarly enclosed, for a distance of several days' journey. My people named the spot where we first reached the Kúisip the Devil's Den, from its frightful appearance, though here we had been mercifully preserved, by a most seasonable supply of water, from the jaws of death.

Further down the Kúisip high trees began to appear in its bed, under which we found rich grass, on which our poor cattle luxuriated.

I had abandoned the waggon to the tender mercies of the Boschmans (who were prowling about us with their poisoned arrows), for the sand-hills on the south bank of the Kúisip opposed an impassable barrier, when one of the head men of the Namáguas offered to take it back towards the Orange River. He did so, with ten men and twenty-five oxen.

I went on with the remainder of the party down the Kúisip, with riding and pack-oxen, but we again suffered much for want of water, even in the bed of the river: on one occasion we saw no water, even with digging, for a distance of thirty miles. It was often difficult to rouse the people from their despondency; but finding one day the traces of men, we hunted after them, and caught two of a tribe of Great Namáguas, belonging to a large tribe on the river. These men, being well used by us, showed us water, and conducted us to the sea at Walvisch Bay, which we arrived at on the 19th of April, being the first Europeans who had reached it by land from the Cape of Good Hope.

Before our arrival at the coast, our provisions, too, had failed us; we could get no game. Hides (reserved for making shoes) were therefore roasted, beaten between two stones, and eaten. At the sea we dug with our hands in the sand for clams, and searched the shore for fish, and fortunately found stranded *cabaljaos* of fifty pounds weight, which we ate with great relish.

Walvisch Bay extends along-shore, as it were, for twenty miles. A long spit of sand, terminating in Pelican Point, in lat.  $22^{\circ} 52\frac{1}{2}'$  forms its south-western shore, and offers an effectual barrier to the roll of the South Atlantic. Vast flocks of pelicans, flamingos, geese, gulls, &c., frequent this sheltered bay.

To the east of the Bay there are long ridges of sand, covered here and there with dark bushes; behind these ridges, and in the valleys, brackish water is everywhere to be found by digging. Between the ridges and the sea, where we halted at a pool, there

was a plain covered with reeds and grass, whilst the heavy roar of breakers broke on our ear continually from the west. Morning and evening the atmosphere was obscured by a grey fog, confining our view of the landscape, which, in consequence of the mist and the dimly-seen sand-hills, had a peculiarly wild and dreary appearance.

We looked in vain for the ship-of-war which Admiral Sir Patrick Campbell had kindly promised to send round to help us. But two American whalers (the Commodore Perry and Pocahontas) came in to remain for four months, to catch whales: with the captains I exchanged rope, knives, fishing-lines, zebra head-skins, &c., for biscuit. The natives of the Bay, also, at length gaining confidence, brought us some lean sheep and goats to barter for knives and tinder-boxes. On the beach we saw the bones of several sailors who had been murdered by them, probably for interfering with their women. Interference of this sort I, of course, always tried to prevent as much as possible among my people, for it is the most usual cause of disaster on an expedition of discovery.

I now saw the mouth of the *Swakop*, or Bowel River, about fifteen miles farther north, flowing (like the *Kúisip*) into Walvisch Bay, in  $22^{\circ} 38'$  south lat. The Swakop is the Somerset of Mr. John Arrowsmith's map of Africa: near its mouth, and extending as far as the eye could reach to the northward, are lofty mountains called the *Quanas* or Clay-trap Mountains; they reach from 2,500 to 3000 feet above the sea, and must form a conspicuous land-mark on making this coast. They are known to sailors as the Blue Mountains. The Dámara negroes live in the upper parts of the Swakop, and I tried hard to get beyond it to visit a nation of red men, who, strange to say, live beyond the negroes; that is, in about  $20^{\circ}$  of south lat. probably. This nation is called the Nubbis, or many people, and has been visited by the chief of Walvisch Bay; but he unfortunately was absent when I was there, and I could persuade none of his people to guide me to them, for there was an exterminating war raging between two tribes of Dámaras on the route. The negroes were on the move, and, consequently, dangerous.

One of the American captains offered me a passage to Saint Helena, seven days' sail, for myself and my seven attendants, for 1000 rix-dollars, or 75*l.*—the price of a whale—but I thought I had not done enough yet. I now resolved, seeing that I could not get farther north, to go east as far as I could.

*May 3.*—Accordingly, after a fortnight spent here, we left the Bay, and retraced our steps for eight days up the *Kúisip*. We subsisted in part on an admirable new fruit called *náras*, the size of a shaddock, about five inches in diameter, covered with

prickles, containing inside, pulp, and seeds like those of a melon, and growing on a bush of three or four feet high, the branches of which have opposite thorns but no leaves. The náras forms the entire subsistence of the people of the Kúisip, and about Walvisch Bay, for two or three months in the year, and they require no other food, and not even water, when it is in season.\*

May 11.—To avoid a considerable southern bend of the Kúisip, we crossed, in an east direction, a hard and gritty plain, without bush or grass, between it and the Swakop; and the following day saw cameleons, said to be poisonous, on the open plain, and many miles from either bushes or water. We also passed, just to the northward, a strange and fantastic pile of rocks called Einhíras, or the Hill of the Laughing Hyena, which two Boschman guides told us was inhabited by snakes with red heads and prominent brows. As we were pushing on at the rate of thirty miles in the day and night for water, we could not stop to endeavour to catch one of these extraordinary reptiles.

May 12.—On our left was *Tarahap* (Quiver) Mountain, and *Hokap* (Spotted Body) Mountain, about 1200 feet above the plain. Before us a long range of mountains extending N.W. and S.E., and called 'Túmas, or the Mountains of the Wilderness, rising about 2000 feet.

May 13.—Reached the Humaris, or Rolling River, a northern affluent of the Kúisip, and followed its course in a S.S.E. direction. Its banks were enclosed by high cliffs, and we descended as by steps 400 feet to the bed of its recipient.

We found the Humaris full of rhinoceroses. We also ate plenty of zebra's flesh here, but both are rank and disagreeable; we found, however, the soup made from the rhinoceros particularly strengthening for the chase, which, having now no horses, we followed on foot.

On two or three occasions the people got a supply of locusts, which they roasted and ate, pounded like snuff. I found them not unpalatable, and certainly better than shoe-leather.

We again reached our old acquaintance the Kúisip; and here, for the first time for three days, the oxen luxuriated in plenty of grass and water. The black rhinoceros of the Humaris lives on mimosa bushes; it is the white rhinoceros (which we had not yet seen, and which is a more timid animal), that lives on grass. The Kúisip here does not flow in so deep a channel as lower down in its course; still it was enclosed by rocks and hills, though not so impending as at the spot we first saw it.

May 14 (Sunday).—In the bed of the Kúisip we halted, and assembled the people as usual for divine service.

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\* I have given some seed of the náras, and a description of it, to Dr. Lindley.



*May 15.*—We crossed the Kúisip, which here comes from the N.N.E., and steering an easterly course we entered Dámara-land. Under a hill, and on an elevated plateau, about a mile from a pool of water, we saw the first Dámara village; it consisted of eighteen conical huts, constructed of stakes driven into the ground, brought to a point at the top, and covered with bushes. Some of the houses had a rude sort of porch, also composed of stakes and bushes, and the whole were arranged in a circular form.

Long lines of thorny bushes, miles of them in fact, were observed on the slopes near; these were placed to direct rhinoceroses or zebras to pit-falls, placed at intervals in the lines. We as yet saw no people, for there had been a scarcity of water during the last season, and we understood from our Boschman guides that the Dámaras had moved further east, and we followed after them.

Of Dámaras there are two great nations—the Dámaras of the Plains, who are very rich in cattle (and between whom and the Namáguas are frequent wars in consequence of cattle)—and the Dámaras of the Hills, who have no cattle, but subsist by hunting and on roots.

The Dámaras of the Plains extend from the Swakop, north and east; whilst the Hill Dámaras are found from the Kúisip, for a considerable distance, south and east: both tribes are negroes; black, with woolly hair, small round noses, and thickish lips. The Dámaras of the Plains, from their superior living, are much more robust than those of the hills; I saw many of the former living as slaves among the Namáguas; and, observing one day a fine Dámara boy in a state of starvation, under a Namáqua mistress, (being obliged to search for gum and lizards for food,) I offered to buy him, that I might eventually emancipate him in England, and I obtained my young shepherd for two cotton handkerchiefs, and two strings of glass beads, in value about four shillings!

The huts of the Dámaras of the Plains are also conical, but the stakes are wattled, plastered with clay, and covered with hides; the bed consists of thorn bushes, on which skins are spread. In 1834 the Dámaras of the Plains occupied the country south of the Kúisip till driven back by the Namáguas, headed by a warlike chief, to their present ground about the Swakop. Some of the huts of the Dámaras of the Plains were left standing about the Kúisip.

The Dámaras of the Plains are circumcised, and extract the two front teeth of the lower jaw; they are almost entirely naked, men and women wearing only a sort of skin kilt about the waist, and reaching to the knees. In war the men have a plume of ostrich feathers on the head, a leopard or lion skin thrown over the shoulders, the waist bound round with thongs, besides the usual

kilt and sandals; whilst their arms are bows and arrows, a club, and a stabbing assegai, or javelin, composed entirely of iron, shaft and blade. The Dámaras of the Plains speak a language peculiar to themselves, of which I have got a short vocabulary. The Hill Dámaras speak the clicking Namáqua language.\*

The Dámaras of the Hills have bows and arrows, and an assegai with a wooden shaft. They generally wear a short mantle of deer-skin on their shoulders, and about their waist many flaps of leather behind and before; that behind contains a large pocket for roots.

May 16.—We crossed a great plain on which wild horses or zebras, in groups of five or six; each group under a fine-looking leader, were browsing on the abundant grass; before us were lofty mountains, and in the distance, right and left of us, they were also seen.

This part of Dámara-land is very beautiful; consisting of wide plains covered with herbage, broad and grassy slopes at the foot of hills, occasionally thorn bushes, (among which is frequently seen the black back of a rhinoceros,) and mountains rising to an elevation of some thousand feet—some of a tabular shape, and others with the most sharp and rugged profiles it is possible to conceive.

Directing our course to the east-south-east we reached the great mountain of Tans, or the Screen, before mentioned; its height is apparently greater than that of Table Mountain, which it resembles with its flattened top. Tans may rise probably 4000 feet above the plain.

With great labour, arising from the steepness of the ascent, and the packs of the bullocks continually shifting, we ascended some of the off-sets of the mountain, and found ourselves on an elevated table-land; here the thermometer was 65° at noon. In the rocky recesses of this plateau dwelt small communities of Hill Dámaras. These people had never before seen a white man, thought us very ugly, and that we had no skin; but it was said that they had a tradition among them, that white men should pass through their country, and they had been anxious to see them, as they expected to get something from them. I asked these rude people, among other questions, how they purchased their wives from their parents; they said that they collected as many onions and striped mice as they could, and gave these, as an acceptable present of food, to the father of the young woman they wished to obtain.

About this time many lions prowled about us; nor was it advisable to sit up and watch for them, as a person sitting up by a fire, or even lying on the ground with his knees up, is the most likely to be carried off by them, or shot at with poisoned arrows

\* The Namáquas call the whole nation of Dámaras, *Dam-ép*; and distinguish the Hill or south-eastern Dámaras by the name of *Hími* (hill) or *Háu* (dung or vile) *Dam-ép*. The Plain or Cattle Dámaras call themselves *Om-oto-ronto-rondú* or *Oke-temba kachi-híqui*.

by creeping savages. Myself and people, therefore, lay on the open plains in our sheep-skin coverings, having first arranged a few bushes (when we had not rocks to screen us) in a semicircular form to give us shelter to windward, whilst at our feet was a fire; the dogs and the bullocks lay around us; and we got up and shouted, or fired off a shot, or rang a bell, when the lions came too near. I, however, lost three head of cattle by them.

East of Tans are beautiful plains of grass and trees. We here saw brindled gnus for the first time; these the Boschmans destroyed, disguised as ostriches. We also killed and ate several zebras and rhinoceroses, white and black; but we felt the pangs of hunger severely at times, and ox-hide was roasted and eaten, as before. The water was in some places black, in others green, or impure with the visits of wild animals.

*May 22.*—At starting in the morning the thermometer was at 40°. Of course my poor people felt this temperature very severely, and at night we could not sleep for the cold. At noon the thermometer rose to 60° generally. We were now traversing table-land, and passed the various small rivers, and saw the mountains indicated on the sketch map.

*May 24.*—We came to the Kei-kúrúp, or “first Ugly River,” flowing through beautiful plains of grass and trees, and abounding in game. Here, also, we saw many picturesque and detached mountains. Under one of these the plain was covered with mat-houses of Namáguas, and bush-huts of Hill Dámaras; in short, there was here a town of about 1200 persons, called Ni-ais, or Black; while to the eastward from north-east to south-east a range of mountains, some reaching 2000 feet in height, bounded the horizon in that direction.

A party, mounted on galloping bullocks, came out to meet us, and I was conducted with every courtesy to the hut of the chief, Aaramap. He had lately fought some bloody battles with the Dámaras of the Plains, endeavouring to regain their old ground, where we now were, and the possession of some hot and cold springs, beside a small lake, three days to the north-east of us.

Our wants were now abundantly supplied; we got sheep to purchase for knives and cotton handkerchiefs, and bullocks for shawls and axes. We also drank milk till we were tired, purchasing it with needles. Honey-beer was drunk; and the reed, pot, and Dámara dances were performed to welcome us.

The first of these, the reed-dance, is performed by men standing in a circle, facing inwards, and blowing into reeds of various lengths, and stamping on the ground, whilst the women, clapping their hands and singing, dance round them. The pot-dance consists of one man dancing in the midst of a number of women, who sit on the ground singing and clapping their hands, whilst one beats with her fingers on a wooden vessel covered with skin; and

the Dámara dance consisted of half a dozen women standing in a line, clapping their hands and singing, whilst a man, with a pair of spring-bok horns on his head and rattling seeds on his ankles, stamped before them.

From information obtained while here, we learnt that to the north-east, and three days' journey from Ni-ais, are very abundant supplies of water and grass; hot and cold springs issue from both sides of a ridge of hills; to the north they unite their waters, and form a stream which falls into a lake, of several miles in extent, its shores in many places covered with reeds. Wild-fowl and fish are to be got here. The stream from the lake then forms one of the sources of the Swakop. On the south side of the ridge the hot and cold springs lose themselves in a plain covered with rich grass. This altogether is a most highly-favoured and beautiful part of Dámara-land, which, however, is said continually to increase in fertility to the north. We were also told that about ten days, or 150 miles from Ni-ais, E.S.E., is the Nósop, or Kaffir River, full of trees and elephants. The chief of Ni-ais shot fifteen elephants at the Nósop last year. It is said to flow from near the source of the Swakop and Kúisip, with an easterly bend, to the Orange River. We were also told that the rainy season at Ni-ais is in the month of August.

We had now got about 200 miles into the interior, from the coast, and had reached the fine cattle country indicated (from native report) on Arrowsmith's map. We were at a short distance too from the sources of the Kúisip and Swakop, and had crossed beyond the principal sources of the 'Oúp, or Fish River. We desired much to go further north or east, but we could get no guides to show us the waters to the north, for the Dámaras of the Plains lay there ready for war, and no one would, for any consideration, convey a message to them; whilst to the east there was said to be an impassable desert, which no one at Ni-ais had ever ventured to cross. In fact, the chief told me, that without going first south, nearly to the Orange River, it was impossible to go easterly towards Latakú, which lay south-east of us.

I had now, therefore, got to the utmost limit of my range, north and east—and I saw that, in the present state of affairs between the Dámaras of the Plains, those of the Hills, and the Namáguas, that it was impossible to pass through the country of the former from the south, and that the best chance for future travellers, to visit the interior about  $21^{\circ}$  of south latitude, is to come down from the Portuguese settlements, extending to  $17^{\circ}$  S. on the west coast, and whither the Dámaras (by reports of prisoners) resort to barter cattle for iron, &c. I therefore turned my face to the south, having first had a grand lion hunt, on foot, at a run for eight miles, at the end of which the monster turned, charged us, and fell within four yards of the muzzles of the guns. As soon

as we had got the skin off, the Hill Dámaras cut up the flesh of the lion, and carried it off to eat.

On the 31st of May then, accompanied by the Chief Aaramap, and many of his people, we travelled to the S.S.W., along the banks of the Kei-kurú—thermometer at noon 65° in the shade. At thirty miles from Ni-ais we came to a beautiful valley, enclosed with low hills, and commanding a view to the N.E. of the lofty mountains before mentioned. There was quite a forest of thorn-trees, of several miles in extent, in this valley; the grass stood in it like corn, and amongst it were flocks of pheasants and guinea-fowl.

In the centre of the valley, among rocks of granite, rises a warm spring, at 126° of Fahr.; the waters flowed freely from it, and were lost in the plain. Moreover, some attempts had been made to cultivate calabashes and tobacco by means of it, and I gave some melon and cucumber seed, which I had with me, to the chief, to extend his garden.

We shot some new and rare birds here; and as the valley is fertile, wood and water abundant, and as it is in the midst of game, and of a numerous population of Namáguas and Hill Dámaras, this spot seems well adapted for the establishment of a mission station, and accordingly I have indicated its existence and its advantages to the Wesleyan Missionary Society, as, although a distant point, it might yet be connected with their present stations at Kamiesberg and Nisbett's Bath.

The people are anxious for missionaries; the women in particular said, "send us teachers for us and for our children;" we therefore ought speedily to respond to their appeal.

We saw indications of the Dámaras of the Plains at this new Warm Bath, such as the head of an ox placed on a tree to mark the grave of a warrior below. Here, some time before, a fearful tragedy had been enacted. The Namáguas, living at the Bath, were aroused one night by the howling, as it seemed, of wolves, when there was a fearful rush of negro savages, who destroyed the women and children, whilst the men, less encumbered, escaped to a neighbouring hill. The wife of the chief was secured by the Dámaras, and had her hands cut off by the wrists next morning, before her own castle, previous to her being put to death.

We saw here, and at other places on the journey, occasional traces of Haiji Aibib, or of the Namáqua deity. A long pile of stones was pointed out, on which lay a few branches, the offerings of wayfarers. Under the pile dwells, say the Namáguas, a person they call Haiji Aibib, of whom they stand in some fear, but of whose appearance and power they entertain no distinct ideas.

The only trace of religion I found among the Boschmans was

at a pool of water commonly choked up with sand, near the Tans Mountain, where, before they dug for water, they presented an arrow, or a piece of skin or flesh, to a large red man with a white head, who is supposed to inhabit the place; at the same time they repeated a prayer for success in hunting. To dig for water here without this ceremony, they say, occasions sickness and death.

From the Hill Dámaras I could make nothing out to show they had any, the most imperfect, religious impressions. "Who made the sun?" I asked them. "We don't know; we are a stupid people, we don't know anything—only let us get plenty to eat, that is all we care for,"—was the common answer I got from this benighted people.

By a present of tobacco I found I could always get the people to speak; by means of my medicine-chest a certain influence was obtained over them; and by a violin, tambourine, &c., they were kept in good humour.

June 1.—We crossed the *Oanop* (Tell-tale) River, running to the south-east, and which is lost in the sands of the desert, in that direction. Yet the *Nósop*, or Copper River, was said to be ten days from us in that direction, and full of elephants. After a march of ten miles we came to a place called *Gnu-tuais*, or Black Mud, where, on the side of a hill, was pointed out to me a trench of some yards in length, where the Dámaras are in the habit of digging for copper, of which they manufacture rings. I collected some of the ore near the surface of the ground; it seemed rich and abundant; but this of course is not so valuable as the copper-mine formerly mentioned, from its remoteness and difficulty of access.

Meeting with various hunting adventures, and killing kudús, &c., we travelled steadily on to the S.S.W., crossing several beds of streams flowing to the S.E., through plains on which were white rhinoceroses: we walked in the morning and evening, and rode our oxen in the middle of the day.

June 6.—We were out of Dámara-land, and found ourselves in a flat and uninteresting country, though everywhere to the east of the Fish River we found grassy plains and a good cattle country.

After crossing the Kukama (Brown) River, we turned to the S.S.E., towards the Cho-unp (Calf) River, which is a tributary to the Great Fish River; we crossed the Cho-unp on the 8th of June, and afterwards recrossed it three times. We now began to see many cameleopards; they were commonly in herds of a dozen, with two videttes on an eminence looking out over the bushes. We ate the flesh of the giraffe, which we liked better than that of any of the other wild animals we had tasted, and we had partaken of everything from a lion to a locust.

I need hardly say that flesh every day, and often of the most disgusting description, and eaten without bread, salt, or vegetables, becomes tiresome enough—such we felt it.

The appearance of the country throughout this tract was undulating, without any marked features—grass, bushes, and occasional pools of water, besides the streams we crossed, but we did not see a single inhabitant: we knew that there were Dámaras on the hills to our right, but they kept out of sight—our only associates were wild beasts.

On the 10th of June we recrossed the Great Fish River, just below its junction with the Cho-ung, and by means of a small net, of thirty-five feet long, and swimming and wading with the people, we got out of deep pools in the river many dozen fish of the genus *silurus*, and also others resembling mullet. On several previous occasions we got good meals by means of the net. The bed of the Fish River was here about 150 yards broad; the banks low, and well wooded.

We now found the vast and silent plains to the west of the Fish River most monotonous to traverse, and sufficient to take the spirit of wandering out of the most determined traveller—that is, for some time.

On the 16th of June I parted with the Chief Kúisip, who wished to go home by a short route, to fight a man who threatened him. I had found him very faithful, and of great assistance, and he and Choubip went away pleased with a handsome present of a new musket each, ammunition, cloth, cutlery, beads, and buttons.

Quitting the banks of the Fish River, we proceeded to the S.S.W. for about fifty miles, over dry, stony, and dreary plains, till, on the 18th of June, we reached the banks of the beautiful *Hántop* River, which we had before crossed on our outward journey, about fifty miles farther to the north-west.

*June 20.*—We reached the Kei-sú, whence we turned much more to the westward, and winding among hills we ascended to the summit of the *Unuma* mountains, the great table range we had before seen from the west, and passed along them with a small escort, headed by Henrick Boys, our chief hunter, who was fleet enough to catch and kill a zebra with a knife. We suffered much from cold; the thermometer was at freezing point, and we rose every morning, from our sandy or stony bed, with the kaross covered with hoar frost. We had also one or two showers of rain; and were in some danger from pools poisoned by the Boschmans for zebras. After a few days, descending into the plain of the Koan-quip, I recovered my waggon on the 30th of June.

The Namáguas of the Koan-quip are in the yearly habit of resorting to Angra Pequena Bay, on the west coast, to barter their cattle for powder and lead with whalers; thus they receive

only two bottles-full of coarse powder, or forty balls, for a good ox. Sometimes, however, they are made drunk, and get nothing at all.

I asked the Namáguas why they did not come into the colony to exchange their cattle with the colonists for cloth, &c.? They answered, "We are afraid to do so." But it is evident that, if they were to be protected by a magistrate, living near the frontier, they would have no cause for apprehension; and I therefore represented the case strongly to the Government at the Cape, that a trade may be commenced in Namáqua-land, the beneficial influence of which may eventually be greatly extended.

*July 13.*—Having retraced our steps down the Koan-quip we again reached Bethany, and after two days' halt, we proceeded on our journey, in a more south-westerly direction than our outward route had been. The country at this season of the year was parched and burnt up till we got as far as Heris, or wet ground. We travelled over broad plains, with mountains to the left, but without a single inhabitant, from seven miles to the south of Bethany, (where there were a few Namáqua families on the Quahanap, or Javelin River,) to the Gariép: during the first part of the distance the country abounded in lions, which, as we advanced, were succeeded by leopards.

*July 25.*—Crossed the Heineip, or Thick Bush River. Here we saw iron occurring in veins on the side of a hill. There is also said to be to the N.E. of Bethany, near the Great Fish River, a plain covered with large masses of iron, some of which require several men to lift them. I have got specimens of this iron. It is not unlikely, too, from the indications we saw, that coal may be found to the south of Bethany.

*July 27.*—At Heris the first signs of the South African spring were seen; the plains were covered with dark-green shrubby plants, relieved by the bright hues of flowers; and as we walked after our cattle in the morning and evening march, the sense of smelling was regaled with the aromatic scent of desert plants, which burst, in a variety of forms, from the soil which had recently been moistened with showers. About this time we subsisted for two or three weeks on ostrich eggs.

*July 30.*—We found the region of the Orange River wild and barren as before—the hills scattered in great confusion. We crossed the river at the ford called Kunarúsip, or that of the Ebony Black Sheep, distant about forty miles from the sea; the stream was about 450 yards wide, and flowing briskly, yet I forded it with water only up to my waist. The banks were low: looking towards the east mountains closed in the view, affording a wild and romantic scene. To the westward high hills intervened between us and the sea.



*August 1.*—After a day's halt, we left the banks of the Great River, and though it was the beginning of the South African spring, the poor cattle had about this time no grass, only the tops of bushes, and the leaves of the ebony-tree, for a fortnight. My cattle, therefore, were fast knocking up; we had already left at intervals on the road a span of fourteen, and had eaten another span. I therefore sent into the colony to Komákas for assistance, which was immediately rendered by the excellent Bastaards under the care of the Rev. Mr. Schmelin. At fifty miles farther south we regained the route we had followed on our way to Aris; and, travelling southwards, on

*August 8,* I again gladly crossed the Kowsie River, the boundary of the colony, and tarrying a short time with the hospitable old missionary, Mr. Schmelin, who has translated the four Evangelists into the Namáqua language, I journeyed to the Olifant River, and by the beautiful district of the Twenty-four Rivers, by the Paarl and Stellenbosch, and during the finest season of the year, when the face of nature was fresh and green with verdure and brilliant with wild-flowers, I reached Cape Town on the 21st of September in health and strength, feeling very grateful for the manner in which myself and people had been mercifully preserved during the year of our journeyings in the bush and on the road.

In justice to my people, I must say that they were animated by a good spirit throughout the expedition (certainly the roughest I had undertaken during an experience of sixteen years of voyages and travels); they were respectful and obedient, and showed no want of courage; and, above all, they severally submitted with patience to the privations and hardships to which such an expedition was always exposed.

During the whole journey the rocks were found to be chiefly of primitive formation; granite, old red sandstone, mica slate, (particularly about the Kúisip,) quartz with imbedded crystals of feldspar, hornblend, &c. I brought away many specimens of copper and some of iron.

I made several drawings of the natives and of remarkable scenery, such as the Table Mountain of Tans, the Bull's Mouth Pass, and of the mountains to the eastward of Ni-ais.\*

The accompanying map has been compiled from my original daily tracks, showing the course by compass, and the distances calculated from the rate of a waggon drawn by bullocks, travelling three British miles an hour; when we rode on pack-oxen, four miles an-hour have been allowed. At starting I was well provided with instruments, but being without any companion or

\* These, with my extended Notes, I hope to be able shortly to lay before the public.

assistant, added to the difficulties attendant on travelling in Africa—the necessity for making personally every arrangement for our march and for our night's halt—the difficulty of providing food—of dealing with the natives—of preventing drunkenness and quarrels among a party at times fifty in number—and the constant exertion required to keep all in good humour, occupied my whole time, and did not allow me leisure to make as much use of the instruments as I could have wished; yet as the route chiefly lies between known points, and as the daily tracks have been revised by that careful geographer Mr. John Arrowsmith, there can be little doubt that the present map of the western region is a very near approximation to the truth, and offers a route of upwards of 1500 miles which has never appeared in any former map of Southern Africa.

With respect to the objects in natural history collected during my journey, I have the gratification to subjoin the notes of Mr. W. Ogilby on the mammalia; of Mr. John Gould on the birds; and of Professor Lindley on the plants. Their names alone will be sufficient guarantee for the accuracy of the descriptions; and I may be here permitted to offer them my sincere thanks for their kindness in so promptly acceding to my request.

List of new and rare Mammalia collected by Captain Alexander during his recent expedition into the country of the Dámaras:—

I.—QUADRUMANA.

1. *Cynocephalus Porcarinus* (Boddecart).

II.—CHEIROPTERA.

2. *Nycteris Affinis* (Dr. Smith).

III.—INSECTIVORA.

3. *Chrysochloris Dámarensis* (Ogilby), new species.
4. *Macroscelides Alexandri* (Ogilby), new species.
5. *Macroscelides Melanotis* (Ogilby), new species.

IV.—CARNIVORA.

6. *Gulo Capensis* (Schreber).
7. *Mustela Zorilla* (Desmarest).
8. *Viverra Felina?* (Thunberg).
9. *Herpestes Melanurus* (Dr. Smith).
10. *Cynictis Ogilbii* (Dr. Smith).
11. *Proteles Cristata* (Penny Cyclopædia, i. 2).
12. *Canis Megalotis* (Cuvier).
13. *Canis Mesomelas* (Erxleben).
14. *Felis Leo* (Linnæus).
15. *Felis Nigripes* (Burchell).

## V.—RODENTIA.

16. *Bathyergus Dámarensis* (Ogilby), new species.
17. *Graphyurus Elegans* (Ogilby), new species.
18. *Geosciurus Capensis* (Dr. Smith).
19. *Lepus Rupestris* (Dr. Smith).

## VI.—PACHYDERMATA.

20. *Equus Zebra* (Linnaeus).
21. *Rhinoceros Africanus* (Desmarest).
22. *Rhinoceros Simus?* (Burchell), an imperfect skull.
23. *Hyrax Capensis* (Schreber).

## VII.—RUMINANTIA.

24. *Antilope Eucore* (Forster).
25. *Antilope Tragulus* (Forster).
26. *Antilope Traguloides* (Ogilby), new species.

It will be observed from the preceding catalogue that nearly a fourth of the mammals collected by Captain Alexander are new species, that is to say, six out of twenty-six; and of the remaining twenty, seven, viz., Nos. 2, 9, 10, 11, 12, 20, and 21, are still rare in cabinets of natural history. This is a very large proportion of new and rare specimens from a country so repeatedly and so carefully explored as South Africa; and I heartily congratulate Captain Alexander upon the success which has attended this part of his mission. I have endeavoured to acknowledge the obligations which Captain Alexander has conferrèd upon the cultivators of natural science, by connecting his name with one of the new species which he has discovered.

W. O.

Upon examining the interesting collection of Birds brought home by Captain Alexander from the interior of South Africa, I find many rare species, and several which appear to me to be new to science. The collection consists of 320 specimens and 125 species. The following is a slight enumeration of them:—

Of the Raptorial order, or birds of prey, there are thirty-four specimens and sixteen species, viz., two vultures, *Neophron Peropterus* and *N. Monachus*; twenty-two falcons (ten species), among the more remarkable of which is a very beautiful eagle, with a red breast and white tail, and a very diminutive true falcon, half as large again as a sparrow, with a red back and spotted tail; eleven owls (four species); one of the genus *Surnia*, two of *Scops*, and one of *Athene*.

Of the Insectorial order, or perching birds, there are 235 specimens and seventy species. Of these seventeen specimens (six species) belong to the Fissirostral tribe, viz., 1 *Caprimulgus*; 2

species of *Coracias*; one of which, the natives say, alights on the horn of the rhinoceros. These examples are highly interesting, as showing the southern limit of the range of this beautiful tropical form. Two species of *Merops* and one *Alcedo*. Of the Dentirostral tribe there are sixty specimens (twenty-two species), among which occur examples of the following genera:—*Lanius* (two species), *Crateropus bicolor*, *Petrocincla*, *Saxicola*, *Ixos*. Of the Conirostres eighty-six specimens (twenty-five species), comprising examples of the genera *Euplectes*, *Estrilda*, *Amadina*, *Ploceus*, *Pastor*, *Lamprotornis*, and *Corvus*. Of the Scansores there are forty-two specimens (twelve species), of the genera *Colinus*, *Bucco*, *Picus*, a very rare *Corythaix* described by Dr. Smith, and an apparently-new *Agapornis* or small parrot. Of the Tenuirostres thirty specimens (six species), of the genera *Upupa*, *Rhinopomastus*, *Cinnyris*, &c. Of the Rasorial order there are eight or ten species, among which are two or three species of pigeons and examples of the genera *Otis* (three species), *Cursorius bisinctus*, *Pterocles*, *Francolinus*, *Struthio*, *Charadrius*, &c.

The collection is not so rich in birds of the Grallatorial and Natatorial orders as in those of the preceding. Among the Grallatores are examples of the genera *Numenius*, *Ardea*, *Tringa*, and *Umbretta*, and in the Natatores, *Anser*, *Anas*, *Gallinula*, and *Podiceps*.

J. G.

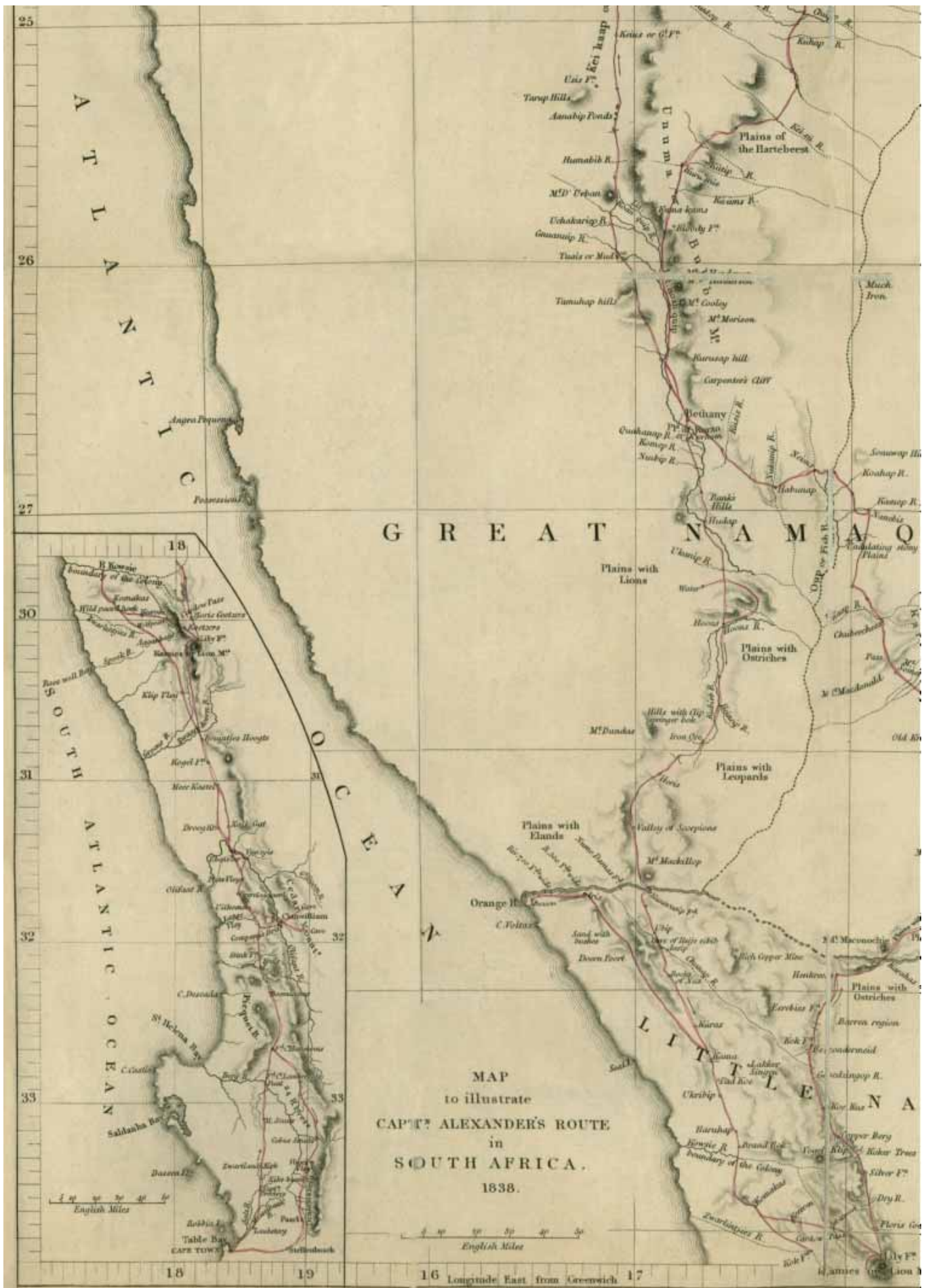
Among the Plants, collected beyond the country usually visited by strangers, occur two or three species of *Pappophorum*; a curious spiny plant with hoary leaves and large flowers, somewhat resembling an *Escobedia* in size and appearance, but belonging to the natural order *Solanaceæ*; several Acanthaceous plants, particularly one with bright blue flowers and spiny leaves, allied to *Barleria* and *Acanthodium*; the rare *Otoptera Burchellii*; a fine plant related to *Sesamum*; two trees belonging to different species of the genus *Ficus*; several *Amarantaceæ*, and an apparently-new species of *Aptosimum*. The most curious plant is, however, what is called the *Naras*, bearing a spiny fruit double the size of an orange; of this the single specimen is so imperfect that even with the assistance of the seeds it is impossible as yet to form any decided opinion concerning it. The specimen resembles *Schepperia juncea* so much, that it would be mistaken for it if it were not for the seeds, which are extremely like those of some cucurbitaceous plant.

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G R E A T N A M A O

MAP  
to illustrate  
CAPT. ALEXANDER'S ROUTE  
in  
SOUTH AFRICA.  
1838.

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