

*Organic Remains in the Karroo, in a letter to Dr. Smith,
Corresponding Secretary to the South African Institution.
By Mr. C. H. GRISBROOK.*

DEAR SIR,—As a Corresponding Member of your interesting Society, I beg leave to direct your attention to the following remarks relative to those Organic Remains which were discovered in that part of the Great Karroo denominated the “Kowf,” and situated within the district of Beaufort.

In the year 1827, while on a tour of the colony, I remained some time at the village of Beaufort, and occasionally passed a few days at the country residence of the Ex-Landdrost Mr. BAIRD, of whose hospitality and kindness I cannot speak too highly. It was during one of these visits that Mr. B. presented me with a small collection of minerals, among which I perceived a fragment or broken portion of a Fossil-Tooth of unusual dimensions; perceiving that my curiosity was excited by the peculiar appearance of this substance, he enabled me to collect the following brief relation of the manner in which it came into his possession.

About a year prior to my visit to that part of the colony, a son of the Field-cornet DE KLERCK, while riding from Beaufort to the Gamka, where his father and family had temporarily located themselves for the advantage of better pasturage for their flocks, accidentally stumbled upon a petrified skeleton, which he mistook for the remains of a large fish, the peculiar position and appearance of the vertebræ, or spine, protruding a little above the surface of the ground, favoring the supposition; without taking particular notice of the object, he alighted and took up the before-mentioned broken tooth, which had previously been detached from its socket, and was lying exposed upon the surface, and then rode away. Sometime afterwards he presented the relict to Mr. B., who, depositing it among his minerals, it remained there until the period of my arrival, when the interest I evinced on inspecting it brought the circumstance again to his recollection, and consequently led to an arrangement between us to visit the place where it had been found.

The following morning we set out, and as the Field-Cornet had again taken up his periodical sojourn near the banks of the Gamka, we agreed to call upon him for the purpose of obtaining the necessary information relative to the locality of the spot where we were to search for the Petrification.

Arriving, therefore, at the tents of this pastoral family, we were received with much kindness; and no sooner had the

obliging farmer understood the purport of our visit than he instantly offered his services, together with those of his son, and we all set out in company. About an hour and a half's ride across a gentle undulating part of this arid country brought us to the vicinity of the fossil, where we alighted, and after a short search succeeded in discovering the object of our pursuit; and what was still more gratifying, Mr. B. while strolling about, found another Petrification, presenting a similarity of position and exterior to the former, and situated at about 200 yards distance. The vertebræ of the two skeletons were lying parallel to the earth's surface, and elevated a little above its level; they were also somewhat whitened, or acted upon, by exposure to the atmosphere. The spinal columns being the only portions visible, we were obliged to remove a part of the surrounding earth and pebbles to procure other specimens, and by these means detached some portions of the costæ or ribs, together with two or three shapeless masses which puzzled us to ascertain or form any probable conjecture as to what part of the skeleton they belonged. I supposed them to have originally formed portions of the tibiæ and hoof of the animal. Some parts of the vertebræ had been removed from their true situation, (probably by cattle or the wild animals of the country passing over them,) and from their prodigious dimensions we were led to suppose them to be the remains of Hippopotami, or probably the Mammoth species. Some of the specimens brought away had masses of the stone or a greyish slate-colored material attached to them, and I think it not improbable but that the remaining portions were incased or imbedded in a similar stratum.*

These Organic Remains are situated about four hours' ride N. E. from the village of Beaufort, and about an hour's ride from the Gamka or Lion River.—The Nieuwveldt range of mountains,† forming a kind of amphitheatre, are distant about half-a-day's journey, while from the vicinity of the Petrification may be formed a complete bird's-eye view of the circular line of territory called the Kowf, flanked to the southward by the Zwarte Bergen, to the northward and eastward by the Nieuwveldt range, in front by the Sneeuw Bergen, and in the rear by the long and narrow range of Karroo country leading to the Hex River.

In conclusion allow me to observe, that this being the first and only instance of Animal Remains in a fossil state having been found within the limits of the colony, perhaps the notice

* Quere.—As the soil of this part of the Karroo is strictly of a ferruginous nature, may it not possess superior qualifications for the formation of Fossil or Petrified Substances.

† What were formerly denominated Barrow's Boundary of the Colony.

of the circumstance, (together with any remarks you may be pleased to subjoin,) in the *Quarterly Journal* of the Institution, might in some measure excite your Country Correspondents to a more zealous investigation of the Antediluvian Relicts of this portion of Southern Africa.

I have the honor to be,
Yours, &c.

Veranda Lodge, Green Point,
24th Sept. 1830.

Remarks on the Mineral Springs at the Koogha; in a letter to John Arthur, Esq. M. D. By Dr. MAIR.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit, for your consideration, the following remarks on the Mineral Springs at the Koogha; but I deeply regret that the want of chemical apparatus prevents me from analyzing the waters, and transmitting a more finished account of their composition and qualities.

Several Mineral Springs are found on the farm of Mr. Niekirk, which receives its name from its situation on the western bank of a small river the Koogha, and is about ten miles distance from Uitenhage and twenty-five from Port Elizabeth. The country for many miles round is composed of strata of clay and lime-stone, with occasional tracks of sand.

The rocks are chiefly of primary formation, presenting, particularly towards their summits, large irregular masses of quartz and granite.

A conical-shaped hill rises from the western bank of the Koogha with a very gradual slope, near the base of which an irregular mass of unctuous clay of a deep black color, in some places striped with red and yellow veins, and presenting something of the appearance of an accumulation of mole hills, opens to the view. Upon arriving at the spot, a strong sulphurous odor is perceived, which increases in intensity as you proceed. The surface of the black clay is in many parts crusted with a whitish lamina of a glazed appearance, and likewise with small yellow crystals, both of which are chiefly sulphate of iron. Near the upper part of the mass two springs are discovered a few yards from each other.

The one placed higher up the ascent is of the medium temperature of the atmosphere, and rises from a sandy bed about six feet from the surface, in large quantity, and with a gurgling sound. The water is covered with an ochry crust, and is beautifully transparent when it is removed. The sides of the well