
Diary of a Journey made by Governor SIMON VAN DER STELL, to the country of the Amaquas, in the year 1685. Translated from the Dutch by W. L. VON BUCHENRODER, Esq. Member of the South African Institution.

SATURDAY, 25th August.—At three o'clock, A. M. we took our departure from the Castle of Good Hope, with our baggage, &c. under the protection of our Lord. Amen. Our party, in addition to His Honor the Commander, consisted of fifty-six white men, besides two Macassars and three slaves: our equipage of a calish drawn by six horses; of eight asses, saddle horses, two field pieces, eight carts, seven waggons, one boat, and two hundred and eighty-nine draught and pack oxen, together with six other waggons, each drawn by eight oxen, *the property of the burgers*, and which were to accompany us as far as the Oliphants' river. Our course lay E. 5° 3' N. and after travelling for one and a fifth of a mile,* we arrived at a place called Hooge Kraal, in latitude 34° 9'. By a bearing which we took we found the Lion's-head to be W. by N. The weather was rainy. In the afternoon, about four o'clock, His Honor, accompanied by Mr. A. de Man, the second government authority, together with Captain J. Cruse and several other functionaries, joined us, and were saluted by three volleys from the troops who were under arms.

Sunday, 26th.—On breaking up our encampment, we travelled over a flat damp country with the Tiger mountains on our right and Table mountain on our left. After advancing for two miles and eighteen minutes, we encamped at a place called Stink River, in a fine valley, which was protected all round by high hills, and was very comfortable and pleasant as a resting place, because there was good grass and water, as well as a rare variety of flowers of all colours.

Note.—The translation has been intentionally made as literal as possible, and the only deviation therefrom has been the omission of the minute detail of the various courses pursued each day, and the distances in each direction after the fifth of September.

* Dutch measure, each mile of which is equal to six English miles.

This river bears its name from the circumstance of the water emitting a strong stench during the dry season. There we found ourselves in latitude $33^{\circ} 55'$, and longitude $38^{\circ} 2'$. Our course had been N. $5^{\circ} 14'$ E. and the weather very fine.

Monday, 27th.—In the morning, about half-past eight o'clock, the friends mentioned as having joined us on the 25th, took their leave. During the day we pursued various courses, on account of the great mountains along which we had to travel, and which we had also sometimes to cross. Our first direction was N. N. E. half a mile; then one-third of a mile E. by N.; then half a mile E. N. E.; farther half a mile E. by N.; then a quarter of mile E. N. E. and from thence N. by E. a quarter of a mile, when we arrived at a flat extending E. by N. three fifths of a mile. That flat was terminated by a hill, which we passed half a mile in a N. E. direction, when we found another flat called Ronde Bosjie. The fore-mentioned hills have the name of Tiger mountains, (*Tygerbergen*). The soil consisted chiefly of clay covered pretty abundantly with grass, and well supplied with water. They are inhabited by a nation called *Hottentots*, who live in troops or hordes which they call kraals, and of which we passed three that day. The two first belonged to a Captain called Schagger, and the third was one of Captain Kuyper's. According to a rough calculation we had travelled three miles and a quarter; our course had been E. N. E. 6° N. our latitude was 33.46 . and longitude 36.16 .; the weather fine. Towards evening the last-mentioned chief, Kuyper, visited us, and brought with him a slaughter ox, as a present to His Honor the Commander, and in return for which he received a flask of brandy.

Tuesday, 28th.—At break of day we prepared for departure. The soil of the place consisted of good clay, and there was abundance of water and fire-wood. We commenced to advance at half-past seven o'clock, and our route lay N. E. by N. through a kloof of the Musselbank hills. On one of those was placed a Hottentot kraal, which we passed, and after a mile and three-quarters, we reached the Musselbank River, so denominated because shells of that genus are sometimes found in it, though unfit for use. We journeyed along the course of this river and the hills on which the kraal was situated, for the distance of a quarter of a mile, being unable to cross on account of the precipitous banks of the opposite side. Though we were occupied nearly an hour and a half in getting our cattle and wagons over, yet the whole was effected tolerably well, as the water in the river was not more than three feet deep. This stream runs East and West, whilst our course was N. N. E. for a mile and three-quarters to a small streamlet, which we crossed. The roads were all very

swampy, in consequence of which, by the sinking of the carts and wagons, we had the misfortune to break a shaft and tong of one of the latter, belonging to the inhabitants; and also an axletree of one of our own, which detained us for a considerable time. We then took a direction N. E. by N. for a mile and a half, when we arrived at *Dorn Kraal*, a spot well provided with grass, but only with brackish water. After halting, and searching for some time, a stream of fresh water was discovered which had never been detected before. It was situated close under the great Paardeberg. Lat. 33. 29. long. 38. 33. weather fine.

Wednesday, 29th.—The repairs, necessary for the carts and wagons, detained us till half-past nine o'clock at Dorn Kraal. On starting we pursued a course N. E. by E. for a quarter of a mile, keeping the Paardeberg on our right, and the Dassenberg on our left; we then ascended a hill and took the bearing of the Castle of Good Hope, which was found to be S. W. by S.: our road after this lay N. E. by N. for a mile and a quarter, when we came to a pleasant valley with very fine soil, well fitted for the Residence of several families, and watered by a rivulet which springs from the forementioned Paardeberg, and runs in a direction eastward, and southward. Its banks are clothed with thorns, which are the only sort of firewood. After crossing this river, we reached a high hill, which we ascended, and when we arrived at the top, we found it well covered with firewood; and on the other side, at its base, a fine pleasant valley, planted by nature with flowers of all colours, and abundantly provided with grass. Proceeding further, we had on our right very high rocky mountains, which were situated on the other side of the Berg river, and though sometimes covered with snow, are, notwithstanding, inhabited by a tribe of Hottentots called *Sonquas*, who gain their subsistence by robbing and stealing from other Hottentots, having neither cattle nor any thing else of their own to live upon. After advancing some way farther, we reached a place called Holle river, provided with good grass and water, where we halted. Lat. 33. 13. long. 38. 41.; weather very fine; distance travelled, four miles and a half.

Thursday, 30th.—In the morning we left Holle river, with foggy weather, and pursued a course N. by W. three quarters of a mile, then N. N. E. one quarter, and from thence due North, to the Deep river, which discharges itself into the Salt river that runs into Table Bay. We then proceeded N. 30° E. with a view of avoiding the river. The country was hilly, with a sandy and clayey soil, variegated in some spots with fine marshy well watered valleys, and hills thickly covered with wood. We continued our route N. E. by N. for three

quarters of a mile, and passed a flat which was very boggy and soft on account of having been saturated with water which had flowed from the mountains during the rainy season. From its softness, it occasioned us considerable trouble in transporting our baggage. At the distance of a quarter of a mile from thence, and round a hill, we reached Riebeck's Kasteel, under which was situated an uncommon fine valley, well provided with every thing, and watered by a pleasant river. This mountain derived its name from His Honor the Commander Van Riebeck. In it is situated, an accessible grotto, and its surface is overgrown with trees, fit for timber. We proceeded E. by N. a quarter of a mile, to the south corner of the said mountain, when we directed our course E. by S. for a quarter of a mile, to some high ground, where we took the bearing of the Lion's-head, which was S. S. W. 30° W. Our road after this lay N. E. by E. a quarter of a mile, to a height which was situated between Riebeck's Kasteel and another hill without a name, which lay on our right hand. From that height the low country and the mountains on the other side of the Berg river, appeared very pleasant, and furnished a delightful view of extensive flats. After descending from the high ground we halted on a plain abounding with grass and water. Lat. 33. 2. long. 38. 45.

Friday, 31st.—In the morning the weather was foggy; at half-past seven o'clock we pursued our journey in a N. E. direction till we arrived at a small river, when we directed our course N. E. by E. for half a mile, in order to avoid a swampy valley which lay E. and W. from Riebeck Kasteel. The country in general was hilly, the soil sandy and clayey, and the surface for the most part overgrown with shrubs and flags, and intersected either by little rivulets, or their dry beds, which caused us to change our course several times. It was N. E. by E. one quarter of a mile; N. E. by N. three quarters of a mile; N. by W. half a mile, and then we reached the Berg river at a place called Sonquasford, where we found slate which appeared adapted for the covering of houses. This river takes its name from its sources being in the mountains, and by them being walled in for a considerable part of its course. It receives a tributary stream called Kleine Berg river (Little Mountain river) which has its origin also in the mountains alluded to, and after the junction winds its course through a considerable extent of country, till at last it disembogues itself into the sea at St. Helena Bay. Its banks, in many places, are clothed with trees fit for timber. We pursued our journey along the Berg river till we reached the ford of Drie Huisjes (three cottages) where we encamped upon a spot well supplied with grass.

Saturday, 1st September.—At about half-past seven o'clock

we started from the drie huisjes, and directed our course towards the Honingbergen (Honey mountains) principally along the banks of the river, in a northerly direction, and after advancing a quarter of a mile, we arrived at a rivulet falling into the Berg river, in which we found a fish much like the Barble of Holland, and of the same flavour. We then travelled N. by W. half a mile, then N. E. by E. for half a mile, towards a mountain, from which issues the Twenty-four rivers; after that we advanced N.N.W. a quarter of a mile, and arrived at a place called the Groote-gat, situated on the Berg river: from thence we went W. N. W. half a mile, till we got right opposite the south end of the said Honingbergen.

These hills are two in number, of moderate height, divided by a kloof, and have obtained their name from the honey which is found there. We travelled at about the distance of a quarter of a mile from them, and on the other side of the river. We then directed our course N.W. one-third of a mile, to a valley through which we conveyed our carts and wagons with a great deal of trouble. Our road then lay N.W. for a quarter of a mile to a small rivulet, and after that N.N.W. for half a mile, when we halted.

The country over which we passed, was composed of stony and sandy hills, except behind the Honingbergen, and at our resting place, where the soil was a red clay, well covered with grass. We passed also about Vier-en-twintig Rivieren (24 Rivers), several huts belonging to the afore-mentioned robbers, called Sonquas, and built in the same manner as those of other Hottentots, with the exception that they were covered with branches of shrubs, whilst those of the others were covered with mats.

To day, His Honor the Commander issued an order, that whereas we approached more and more to the Hottentots' kraals, none of our party should take any improper liberties with the females of the Hottentot tribes, under penalty of being scourged, and expelled as vagabonds from the Honorable Company's Service. Latitude $32^{\circ} 56'$. longitude $39^{\circ} 9'$. weather good.

Sunday, 2d September.—We proceeded with fine weather, and directed our course N.W. by N. for a third of a mile; then changed it to due North for a quarter of a mile, and passed two of Capt. Goereman's Kraals. From thence we advanced N. N. W. one mile and a half along the Bergriver. The country was hilly, some of them were stony, and others fit for cultivation. Here grew abundance of that plant which is called in Holland parey (chibbal), and its odour is of such strength that the whole country is filled therewith. We then travelled N. one-third of a mile, and came to the ford called Misverstand, where we encamped and found a

good supply of grass. The computed advance after this day's journey was two miles and two-thirds, and which required us, on account of the necessary circuits, to pass over a distance of five miles.

Monday, 3d.—We were employed transporting our baggage over the Berg River. Here, the sergeant who had started eight days before us to barter sheep and oxen for our use on the journey, of which he had obtained a good number, joined us.

Tuesday, 4th.—All our baggage arrived on the northern bank of the river without any accident. While we were busy in carrying it over, we saw five savages, who took to flight as soon as they perceived us; on which the Commander ordered a sergeant with two men to follow them, who, by beckoning and making signs that we did not intend to hurt them, induced all to stand and return. They then gave each a pipe of tobacco, and signified that they should accompany them, which they did. On arriving, His Honor the Commander interrogated them, by means of the Cape Hottentots, to what tribe they belonged; they said they were Sonquas, by which term is distinguished the robbers above-mentioned, and that they had come here to look after an Eland which they had wounded the day before with a poisoned arrow, and which under such circumstance commonly dies on the following day. They carry bows, arrows, and assagays, possess no cattle, and subsist on honey and the game which they shoot.

They had a very rough and scaly skin, arising from the hunger which they had frequently to suffer, and from want of fat with which to anoint themselves. His Honor the Commander made them a present of a sheep, and although these are people of no education, they had the consideration to give to him, as a return, the skins of three bush cats. They immediately cut the throat of the animal, skinned it, then removed the two shoulders; and allowed nothing to be wasted, except four small kernels which were found in the legs, and which they cut out and threw away. Being asked why they did this, they only said they never ate them: they covered the meat with hot ashes for about an hour, and then, gnawing like the beasts, they consumed it.

By much interrogation from His Honor the Commander, they acknowledged to have been of that party which had lately seized the cattle of a chief of the Amaquas, but said that they had been requested to do it by a chief of the fore-mentioned robbers, whose kraal they pointed out, and in which there was still all the cattle, with the exception of three oxen which they had assisted in consuming.

We could not go to that kraal because it was too far distant. They stated also that we would obtain better informa-

tion from the Gregriquas, who had also been accessory thereto. Latitude $32^{\circ}. 48'$ and longitude $38^{\circ}. 14'$. weather variable.

Wednesday, 5th.—In the morning, upon leaving our resting place called Trompetter's Drift, we directed our course N.N.E. for a quarter of a mile, and passed a large hill on our left; we then went N. for the third of a mile, and passed a rivulet, then N. again a quarter of a mile, and after that N.W. by N. half a mile, then N.N.W. an eighth of a mile. We then changed our course to due N. and proceeded in that direction a quarter of a mile, then N.N.W. one-sixth of a mile, after which we arrived at a spring, where we found fine grass and water. After that we reached a kraal which belonged to the afore-mentioned Sonquas, but found nobody, as the rest of the people, besides the five who were with us, had gone on a hunting expedition. We continued our course along the base of the Piquet Mountains for a mile and a quarter, and then found a resting place where we searched for a situation sufficiently provided with water and grass.

In the mean time a Rhinoceros of a considerable size made its appearance, charged with great fury the middle of our train, and then run to the spot where His Honor had halted with his calish. Towards that it directed its course, and His Honor had hardly time to get out of it. After jumping therefrom with a blunderbuss, he took aim at the animal, which passed him at less than six paces, but it missed fire, and the ferocious animal after having received a shot from one of the party, ran away with amazing swiftness. Several persons who were mounted on horse back, not knowing how to escape, leapt from their horses in great consternation; in consequence of which they received various injuries.

The above-mentioned Piquet Mountain received its name, from the circumstance, that when His Honor Gotske made war on the Goujemans, he made merry thereon, and there placed piquets.

Thursday, 6th.—We remained at our halting place on account of a heavy rain, and there found slate.

By the mediation of His Honor the Commander, the fore-mentioned Sonquas made peace with the Amaquas, in regard to the captured cattle, as mentioned before, under condition that they, (the Sonquas,) should give back to the Amaquas all theirs on the return of His Honor the Commander, and that they should live peaceably together in future.

Friday, 7th.—In the morning at five o'clock, we started with foggy weather, and proceeded close to and parallel with the Piquet Mountains, upon a fine clayey and moist soil, abundantly covered with wild oats and grass, and watered by several rivulets which sprang from the mountains. The latter supplied plenty of firewood and good timber.

One of our party went a hunting, and shot an Eland weighing about 1000 pounds, which induced us to encamp on a large plain in order to cut up the animal, and from that circumstance we named the spot Eland's Kraal. This place was very well furnished with grass, water, and wood.—Latitude $32^{\circ} 25'$. longitude 38° .—Weather became fine.

Saturday, 8th.—We started at 7 o'clock, and after travelling four miles and a quarter we reached a spot, directly under the Jackals' Kloof and the Kanarieberg. Here the mountains which stretched from Bergriver to the eastward of us, joined the Piquet Mountains. Our resting place was well provided with grass, water, and wood.

During the first quarter of a mile of this day's march we met some sandy, but afterwards the finest clayey soil, watered by a great many rivulets springing from the Piquet Mountains; which mountains appeared to be well provided with timber and firewood.

In the afternoon the Commander mounted the Kanarieberg, which is very high. From its top were seen twelve fine valleys which we had passed to our right, that is to say, to the eastward of us.

Sunday, 9th,—At half-past six, A.M. we proceeded, and, after travelling four miles and a half, we passed through a Kloof which separated the Piquet Mountain from the other just alluded to. We left another called Olesen's Kloof, on our left; which serves as a good passage to the Zeekoeyen Valley, and to the Olifant's River in the dry season, but in the rainy one it is unpassable.

In proceeding through that Kloof we had a small rivulet on our right, which had its source in the side of the Kloof, and was called Little Olifants' River. Along this we travelled, and reached a hollow which we named St. Martyn's Valley, being walled in on both sides with high mountains. This valley had many windings, so that we had often to change the direction of our course.

The hills which we passed this day were all sandy and stony, wild, barren, and overgrown with shrubs; and the valley very solitary, unpleasant, and overgrown with reeds, &c. Towards the end of this day's journey we came to a plain only scantily provided with grass, but plentifully with water and fire-wood, and here we halted.

Monday, 10th.—We left our resting place called Gregriqua's Valley, with fine weather, and directed our course according to the many windings of the St. Martyn's Valley. After we had advanced two miles we came to a turn, where we halted; and from thence we ascertained that the said valley stretched into the mountains on our right hand, and formed a sort of labyrinth. Our halting place furnished us with only a scanty

supply of grass, but abundantly with water. We remained here on account of the high sand hills which we had to pass, and which the cattle were not able to perform that day. The position we called Doolhofshoek, that is Labyrinth Corner. The captain of the miners, who had become unwell yesterday, fell into a violent fever this day, and complained of pain all over his body, but particularly of head-ache, which was found to be here a common complaint.—Latitude $31^{\circ} 51'$. longitude $38^{\circ} 5'$.

Tuesday, 11th.—We left Doolhofshoek with rainy weather, and passed through a stony and steep Kloof leading to the fore-mentioned Sand hills; and after that proceeded parallel with a high hill, which we had on our right; then along a height where we met an elephant, which the noise and shouts of our party put to flight. We then travelled for some time through a very marshy valley, in a part of which we encamped: and while we halted another elephant appeared, on which the Commander ordered the trumpet to sound and the drum to beat so as to frighten him away. That seemed to confuse him a little, as he went off without doing any mischief. We had advanced four miles.

Wednesday, 12th.—At seven o'clock we departed from our resting place, which we called Olifants' Valley, and we passed chiefly over a swampy flat and poor sandy soil, overgrown with reeds and shrubs, but no grass, and with a rivulet of good water. We then passed along a valley called Olifants' Jagt, which is situated between two mountains, and terminates like a bow net (fuik); and halted when about half way through it at a spot where we found a kloof in the mountain.

This place was pretty well supplied with grass, and watered by two streamlets; the one of which was fresh, and the other brackish. The valley was overgrown with Rhinoster bosjes (Rhinoceros bushes), which are so called because those animals keep generally amongst them.—Latitude $31^{\circ} 45'$. longitude $38^{\circ} 33'$.—Weather fine.

Thursday, 13th.—We left Olifants' Jagt with misty weather, passed a kloof and crossed a sandy hill, after which we travelled along a stony mountain. We then had a view of the sea, and descended into low ground called the Brakke Valley, which was well provided with grass, and near it was a pond with water which was saltish, with the exception of some springing at one corner, that was pretty fresh,—thus we found salt and fresh water in the same hole. Fire-wood was plentiful. We this day travelled a mile and two-thirds of another.

Friday, 14th.—At seven o'clock we departed from the Brakke Valley, and passed over a sandy hill overgrown with brush-wood; and after that continued our course along another called Uileberg, on account of the many owls found there.

We then reached a mountain called Klipfontyn, because a stream of very fine water issued therefrom. This mountain causes a very remarkable echo, which is repeated several times; and near the hill is a valley of a fine rich clayey soil well covered with grass, but supplied only with salt water. We continued our journey to the top of the said mountain, and after that to a sandy and stony hill, which we ascended with much trouble. Before us then lay an extensive plain stretching E. and W. along the mountain towards the sea coast: we took bearings of the sea from a distance of seven miles, and then descended the mountain which sloped very gently till we came under the Dassenberg, also named on account of the many dasjes which keep amongst the rocks thereof.

At the foot of this mountain we required to encamp, because we had had in the course of the day deep, heavy, and sandy roads, by which our draught oxen had been much fatigued, and rendered unable to proceed over the great height which lay before us. At this halting place the grass was uncommonly fine, and there was good water supplied by several running streams. The hills were abundantly provided with firewood.

The Commander in walking round the hill in the afternoon shot a klipspringer, as also a hare, having a mouth like a jackal, and a tail like a fox; the flesh was well-flavoured and white.—The weather fine.

Saturday, 15th.—At seven o'clock we left our encampment, and directed our course towards a stony height, a long a mountain, on which grew some trees. After we crossed the height we arrived at a sandy plain overgrown with a variety of shrubs; and the mountains, behind which is situated a valley called Hoogetboomen Valley, because two high trees are found there. The mountain was easy of ascent, but of very dangerous descent, on account of the height and steepness of the rocks. Those we passed, however, without injury either to wagons or carts. We then continued our route to the valley of the high trees, and from thence to the Olifant's River, which flowed in two branches, and proceeded along a bend of it till we came to a ford, where we halted; as that was the place where we had to cross to the opposite side.

This river springs from the mountains which were situated to the eastward of us, and pursues its course to the westward in a tortuous form till it discharges its water into the sea. It has its name from the elephants which are found there often in great numbers. Its banks are clothed with a species of willow, and with thorn trees of uncommon size. At our resting place there was an abundant supply of grass. We had travelled 3 miles and 35 minutes.

(To be continued.)