

SOUTH AFRICAN QUARTERLY JOURNAL.

No. IV. JULY—SEPTEMBER, 1830.

An Historical Account of the Formation, Progress, and present State of the European Colony at the Cape of Good Hope. By the Rev. Mr. M. BORCHERDS, V.D.M. Minister of the Dutch Reformed Church at Stellenbosch, and Corresponding Member of the South African Institution.

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CHAP. III.

January, 1653.—It is not probable that a man of such foresight and extensive views, as the foregoing chapters shew Van Riebeck to have been, would have seen the first day of the new year without reflecting upon the events of the past.

In the commencement of last year he was far from this place—in the northern part of the globe; his voyage was scarcely begun; he had to risk the dangers of the sea, and to surmount many difficulties before he could even see that Promontory where so much was to be done. He was aware of these difficulties, and he knew also, how confined and uncertain were his means to attain the object of his voyage, which was of so great importance to his personal happiness, and to the interests of the Company,—his employers.

It is, moreover, evident, from many instances in which his moral character was called forth, that he was not a man of loose principles, or devoid of the fear of God; and whatever might have occasionally been the errors of his judgment or temper, true piety may be seen in all his actions.

We may therefore readily conceive with what thoughts and emotions of mind, he saw the dawn of the first day of this year; and we read of a 'sermoen' (as he usually called the public worship at that period), which took place on that day, and which, we may naturally conclude, was adapted to the circumstances of the times. He endeavoured, by an act of clemency, to render his first new year's day here, agreeably memorable to the companions of his voyage and fortunes. Moved by many applications in their favour, and upon pro-

mise of amendment, he released Gerrit Dirkse, Jan Blank, and Willem Huytjens from their chains, in which, according to the sentences against them, they should have remained two years for their perfidious desertion; and he also, upon a like promise, reinstated the suspended corporal Joost van der Laak.

His cattle trade with the Saldanhians continued to prosper; and was carried on with great spirit. Even the chaplain was employed in it, and was sent with a corporal, and six musketeers, to some distance from the fort, to treat with them respecting it.

The land on the eastern side of Table Bay, near the wreck of the *Haerlem*, and along the coast as far as Saldanha Bay, was covered with fires, which Harry informed him betokened the approach of more people with cattle.

In a further expedition to the Saldanhians, the chaplain, William Barentz Wyland, was very successful, and returned in the early part of the month with 5 cows, 1 ox, 3 heifers, 3 calves, and 8 sheep, which he had obtained from this tribe in one day. But he at the same time communicated the alarming intelligence that the Commander must be on his guard against them.

He now succeeded better in making butter; but he observed that this species of cow gave very little milk, and from 18 cows he scarcely got in a whole month a half anker of milk, from which no more than 3 or 3½ pounds of butter could be made.

Van Riebeck soon afterwards found himself obliged to send again to these people, who had of late visited the Fort less than formerly, which made him consider them as too indolent to bring their cattle to market, though not more than 22 or 23 miles, or about 15 or 16 hours' walking. But their keeping at this distance, connected with other circumstances, awakened his suspicions, and induced him to place 29 armed men under the direction of that serviceable man, the chaplain, who was sent to barter with copper and tobacco. On this occasion the Commander learnt, that a Chief, who had been the first to visit him, had 80 fighting-men, and possessed from 5 to 6000 head of cattle, and about 2000 sheep. It was, at the same time, clearly perceived that his people were treated with less respect; nay, even the insults of the natives were almost insupportable. But, notwithstanding, no one had dared to act against his orders, by doing the Saldanhians harm. They had only, in the most pressing danger, fired a pistol over their heads for the purpose of frightening them, when they all fled, leaving their cattle behind. Obedient and faithful, however, to their directions, Van Riebeck's party took no improper advantage of this circumstance, but called them back, and restored the cattle with repeated assurances of friendship.

By this judicious proceeding, he was at the end of the month in possession of 350 sheep, 130 cows, 25 of which gave milk; 1 bull, and several oxen and calves. The lions and jackals gave him considerable trouble;—and, by an immediate use of the Hattentot fig, some of his people were attacked with a dangerous flux.

He now first threshed wheat grown at this place; and formed the idea of having his corn sown in the low lands beyond the Salt River, where the south-east wind was not so violent as in the Table Valley. He proposed to have these lands cultivated by free people.

Thus, with the increase of his local knowledge, Van Riebeck extended his plan, according to the intentions of his employers. His prospects, and the circle of his operations became gradually more enlarged. On the return of the yacht *Good Hope*, from Saldanha Bay (having left Table Bay on the 2d December preceding), he received some hundred seal-skins, in good preservation; and likewise a useful journal, kept by F. Verburg, of what had passed during this second voyage.*

But the daily progress of his operations was now disturbed, by news that war had broken out between Holland and England. This information was brought by the Galiot *Black Fox*, which arrived here on the 18th of the month, having left the *Texel* on the 4th September.

He assembled his Council, and formally communicated—“That the Galiot *Black Fox* had arrived express, with advice and notice of war between the States of Holland and the Commonwealth of England, with orders to forward this intelligence to Batavia by the first opportunity.” The *Good Hope* was consequently sent to that place; and it was resolved—“To work at the fortifications with the greatest despatch, to put them into the best possible state of defence,” to which end a reward of one month’s wages was promised to the people, the moment the Fort should be in such state. And it was also resolved—“To send the Galiot to Robben Island, to salt penguins and young seals for the people, in lieu of the Dutch provisions, of which there was not more than for a fortnight’s consumption; whilst the supply of bread could scarcely last longer than a month.”

With the most spirited efforts every one wrought at the fortifications, which advanced rapidly. And it soon proved fortunate that the ramparts were raised sufficiently high to resist the attacks of wild beasts; for shortly afterwards the lions one night seemed determined to enter the Fort to devour the sheep kept there. Attracted by the scent, they

* This relates principally to seal-catching.

† Records of Council, Sunday, 19th January, 1653.

came on in great numbers, with loud and terrible roarings, as if to destroy every thing. But the height of the walls proved an insurmountable difficulty. And he thought the English were as little to be dreaded as the lions; believing himself so well protected by his Fort, that unless attacked by a force many times superior to his own, he had nothing to fear, if he could only prevent the landing of cannon on the land side. And for this purpose he proposed to erect with all expedition, a redoubt near the mouth of the Salt River.

Nothing further worthy of notice occurred this month, except that some Brazilian pumpkin, and water and other melon seeds, received by a late arrival from Pernambuco, came up well, although sown only the week before.

February.—The commencement of the following month offered nothing extraordinary. But on the 9th, whilst walking behind the Table Mountain, Van Riebeck saw for the first time an astonishing quantity of locusts, which he describes as “similar to flakes of snow, driven so closely through the air that it was almost dark, and the earth could hardly be seen;” and he feared if this destructive vermin were to reach his gardens near the Fort, every thing would be consumed; as the grass had been destroyed at the place where he then was.

Meanwhile many of his labourers again became ill; and towards the middle of the month the number of sick already amounted to 40. His lands and gardens were, as he had feared, visited by the locusts, which did considerable damage to his fruits and vegetables. His cattle trade, however, prospered; but thefts, both by his own people and the Hot-tentots, were more frequent; and he found it necessary to arm his herdsman with pistols to resist cattle-stealers, and to frighten them,—“They being much afraid of fire-arms.”* A Council was held on the 21st, but of no particular interest.

March.—On the first day of this month he was informed that five or six persons had conspired to seize the Galiot, and to desert in her; at the head of this plot were the former runaways: but he prevented the execution of it;—and by great good fortune, in the evening of this anxious day, 5 ships were seen from the Lion’s Head; for which he returned thanks to the Almighty, as on that day, also, the last ration of bread had been distributed amongst his people.

On the following day, one of the ships, having the Vice-Admiral Zunius on board, arrived in the Bay; and a few days later all the others. Van Riebeck welcomed their Admiral, Mr. Demmer, and was visited by him and his suite on the 7th, when they inspected his work. And the Admiral having

* He probably alludes here to the natives in particular.

caused the General Council (Breedden Raad) to be assembled. Van Riebeck produced the letters he had lately received relative to the war, and other papers.* He at the same time begged the assistance of 200 men from the fleet, (which was homeward bound,) and then hoped to be able to put the Fort in a state of defence within a fortnight.† But his application could not be complied with, for reasons stated in the records of this General Council; of which, however, there is no entry in the Record Books of the Colony. He was supplied with some necessary provisions; and, in return, furnished the ships with vegetables and fresh meat.

Little further happened out of the routine already sufficiently described to afford the reader an idea of the history of this Settlement, and the daily occupations of its Commander. A solemn trial before the General Council, when some persons guilty of cattle-stealing, were condemned to be dropped from the yard, and whipped, and to labour for a certain time in chains, which was considered by Van Riebeck as a lenient sentence; and the arrival of the yacht Hare, from Holland, with goods and provisions, comprise the whole of what occurred deserving notice.

April.—Neither does the commencement of the month of April offer any thing particular. We only find it mentioned that 4105 Cape seal-skins, being the first article exported, were sent to Amsterdam by this fleet. Van Riebeck had formed great expectations from this branch of trade; but it appears by a letter dated Amsterdam, 15th December, 1653,‡ that he was much deceived in his calculations; for, in their answer on this subject, they say,—“The seal-skins sent by you have been duly received according to invoice; but whether they will prove so profitable as you imagine, we shall learn when the sale in January shall take place. In the mean time, we have had them examined by competent persons; who, however, consider them very inferior.”

The yacht Greyhound arrived from Holland with news of the continuation of war with England, and left again a few days after, with the Hare, for Batavia. And, on the same day, the 17th, the homeward-bound fleet sailed for Europe. Some other ships arrived from Holland and Batavia, but nothing remarkable took place respecting them.

His relations and transactions with the aborigines gradually increased, and grew more interesting. A new tribe, living

* Only reserving, according to orders from his employers, secret instructions which were to be privately communicated to the principal persons of the fleet, immediately before its departure. See Van Riebeck's Diary, South African Journal, vol. iii. p. 197.

† During which time the fleet was to remain here. *Ibid.*

‡ Book of Letters received, No. 33.

further in the interior than the Saldanians, induced by the favourable report of the Dutch, which others of their countrymen had spread, arrived to barter their cattle for copper and tobacco. Elephants and hippopotamus' tusks were sometimes exchanged for small pieces of tobacco, or copper wire; and the Commander, experiencing daily the advantages of the system of moderation and kindness which had been recommended, did his utmost to cultivate the good opinion entertained by the natives. He obtained 16 very fine cows in one day; and before the end of this month, received from two homeward-bound ships, 6 lasts or 12 tons of rice

May.—The occurrences in May were less remarkable. An observation of Van Riebeck, that English vessels had formerly been into the beautiful bay at the back of Table Mountain; and his account of three homeward-bound ships having sailed from this place with secret instructions, are, in the commencement, the only circumstances worthy of notice. At this period we first find in a judicial sentence, the words "*cum expensis*," a term used in our Courts of Law, signifying that the persons condemned should pay the costs of suit. It is also stated that 6 breeding sheep were sent to Robben Island, to try if they would breed there. There is a vacuum in the diary from the 14th to the 23d of the month; about which time the East or whale point of the Fort was completed; and Van Riebeck hoped that the West point would, "*with God's permission*," be finished before the end of the following month.

He was now occupied, with his usual diligence, in cutting beams and posts in the forests behind the Table Mountain, to build a store-house or magazine. He went there with some Hottentots, whom he wished to carry these pieces of wood to the Fort. He succeeded the first day with six; but afterwards, he states, they would not work, and made signs of being too much fatigued from the labours of the preceding day. Meanwhile he made preparations to put oxen to a timber-wain, and this first attempt here to employ the ox for the purpose of draught, succeeded extremely well. Finally, the gathering of shells and wood, for the first lime-kiln, concluded the business of the month.

June.—A singular circumstance is mentioned in the commencement of June. The captain of the Galiot Red Fox arrived here on the 2d, and reported to Van Riebeck that, by an error in the pointing of the compasses, he had been for nearly three months unable to make the port; and that 12 days before he had fallen off above 200 miles to the northward. The crew was consequently in an uncommonly sick state, and experienced the utility of this place of refreshment, by the vegetables and meat, which from his abundance he most cheerfully supplied.

The letters received by this ship, although only duplicates of former communications, caused him to assemble the Council on the 3d, when it was resolved to despatch the Black Fox to Persia and Surat, to make known the news of the recently declared war. Two meetings of Council were held on this subject, in the records of which* we find every thing mentioned that gave rise to this expedition; and such further interesting objects as he then had in view. A short time previous he had listened to the suggestions of a certain German priest, named Marthinus Martini, who had communicated many things to him; amongst others, that near the Rivers Os Montos d'Ourou, between 6 and 700 miles round the Cape, on the eastern coast, in $28^{\circ} 30'$, Rios de Reyos in $25^{\circ} 30'$, Rio de Cuamo and St. Jorgo in 18° and 19° South latitude, trade might be carried on in gold, ivory, ebony, slaves, &c. Van Riebeck proposed to have this examined by the Galiot during her intended voyage, and appears to have entertained the idea that Sofala was the Ophir to which Solomon sent for gold.† The members of Council, however, possessed resolution enough to advise him to the contrary; and this enterprise was postponed till orders should be received from the Directors in Holland, to whom, on the 4th of May, he had written a long letter on the subject: containing also a full description of his situation at that period.‡

The Galiot sailed on the 9th, and the greater part of the month was spent in having the beams brought to the Fort upon the wain, drawn by two oxen. He received daily 2 or 3 beams, and had 8 oxen trained, so that they might be changed from time to time. He observed that during this month, as in the former year, many of his people became ill, and some also died. Amongst the latter, the Commander regretted principally a sailor named Cornelis Claasz, of Haerlem, who used to catch every day a great number of partridges; at that time very abundant near the Fort.

July.—The month of July commenced under more favourable circumstances. He had a good stock of provisions, and could treat his people with arrack and tobacco; which, at that inclement season of the year, were very beneficial. The fortifications were carried on with ardour: the timber-wain was of considerable service. He had 80 cows, and obtained weekly two pounds of fine yellow butter; possessing, besides, 130 sheep, and an abundance of vegetables. But on account of the cold wet weather, the cattle-trade with the natives now stood still. About the middle of this month he sowed wheat,

* Records, 3d and 5th June, 1653,—19th and 20th meetings.

† Notes of the Hon. J. W. Stoll on letters despatched 23d April, 1653, and letter to Directors, dated 4th May following.

‡ Book of Letters, despatched 4th May, 1653.

barley, oats, peas, beans, and cadjang* in the Downs, beyond the Salt River, to observe whether they would succeed better at that place.

He named the bay behind the Table Mountain, Hout Bay, and caused it to be surveyed; making the useful discovery, that the Galiot might lay there, sheltered from every wind, in $4\frac{1}{2}$ and 3 fathoms, with a clear sandy bottom, and so far behind a point on the north side, that the open sea could not be perceived from her. He also caused a chart to be made that it might be used as occasion required. A few days after he sent† the vessel there to fetch fire-wood; and going himself towards the end of the month, saw "as fine woods as could be found in the world, the trees being as long, thick, and straight as could be wished;" but the hilly state of the ground made it impossible to get them to the beach. He saw there beautiful grazing grounds; and every sort of large and small game, but was not able to catch any. He afterwards discovered near the beach, suitable wood for the lime-kiln; and, as the Galiot lay about a musket shot from the shore, he ordered the master to bring a ship load of it to Table Bay. Further, on his return, he employed his time profitably in observing the situation and appearance of the sea coast; which he describes as being rocky, barren, and dangerous.

August.—His industrious disposition did not allow him to remain long inactive. In the first days of the following month, he discovered behind the Table Mountain, at rather more than 6 miles from the Fort, another wood, more extensive and better situated; and succeeded so well, that on the 5th, his wain had already brought two tolerable pieces of timber for beams for the new store-house.

But on that day the course of his daily occupations was interrupted by the arrival of three ships from Holland, the crews of which, particularly the scorbutic and sick, he cheerfully refreshed with vegetables and fresh meat.‡ By these vessels he received no letters from his employers, and merely verbal intelligence of the continuance of war with the new government of England.

Meanwhile he sent a few persons as far as False Bay, with the view to extend his local knowledge; which, however, cost the life of one of the party, who died from severe cold.

He was now engaged with his European visitors, taking them even to Hout Bay; and after much intercession he released some delinquents from their chains; being the more easily induced to do so, from having remarked that they had begun to fulfil the object of their punishment, by a more dili-

* A species of bean originally brought from India.—*Trans.*

† Records of Council, 25th July, 1653.

‡ Diary, South African Journal, vol. iii. p. 354.

gent and ready application to the Company's work; in the same manner as he some months before allowed the coporal, Joost van der Laak, to resume his seat in the Council.

During this time the ship *Phoenix* arrived with the Junior Merchant Jacob Ryniersz; who, by a Resolution of Council, was appointed second in command, and successor to Van Riebeck, in case of death or otherwise.* The Resolution on this subject gives us an idea of the progress made during the last 6 months, and says "that matters were already brought into good order, so that the Company's ships touching here would generally be well supplied with refreshment (the fruits of great industry), and that it would be, therefore, lamentable, if the Settlement were lost by the want of able persons."

On the 20th, the Chaplain's child, born on the 6th June last year, was christened. On the same day the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was, for the second time, administered by the Minister Trunlus, who came in the *Phoenix*.

We find nothing further remarkable in the Diary, except renewed complaints that the wild animals had destroyed some of the sheep, and all the poultry. And before the end of the month, the only circumstance in the Records of any interest, relates to the first marriage lawfully contracted and solemnized here. The Resolution of Council on this subject, reads as follows:†

"Saturday, 30th August, in the year 1653, Adolphus ten Bengevoort, of Amsterdam, boatswain, bachelor, and Zannekin Willems, also of Amsterdam, spinster, both on board the *Flute King David*, bound to India, requesting permission to enter into the Holy state of Matrimony, according to the promises which they had made to each other; the Council, assisted by the principal persons belonging to the said ship, ask them if they are betrothed or engaged to any other person, and being answered in the negative, consent to their being married as soon as possible; and for that purpose allow two banns to be published to-morrow, and the third on Monday next, when the further solemnization will take place before the Council of the Fort Good Hope;‡ which is thus hastily concluded that the ship may not be detained on this account.

"Thus done," &c. &c.

September.—This month is the most barren of all. The departure of the last-mentioned ship, a single death, some little trade in cattle with the Saldanians, a favourable account of the breeding of his sheep at Robben Island, where they had

* Resolution Book, 19th August, 1653.

† Records of Council, 30th August, 1653.

‡ As the Minister had departed in the *Phoenix* on the 25th August, this marriage was probably celebrated by the Secretary Verburg, in the same manner as that of Jacob Ryniersz, on the 23d November following.

increased from 6 to 9; but more particularly the diligence with which the work at the Fort and gardens was carried on, comprise the whole of the occurrences.

October.—October, however, proved more interesting. On the first, the Commander assembled his Council, when it was resolved to send the Galiot Red Fox, with 15 men, supplied with 3 months' provisions for 25, to Saldanha Bay,* for the purpose of commencing a cattle trade with the natives residing there; to catch fish, and cure it with Cape salt; and to return with samples of shark's skin, to see if any profit could be made of that article. On the same day he had the satisfaction to note in the Records, that "As the Fort is in a sufficient state of defence, it shall be understood that, in conformity to the special Resolution taken on the 19th January last, the people on shore shall, for their hard labour, receive a reward of one month's wages."

The first lime-kiln of shells and Cape wood, was now kindled; it was 9 fathoms in circumference.

Immediately afterwards, the interpreter Harry informed him† that two Saldanbians had arrived, stating that a large ship was lying in Saldanha Bay, catching seals, and trading with the natives. Being unable to ascertain if it were the Dutch ship West Friesland, or some other vessel, he sent Jacob Ryniersz, in the Galiot, with orders to inquire, and to act in such manner as he might deem most accordant with the interests of the Company; giving him, at the same time, the support of six able soldiers. On the 11th he learnt it was a French ship, carrying 12 guns, and about 35 men; and Ryniersz, who arrived the same evening, gave him a circumstantial account of every thing relating to this occurrence. By comparing the Records with Van Riebeck's Diary, we find that on the 8th, Ryniersz, accompanied by 8 persons, set out on foot from Saldanha Bay; when about 24 miles from the Fort, he was prevented by pain in his knee from proceeding further, but a horse was sent to him, and he arrived the same evening. This is, however, not the first time we read of a horse at this place; as in the Records of the 25th July this year, we find it mentioned that the Commander would proceed to Hout Bay either on horseback or foot.‡

We may readily imagine the impression made on Van Riebeck's susceptible mind by this account of a rival in seal-catching, for late the same day he held a Council, when, amongst other things, it was resolved—"Not only to make every attempt to engage those who offer to quit the French service to enter that of the Company, but also to prevail

* Records of Council, 1st October, 1653,—25th Meeting.

† Records of Council, 3d October, 1653.

‡ Records of Council that date.

upon as many more as possible to accompany the people to the Fort by land. At all events, to take the three persons off the small island, where they have been placed as convicts by the commander of the French ship, and bring them hither. To which proceeding (the Council considers) no one can object, it being an act of mercy." Supporting this conduct by the example of the English, who, in 1642, there being at that time peace between the two nations, had taken from Robben Island some Dutch sailors, banished there from the ship Rotterdam, Capt. Caron, and had forwarded them to Holland before the homeward-bound fleet arrived. Which example, as the people had made bitter complaints of ill-treatment and want, Van Riebeck, "from motives of pity," thought himself justified in following; and the necessary directions were accordingly despatched to the Commander of the Galiot, then in Saldanha Bay.

During these affairs, or at least shortly after, on the 18th, he had the satisfaction to record the birth of a son, being the second child born in the Fort Good Hope. On the following day, a circumstance occurred which grieved him exceedingly. Just after Divine Service ('t Sermoen), he was informed that the interpreter Harry, who resided near the Fort, had suddenly departed with his family; and before Van Riebeck had dined, he received the distressing intelligence that the boy, who, with Hendrik Wilders, had charge of the cattle, lay murdered near the Lion's Rump. The cattle was gone, and every circumstance induced him to suspect Harry. The Commander immediately despatched a sergeant, with 4 or 5 men on horseback, behind the Lion Hill, to regain the cattle; and two corporals, with 15 or 16 men, through the pass between the Table and Lion Mountains,* to meet the other party. The sergeant, however, returned in the evening, after prayers, with the unwelcome report that the cattle had been already driven behind the Table Mountain, along the sea shore, over rocks and stones where he was unable to follow them on horseback; but that the two corporals, with their people on foot, might probably be more successful. The number of cattle stolen by the natives was 42; and Van Riebeck felt assured they were on their way to Hout Bay with the plunder. He therefore sent 4 more men to the wood, to make the party working there acquainted with what had happened, and afterwards to take these wood-cutters with them, being then ten in number and well armed, to cut off the passage of the thieves, and to assist the other people, who were still in pursuit. Several attempts were made, but in vain; and from the Records of two Council-meetings held on this subject,† in

* Called here "the Kloof."—*Trans.*

† Records of Council, 21st and 23d October, 1652.

which the Commander makes great complaints of the ingratitude of Harry and his tribe, it appears he considered the cattle irretrievably lost. Although, in this instance, Van Riebeck was out-witted by the cunning of Harry, who was better acquainted with the country, yet his policy soon shewed him to be far superior to his treacherous enemy. He immediately prohibited his people from taking any revenge on account of this theft, even if they were to meet Harry himself; as under present circumstances the innocent might suffer with the guilty. From this misfortune he derived many wise lessons. He increased his precaution; divided his people into companies; pointed out to each person his place in time of danger; and doubled his guards.

He proceeded with his labours in the woods; and got beams and other wood work for the gate of his Fort; using in the wagon two of his Batavian horses in place of the stolen oxen.

He tried every means, at this critical juncture, to gain the good opinion of the natives, particularly that of the Saldanians. By his moderation and wisdom, every thing remained undisturbed, and he continued steady to his undertaking; affording a remarkable proof that, in dangerous circumstances, prudence alone can direct the arm of power with success.

Soon after, some Saldanians appeared under one of their Chiefs or Captains, and, moved by the kind treatment they had experienced, sympathized in his misfortune, and informed him that Harry was the person who had stolen the cattle, and was with them near Cape False. The Chief having nobly rejected Harry's offer to participate in the spoil, tendered Van Riebeck his assistance to retake it. The Council resolved—"To despatch thither that same evening, the 23d, a detachment of 17 able soldiers, under the Corporal Jan van Haerwaerden, with provisions for 4 or 5 days, to retake the stolen cattle; and in the event of getting Harry or his people into his power, by fair means or by foul, to bring them to the Fort." The sequel shewed that Harry, being better acquainted with the country, escaped with his plunder.

Van Riebeck received information overland, that the Commander of the Galiot in Saldanha Bay, had engaged 4 French sailors for the Company's service, and would shortly return to Table Bay.

November.—In the commencement of November the only interesting occurrences were the espousals of the second in command, Jacob Ryniersz, with Elizabeth van Opdorp, the Commander's niece;* and the return of the Galiot about the middle of the month; when they cut the first cauliflower grown here.

An interesting conversation now passed with the four

* Records of Council, 8th November, 1653,—30th meeting.

French sailors Nicolas Raine, Martin Cordie, Louis Raine, and Daniel Mulot.* These people related before the Council many remarkable circumstances respecting Madagascar; to which island† they had been sent some years before by their employers, the cardinal Mozaime, and other French nobles, to seek gold. And Nicolas Raine had been in the Bay of Antiguil, when Van der Stel, commander of the Mauritius, had touched there to trade in slaves. Much information was also obtained from them respecting seal-catching, and other matters to which Van Riebeck attached great importance. This was followed by their admission into the Company's service at their own earnest entreaty, and "from motives of charity and commiseration."

Little else happened during this month. Few Saldanhians were seen, and nothing was heard of Harry. The only event worthy of remark was the marriage of Jacob Ryniersz, which, in the absence of a clergyman, was solemnised by the Secretary in open court, in presence of the Council and the people.‡ Some drunkards, also, were punished for disorderly behaviour.§

December.—The last month of this year began with whippings and other punishments inflicted upon some slanderers who had occasioned a disturbance on board the Galiot.|| This vessel was again despatched to Saldanha Bay; not, however, without consulting the 4 Frenchmen,¶ in whose knowledge of sealing the Commander placed great confidence. He ordered that the Saldanhians, who now seemed to remain away fearing revenge for the misconduct of Harry, should be sought for at that place, and assured of his unremitted friendship. Soon after, his people met 5 of them at Salt River, when they sent him the shell of an ostrich egg as a present. They expressed their disapprobation of Harry's conduct, and stated that one of his companions, to whom the Dutch had given the name of Lubbert, was the murderer of the boy at the Lion's Rump. This was followed by several transactions, but confidence was evidently diminished on both sides; so that, notwithstanding the natural timidity of the natives, Van Riebeck considered it necessary to give 10 muskets to the 50 persons employed daily in cutting palisades in the woods, at a distance of between 7 and 8 miles from the Fort. However, from many circumstances he concluded they were not cannibals, nor of a sanguinary disposition; for the boy appeared to have been murdered to prevent his informing that the cattle had been stolen.

* Records of Council, 17th November, 1653,—31st meeting.

† South African Journal, vol. iv. p. 118.

‡ Records of Council, 23d November, 1653,—32d meeting.

§	"	"	28th	"	33d	"
	"	"	3d December,	"	34th	"
¶	"	"	6th	"	35th	"

It had also appeared on former occasions, that the natives, like other savages, were thievishly disposed, and, whenever opportunity offered, carried off any thing they could find; fearing to shew themselves again. Not to lose his cattle trade, he scarcely dared to let the natives see his weapons, as the sight of them would have put hundreds to flight. In short, on the 19th, he received the disagreeable intelligence that they were daily retreating further into the interior.

This minute account of the first two years of Van Riebeeck's government, will, we trust, not be unacceptable to our readers, and particularly to the natives and other inhabitants of the Colony; it appearing that many would desire to know in what manner the settlement at this place was first established, and what were the occupations and adventures of its Founder, and his companions. In the succeeding chapters we shall be more concise, although we shall continue to extract much from the interesting Diary, to which we have already been so frequently indebted.

A List of Plants found in the District of Uitenhage, between the Months of July, 1829, and February, 1830, together with a Description of some new Species. By Mr. C. F. ECKLON, Corresponding Member of the South African Institution.

[*Read at the South African Institution.*]

HAVING been occupied for several years past in making a collection of the Plants found in this Colony, with the view of publishing in time a work on the Flora of South Africa, I have adopted the plan of passing one year in each of the different Districts, in situations so as that the object in view should be best effected. Agreeable to that plan, therefore, I resided last year in the district of Uitenhage.

The geographical distribution of vegetable forms, and the question how far one and the same family, genus, or species, is distributed over different districts, can only be accurately ascertained when we possess as correct a list as possible of the productions of each. It may therefore, perhaps, be deemed of some interest to the Institution to obtain a catalogue of such plants as I have already been able to arrange, from which it will be seen how rich the Flora of South Africa will be found to be if examined carefully.

The collections were made about the following stations, which are marked in the list by corresponding letters.

A. 'The Adow, between the Sunday and Bosjesmans' Rivers, from the height of 500 to 1000 feet above the level of the sea. This country is variegated with hills covered on some