

*Substance of the Journal of two Trading Travellers,
and of the Communications of a Missionary, regard-
ing their recent visits to the Countries in the rear of
the Portuguese Settlement at De la Goa Bay. By
MR. JOHN CENTLIVRES CHASE.*

[Read at the South African Institution.]

WHILE Messrs. Cowie and Green, part of whose notes I have already submitted to the public, were remaining at De la Goa, another expedition, under the management of two trading travellers, named Scoon and Luckie, had penetrated through

the Sichuana or Bichuana territory to the back of that settlement, where they heard of our unfortunate countrymen, but were unable to effect a communication with them.

In giving an account of this Expedition, I shall make extracts from the Journal kept by one of the Traders, and commence at the well-known and fixed point Campbell's Dorp, in the Griqua country; referring for farther explanation to the sketch which I have had the honor to lay upon your table.

June 16, 1829. Travelled N.W. 50 miles, to Daniel's Kuyl.

23. Travelled N.E. 60 miles, to Bootschap, on the Hart River, a Missionary station for the Griquas; the country is covered with low bush, growing on limestone; between Daniel's Kuyl and Bootschap, is a fine fountain, which they had nearly missed, the Bushmen having, as is their practice, closed it up in order to direct the game to other resorts; it was, however, easily opened, and a copious supply of water was found.

July 3. Travelled N.E. 30 miles, to Kriegar's fountain.

6. Ditto N.E. 25 miles, to Hart River. This River is only a succession of pools, and joins the Ky-Gariep or Yellow River.

7. Travelled N. 15 miles, along the Draay Hart River, a branch of the Hart.

8. Travelled N. 15 miles, to Maraben, a fountain.

N. 10 miles, to Monaquia River; at this place several Batlopee Bichuanas were waiting for game, their only dependence. Enormous flats stretch out on every side; the soil is red, and sandy, and the country begins to improve in appearance.

9. Travelled N. 12 miles, to Patti fountain; spring good, and equal in all seasons: Jan Bloem, and a party of Corannas, reside here.

11. Travelled N.E. 27 miles; no water.

12. Ditto N.E. 5 miles, to Chue, a small salt-pan. A party of Bichuanas constantly reside here; they have so accustomed the wild dogs (*Hyena Venatica*,) to hunt with them, as to be always sure of food from the labours of these animals.

July 15. Travelled N.E. 20 miles, to Seechekoolie River, a periodical stream; rhinoceroses and cameleopards numerous: country improving; fine pasturage; mimosa plentiful. This is the Morolong country.

18. Travelled E. 20 miles, to Mockluratzie, a periodical stream.

20. Travelled E. 10 miles, Monooqua, a periodical river.

21. Ditto E. 10 miles, to Mooritsaana River.

Ditto N.E. 14 miles, to Settapparana River; a chain of pools.

22. Ditto N.E. 9 miles, to Seutlemassari, a small river.

23. Ditto N.E. 15 miles, to Mala Moloppo, or Mala

River, crossed it at about 20 miles from its source, which is in a considerable lake; still great plains; river runs rapidly, and is about 12 feet wide; the country on both sides for a long distance covered with mimosa forests; game most plentiful. The Mala Moloppo separates the Morolong and Morutze tribes. Here came a messenger from Malacatzie, a Zulo or Mantatote captain, with a present of four oxen, in return for some beads which Scoon had, on hearing of such a chief, sent him in the preceding year.

25. Travelled N.E. 25 miles, to Mororie fountain. Bohaklie, regent of the Morutzi nation, and a Zulo captain, visit the travellers here; the Zulo chief has a present from Malacatzie of six oxen, for the white visitors; and his orders were, on pain of death, not to return until he had seen them, and tried to persuade them to accompany him; he had been waiting in the neighbourhood on this errand four moons; the travellers consent to go, and despatch a messenger with presents.

27. Travelled S. 10 miles, to Hammasicha, a Morutzi town with about 2000 inhabitants; two fine rivulets on the road, running North; country beautiful, very mountainous, general range E. and W.; manners of people, mode of building, &c. similar to the other Bichuana nations.

28. Travelled N. 6 miles, and then E. 10 miles, to Muchukieyan River, runs east between two lofty mountains, and then takes a southerly course.

29. Travelled E. 20 miles, along this river, road difficult for wagons; met two Zulo's sent by Malacatzie to his envoy, to know if he had seen the whites.

Kurreechane, or properly *Chuan*, i.e. the Town of Baboons, so called from the numbers of that animal in the vicinity, lies direct N. 20 miles from this point; Scoon had visited this place twice before, and on his return from the present journey, again went through it; the town deserted, and but few houses standing; the new town, under the present king, who is son to Makkaba, killed by the Mantatees, lies in the hills S.W. of Chuan, and has about 2000 inhabitants; country mountainous, but fertile. Before this people were beaten and dispersed, they were very jealous of shewing the mode of working in metals, and the mines from whence these were collected, but that feeling having subsided, Scoon was admitted to the mines; and he describes them as in some instances about 15 or 20 feet, and he thinks some may be deeper, but have been filled up by rubbish; the adit is only large enough to allow the entrance of one man at a time; the copper lies in seams of various width, and is generally surrounded by soft black clay.

The country is very rich both in iron and copper, but fertile, and well wooded; the iron ore Scoon describes as so rich, that by merely being heated, and thrice beaten, the na-

ives are enabled to form it into bars; it is picked up in round lumps from the surface.

30. Travelled E. 12 miles, to Moriqua River; river runs N. by N.E., when at about 100 miles from the ford, it enters a high ridge of mountains, and the natives say thence to the sea, through the country of the Mantatees; it rises about 50 miles from the Drift S.E., forming a great elbow; its waters are rapid, clear, and good; is about 40 feet broad at the ford; runs deep; well stocked with fish, which the natives eat; infested by alligators, which are numerous; Scoon and party killed one measuring 16 feet; very destructive to the natives, who call them Quaina; in the stomach of the one killed was found part of a trek-touw, a pair of shoes, and a dog bitten in two.

Scoon has traced this stream from its source to near the mountains already alluded to, for a distance of 150 miles; timber is plentiful, especially at its sources, where he saw distant hills to the southward, which he conjectured to be at the head of the Yellow River, a fact since proved; down the river about 90 or 100 miles, he was last year at a Barrisaamo Town, where there was at least 200 acres cultivated with Indian corn, standing as high as a man on horseback. The Moriqua is generally about 20 feet deep, and overflows its banks in winter; its northerly course, before it enters the mountains, is through extensive plains, diversified by a few small conical hills.

31. Travelled E. 8 miles, to a dry channel of the river Leutlecan; passed a deserted town of the Bannattatees, who have fled from the country destroyed by the Wanketz and Morutze nations; this, in former times, has been the "Carron" of the interior, the great foundery; iron and copper ores are most abundant here.

The mountains now run in one ridge E. and W. to the south of the travellers route, through which the Moriqua finds a northerly course.

August 3. Travelled E. 18 miles to Cutongait River, it runs north, but takes its course, as do all the rivers to be named as far as the Waritcie River, in the mountains to the S. of our Journalists route. Passed the Tolaan River, here is an old town of the Bamasaans, destroyed by a very powerful tribe residing very far to the north.

4. Travelled E. 20 miles, to river Macanthe, passed the Bapeere tribe of Bechuana.

5. Travelled E. 28 miles, to Wariteie River, same size as Moriqua, into which the natives say it runs. The Zulo chief Malacatzie sends messengers to the travellers, with a present of two more oxen.

8. Travelled S.E. 6 miles; the range of mountains here

take a nearly N. and S. direction; their general height about 700 feet. Travelled S. 14 miles, at foot of mountains, to Ongorutcie Fountain. At this place they saw a large tree (probably a mimosa), upon which 17 conical huts were constructed, as dormitories for shelter from the lions, which are very numerous, and destructive of human life, especially since the Mantatee incursions; the branches of this tree were supported by forked sticks, and there were three tiers or platforms on which the huts were built; the lowest, 9 feet from the ground, has 10 dormitories; the middle, 8 feet high, 3 dormitories; and the upper, 8 feet high, 4; ascent to these is made by notches cut in the supporting poles, the huts are built with twigs, thatched with straw, and will hold two persons conveniently.

On a former excursion, the travellers visited several deserted villages built in a similar manner, between the Moriqua and Leutlecan rivers, as well as in other places; these, however, were erected on stakes instead of trees, about 8 feet from the ground, about 40 feet square, (in some places larger,) containing 70 or 80 huts; the inhabitants sit under the shade of these platforms during the day, and retire at night to the upper surface.

9. Travelled S. 20 miles, to the first kraal of the Zulos, or Mantatotes: the term of Mantatotes signifies in the Sichuana language *naked*, to distinguish the habit of the Bichuana from that of the Zulos; there were about 3000 head of cattle here belonging to Malacatzie; a cow was given to the travellers, on shooting which, the people were much astonished and terrified.

10. Travelled S. 12 miles, to Leuttebola River; the ravages of the Bergenaars, or insurgent Griquas, had extended as far as this place, and under the celebrated marauder, Jan Bloem, had taken 3000 head of cattle from the Zoolas, when they were on a commando against the Bawanketz.

11. Travelled S. 15 miles, crossed Comutalaan River, and came to a nameless stream; to the eastward large flats spread out, and at a great distance the tops of a range of mountains, appearing to run E. and W. are visible; two days beyond these, the natives say, is the sea.

12. The travellers received four more oxen as a present; on the ensuing day they visited Malacatzie, and commenced a very profitable trade, through him, with his people, to the value of nearly £1800 sterling. On their return, being desired by the chief to request missionaries, they communicated his wish to the Rev. Mr. Archbell, of Platteberg, who immediately departed with a wagon, and in ten days arrived at Malacatzie's chief town by a new and interesting route, by which he was enabled to trace up one of the principal branches

of the Gariep or Orange River to its sources, and to acquire much information respecting this tribe, and the productions of the country they inhabit.

Malacatzie is brother to the late Chaka, and has under him about 80,000 people; 12 years ago he was driven out of his own territory, near Natal, by Chaka, and conquered the country he now possesses from the Batow and other Bichuana tribes, making them his dependants, and thus increasing his power; he has 60 wives, is very tyrannical, and all his subjects approach him on their knees. His people seem to be rich in cattle and ivory; their language, dress, ornaments, and arms, are purely Zoolah; they were very friendly disposed both to the traders and the missionary, and were anxious to open an intercourse with whites. Malacatzie appeared to be very intelligent, he is well acquainted with the affairs of Natal, and the names and characters of the Europeans there; he knows of Fago, Diepa, and Hintza; Dingaan (successor to Chaka) is his enemy, and troubles him as much as Chaka did; to resist whom he is desirous of arms and ammunition. He said he used to get beads from a people with long hair, but of rather a darker complexion than Messrs. Scoon and Luckie, but they were so inferior, he would for the future only take English ones. The country is full of elephants, and Mr. Archbell describes it as one peculiarly interesting to the botanist; there are ten species of the vine; much ground is in cultivation; Caffre and Indian corn are plentiful, and water is most abundant.

On the whole, the friendly disposition of the natives through the entire route of our travellers, the healthiness of the climate, the fertility of the country, and the property the tribes have to barter, offer advantages of so important a nature, both to the trader and traveller, as will no doubt soon effect some important discoveries in a portion of the globe of which we are lamentably and criminally ignorant.

I regret that the limits of a paper of this nature do not allow me to enter into larger details, which, I have reason to believe, would be of some interest; I am glad, however, to state, that our stock of information regarding this quarter is likely to be speedily increased, as two expeditions are now traversing these interesting regions.