

*Extracts from the Journal of Mr. ANDREW GEDDES BAIN, kept during a Visit to some of the Interior Tribes of Southern Africa, in the Year 1826.**

[Read at the South African Institution.]

August 14.—Having encamped late last night in a wood, within about half a mile of the residence of Towan, the king of the Baralongs, at sun-rise we despatched Poloholo, my Bichuana servant, and another native, to apprise him of our arrival, and shortly after their departure we heard a loud shout of joy from the inhabitants, just as our people entered the village. I followed a few minutes afterwards on horse-back, and the moment they got sight of me, a similar shouting was commenced by two boys, the first who saw me, and the glad tidings flew from one to the other, until the whole place was in a tumultuous tempest of seeming joy, the dogs joining heartily in the loud chorus.

I rode through the middle of the kraal (for I can call it nothing else, it being merely a temporary town where no houses were built, but some bushy screens were erected here and there to shelter the inhabitants from the wind,) to the great terror of the women and children, who fled as if they had seen an apparition. Being directed to Towan's screen, I soon found it out, and there saw Poloholo standing in the midst of a circle of grave-looking Barolongs, who were squatted round a fire under a large tree. He told me that the king was among the number, so I set my skill in physiognomy to work to point the monarch out, but unfortunately missed my mark, by mistaking one of his lowest menials for the king's most excellent majesty. Poloholo smilingly undeceived me, and pointed to a sedate-faced old fellow, with a very flat nose, and a remarkably projecting under lip; who, as he there sat, muffled up in a dirty buck-skin caross, would have been the last man I should have taken for the chief. I saluted him, but he scarcely deigned to return that civility. His council and the crowd gathered round us, had all their eyes fixed upon me; but the worthy monarch, perhaps in a brown study, kept his immovably directed to his mother earth, so that on the whole I never, in the course of my travels, saw a drier piece of taciturnity. I went and sat down by him, thinking by familiarity to draw him into a conversation, but with much difficulty could I extract a simple nega-

* For a statement of his views in travelling, and an outline of his proceedings, the Author refers to the South African Advertiser, Nos. 66, 72, 75, 239, and 240.

tive or affirmation to any question I put to him. To atone for his silence, however, one of his right-hand men was very eloquent in answering questions I never asked, especially some long-winded stories about the Mantatees being in the country of the Bawanketzie, (the Nuaketzies of Burchell, and Wankets of Campbell,) for they had already learned our intention of visiting that country. I paid no attention to the terrific tidings respecting either the Mantatees or Bawanketzie; as I had good reasons for disbelieving them; and would have suffered this orator to have exercised his tongue for the benefit of the crowd, had not I seen that his eloquence began to make a strong impression on the countenance of poor Poloholo, whose credulity was seldom proof against a well got up Mantatee story, and seldom failed to communicate the same, with many additions and improvements, to the rest of our people; so that our enterprise was frequently in danger of being upset by their refusing to penetrate further with us.

The king was at last pleased to open his mouth, by asking when the wagons would come up, and seemed pleased, when I told him in reply, that I expected them in a few minutes.

I then took a ramble about the town on foot, the children crying, and dogs barking at the sight of such an unusual object, and the women hiding themselves behind their screens, in order to have, without danger, a peep at the Maccoa, or white man. However, finding that I was quite a tame animal, they mustered courage enough to approach within a few yards of me to beg tobacco; and, on giving a bit to one, I had no peace from all the rest until my whole stock was expended; for on such occasions I always had my pockets full of pieces about two inches long.

Returning to Toovan, I found him sitting on his hams, smoking a Bichuana hooka, a rude instrument made of a thick gemsbok horn, about the middle of which a large stone bowl of a pipe was inserted. This horn being filled with water, his majesty applied his mouth to the wide end of it, holding his hand on the rest of the aperture, which was too large for his mouth to cover; then inhaling the delicious fumes of the tobacco through this aqueous passage, he seemed for a moment lost in pleasure, until he raised his head again, when dense clouds of smoke issued from his royal nose and mouth. He sat with his back to me without speaking a word, but at the end of every whiff, took a draught of dirty water out of a filthy wooden platter. After regaling himself for some time with this amusement, he handed the pipe to his son, a good looking youth, who, after taking a couple of whiffs, passed it to the rest of the gentlemen present, who in their turns each enjoyed a share of this luxury.

When our wagons arrived, we unyoked at some distance

from the kraal, near to the pool of moisture that supplies the natives, and their cattle, with what they were pleased to call water. This was against the wishes of the king, who desired us to span out near his own hut, no doubt for the better convenience of begging; but aware of the crowd that would constantly surround us in the midst of the town, we preferred our present situation.

This pool was in the bed of the Mallopo River; and, considering the quantity of its contents daily consumed, it could not possibly last many days longer. The water at Mallala's (the last chief we visited), was bad enough to turn the stomach of a dog, but this was really ten degrees worse; and it appeared to me impossible that human beings could subsist, for any length of time, upon such execrable filth. One-fourth of it is literally composed of the dung and urine of the cattle and wild beasts, and, for aught I know, not uncontaminated with that of the people; the other quarter is mud, and the women (many of them with ulcerated legs,) are in the daily habit of wading up to the knees in this delightful slough to get at the cleanest part of it; but to me there seemed to be no choice, it being all the color of cow-dung and urine mixed up together! It was a fortunate circumstance for us that we had still remaining nearly a half-aum of tolerable water, which we had brought from Munchukana, and would be enough for our own use so long as we should stop at this filthy pool.

The Malappo is said to have its source in the Bamarootzie country, considerably to the N.E. of this place, where it is a constant running stream, and abounds with hippopotami and otters, but if we are to judge from the appearance of its bed here, which resembles what the colonists call a *vley*, I should presume that it very rarely runs in torrents like the other African rivers. It runs here nearly due West, and afterwards, taking a Southerly direction, joins the Mashow and the Kuruman, after which they are lost in the sand.

The crowd that now surrounded our wagons surpassed any thing of the kind we had yet seen at any of the other Bichuana towns; and had they been inclined to injure us, nothing could have saved us, as we were completely wedged in between them. They were, however, far from shewing any hostile spirit, as their enemies had predicted; on the contrary, they looked upon our visit as a circumstance replete with good fortune, especially when we threw away so many handfuls of tobacco to let them scramble for, being the best way of getting rid of our numerous applicants for that universally esteemed plant. This sport pleased them wonderfully, and indeed afforded us a great deal of amusement, besides giving the savages a great idea of our liberality, yet it did not prevent

even those from begging, whose good fortune it was to catch several pieces in the scramble.

Having been here about two hours, we at last saw his majesty advancing towards our wagons

“Stately and slow, and properly attended”

by about twenty of the same people who were with him in the morning. He carried in his hand a parasol, made of ostrich feathers, and was dressed in the kobo or caross which he had on when I first saw him, without any other ornament on his body, except two or three cords round his neck, to one of which was appended a small bit of glass, and to another a little root, said to be an excellent cure for the head-ache, when reduced to powder and taken as snuff, and a certain charm against all sickness! Had it pleased the Fates and the worthy Barologs, to have discovered unto me the plant to which this inestimable root belonged, more valuable by far than the so-much-sought-for Philosopher's stone, my name would be handed down to posterity with ten thousand times more honor than is paid to the names of a Hunter, or even a Jenner!

On the king's approach, the crowd instinctively made way for him, and, on the whole, shewed him a good deal of respect. Our ears were no longer dinned with that insufferable noise which such an accumulation of voices made, each vociferating his sage remarks louder than his neighbour, on the white people and their moving houses. He accosted us, as we expected, with—“Mpa muchuco,” (give me tobacco,) when I handed him a large roll which I had ready for that purpose. He received it very coolly, and although of a description he had never seen before, gave it to one of his attendants to take home without looking at it. We asked him his reason for living at a place where the water was so infamously bad, to which he replied that he intended moving, in a few days, to his old town, about two days journey up the Mallapo, whence he had been driven some time ago by the Mantatees; and gave us to understand that he expected us to accompany him thither. He had scarcely concluded this speech, which was the longest he had yet favored us with, when he again held out his hand for tobacco, but we did not think proper to favor his demand; well knowing, from experience, that all our stock would not be sufficient to gratify the avaricious importunities of a Bichuana chief. We gave, however, each of his attendants a small supply, when his majesty, turning round, muttered something in the shape of a salutation, and departed in the same order he had observed on his arrival.

The clamour and confusion of tongues re-commenced the

moment his back was turned, and having our dinner served up on the front chest of my wagon, our usual dining place, they rent the air with shouts of laughter on seeing us eat with knives and forks: and indeed our whole meal afforded them an infinite fund of amusement. To one fellow, whose chops watered at every mouthful which we conveyed to our lips, I gave a piece of meat (a cameleopard steak, a great delicacy by-the-bye), well rolled in Cayenne pepper, which he swallowed, like a wolf, almost without chewing, but had soon cause to repent of his temerity, for this fiery medicine taking immediate effect, he burst through the crowd like a mad dog, with his tongue dangling down his chin, and the saliva trickling down his beslobbered chops, to the astonishment of his fellow countrymen, who thought he was bewitched. This trick I had frequently played off before among the Bichuanas, which never failed of ridding us of some very troublesome customers, and as they saw that we ourselves partook of this fare, it invariably turned the laugh against the beggarly gluttons.

Towan paid us another formal visit in the afternoon, and was much more communicative than in the morning. He got up and sat on the front of our wagons, examining the whole with some marks of admiration, and even enjoyed a joke very well. Having heard of my drawings, he begged a sight of them, with which request I of course complied. When I exhibited to him and his subjects the cameleopard and rhinoceros, they exclaimed, with one impulse, "Maghaala-Makapa!" their usual interjection of astonishment; but when I showed them the P'hala, or red buck, they clapped their hands before their eyes, and were for a moment silent, then bursting out into a loud horse-laugh, sent a shout of the highest admiration round the crowd. I know not for what reason all the savages to whom I had shewn those drawings, which were but rough daubs, gave the preference to the P'hala above all the others, though some of them were much better executed.

In the evening I played a few tunes on the flute, on which instrument, it is true, I am but a middling performer, yet I considered my musical abilities sufficient to awaken pleasant sensations in the breast of a savage, but I found myself (as I had frequently done before), mistaken in that point, so that I begin to doubt the truth of the universality of Shakespear's celebrated axiom, that

"Music hath powers to charm the savage breast!"

August 15.—This morning we were inundated with milk, which the natives brought us in very small earthen vessels, and for each demanded a piece of tobacco, or a few beads; the king himself not thinking it below his dignity to offer us

a few half-pints on the same condition. As many of their vessels were not over and above clean, we rejected such as were not to our liking; but the rascals were too knowing for us, for they only stepped a little aside into the wood, and borrowed the dishes of the more successful competitors, into which they emptied out their dirty milk, and thus sold it to us; nor did we discover the trick until we had consumed all the milk.

Towan brought us an ox to barter for beads, which was of some service to us, as our cattle were already very weak from the length of our journey; but did nothing else in the way of trade here, as they said their ivory was all at their old town up the river, to which place they intended moving to-morrow, and fully expected that we would accompany them; but we positively declined this honor, as we would on no account deviate from our original plan of first visiting the Bawanketzie and Bakweens.

This old chief used the same arguments to dissuade us from going, that Mateebe of Latakoo had tried, but to as little purpose *. Finding us resolute, our guide was enticed away from us, and Poloholo was almost frightened to death by the dreadful accounts he heard of Mantatee cruelties. Disgusted with these tales, which every tribe tried to palm upon us since we left Lattakoo, and which we had every reason to believe were false, or at least greatly exaggerated, we prepared to launch forth on the trackless desert without a guide, trusting to good fortune to direct us to some spring where we would be sure to meet with some natives who would, in all probability, direct us to the Bawanketzie kingdom, whose bearings we had already ascertained. Our oxen, however, not arriving in time, we were reluctantly obliged to postpone our journey till to-morrow morning.

I wished to take a drawing of Towan, but the old fellow would by no means consent to that; doubtless through some superstitious motive, for he went away, very abruptly, the moment I asked him. One of his sons, however, condescended to sit for his portrait, the outlines of which I took in a few minutes.

Though the Bichuana women cannot be charged with levity or want of modesty in their general behaviour, yet some of their actions are not apt to give a stranger an high opinion of their delicacy of manners.

August 16.—Having filled our casks with the mixture from the pool, as we were informed we should meet with no water

* I have since observed that all savage tribes are proud of the visits of white people, but remarkably jealous of their more distant neighbours enjoying the same privilege.

for the first day's journey to the Northward, we began our dangerous journey without any other guide than our trusty compass, having seen nothing of Towan, and scarcely any of his people, as they were busily preparing for their own departure up the river. We had scarcely got across the Mallopo, when Manghela, our guide, fortunately made his appearance, as we had refused paying him until he brought us to the Bawanketzie country, according to agreement; although Towan had given him positive orders not to accompany us. Our route lay through a thick forest of *camel-thorn trees*, (I believe *Mimosa Litakunensis* of Burchell,) which extends a great distance on each side of the Mallopo river, and renders travelling with wagons extremely difficult and precarious. In the course of this day's ride, we observed a vast number of traces of elephants, cameleopards, elands, rhinoceroses, &c., but saw none of those huge animals themselves. We called this forest Hospital (not Hospitable) Wood, on account of Mr. Biddulph, myself, and one of our Hottentots becoming so suddenly sick in it. Although our complaints were all different, yet we were charitable enough to attribute them all to one cause; namely, the infamous water of Towan's disgusting pool, which we had all been obliged to partake of, as our people had made free with the water which we kept for our own use; nor could we be offended with them for it, as our dogs would scarcely drink the filthy stuff, although the weather was very warm. We intended travelling the greatest part of the night, so as to reach the spring betimes the next day; but our sickness increasing, we were reluctantly obliged to halt for the night at nine o'clock, having travelled since nine in the morning, except two hours which we allowed our cattle to graze in the afternoon.

As we had frequently before observed that Munghela, in guiding us through the deserts, had pertinaciously adhered to his native plan of following one of the numerous rhinoceros paths which every where intersect this level country, even when the forest did not offer sufficient impediments to justify such a deviation from our proper course, as those tracks are sure to cause; we therefore frequently steered by compass, when the country would admit of it, to the great annoyance of our guide, whose province it thus invaded. As the Bichuanas never travel after sun-set, it was with difficulty that we got Munghela to accompany us in our nocturnal travels, as he had a natural antipathy to lions, which animals are generally abroad at night; but as they seldom or never inhabit woody countries, (although, mistakenly, called the king of the forest,) we did not consider his frightful recitals, of sufficient importance to stay the prosecution of our journies by night, as our cattle always pulled much better then than in the day-

time. It was a common thing on such occasions, for him to leave us at sun-set, when he, and those of his countrymen who followed in our train, pitched their camp for the night, and overtook us next morning before we spanned in; but having no company to-night, he remained with the wagons.

August 17.—At an early hour our caravan was again in motion, I myself being considerably better than the preceding night, although my companion and Martinus were still very poorly. The country becomes more open than that through which we yesterday travelled, but still perfectly level; nothing in the shape of a hill to be seen. About noon our guide pointed to two sandy spots at a distance, which he said were the fountains where we should halt, and which we found on reaching to consist of two pits, about 12 feet deep, hollowed out by the natives in the loose white sand, but now completely trodden in by the elephants, and the last drop of moisture sucked out by them some hours before our arrival. We set all hands to work to open the springs, and as soon as we got a seeming sufficiency of water for two oxen, we drove them down to drink, but the sand being so loose, they were soon choked up again. For every two oxen that descended to drink, were we obliged to open the fountains anew, and thus it was late in the afternoon before they all obtained a scanty portion of this precious liquid.

As we approached this place, we saw some natives (women and children) filling ostrich egg-shells with water, but they fled in the greatest terror, at the unusual sight of our wagons, leaving their vessels behind. Our guide and Poloholo followed them, and by the liberal distribution of some pieces of tobacco, induced them to return, and although they still seemed to harbour some doubts of our good intentions towards them, they shewed no symptoms of surprise at the objects which had at first sight so frightened them, but looked upon every thing with the greatest apathy and indifference, except tobacco and beads.

In the afternoon we had a visit from some more of the natives, who live in a kraal in the centre of an adjoining wood, about two miles from these sandy wells; which circumstance leads me to mention a singular custom of all the Bichuana tribes, of erecting their dwellings at such a distance from the springs or pools which supply them with water. With the exception of the town of Kuruman, I have as yet met with none at a less distance than half a mile, and some kraals even as far as three miles from any water. I cannot assign any reasonable cause for this apparently incongruous custom, except it be that their absence from the springs (which in this country entirely destitute of running streams, are "like angels visits—few and far between,") may be a greater in-

inducement for wild animals to visit them more frequently than if they lived on the spot; and as these fountains are generally surrounded with pit-falls, large herds of game seldom escape without leaving some victims behind. Indeed, travellers ought to be very careful of their cattle in the neighbourhood of any of those wells of the desert, as we frequently found, to our loss, that they were but too well adapted to the purpose for which they are intended.

At night we kept watch for the elephants which we expected would visit the springs, but none made their appearance.

August 18.—There being little inducement for us to remain long at this place, which the natives call Korea, we resumed our journey, continuing in a N. Easterly direction through a country slightly undulating, and every where interspersed with beautiful clumps of trees. On reaching the small *dry river* Lorolaanie, we were met by a deputation from Sibigho, king of the Bawenketzie, whose capital, Siloqualaly, was yet several days journey in advance. They brought us a cow for slaughter, and had orders from their king to render us every assistance in their power. Although we were at a loss to know by what means he had obtained such early information of our arrival on the confines of his kingdom, we were nevertheless pleased to find that our visit was likely to prove agreeable to that despotic prince, of whose character we had heard such contradictory reports.

Finding at Lorolaanie a few wells similar to those of Korea, we spanned out to cook our victuals; and setting the natives to work to empty them, in the course of three hours we had nearly sufficient water for all our cattle, letting them go down one by one to drink. In the afternoon we left this place, and at ten at night reached a small well scarcely yielding us a mouthful of water per head, but where we were obliged to encamp for the night.

August 19.—This morning our eyes were gladdened with a view of distant mountains to the N. E. E., which were to us as refreshing a sight as the first view of land is to the weary sailor after a long voyage; having scarcely seen any thing in the shape of a hill since we left the Chue lake. We found our oxen devouring with avidity the wild water-melons;* which was a proof, if any were wanting, that they had been but poorly supplied with water for the last few days; so we

* Ever bountiful nature has, as it were, in atonement for the scarcity of water, spontaneously produced vast quantities of those useful vegetables on all the sterile plains to the Northward of Lattakoo; without which, in the absence of water, it would be impossible for one-half of the game to subsist that at present inhabit them. I have often seen the natives eat them to quench their thirst; and both they and their cattle are frequently (when journeying) many days without any other moisture. They have a very insipid, though not unpleasant, taste.

lost no time in spanning in, that we might reach Sibootzaanie by an early hour, where we understood there was plenty of water. On our road thither we started a large white rhinoceros, which our dogs kept at bay until we came up to it. I gave it a shot behind the shoulder-blade, and had the pleasure of seeing the monster drop instantaneously upon its knees, giving at the same time a most terrific grunt. We were within a few yards of it, ere the huge animal was aware of the presence of its murderers; at which moment the earth seemed to tremble under it, and, with an alacrity that I thought the clumsy brute at any time quite incapable of, sprung upon us through the brush-wood that in some measure hid us from its view, and so unexpected and sudden was this interchange of civilities, that I am at a loss whether to attribute our preservation to the misgivings of our courage, or to our presence of mind in this critical moment. However, it matters not which, it appears we hit upon the only way of saving our lives on such an occasion, viz. by dropping down behind a bush, so that the infuriated monster, whose vision is extremely bad, galloped almost over us without seeing us. On getting up, I perceived my trusty and well-beloved Hottentot squire Africander, (a most excellent shot, and frequently my companion on such occasions,) still prostrate on the earth, grumbling out some comical imprecations on the *assucanthichied* (impudence) of the rhinoceros for taking him so a-back, that he had not even time to level his piece at it. The furious brute, in the agonies of death, happening to take the track that our wagons had just passed, came in contact with the Bichuana who drove our loose oxen, and aiming a deadly blow at the poor fellow's seat of honor, most fortunately thrust his long horn right between his legs, and the astonished herdsman found himself, as if by supernatural means, perched on the top of a hook-thorn-tree, having received no other damage from his unexpected exaltation, than a few scratches from the thorns, and two of his assagais broken. After this adventure, our people always called the fellow Chicooroo, being the Sichuana name for rhinoceros. The savage beast ran about two miles further before it died; but having plenty of provisions, we allowed the natives to feast upon it.

Shortly after our sport was over, we passed the ruins of an extensive Bawanketzie town, and a mile farther travelling brought us to the long-looked-for Sibootzaanie, two very fine little lakes, or, more properly speaking, ponds of excellent water, abounding with wild ducks, geese, &c. We had scarcely unyoked our oxen here, when we shot an animal called by the Griquas "Bastard Hartebeest," which came down to drink, whose carcass we gave to our new Bawanket-

the friends, who feasted gloriously upon it. In the course of the afternoon, I saw two large aquatic birds swimming among the wild geese upon the polished surface of the Sibootzaanie, and hastened to my wagon to fetch my gun, but unfortunately they were gone before my return. This circumstance I regret the more, as they appeared to me, by the imperfect view I had of them, to be black swans; which animals, I believe, have been hitherto only found in New Holland.

Here we enjoyed the luxury of a comfortable bathe, and a thorough scouring; pleasures seldom falling to the lot of a Bichuana traveller, though in no country more necessary, on account of the numerous colonies of *live stock*, which no one can avoid picking up that comes in contact with the natives' carosses. Even our Hottentots found the necessity of purifying both their dingy hides, and blacker linen; by which operation, we may safely aver that thousands met a watery grave in the hitherto unsoiled Sibootzaanie.

One of these ponds is very deep; and, like most of the springs in this country, its bed is composed of a solid body of white calcareous rock; around its margin the natives have contrived to excavate a vast number of pit-falls, even within the water-mark, so that wild animals coming to drink frequently go down head foremost; and the pits being so deep and narrow, they have no room to extricate themselves. However, accustomed to all sorts of snares that the hungry bellies of the natives can devise, they are generally exceedingly cautious in approaching watering places.

At night, we sent our people to watch for game at the most northerly of the two lakes, which seemed to be the most resorted to; doubtless, on account of the number of pit-falls with which the other is surrounded; and in the early part of the night an immense herd of quaggas were seen approaching with a circumspection almost incredible in brute beasts, and they benefitted by their precautions, for they smelled or saw our hunters, when with a most frightful clattering of hoofs over the calcareous stone, they scampered off in an instant, until the distant sound died away on the evening breeze. A little after midnight, it being then clear moon-light, two tall cameleopards appeared, cautiously advancing and reconnoitering as carefully as the most experienced burglar would approach the house he intended to rob. Our people were only screened from their view by a few pieces of lime-stone, piled upon one another, and had their pieces levelled for their destruction, when the cautious geraffes caught a glimpse of them, and in a moment were out of sight. The next performers on this nocturnal stage, were three rhinoceroses, which, as they generally do, come down with less caution than the other animals, when the first shot of our hunters,

followed by a loud groan, proclaimed their success. One of the gigantic animals fell, but ere the people reached it, it managed to scramble into the adjoining wood, grunting all the way most frightfully, so that they did not pursue it far, but returned to the wagons and went to bed.

August 20.—The pleasing metamorphosis which the limpid treasures of the Sibootzaanie had produced on the bodies of our Hottentots, could not but afford us great satisfaction, every one appearing this morning in a clean shirt, and dressed out in the best of their "homely weeds;" doubtless with the intention of making some conquests among the ladies of the Bawanketzie court, at which place it was our intention to present ourselves this evening. Having made an early dinner on a rhinoceros tongue, and the marrow-bones of a cameleopard, (dishes which I'll defy the greatest king in Christendom to produce,) we proceeded on our journey, accompanied by a vast number of natives who had joined us in the course of the day. The country became more pleasant as we advanced to the northward, rising into gentle undulations, and vegetation is every where more luxuriant than we had hitherto found it. The picturesque clumps of trees that studded the extensive lawn over which we travelled, were composed of various kinds of mimosas, besides many other species, to us entirely unknown. Behind one of those clumps, at a short distance from our track, stood a large rhinoceros, apparently asleep, and being now pretty well accustomed to the shooting of these animals, Mr. Biddulph proposed trying the effect of a small ball upon this one, as all that we had hitherto killed were shot with large guns. I argued on the danger of the experiment, but at length agreed to let Mr. B. have the first shot with his double-barrel, of 22 to the pound, while I should stand in reserve with my large gun. Having crept up close to the bush where the creature stood, he deposited his ball near its heart, which made it rebound from the earth, and nearly stunned it; but recovering itself directly, the infuriated brute flew full at my companion, who had scarcely time to evade its long horn, by falling down behind a bush in the usual way, at which moment I pulled my trigger, but my piece unfortunately flashed in the pan. Our dogs coming up very opportunely to our assistance, kept the fierce monster at bay, which gave me an opportunity of re-priming; and in the performance of that work, happening to look over my shoulder, I saw Poloholo at a short distance behind me, with his gun pointed at the rhinoceros, it is true, but this simple creature not considering that the ball would first require to find its way through the carcase of his master, ere it reached that of the rhinoceros, it was a fortunate circumstance for me that his gun was only on half cock when I

discovered him pulling the trigger with all his might, or I certainly should have been in possession of the honor which he intended for the *chicooroo*.

In the mean time, after the enraged brute had shewn more cunning than any we had yet met with, in chasing us round the bush, and, I may say, playing at *bo peep* with us; a number of the natives coming to our assistance, and loudly shouting, it galloped furiously off, pursued by them about a mile, when, becoming weak from the loss of blood, it fell a victim to the evil effects of the *little ball*.

We pursued our journey, and in about an hour more reached the valley of Siloqualaly, which we found literally strewed with human skulls, it having been, a short time before, the theatre of a bloody battle between the Mantatees and Bawanketzie, in which, Makabba, the celebrated king of the latter nation, and father to the present monarch, was killed. The sight of these skulls did not impress us with an exalted idea of the inhabitants' humanity, nor were we entirely void of apprehensions that our own might, in a very short time, grace the same spot. We christened this place Golgotha, and as we advanced in it, we were met by crowds of natives of both sexes, eager to get a peep at the white people, whose fame had so long preceded their arrival.

It was seven o'clock, and consequently dark, before we reached the top of this "valley of the shadow of death," where the springs are which supply Siloqualaly, the present capital of the Bawanketzie kingdom; which town is situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the eastward. We were scarcely spanned out here, when two of the king's brothers waited upon us to bid us welcome to their country, and presented us with a large bag of thick milk, which was borne on the shoulders of two men; a portion of this they poured out in their hands, and tasted in our presence, (the usual custom in giving strangers food) to shew that it contained no poison. They placed sentinels round our wagons to prevent the *canaille* from injuring anything belonging to us, and told us that their brother, the king, would visit us as soon as the moon should rise, which would be about nine o'clock.

The silver luminary had scarcely peeped over the distant Bamarootzie mountains, when king Sibigho, true to his appointment, made his appearance, attended by five or six of his staff. He carried in his hand a battle-axe or *chacka*, without which they seldom go abroad. His appearance was very prepossessing, rather above the common size, with a remarkably easy carriage, and his *tout ensemble*, majestic. His features were decidedly European, color a dark brown, with woolly hair, like the rest of the Caffre tribes. Round his head (as an antidote against the head-ache, with which he was troubled,) he wore a large snake's skin, the bright colors of which formed a pleasing

contrast to that of his face; on his wrists he wore a great number of copper bracelets, of beautiful workmanship, and on his legs, just below his knees, similar rings, some of which he told us he had made himself; round his ankles were four rows of virgin gold*, which he said he had taken from a Mantatee chief, whom he had killed in battle.

After our first salutation was over, which consisted in a mutual *pulling of noses*†, he squatted down by our fire, and entered into conversation with us in the most friendly manner. He seemed surprised when we told him that we had been three moons on our journey to his country, and was rather incredulous on being informed of the cause of "such rich captains," as he was pleased to call us, visiting such poor people as they were, at such a distance from our homes, more especially, considering the frightful tales which he was aware his enemies had told us of him. He entertained us with an account of some of his late battles with the Mantatees, whom he assured us were still in his neighbourhood, and were the greatest robbers upon earth; throwing out, at the same time, some hints that he expected our assistance against them. We thanked him for the attention he had shewn us, and presented him with a roll of tobacco, a quantity of different colored beads, a knife, a tinder-box, and a looking glass, with all of which he seemed highly delighted. We also gave his brothers some tobacco and beads, and they all pulled our noses in an ecstasy of friendship and good humour. After a deal of chit-chat, his majesty went home about midnight, leaving us a guard, under two captains, in charge of our wagons.

(To be continued.)

* That was the first and the only time that I have ever met with that precious metal among the savages of Southern Africa.

† The existence of this singular custom was ridiculed by some ignorant *wits* of the S. A. Chronicle on the publication of the first sketch of my travels, yet, howsoever ludicrous it may appear, it is certainly not more strange than the manner of salutation at New Zealand, and even many other parts of this vast continent. Although this was the only place I ever observed it, I have it on the authority of the Rev. Mr. Archbell, that the same custom prevails in Great Namaqualand, and at Walvisch Bay; and it is considered the greatest mark of friendship when a native requests the honor of pulling your nose!