
Notes on South African Geology. By Mr. GRISBROOK.

I BELIEVE it is not generally known that the eastern bank of the Zwart-kop River,* together with the banks of the Zondag River, are rich in marine petrifications; a variety of shell and vegetable fossils have been collected from the latter place by Dr. Gill; the former was investigated by Mr. Von Buchenroder and myself, in the year 1828, on which occasion we procured some very fine specimens.

Martial-pyrites have been discovered in the Zwart Ruggens,† imbedded in a bluish shistone or clay-slate formation: a variety of opaque-quartz is also to be found within the same limits, and a coarse impure kind of agate (inferior to those of the Orange River) has been discovered by Dr. Gill.

Bruintjes Hoogte is celebrated for crystallised hexagonal quartz, one splendid specimen procured from it, with a fluid in the centre, has been sent by Dr. Hoistok to Professor Lichtenstein, at Berlin.

The Sneeuwbergen and intermediate country, are famous for mineralized substances; carbonate of lime, and the beautiful green mineral called Prhenite, being numbered among the variety; native saltpetre is found in many places within the same district.

The Orange River is celebrated for agates, and a vast variety of crystallized and siliceous substances; amianthus is also procured from the same quarter.

Mineral-springs abound in different parts of the Karroo, particularly in the vicinity of Beaufort.

The celebrated Caverns in the Congo, are noted for large and grotesque masses of crystalline carbonate of lime.

The Cedar-Mountains, District Clan William, together with the adjacent country of the Bokkeveldts, are rich in organic remains; it is principally from this source that our colonial geologist, Dr. Thom, has collected the major part of his splendid and valuable cabinet.

The borders of the Oliphants River, below Clan William, abound in excellent lime-stone; the inhabitants of the neigh-

* Both these rivers are situated in the District of Uitenhage, and disem-
bogue themselves into Algoa Bay,

† A line of territory situated between the villages of Uitenhage and Graaff-Reinet.

bourhood use it chiefly for building; however, I was informed by an English mason at the Field-Cornet Van Zyl's, that these quarries are equal to any he had seen in England, and consequently, might be used for general purposes.

Namaqualand contains numerous specimens of cubic and other iron-ores; and among the Kamies Mountains (which are composed entirely of immense boulders of loose-grained granite,) are found splendid specimens of mica, quartz and feldspar.

The deep and romantic ravines leading from the village of George to the river Knysna, are full of geological information and interest; it is only in this quarter that the geologist can ascertain with precision the nature of the materials composing the base of that great primitive range of mountains skirting the village of George, the Knysna, Plettenberg's Bay, and terminating at the lower end of the Langekloof.

The bold and picturesque rocks at the entrance of the river Knysna, contain caverns, in which are numerous groups of stalactites, formed by the oosing of calcareous matters through the fissures of their roofs; these stalactites are not of so fine a nature as those in the Congo.

Within 3 or 4 miles from the Residency of Plettenberg's Bay, are the remains of a fossil-tree of considerable magnitude; specimens of which are now in the Museum in Cape Town; the remainder might be removed at a trifling expense.

Eclipse of the Moon.—September 2, 1830.

To those who observed this beautiful occurrence, it may be of interest that we attempt, in these spare pages of our Journal, a record and explanation of its appearances. Many of the beautiful and interesting phenomena of the heavens are here more beautiful and interesting, from the pure and gentle transparency of the atmosphere through which we gaze at them. A spectator accustomed to the hazy skies of the North, turns oft with untired gladness to the distinct and vivid objects of our horizon, the hues and changes of the twilight, or the brilliancy of the azure noon. The nearer to us of the heavenly bodies partake of this distinctness; the setting planets blaze like masses of flame on the sea; the moon, after rushing in obscurity through the sun's radiance, early displays its filmy thread of light, and in its increase presents at all times an appearance of substantial rotundity, very dissimilar to its vapoury and languid disk in the English sky. It is