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An Account of the Amakosae, a tribe of Caffers adjoining the Eastern Boundary of the Cape Colony. By N. MORGAN, Esq. Assistant Staff-Surgeon.—(Abridged.)

[Concluded from page 48.]

These people had neither flint nor steel before their intercourse with the Europeans, and their manner of kindling a flame was by means of the friction of two sticks, one of them was pointed at the end, and the other had a small hollow made in the side to receive the point of the former. They held firmly the stick that had the cavity in the side on the ground with their feet, and placed the point of the other in the cavity, then turned it with their hands very smartly, pressing down firmly at the same time, after the manner of milling chocolate; a lighted dust is produced by the friction, which is collected in some dry grass, and woven about in the air until a flame is produced.

No religion or form of worship exists among them, but they appear to have some idea of the existence of a Supreme Being who takes cognizance of their actions, and that he is not pleased with evil ones. But whether he punishes or rewards in a future state, or whether there exists such a state, I think they have a very imperfect knowledge; that they have some is most likely, for they have an opinion that the spirits of departed persons are for a long time after death wandering about their former dwellings, and are at times visible. Among no people in the world are ghost stories more implicitly believed than among them.

They do not worship a Supreme Being in any form, and what idea they have of one appears to be that he is the dispenser of evil to them. Several of their customs appear to be the vestiges of a ceremonial worship for the purpose of averting evil or appeasing the wrath of a Being who is actually afflicting them. They appear now to personify in their mind every particular ill that comes among them, and to that evil, as to a person, make their offerings. Thus when any unusual

mortality comes among the cattle of a kraal, they slay the fattest of their flock, and consume it with fire in the very kraal in which the diseased cattle are usually folded: if the evil is small, or only anticipated, they consume a bundle of other substances prepared for this purpose. If any drift across the rivers has proved fatal to the lives of either men or cattle, particularly of the cattle, they, to avert the recurrence of similar accidents, slay and cut up a beast, and throw the pieces into the stream at the place feared. This ceremony was often performed at Caffer Drift on the Fish River, it being a dangerous passage, and one formerly much used by them in their predatory excursions into the colony.

The following customs, however, appear to be founded upon a former practice of making thank offerings to a Beneficent Deity, viz.:

The slaughter of cattle at the birth of a child, and at the first appearance abroad of a lying-in woman,—at the circumcision of their boys,—and at the age of puberty of their girls;—also at their marriages, and at their great feasts.

Upon a review of their customs in general, I think we may see evidently the remains of worship and sacrifice to a Supreme Being; and I am led to think that these people are the descendants of some people to the east, and that they have gradually lost their originally possessed knowledge and fallen to their present low estate during their progressive emigrations to this country.

The following is some account of the letters used, and the klick and sounds as described by the Missionaries.

The Caffrarian alphabet contains twenty-five letters, which are arranged and named as follows, viz.:

Roman.	Name.	Roman.	Name.
A a	a	O o	o
B b	ib	P p	ip
C c	ce	Q q	gu
D d	id	R r	ru
E e	e-e	S s	es
F f	ef	T t	it
G g	ig	U u	u-u
H h	ih	V v	iv
I i	i-i	W w	we
K k	ik	X x	xi
L l	el	Y y	ye
M m	em	Z z	iz
N n	en		

Remark. The *i* of *b, p, t, g, k, v, z,* and *h,* is short; *e* of *f, s, l, m,* and *n,* is short; *e* of *w, y,* and *c,* is sounded as the English slender *a*; *u* of *q* and *r,* is long; *i* of *x* is long.

The only diphthongal sound in Caffrarian is *au,* which is the *aw* or *ow* of the English words *howl* and *hour.* Examples: *paula, gaula, idauwa, isitauwa, kauka, gauka, laula, hlula.*

Of the sound of the letters:—

1st. Of the Vowels:—*A, a,* has the open sound of *a,* in the English; as in *fancy, glass.* Examples: *bala, imbabala, palaza, afafa, ikaka.*

E, e, has two sounds: one of these is the sound of slender *a,* in the English; as in *make, mane, face.* Examples: *umenzie, idebe, ibele, izele.* The other is the sound of short *e,* in the English, as in *debt, bed, tell.* Examples; *betela, peta, teta, senga, yenza.*

I, i, is long or short; long *i* has the sound of *ea, ee, or ey,* in *tea, see, key.* Examples: *idikidiki, ipimpi, isipitipiti, isibibilili.* Short *i* has the sound of *i* in *sin, fin, dim.*

I, of the nominal characteristics *im* and *in,* and the first of *isi* and *izi,* are commonly short. Examples: *imbiza, impofu, ingubo, inkomo, isibonda, isihoko, izidanga, izilonda.*

O, o, has the sound of *o* in the English words *bone, cone:* *Ubobo, isibobo, umboko.*

U, u, is long or short; long *u* has the sound of *u* in *rule;* or of *oo* in *boot, cool:* *Justu, ishushu.* Short *u* has the sound of *u* in *dumb, snm, sun.* Examples: *umti, umga, umqa, numhla, umoxa.*

U is short only, but not always, before *m,* and *n,* of its own syllable.

[Short *i* and *u* should be marked as such.]

2nd. Of the Consonants:—*B* has the sound which it obtains in other languages: *Boba, ubibi, ibiba, bumba.*

D has one unvaried sound; as *death, din, duda, idada, udada, indoda, dadu, udade.*

F has one unvaried sound, as *fee, fat.* *Faka, ufefe, ufafa, umfondini, umfula.*

G has uniformly the sound of *g* hard in English, as *gone, get.* *Guga, ugaga, igugu.*

H has always the same sound, as in *him, ham, hint.* *Hamba, ihobe, uhadi.*

K has always the sound of *k,* or of *c* hard in English, as *keep, kill, can, call.*

L has uniformly the liquid soft sound, as in other languages: *Lola, lala, ilula.*

M has the sound of *m,* in *murmur, monument.* (This con-

sonant is sometimes sounded without a vowel, as m'sa for musa, m'na for mine.)

N has the two sounds which it obtains in English; the one as in man, can; the other has the ringing sound like ng, as in rank, sink. The latter sound occurs only when n is followed by g or k of the succeeding syllable: k of the compound sound khl is excepted. (The ringing sound of n is always heard though not written at the end of a word, when the following one begins with g, 'zenziwa [n] guye.)

P is uniform in its sound; as put pull. Pupa, pipa, ipapu, impepo.

S has always the common hissing sound: Snsa, kusasa, um-sesane, isela.

T has its usual sound, as tell, tube. Teta, tutu, umteto, tuta, umtati, umtata.

V has one uniform sound, as van, vast, valve. Vula, isivivi, imvo, uvutuvutu.

W has an invariable sound, as winter, weather. Wena, iwawa, wowa, wam.

Y has always the sound of y, in ye, yes. Yiya, yam, iqiya, yeka.

(a and o; when they precede y, seem to have the diphthongal sounds ai and oi; but this is in consequence only of their conjunction with that consonant.)

Z has an uniform sound, as zeal, zone. Zuza, umzuzu, izenzo.

3rd. Of the *Klicks* and *Guttural*.—These, though appointed to denote certain sounds of the language, rank as consosants.

C denotes the semidental klick. This klick is produced by withdrawing the tongue from a gentle pressure of that organ on the upper incisor teeth and the palate:—Cuca, isicici, isicoco, icacadu. (The sounds which this letter obtains in English, are in Caffrarian represented by k or s.)

Q denotes the palatial klick. This klick is produced by withdrawing the tongue inward and downward from a considerable degree of pressure on the palate by that organ:—Qaqa, iqoqa, uqaqqa, uqoqoqo, quqa, umququ. (The sound of this letter in other languages, is in Caffrarian represented by k.)

X denotes the lingual klick. This klick is produced in the right side of the mouth by a gentle motion of the edge of the tongue, somewhat analogous to the clicking of some persons when wishing a horse to bestir himself:—Xoxa, isixaxa, xoma, umxoxozi, umxosa, xela. (The sound which this letter usually represents is not in Caffrarian.)

R denotes the hard guttural. This sound is formed at the back part of the mouth, and seemingly by a forcible expression

of the breath while the glottis is considerably contracted:—
Irara, ubora. (The rough sound represented by this letter in
other languages, is not in Caffrarian.)

4th. Of the *Compound Sounds*.—These are represented by
the following combinations of the Consonants.

Dw has the sound of dw in the English words dwarf, dwell.
Dwila, indwe, indweza, isidwala. It assumes a, e-e, and i.

Dy has the sound which some Britons express when pro-
nouncing the words due, duty, &c. as if they were written
dyuty.

Dyoba, indyungudyungu. It assumes a, c-c-o, and u.

Dzh has the sound of j or g soft in English.

Dzhika, idzhodzo, idzhedzhe, indza. It assumes a, e-e, i,
o, and w.

Dzhw, if a in the English word jaw is dropped, and an open
a affixed (jwa), an idea of the sound may be obtained:—
Dzhwaqa, idzhwabu, isidzhwibi, umdzhwaku. It assumes
a, e, and i.

Dyw ranks with the preceding sound, being only so much
harder as dy is harder than dzh. It assumes a and i:—Dywaba,
idywadi, idywaheli.

Ts has perhaps the exact sound of the Hebrew tsade. Tsala,
tsatsa, intso, intsika, intsuntsu. It assumes a, e-e, i, o, & u.

Tw has the sound of tw in the English words twelve, twenty.
Twesa, intwana, itwatwa, umtwa, itwecu. It assumes a, ere,
i, o, and u.

Tsh has the sound of ch in the English words chin, china,
cheek. Tshaya, isitshetshe, tshotsho, tshisha, intshipintshipi,
intshivela, intshwabuli. It assumes a, e-e, and i.

Tsw is the sound of ts, with the addition of w, Tw sina,
itswele.

Ty assumes a, e-e, i, o, u. Tyala, isityebe, intyalo, ityolo.

Tyw assumes a, e, i. Tywila, itywalwa, tywakaza, isi-
tywaka.

Thl assumes a, e, i, o, u. Thlala, inthlebe, isithlele, in-
thlovu, inthlu, ithlaka, isithla, inthlele, ithlatyani, thlula.

Thlw assumes a, e, i. Inthlwana, thlwengula, umthlwengu.

Gw is perhaps heard in the first syllable of the word guaia-
cum. Gweba, igwagasi, igwilita, gwega, igwangwa.

Gy assumes a and e. Gyaba, ingyebo, ingyaba.

Gc is the sound of g with the semidental klick attached.
Geina, igcegceya, ingcambu, isigcawu, ingcawgcazelo.

Gcw, Gwenzu, ingewalisa, ingewele, ungeweno, igcwizi.

Gq is the sound of g with the palatial klick attached.
Igqihwiza, imingqi, ingqele, ingquzugquzu, ingqoqo, gqita,
ingqanda, igquma, ingqongo, igqogqohra.

Gqw is the sound of qq with the addition of w. Gqwizilar igqwihra, igqwalashu. It assumes a, e, i.

Gx is the sound of g with the lingual klick attached. Gxebc, umgxam, ulugxa, gxugxa.

Gxw is the sound of gx with the addition of w. Gxwala, igxweni, igxwaba. It assumes a, e.

Khl is a sound which is harder than hl. Inkhlamo, inkhle, inkhlolko, inkhliziyo. It assumes a, e, i, o, u.

Kw has the sound of qu in queen, quart. Kwela, kwam, ukwekwe, inkwakwa. It assumes a, e, i.

Zw assumes a, e, i. Ilizwe, izwane, umzwazwa.

Sh has the sound of sh in shall, shell. Shenxa, ishushu, umshologu, isheshegu. It assumes e, i, o, u.

Shw assumes a, e, i. Shwila, ishweshwe.

Sw has the sound of sw in swell, swan. Isisweli, umswi, umswimpofu, swabuzela. It assumes a, e, i.

Hl assumes a, e, i, o, u. Hlaba, hleba, hlinza.

Hlw assumes a, e, i. Hlwayela, ihlwempu.

Hw is the sound of wh, in whence or hwence, what or kwat. Umhwahwalala. It assumes a.

Hr represents the soft guttural, It assumes e, e-e, i, o, u. Hrola, ihruhra, ihrahrawe, ihratahrata.

Hrw assumes a, e, i. Hrwaqa, ihrwanqa.

Lw assumes a, e, i. Lwako, amlwele, umlwimi.

Nhy assumes a, e, i, o. Unhyamnyeka, inhyobo.

Nhyw assumes a, e. Nhywebelaja, inhywagw.

Nw assumes e. Inwele, umnwe, umnweba.

Ny assumes a, e-e, i, o, u. Nyuka, unyikinyane.

Nc is the sound of n, with the semidental klick attached. Nceda, umnci, incopo, ncaza.

Ncw assumes a, e-e, i. Ncwaba, ncwela.

Nq is the sound of n, with the palatial klick attached. Nqaba, umnqonqo, nqumla, nqanqateka, isinqe. It assumes a, e-e, i, o, u.

Nqw assumes a, e, i. Nqwema, umnqwaz.

Nx is the sound of n, with the lingual klick attached. Inxanxos, nxama, inximiniximi, umnxeba, nxatshike, inxaniwe. It assumes a, e e, i, o, u.

Nxw assumes a, e. Nxwema, inxwahra.

Cw assumes a, e, i. Cwacwaze, icwacwacwa.

Qw assumes a, e, i. Qweqwa, iqwiqwi, qwesha.

Xw assumes a, e, i. Xwila, umxwexwe.

Rw assumes a, e, i. Rwarwa, rwina, rweca.

There are two more sounds known, which would have been added to the above, but the Author was unable to express them by any combination of the letters.

Remarks on the Letters:—1st. No letter is mute, and each preserves the sound ascribed to it in the alphabet.

2d. M is the only consonant which terminates a word; some words when not fully pronounced seem to terminate in z, s, or v; but when fully pronounced, a vowel is heard after each of them, as, amanzi, amasi, inthlovu, umfazi, pezu, umnquzi, umalusi, &c.

3rd. The letters a, e, i, o, u, b, d, g, k, l, m, n, w, and y, are employed as serviles. By means of them the whole business of Flexion, Numbers, Persons, Tenses, &c. is effected. The servile power of d, m, and g, is comparatively very limited.

Of the Division of Syllables:—1st. M and n are the only consonants which terminate a syllable. When m terminates a syllable, the first letter of that which succeeds may be any one of the consonants. N is more limited: when it terminates a syllable, the first consonant of the succeeding one is d, t, g, k, z, q, and x. It does not terminate often before either of the last two, viz. q and x. Example: Iten-qi, in-qo, kon-xa.

2nd. The first letter of a word, if a vowel, and not being joined with m or n, is itself a syllable.

3rd. Every syllable not terminating in m or n, nor consisting of a single vowel, has one of the vowels as its final letter.

Of the Accent of words:—Caffrarian words are accented on the penultimate, as, bo'pa, be'ta, aman'zi, ukaka'nya, and if they receive an increase by inflexion, they draw the accent forward, as, bopele'la, bete'la, ekukanye'ni, emanzi'ni.

In a few exceptions the accent is on the final syllable, as, uma', itenqi', ditenqa'.

I shall for the present close this imperfect sketch of these people. Should I at any future period acquire any further observations respecting their manners, &c. I will again trouble you with their perusal.

Observations on the Circumstances producing Ignition in Charcoal in Atmospheric Temperatures. By Mr. WILLIAM HATFIELD.*

THE spontaneous combustion of charcoal under certain circumstances has been long observed, though it has not excited the attention which it merits; nor would it now, perhaps, have possessed much general interest, had it not been for the serious consequences which may result from its occurrence in some

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