

prevented by the weather, to take these *meals* in his mootsi, in the open air. No repast could be more frugal, more simple, or less ceremonious, than these. The meat, as usual, was small pieces of *boiled beef*, set before him in a wooden bowl; and from this he distributed some in his fingers to each of his attendants, who received it also in their hands; and who immediately gnawed it in pieces without ceremony, or sometimes they took the trouble to cut it with their knife.

The quantity of meat which came to each person's share, appeared not sufficient for a meal, unless they afterwards ate again in their own houses: but in public I never saw the Chief and his party eating more than once in the day; and this consisted only of beef, without any other kind of food in addition; nor was it ever observed to be cooked in any other manner than by boiling.

The *Bachapins* have not the least idea of making their meals the opportunity for displaying luxury and refinement: they eat because nature demands it, and imagine that a meal can require no ceremony or forms more than those of chewing and swallowing. They look only to the gratification of bodily appetite, and appear quite insensible to the mental pleasures of *conviviality*. Their *mode of using the knife* at their meals, is uncouth and singular enough, and could not be imitated by a European, without incurring the risk of cutting off his under lip: on applying the lump of meat to the mouth, one end or corner of it is seized between the teeth, and the hand which holds it, pulls with some force while the mouthful is severed from it, with the knife close to the lips. In default of a knife, I have often seen the *hassagay* made use of.

This mode is not peculiar to the *Bachapins* or the *Bichuanas*; it is so common among every tribe of the *Hottentot* race, that I am unable to decide, to which nation the honor of its invention is due. But as the *Hottentots* are distinguished among the tribes of Africa by many peculiarities, and as the extraordinary mode of drinking already described* is properly theirs, it seems probable that this mode of eating may be also theirs.

* At page 314. of this volume.

Neither on this occasion, nor on any other during my travels among the Bichuanas, was I ever invited to partake of their meals. It is not however to be inferred that their greediness is so excessive that they never give away food; since some of my own men have now and then received a portion from Mattivi's bowl, and have sometimes eaten corn and milk in several houses at Litakun. But the notion which these people seem to have of *white-men*, is, that they are so inexhaustibly rich, that from the moment when they first set foot on the Bachapin territory, it is their duty to be constantly making *presents* to the natives, who think themselves to be a nation possessed comparatively of so little, that they ought to be receivers only, and under no obligation to do a favor in return, or to express their gratitude in any other manner than by words. Judging from their general conduct, one would conclude that they suppose that the white-men who visit them, can never while in this land, be in want of *food* or of the least assistance of that kind; but are, on the contrary, able to feed as many natives as chuse to seat themselves round their fire.

From the hills on which we were standing, of which the outside, at least, is formed of loose angular blocks of red sand-stone, the view is that of a most extensive plain. *The prospect*, looking down upon the town, is totally unlike every thing but itself, and well worth the trouble of climbing the rocks. The whole plan of *Litákun*, (which will be more particularly described in the seventeenth chapter,) and of its clusters of houses, of the dwellings themselves, and of the adjoining mootsies, is here seen at once, as distinctly as on a map.

On this hill, between the rocks and stones, grow a few shrubby plants; but as they are continually broken for firewood, or browsed upon by the goats, few therefore are to be found of any size excepting the *Vangueria infausta*. Among the numberless superstitious and absurd beliefs, is that which has been already mentioned, as attributing to this shrub an unlucky influence over those who use it for fuel: consequently there was here an abundance of decayed and dry wood: a circumstance very fortunate for us, as otherwise we must have sought our *firewood* at the distance of a mile or two from

the town, every dry stick in the vicinity having been consumed by the inhabitants.

When I had finished my sketch, Mattivi, pleased at the thought that the magnitude of his town would now be made known in the country of the white-men, inquired very particularly if I had drawn every house; yet though my answer was contrary to his wishes, he remained well satisfied by being told that I had drawn as many as my paper could contain, and that I intended making a sketch of the other part of the town, from the opposite hills.

We all then descended the hill together. In our way I sought for flowers, but could discover nothing new; every vegetable was so completely dried up, that scarcely a specimen could be procured. Some of the natives seeing me gather a plant, very good-naturedly made search for more of the same kind, and brought them to me; but nothing was found worth preserving.

The path by which we returned, brought us to *Serrakutu's mootsi*, the first dwelling to which we came, and situated at a little distance from the foot of the hill. I walked in to examine a beautiful tree of a new species of *acacia*, called by the inhabitants, *Móshu* *, and to gather some of its singularly twisted or curved pods, which just at this season were hanging in abundance.

Serrakutu, who was sitting in one corner of the enclosure, and whom I did not at first observe, called out to me with a loud voice, *Hēēla! Hēela!* † and seemed much gratified by my paying him a

* *Acacia Litakunensis*, B. Catal. Geogr. 2205. Arbor 40-pedalis, (vide tabulam sextam) comis partialibus depresso-patentibus. (In plantulâ hortensi bienni; Folia subpubescentia, bipinnata 4—6-juga, foliolis interstitio invicem separatis, angustè oblongis, 9—13-jugis. Spinæ stipulares geminæ breves recurvæ.) Legumina bivalvia tortuosa.

† *Hēla!* (*Háylah*) is a common exclamation among the Bachapins, and is used when calling to a person at a distance. The first syllable is usually protracted to a length proportioned to the distance of the person called. If he be only a few yards off, *Hēla!* is supposed to be sufficient; if at a much greater distance, *Hēela!* if still farther, *Hēēla!*, and even *Hē—ē—ēla!*; and when it is considered that both the tone and the strength of the voice are heightened and increased in the same proportion, it will readily be conceived that this is not a word of mean importance, nor much less resounding than the *πολυφλοισβος θαλασσα*. It is, however, in its more moderate form, employed in common conversation or debate, as the means of calling the attention of the company or the assembly, to the person who is speaking.

visit. He was then wearing Gert's hat, which he had borrowed for the day; and perhaps he mistook the smile, which his incongruous dress occasioned in me, for joy at meeting with him at home. He asked me to show him the sketch, and this obliged me to enter into the same explanation of my object in drawing it, as I had given to his nephew Mattivi. He was in the same manner as the Chief, surrounded by a party of his friends: their employment appeared to be a mixture of work and conversation.

As he had, a day or two before, invited me to see *his house*, I now requested him to show it: on which he immediately rose, and, followed by his friends or attendants, conducted me to the house of his younger wife; while Mattivi and his party proceeded homeward. She exhibited her *paintings* in a manner which evinced that she was well satisfied with her own performance. They were, the figures of several animals, rudely drawn, with a paint of white earth, against the front-wall of the house. Among these I distinguished two lizards; but the rest might have enabled a fanciful person to see in them, any animal he pleased, or that he wished to see. They were, however, intended to represent some of the common animals of the country.

He then took me to the house at which he more usually resided; which was that of his elder wife *Marriklonami*, a good-looking woman apparently about thirty-five years of age, whom he introduced to me. *Makúe* (Makooër), his daughter by Marriklonami, was also introduced: she was probably about eighteen. Neither of them, nor several others who were present, had ever before, as they told me, seen a white-man. They looked at me with the most curious attention; and to make a greater display before the crowd, for the front-court was filled with people, Serrakutu requested me to unfold my umbrella and allow his wife to stand with me under the shade of it.

While, to the surprise of all, we were thus exhibiting ourselves, I felt now and then some person behind me cautiously feeling my hair, which being rather unfashionably long, admitted of their doing this, as they supposed, without being perceived.

Serrakutu so much admired the air of importance which the

umbrella gave us, that he wished me to make him a present of it. I replied, that it was indispensably necessary to me, as I could not draw without it, the whiteness of the paper, in the sunshine, completely dazzling me and preventing my seeing either the objects before me, or my own drawing; but I added, if he would wait till I had ended my journey, I would then gladly give it to him. He did not, he said, seriously mean, or expect, that I should part with it; but only asked it in talk; yet, if he were to ask for a piece of tobacco for himself and his wife, he then should mean what he said. That this ingenious mode of begging might not fail in its object, I promised that, as I had, to avoid being troubled by beggars, put none in my pocket before I came from home, I would send him some as soon as I returned to my waggons.

Marriklonámi desired her husband to let me know that she much wished to see my *hair*, and begged me to take off my hat. I did so; and had it been a man with eyes in every part of his head, who had thus unexpectedly appeared before her, she could not have expressed greater astonishment. She lifted up both hands with amazement; involuntarily drew herself back a pace, as though fearful of a strange animal; and remained for a minute or two fixed in silent wonder. The greater part of the crowd also stood gazing with surprise at the extraordinary sight, and seemed scarcely to credit the testimony of their own senses, that there could exist on the earth a race of men whose heads produced a similar covering: yet none ventured now to approach and examine it more nearly. One man said, he thought long hair very beautiful; but when I told him that I much doubted whether he admired it so much as the hair of his own countrywomen, he made no reply, and confessed by his silence, that black wool twisted into threads shining with grease and sibílo, was in his eyes much more charming.

Having allowed the party time sufficient for satisfying their curiosity, I again put on my hat; and all then began giving to each other their opinions respecting the white-man; at least, such appeared, by their manner, to be the subject of their conversation.

Serrakútu, with a view to give me some idea, as it appeared, of

Bachapin ingenuity and workmanship, ordered two girls to bring me his *corn-sieves* to look at. They were in the form of a large shallow bowl, and made in a very neat manner, with flat split twigs interwoven with the greatest exactness: but on pressing him to sell them, I discovered that they were in reality the manufacture of the *Nuákketsi* tribe, as he was unwilling to part with them, because, he said, he should not for a long time have an opportunity of getting others in their place; and it was an article with which he could not dispense.

Both these dwellings were situated at the distance of only a few paces from his mootsi; and his wives, of whom he had only two, had proved themselves to be good builders, by their houses being of the largest dimensions. That of the youngest may be seen on the left in the foreground of the sixth plate. The same cleanness, good order and neatness, which are the striking features of the houses of Litákun, were equally conspicuous in these.

After having seen various other domestic articles, I returned home, leaving them all exceedingly pleased at my visit, which, I doubt not, furnished them with abundant matter for conversation during the remainder of the day.

I had scarcely seated myself in my waggon, before Mollemmi came to see me, for the purpose of being shown what I had drawn. I made use of the opportunity for asking him to let me take his portrait: but this he was unwilling to allow; nor would he give any reason for his refusal.

The rest of the afternoon was employed in finishing my sketch; though I was never without tobacco-beggars before me. I now, however, succeeded better in resisting their importunities and gave away less than on any previous day.

Speelman and Keyser, who had been out *hunting* since yesterday morning, and had passed the night in the plains, returned this afternoon; having shot a quakka (zebra). They were attended, during the whole time, by three natives, who assisted in bringing home the meat, and whose knowledge of *Bachapin customs*, was of great service in finding cooking utensils; wherever the chase led them, or when-

ever they wished to take a meal, one or other of these men would leave the party for a few minutes, and return with a large *piitsa* or clay *boiling-pot*.

It seems by the report of my Hottentots, who have several times had an opportunity of knowing the circumstance, that the natives have placed pots in various parts of the country, concealed under the bushes, to remain there for general use, or at least for the use of their hunting parties, all of whom, probably, know the spots where they are to be found. My knowledge of the fact here related, is derived only from the observation of my Hottentots; and if it is a common custom, it is an instance, though a solitary one, of labor dedicated to *public convenience*.

I had, two days before, made an agreement with a man for the purchase of two oxen which he said were then at his cattle-place; and as he represented them to be very large and strong animals, I allowed a proportionably large quantity of beads. Having gained some experience of this people's *bad-faith*, I would not pay for them till the cattle were brought home; and accordingly, the beads in question, were till then deposited in my waggon. But this evening when the oxen came, they were found to be but steers and not even full-grown; and as they could be of no use for the purpose of drawing my waggons, I rejected them, by briefly reminding the owner that we had made the bargain for large cattle.

Another man, of whom I had at the same time made a similar purchase, brought also his two oxen. Finding that they accorded with our agreement, I was going to pay him the beads which had been reserved as the stipulated price, though it was known to be much above that which had been paid by former visitors; when the by-standers, seeing that I approved of this pair, advised him to demand more. On this he hesitated, and said, that he would not let me have the oxen unless I gave him that quantity of beads for each: I had then in my hand the quantity which he had before asked as the price of the two. As I found it would be impossible to proceed by such a *mode of dealing*, I replied that unless he would accept that which he had agreed to receive, I would not take the oxen even at a

single bead more. He was persuaded to believe that I was so much in need, that necessity would compel me to purchase them at any rate, in which hope, he refused to lower his demand. The beads were therefore, again put into the waggon, and the oxen were driven home. I record these and many other transactions equally trifling in themselves, because they exemplify much of the *national character*.

It happened, the night being cold, that I came out of the waggon to warm myself at the Hottentots' fire, all of them being at that hour asleep; and, as it was my custom on such occasions to look around to see if all was right, I discovered that *the horses* were missing. Fearful that it might be an act of treachery of the natives, I awoke some of my people to inquire into the circumstance. They were already well acquainted with it, and had, notwithstanding, laid themselves very composedly down to sleep, intending to search for them in the morning; if the lions should not have made prey of them in the mean while.

It was again entirely through the neglect of *Andries* that they had been lost: it was his day for attending the cattle at pasture, and he had probably been lying all the time asleep under a bush, instead of watching to prevent their straying away. The disposition of this Hottentot, was either so careless, so worthless, or so stupid, that no reprimand had any effect in causing him to pay more attention to the duty which had been allotted to him. And though this duty was the simplest and least laborious of all; being merely to watch the cattle at pasture and drive them home in the evening; it was, in another point of view, a very important one, as the loss of the oxen and horses would have put an end to my journey, at least in its present form.

I therefore appointed *Van Roye and Cornelis* to take charge of the cattle, each on alternate days, considering them to be men on whom I might more safely depend. Hitherto no defined employment had been assigned to these two, because the character which had been given me with them, as baptized Hottentots and men who had received some instruction, seemed to promise for them a conscientious readiness to make themselves useful on every occasion; and for this

reason it was deemed more advantageous to the expedition, and conferring some distinction on them, not to limit their duty, in the manner which it had been found necessary to do with respect to the rest. But during the three months in which they had been in my pay, they had literally done no work at all; unless the act of one making the horses fast in the evening when they were brought home, and the other untying their halters in the morning, could be regarded by them as a service of importance enough to entitle them to higher wages than any of my other men. Although two of these horses were seldom ridden by any but themselves, they left all the actual care of them to the other Hottentots. They had carefully avoided all the usual business of travelling; such as cooking their own food, lighting a fire, fetching fuel and water, assisting in taking off the skin and cutting up the game, drying the meat, greasing the waggon-wheels, driving the sheep or oxen when we travelled, cutting branches for making a cattle-pound to secure them at night; as they chose to view these employments as beneath the character of a Christian. On one occasion when all, excepting Cornelis and Stuurman, were either hunting or otherwise absent from the town, I gave orders that the former should broil a steak for my dinner, but without any hesitation he sent me word that he understood nothing of cooking: I was therefore obliged to wait till it could be broiled by one of the Hottentots. And even, when I have wished to employ these in any work above that of a Hottentot, they have invariably made the same reply, that they did not understand how to do it. Van Roye once told me with a great deal of ease and unconcern, that he did not know how to cut up meat into slices for drying; probably because he saw all the other people doing this work. I now told them, that as it would endanger the safety of the whole party, to trust the cattle any longer to the care of Andries and Stuurman, I appointed them to this duty, believing them to be people on whom I might place reliance.

23rd. This morning the Chief's principal herdsman came to my waggon to announce that there was in the mootsi, waiting to see me, a man who had brought four oxen for the purchase of a *musket*.

Every transaction with Mattivi relative to this subject, was well-known to all the inhabitants, and I was therefore surprised at any further attempt, more especially as I had given a positive refusal to Mollemmi on a similar occasion. I now felt a suspicion that the present proposal proceeded in reality from the same quarter. I therefore expressed myself decidedly resolved not to listen to any offers of this kind: and the oxen were, in consequence, driven away without either they or the man having been seen by me.

Soon after this, *Mollémmi* came to ask for three charges of powder and ball, which he said he wanted, as he was going out hunting. I replied that as he and his brother had already received as much as could be spared, no more could be given them. He then demanded some tobacco; this I gave him, though the tone of voice in which it was asked, was much less civil than usual.

In the afternoon, one of the chieftains who was frequently in Mattivi's party, desired to look at my beads again, as he intended offering me two oxen for sale. I told him that I found myself obliged to give up all further *bartering*, as it had always been found to end, not in purchase, but in dispute; that as my object, in coming to Litākun, was to form a friendly acquaintance with the Bachapīns, I was most desirous of avoiding every thing which could lead to the least misunderstanding. He persisted, however, in bringing the oxen; but I continued fixed in my resolution; and thus the affair ended.

During the whole of the day, without the shortest respite, I was surrounded by people constantly begging or waiting for tobacco; and I had the mortification to find that a day had thus passed by, without any useful or agreeable result.

Van Roye, whom I had supposed to have entered upon his new duty of attending the cattle, with perfect willingness, convinced me in the evening when he brought them home, how much I had mistaken his character. On my sending for him to inquire if he had found in that part of the plain, grass enough for the oxen, he answered in a surly tone, and with insolent gesture, Yes; and added, that, it

was very strange that Andries could not take care of the oxen ; as the new ones were not so unruly as he had represented them to be.

Cornelis uncalled for, came up at the same moment, and with equal *insolence*, told me that if the ox-leaders did not take proper care of the cattle, it was the duty of the drivers to attend to them. On this, they both with a step very expressive of defiance to my authority, marched away.

When I called the latter back, to ask him what meaning he had in making that remark, he replied with an intolerably disrespectful manner, that if I would appoint them to be the waggon-drivers, they would look after the oxen ; otherwise, they would not go out with them again. Having said this, they turned their back, and in open contempt walked out of the enclosure.

Much as I had hitherto borne, of these worthless Hottentots' laziness, this behaviour, in the presence of all the rest and of the Chief and a large party of chieftains who were at that time assembled in the mootsi, was not to be endured ; as the certain consequences would have been, the total want of subordination of all my men and some serious liberties on the part of the natives, who would now be convinced that I was unable to check even the disobedience of my own servants. But knowing that the safety of all depended on unanimity, or, if that was unattainable, at least, on due subordination, I resolved at all hazards to maintain my authority ; and, buckling on my pistols and cutlass, I hastily followed *Cornelis*, with Speelman and Platje whom I ordered to bring him back. But as he was the tallest and stoutest man of our party, they declared that they were afraid to approach him.

I was obliged therefore, to support the step which I had taken, by hastening alone towards him ; and on overtaking him, commanded him instantly to return to the waggons. He was at the first moment, on the point of refusing obedience ; but observing me to be armed, and seeing me determined on enforcing my words, he thought it more advisable to obey ; and with a slow and reluctant pace, walked before me to the enclosure.

Mattivi, on seeing me arm myself to pursue this man, had quitted his party and alone followed me at a short distance, as if to witness the result ; but he said nothing, nor in any manner interposed his authority, either to restrain my proceedings or to assist them,

As soon as we had reached the waggons, I assembled my men, and in their presence, declared to *Cornelis* that unless he begged my pardon for the great disrespect of which he had been guilty, I would instantly have him punished. He seemed to hesitate. At this moment I felt myself placed in that critical situation which was balanced between violent measures and all the dangers of ineffective authority. Nothing could be more discordant to my disposition, or wishes, than the former, nor more fatal to the expedition, than the latter. While I assumed the appearance of a firm resolution to have my threats put immediately into execution, I in reality made a delay of a minute or two, in order to give him time to reflect on the dangerous position in which we all stood. This had the effect so much hoped for ; and he at length begged *pardon* for his conduct. He did it, however, in so unwilling a manner, that it was evident that I had preserved nothing more than the bare appearance of my command.

When this affair was ended, as I supposed, and all had returned to their hut, *Mattivi* and *Mollemmi* came to my waggon, and sat with me for about half an hour. In the course of our conversation, he noticed what had just passed, and said, he was glad that I had succeeded by words, in making him obedient ; that whenever any of his servants were disobedient, he always endeavoured to bring them to their duty by the same means.

But during that time, *Cornelis*, whom my manner had alarmed into a concession of his error, had recovered his *refractory spirit*, and began to repent of having shown submission. As soon as they were gone, he came once more to the waggon to ask me why I went to him with arms in my hand. I succeeded in stifling all my anger at this revival of his insolence, and replied ; that I should give neither him, nor any of my men, reasons for what I did ; that I most seriously advised him not to try the experiment of again irritating me, but to go away and remember that as he was my servant, he was

bound to be obedient and to do the duty to which I thought proper to appoint him ; and that, let the consequences be what they might, I was resolved that my men should obey me. Seeing therefore no prospect of gaining the mastery by intimidation, he made no further reply, but walked quietly away.

I afterwards took an opportunity of talking to Speelman, who, I knew, disapproved of his conduct and reprobated his uselessness. I desired him to advise the other to be cautious in his behaviour, never in future to attempt resistance to his master ; and to tell him that I recommended him, as he had learnt to read, to look frequently over the written agreement by which he was engaged in my service, and to conform to what was there stated to be his duty ; and that he and all the rest of my men might know that if I required of them any unreasonable service or acted unjustly towards them, I was amenable to authorities in the Colony as much as they were ; but that, as long as we were wandering in a country where unanimity was necessary to our safety, I would be obeyed ; and that it should be perilous for any man of them to resist my orders.

Thus ended one of the most turbulent days which I had experienced since the commencement of my journey.

24th. On the next day *Cornelis* came in a respectful manner to ask for some leather, that he might make himself a pair of shoes ; all Hottentots generally, being their own shoemakers. He begged that he might be allowed to remain at home to make them, and that I would in the mean time appoint some one in his place, to attend the oxen till his shoes were ready.

Although this seemed to wear some little appearance of being only a plea for deferring an open submission to my former regulation, yet, as I considered his refractory spirit as now subdued, I gave him immediately what he asked for. I took this opportunity of calmly admonishing him against disobedience, and of advising him, as well as the others, that, if they thought a reasonable objection existed against any orders which I might issue, they should rather represent the case to me in a respectful manner, when they might be assured that I should always be ready to listen, and, that if their

representations were just, I should suffer myself to be guided by them. He then voluntarily confessed that the words which he had yesterday made use of, were uttered in haste and without reflection, and that he now felt sorry at having expressed himself in so unbecoming a manner.

Mollémmi, who had long resisted my solicitations to sit for *his portrait*, was this morning prevailed on by the offer of a quantity of tobacco, to grant my request.

This being the first portrait which I had drawn at *Litākun*, it was fortunate that I succeeded in obtaining a strong likeness, as the circumstance made a very favorable impression on the natives and pleased them excessively. As soon as it was known, for he immediately went and told every body what I had done, every one crowded to see it. *Mattivi* came smiling, and calling out, *Akküi bōn!* (Let me see!): and after his first surprise was over, he exclaimed, *Singke! Singke!* (Very pretty! Very well!) But the astonishment of the crowd, on seeing *Mollemmi* in a book, is not very easily to be described; nor perhaps imagined, without having been witnessed. They fixed their eyes on it with a degree of attention which seemed to give to their countenances an expression not very unlike that of fear. It was evident that so strange and unexpected a sight, absorbed all their thoughts; till, on taking their eyes off the drawing and turning to their companions, they burst into laughter and expressed their surprise and delight in a variety of modes, all equally comic. Their quickness in comprehending a hasty uncoloured drawing, for I was obliged to complete it in a quarter of an hour, and in discovering at the first glance the meaning of every line, gave me a favourable opinion of their discernment.

Having remarked, when I paid the visit to *Serrakutu*, that the *view of Litākun* seen from a spot close to his mootsi, comprised enough of the general character of the scenery to give a good idea of the nature and appearance of the town, I again took a walk thither, for the purpose of making a drawing of it; and which forms the subject of the *sixth plate*.

As I now began to consider *Juli* as more faithfully attached to

me, than most of my other Hottentots, I took him as my attendant in this walk, that it might be rendered more pleasant by the presence of one whose conduct, by forming a contrast with that which has just been described, seemed in some degree to have the effect of an antidote against the vexation which that had caused me. While, the occupation of drawing, and the expectation that I should one day, surrounded by my friends, have the pleasure of showing them by these means the interesting scene now before me, relieved my mind from the uneasy sensations at the past, and enabled me to enjoy all the gratification and instruction which the prospect afforded.

In addition to this, I had the good-fortune to be allowed to take my walk through the town without great molestation from tobacco-beggars; and during my drawing I was not much incommoded by the curiosity of the inhabitants, as there were seldom so many collected together at one time, as to form a crowd around me. They stood looking over me for a little while, and then went away. Those who happened to be passing that way, as they were returning home with their jars of water, or loads of firewood, stopped a minute or two to inquire the object of my employment. Others were walking idly about, or sitting on the ground occupied merely in occasional conversation, or in asking questions of those who had just been looking at my drawing: while a larger party were in a similar manner passing their time under the beautiful *acacias* in Serrakutu's *mootsi*. *

* *The sixth plate* represents a view of part of *Litakun* as seen from the foot of the hills on its northern side, and looking westerly. It exhibits scarcely a third of the town; the other part lying extended over the plain much farther to the right, and occupying the lower part of the valley as far as the distant hills. About the middle of the picture, and just above the trunk of an acacia, may be seen the roof of *the Chief's dwelling*, and close to it the *mootsi* (moatsi) or public enclosure, distinguished by the *two waggons*. The horizon on the left, is formed by a boundless view over the Great Plains of Litakun; that on the right is intercepted by low hills similar to those which shelter the town on the south, and which may be imagined as rising up immediately behind the spectator. *The nearest house* on the left, is the residence of Serrakutu's younger wife, and his *mootsi* enclosed by a *hedge* of dry branches, is seen farther to the right. *The large trees* within that fence, are of the kind named *Acacia Litakunensis*, and called *móshu* by the inhabitants. As they are faithful portraits of the trees from which they were drawn, they will convey to the botanist, as well as to the general observer, a correct idea of their growth, and



Engraved & coloured after the original Drawing made by W. J. Burrohall, Esq.

A View in the Town of Litakun.

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The *weather* was now exceedingly agreeable ; and to those who have felt the inconvenience of the over-moist air of the British islands, and of their great variability of weather, the almost *constant sunshine* of Africa has, during the winter season when the heat of its beams is moderate, a cheering and enlivening effect. A constitution naturally susceptible of these effects, would feel them the more sensibly when, as at the present time, the nights were extremely chilly. The average mid-day heat during this month, did not exceed 70° (16·8 R. ; 21·1 C.), a temperature at which the presence of the sun was welcome, and even desirable.

About sunset we were surprised by the cracking of whips, and the rattling of two waggons driving into the town ; and shortly afterwards, their owners came to me. I was much pleased at finding it to be our old acquaintance *Berends the Hottentot captain* : having with him *Jan Hendrik* one of the inhabitants of Klaarwater, together with about fourteen other Hottentots. These were part of the hunting expedition which had been already noticed as having set out from the Asbestos Mountains on the day before I reached that place on my return from Graaffreynet.

Berends informed me that he had left the rest of his party with

ramification, and of the elegant form of their light masses of foliage. The *stumps* or *trunks* are of the *Mokala tree* or *Acacia giraffæ*, and having been cut down for the purpose of building the town, the branches which have since sprung from them, serve by the number of years growth which they exhibit, to confirm the statement that this town had not stood in its present situation longer than six years, at the date of these Travels. The other *bushes* are younger plants of the same species. All the *figures* represent men, excepting the three in the foreground, and the one more distant and immediately to the left of these. On the right, are two armed men returning from a distant cattle-station, and driving before them an *ox* loaded with *bags of milk*. Just above the hedge under the great trees, may be seen the heads of persons assembled in the *mootsi*. The *woman* in the foreground, carrying a *piitsa* (a pot or jar) on her head, and an ox-horn in her hand, is going for water. She is clothed only in the *makkäbi* and *musësi*, and wears a number of thick leathern rings round her ankles. Her *daughter*, who is playing with an ostrich-feather, wears, as usual at her age, only the *makkäbi* : her peculiar figure or the hollowness of the back, is often very remarkable among the children of various African tribes. The other *child*, a little boy, has, as usual at that age, no clothing whatever. The other objects seen in this engraving, will be rendered sufficiently intelligible by the descriptions contained in the two following chapters.

six waggons waiting for him on the banks of Makkwárin, at a spot much farther westward than that at which I had crossed it. His object in coming to Litákun, was to barter for ivory and cattle. During the expedition they had shot thirty-nine full-grown *elephants*, besides a number of young ones; and would have continued their hunting longer, had not all their gunpowder and ball been expended.

Berends's waggon was stationed in Serrakutu's mootsi, and Hendrik's in that of another chieftain who was his *maat* (partner, or agent), a term which will be explained hereafter.

These men seemed pleased at falling in with me in this distant part of Africa; and on both sides, our meeting was a very unexpected circumstance. To me it was far from disagreeable, notwithstanding my recollection of what we had experienced at *Klaarwater*, and the just cause which I had for hoping that after I lost sight of Cupido Kok at Kosi Fountain, I should never have to encounter any of that people again.

This hunting party had long consumed all the provisions and stores which they had laid in for the whole journey: they had been for some time living only on what they procured with their muskets; and latterly, on the cattle which they had driven with them. Berends was rejoiced when I offered him three quarters of a pound of gunpowder for a peck of salt, which he said he had in the waggons at the Makkwárin, and which I engaged to send for. They expressed their warmest gratitude when I presented to them some brandy, tobacco, and a small quantity of tea leaves, the three greatest luxuries, besides meat, which can be given to a Hottentot.

Berends said that all his people were heartily desirous of reaching home, from which they had been absent so great a length of time, two months; and began now to be really tired of hunting. As for himself, he was less anxious on that account, as he had taken with him the principal part of his family, and had been accompanied on this toilsome expedition by his wife. But my surprise at a female being able to endure the fatigues of so rough a journey, gradually ceased as I became more acquainted with the Hottentot character; and I learnt at last to consider a *Hottentot woman* as fully equal to

the task of following her husband in all his migrations and wanderings, and of bearing all the hardships of a savage life.

When these men had returned to their waggons, my mind, which had very unexpectedly received some recreation by their arrival, was again put into a state of irritation and uneasiness by discovering that *Van Roye* manifested a determination not only to resist my authority by disobedience, but even to act in open defiance of it. Notwithstanding my having yesterday appointed him to attend the oxen and horses, and forbidden Andries being sent with them again, he had ordered him and Philip, for he often assumed over the other Hottentots, an insolent command which he supposed to belong to him in right of his being a 'Christemensch,' to take the cattle to pasture; while he absented himself during the day till about three in the afternoon, at which time he came home, giving me to understand that he had been the whole time with the horses, and had brought them to the river, where he had left them to be driven to town by the herdsman.

At this time I took no notice of his conduct, but in the evening, I sent by Philip my positive orders that he, and no one else, should attend the cattle on the following day; and warned him against disobedience, as I was resolved not to allow it to pass a second time; but would most surely convince him, in the severest manner, that any attempt of that kind, would be in vain.

Could I, three days before this, have believed that these two men were so little the better for the instructions they had received, that they would thus have acted in breach of all moral and religious precepts, or could I have foreseen the difficulties, and the dilemma, to which their defiance of my authority would have reduced me, I should rather have chosen patiently to support them as worthless lazy encumbrances on my journey, than incur the risk of so dangerous an example for the rest of my men, as that of a disposition approaching towards *mutiny*. But as the affair had, by steps which could not be averted, proceeded thus far, there was now no choice remaining, and it was evident that, if my expedition was to be preserved from a fatal termination, there were no means left for my adoption, but that most

uncongenial alternative, of maintaining my command by violent measures.

25th. In the evening, when my cattle returned home, I found that they had been the whole day under the care of Platje; that *Van Roye*, who had again absented himself till the hour of their return, had ordered this Hottentot to attend them, and had himself not gone near them till a little before that time. In order more clearly to show me his disposition, and his inclination to *disrespect*, he conducted himself before me with a gait and looks, which were too clear and visible to the rest of my men and the natives, to admit of my pretending not to see and understand them.

It became therefore unavoidable, to take serious notice of his conduct; and I immediately ordered all my men to be present, at the waggons, and declared that it was now my intention to punish his disobedience; but that I would first hear, in the presence of all, what he had to say in his defence. Jan Hendrik was in the mootsi at this time, and I desired him to seek for Berends with a message requesting his attendance, as being a Hottentot captain, to witness my proceedings with one of my men who had dared openly to disobey me.

I laid my pistols and sword close at hand on the chest in my waggon, to impress more strongly on my people the serious nature of the affair. The formalities with which I conducted every thing, and the approach of night, rendered the whole more solemn, and commanded a certain degree of respect from all those who were present. The Hottentots waited in silence the arrival of Berends and Hendrik, and stood motionless around my waggon. Mattivi and his chieftains, whose whole attention was fixed on us, were sitting at a little distance: not a word was spoken by any one; nor was the least sound to be heard in the mootsi. Neither the Chief, nor any of the natives, attempted to interfere with these transactions; nor did they make the smallest remark: all were serious and still.

At length Berends and Hendrik arrived; together with most of their people; I commenced the business by informing them that I had desired their presence, in order that what I was about to say

and do, as well as the conduct of one of my men, might have some credible witnesses and pass before impartial judges whose opinion I wished to have: and that Berends more especially, who was a captain acknowledged by the Cape government, should take notice of the proceedings.

I then, with the aid of a light, read aloud the written agreement by which he, and Cornelis, had legally bound themselves in the obligation to go with me wherever I should think advisable, and punctually to obey every order, under penalty of all his wages, and of legal punishment.

After this I called on my men to declare freely, and without any apprehension of gaining my displeasure by giving an opinion against me, whether I had ever issued to Van Roye or any of them, orders to which they were not bound, or not able, to conform: their answers I wished to be directed rather to Berends than to me. They replied that it could not with truth be said that I had ever given a harsh order. I then required them to declare whether they were of opinion that I had, or had not, just cause of complaint against that Hottentot for having done so much less work than any of the rest of my people, that he might be considered as having done nothing. All immediately answered, that it was not to be denied that he had done very little.

When Platje was called forward to give his evidence, he made attempts at prevarication, and would have given answers different from those which I received when interrogating him at the moment of his return home with the oxen.

On being questioned where Van Roye was during the day, or if he had been with the cattle, he replied that he did not know, but believed him to have been passing his time with some of the Hottentots of Berends's party. Philip followed his example in offering a statement very contradictory to that which he had made to me in the morning; at which time he told me that, on the previous evening, in answer to the orders communicated by him, Van Roye said that he would never attend the oxen.

Van Roye, on being applied to for *his defence*, asserted that he

was the whole day with the oxen, though, he confessed, it was at a distance, and that it was the pursuit of some spring-bucks which took him away. On being asked how it happened that, contrary to express orders, any one besides himself had attended the oxen, he was unable to make a reply. Platje observing this, stepped forward and testified that, for his own part, no one had ordered him to take charge of the cattle, but that he went to attend them purely of his own accord.

Perceiving how little hesitation these men had in fabricating any contradictory story which they thought could answer their purpose, and how little regard they had to truth, although they knew me to be already as well acquainted with the facts as they themselves were, I produced a Dutch Testament, and as Van Roye could read tolerably well, I bade him take notice what book it was. With some formality, I administered to him the usual *oath* to relate the truth; relying on his being ignorant that the practice of courts of law did not require an accused person to make his defence on oath: but the present case demanded some departure from legal strictness. He then proceeded to relate his story and reply to my questions; but, in so contradictory a manner, and with so much hesitation and *prevarication*, that I failed in my endeavours to obtain from him the truth.

Seeing this, I admonished him of the dreadful crime which he would commit by uttering a falsity at the moment when he called God to witness his veracity: I explained to him in the most solemn and impressive manner, the respect which he as a Christian ought to show to that book; and that it was better he should at once condemn himself by confessing his fault in the presence of his companions, than by prevarication and wilful misrepresentation, pronounce his own condemnation in the presence of God, to whom all our actions and thoughts were known.

These admonitions had their proper effect upon him; I read in his countenance and manner, that he began to feel his error in persisting to defend conduct which he knew to be wrong, and that a few words more would decide him to confess that he was blameable.

I therefore, after repeating to him the substance of several passages in the New Testament, desired him to lay his hand on the book, and say, whether, in his own conscience, he really thought that his conduct towards me was influenced by the spirit of obedience which that book taught and commanded a servant to show to a master. Self-conviction instantaneously operated on his mind, and he answered, No. I then asked him, in a tone which might encourage him to give the answer I wished, if he now felt disposed to conduct himself in future as his duty demanded: to which he readily replied, Yes. To conclude: I told him, that if he did as, in the presence of all, he had now promised to do, I was willing in the same manner to promise forgiveness; and would, according to his fulfilment of this promise, even forget all past cause of complaint.

Then, turning to my own men and to Berends and the other people who were assembled, I said, that I felt most happy that the affair had terminated thus, as it had been my fixed resolution, in case it had been otherwise, to have inflicted the severest punishment which the laws would sanction: that so long as we were within the limits of the Colony, it would have been my duty to have brought an offender before a regular court of justice, or a landdrost; but that when a party of men, legally under the command of one of their number as their head, quitted those limits, and at any time refused to obey him conformably to their agreement, he possessed the power of punishing them himself: that I had no doubt that my men were not aware of the great crime which they committed, nor of the severe punishment which they incurred, when they disobeyed my orders or disputed my authority; but, that having now explained to them the true situation in which they stood, I felt assured that no one would be wicked enough, or so forgetful of his own interest, as ever to offend in future.

With this I dismissed them: and, thanking Berends and Hendrik for their attendance, these, and their people, returned to their waggons.

My own men had received a useful lesson; and appeared not only disposed to profit by it, but to feel those sentiments with which

I was desirous of inspiring them. As I had principally endeavoured to convince them that I wished to make them respect and esteem, rather than fear, me, they were not made uneasy by these proceedings, but seemed satisfied that they were just, and such as the case required. As to Van Roye, I rejoiced to find that I had succeeded in working a change in his feelings, which were at length, by means of some serious and admonitory conversation which I afterwards had with him in my waggon in the presence of Juli, converted into those of a becoming humility and obedience: and although, unfortunately, this change was not permanent, yet it continued for some time to produce a good effect. The check which his and Cornelis's insolent temper now received, taught them and all my party, that they would not be suffered easily to take the reins of affairs out of the proper hands: unless, indeed, they resorted to open mutiny and force; an experiment which I did not fear their being hardy enough to attempt, as they could not but know that by proceeding to that extremity they would render their return into the Colony impossible, and forfeit to the laws every advantage which they might expect, or hope to derive, from that quarter.

To maintain a command over these Hottentots, I was compelled, by my peculiar circumstances, to assume an authority which legally did not belong to me; but this affair served to convince me how important, and indispensably necessary, it is for the safety and success of every similar expedition, that the leader of it should be fortified with *special power* to enforce, if occasion required, the obedience and due co-operation of its members: for, the perverseness of human nature when uncontrolled, seems every where alike to seduce men from unanimity, and strangely to mislead them to prefer turbulence to peace.

26th. Observing a *little child*, apparently about five or six years old, standing by our fire and anxiously watching my men in hopes of getting a piece of meat, and seeing that its features were not those of a Bachapin child, I had the curiosity to go nearer to examine them. But I never beheld an object which more strongly excited my compassion: the sight of this wretched poor little creature,

pained me to the heart, and I stood for some minutes shocked at the view of its emaciated and more than half-starved figure. Those who have seen a human skeleton of that age, may obtain an idea of this child's form, not greatly exaggerated, by imagining the bones of the body and limbs, to be wrapped round with a wet cloth. Those rounded shapes which are given to the human figure by flesh only, had dwindled quite away. The legs and arms were merely straight sticks; the calf was entirely gone; the *fibula* and *ulna* were plainly distinguishable; and the knees and elbows were comparatively large knots. The abdomen was contracted in an extraordinary degree; and behind, scarcely any flesh concealed the shape of the bones termed *os sacrum*, and *os ilium*. The collar-bones seemed to project unnaturally; and the blade-bones, the spine and the ribs, were in appearance covered only with skin. In short, this miserable little boy, who from his age could not have been capable of harm, or guilty of offence, was on the point of being *starved to death*.

A Bachapin who was sitting in the hut, seeing me look so attentively and compassionately on this object, told me that it was a *Bushman's child*, and belonged to him; that in an attack upon a Bushman kraal, he had siezed him, and carried him off as a *prisoner of war*; that he was therefore his by right; and that, if I wished to buy him, I should have him for a sheep!!

This is Man, without morality or religion! This is the selfish savage, without feeling! This man, because the unfortunate child was not his own, did not think him worth feeding, although he would gladly have sold him, for food to gratify his own gluttonous appetite, and to have enabled him and his family, for about two days, to feast without ceasing. Alas! Man who vaunts himself the noblest work of the creation; how closely does he approach to Brute, when reason lies dormant, or when the passions usurp its place! The power of speech forms but a weakly distinctive character, for him whose intellect is never exerted. The boasted human form will hardly raise him in rank above some quadrupeds, when it serves no better purpose than that only of ministering to animal appetite.

Other instances of want of feeling, are to be found in this

land, and the first which commonly meet a traveller's eye, are the wretched *half-starved dogs*, which, driven by hunger, prowl around him to devour every piece of animal substance which they can find; and unless he be every evening careful to place his *riems*, *trektouws*, and even his shoes, out of their reach, he will most probably find them, in the morning, gnawed to pieces, or perhaps even carried off entirely. That the cattle belonging to this nation, are more fortunate, with respect to food, than the domestic animals, is to be accounted for solely by their living on grass, and not on any substance which their owners can convert into food for themselves.

As Berends and Hendrik had visited several *Bichuana nations* of whom little was hitherto known, and were of the first and only party which had advanced so far into the Interior, I took the opportunity of gleaning from them, all the information they were able to give, and engaged them in my waggon the greater part of the forenoon. What they now related, was afterwards found useful as a clue to further inquiries among the natives themselves; from whose testimony I was enabled to confirm the principal part of their account.

They mentioned a Bichuana of the name of *Morúna*, as a person who could give some information relative to a distant tribe called *Kárrikarri*, very little known and living to the north-north-west of Litākun. At my request they went to his house, to bring him to me; but he could not be found. They learnt that he was about to set out on the following day or the day after, on a journey to the *Kárrikarri* country, for the purpose of bartering for the skins of jackals, and kaamas, and various smaller skins used for making the fur-cloaks. His visits to that tribe, were regular and frequent, perhaps every year; and his stay amongst them was usually a month or two, which he employed in collecting together a quantity of these skins sufficient for the loading of two or three oxen.

I am satisfied to rely on Hendrik alone, as a confirmation from the natives could not of course be obtained, for a botanical fact which is exceedingly interesting: that in the country of the *Nuakketsis* he had seen the *wagenboom*, which he pronounced to be exactly the same tree as the one which is known by that name in the

Cape Colony. Whether this be really so or not, it is doubtless a species of *Protea*, and proves the re-appearance of that tribe of plants, after an interval of above seven degrees of latitude from the last spot where I had seen any of the species. In the whole of that interval, this genus, and several others which characterize the botany of the Cape, are, as I have formerly remarked*, no where to be seen. At Klaarwater, a piece of the stem of a tree or shrub, was shown to me, which was said to have been cut in the country of the Nuakketsis, and which gave me the idea that the botany of that region, had a character different from that of the southern part of the Transgariepine. This piece of wood was about an inch and a half in diameter, and so deeply quadrisulcated, that a transverse section appeared like a cross.

These Hottentots still persisted in repeating the old story of the dangers of venturing farther into the Interior. To this story, my ears had for many months been so much accustomed, that, like the palate habituated to stimulating food, they were no longer susceptible of any excitation from that which had, at first, produced considerable sensation: but an addition which was now made to it, possessed a stimulus sufficiently sharp to rouse my attention and create some degree of uneasiness. Mattivi had been in conversation with Berends relatively to the course which I might mean to take, after leaving Litäkun; and had questioned him respecting my intentions of proceeding farther northward. On this subject, he fortunately was not able to give any certain information; although it was evident by the Chief's answer, that the latter had some suspicions. He told Berends that if the white-people at the Cape would bring a strong party of men to revenge the murder of the two Englishmen already mentioned, and of their companions, he would send a large body of Bachapins to accompany them to Melitta, where they would soon be convinced who had been the authors of it. Berends, who gave credit to this account, and who, as well as Hendrik and several others of their people, were ready and willing to engage in such an undertaking,

* In the first volume, at page 208.

said that they would promise to furnish more than fifty men armed with muskets and mounted on good horses, in case the Cape government would send ammunition and a strong *commando*. Mattivi talked very seriously with him, and appeared warmly desirous that I should return to the Colony and bring back a more numerous party; for, said he, if *Monárrri* means to go among the tribes beyond Litākun, with so few men as he has now with him, he will only go there for his death, and I shall therefore oppose his proceeding farther in that direction.

This declaration was too important, and interested me too closely, not to create some uneasiness in my mind, lest he should eventually attempt forcibly to restrain me from travelling in that quarter. As to the truth of the story, or the just foundation there might be for these pretended fears for my safety, I believed Mattivi, as little as I had believed the Klaarwater tales; because, I could discern through that flimsy veil, motives which had no connection whatever with my safety or with my success.

He told Berends, that he had just received information that the oxen, which had been sent to him as a present from Mókka (or Mákka) the Nuákketsi Chief, were so infected with the poison of *sorcery*, for the purpose of causing his death, that he did not dare to make use of them. He added, that as there happened to be one of these among the oxen which he had given me, he should take it back and give me another; for, that if I should retain it and take it home to my country, it would induce ill-will between my nation and his. When Berends offered to take these oxen from him in barter, Mattivi was highly averse from the proposal, and declared very positively, that he would never consent to any of his friends having one of them.

Soon after these Hottentots left me, the whole town was thrown into a state of *alarm*, by intelligence brought by a small party of Bachapins who had just arrived from their out-posts or cattle-stations situated at a considerable distance northward. This party had travelled with their utmost speed since the morning of the day before, and hasted directly to Mattivi, to inform him that four of these cattle-stations had been attacked in the night by a large body

of *Támmäkas* (or *Bätámmäkas*), who had succeeded in carrying off the whole of the cattle, after having killed one of the men, and three of the boys, who had charge of them. These *out-posts* are in general but weakly guarded, as the herds are attended chiefly by very young boys; there being at each post, seldom more than three or four men for its protection. The enemy, it seems, came quite unexpectedly; and, favoured by the darkness of the night, had stolen upon them before they had time to disperse the herd or drive the oxen to some other place of greater security.

The same degree of despatch, with which this intelligence had been conveyed, was employed in all their movements; for in less than half an hour after its arrival, a large body of men from the lower part of the town, and to which these cattle had belonged, marched, or rather ran, off with the utmost speed to overtake the enemy if possible, and recover their property. They took with them no provisions, nor any thing but their *hassagays*. I watched them with my telescope, as they passed over the hills on the farther side of the town, till they were out of sight: they departed in a confused manner, without the least appearance of military regularity; of which I do not believe that these tribes have any notion. Several smaller parties quickly followed in the same straggling manner.

The crying and loud lamentations of women, for, either the loss of those who had been murdered, or for their husbands or sons who had just left them, and might, perhaps, never return alive, were now heard in various parts of the town. *Mollemmi* was, on this occasion, the principal acting person in sending off the detachments: the Chief himself, and *Serrakutu*, were so much occupied in this affair, that we saw little more of them in the *mootsi*, during the rest of the day.

We were not, however, left without our usual company of natives; and nearly as many as before, continued to frequent the enclosure, and to sit around our fire. In addition to these, we had several of the *Klaarwater Hottentots*; and the whole party thus assembled, always expected to receive a piece of meat from out of our pot.

In the evening one of these natives related to us some particulars respecting the murder of the English travellers before mentioned, and described various European articles which he said he had seen among the more northern tribes; and asserted that they were part of the plunder. He exhibited two long scars which had been purposely made down his thighs, and told us that they were *marks of honor* which he was allowed to bear in consequence of having killed two men in *war*. He showed us something hanging at his neck, resembling a piece of shrivelled leather, which he said was part of one of them. He assured us, in a manner which appeared serious, that when an enemy is killed in battle, they cut out the liver, or the lungs, and broil and eat part of it. On my questioning him closely whether this were literally a fact, he did not seem to persist in the truth of it: but I shall not assert that his reason for relinquishing the story and for not attempting to vindicate the custom, did not proceed from some sense of shame occasioned by the horror and disgust which he must have seen expressed in my countenance. That which he wore at his neck, appeared to be what he represented it for: and it is not improbable that this and the practice of swallowing some small part of the body of an enemy, may be the result rather of superstition or some absurd belief, than of a desire of eating human flesh, a crime of which I fully acquit the Bachapins; and consider that to apply to them the name of *cannibal*, would be extreme injustice.

27th. I rose at an early hour in the morning to perform the pleasing task of writing *a letter to England*, to describe to my family, as far as it could be foreseen, the prospects of the following part of my journey. While thus employed, in the midst of a scene so different from that in which this letter would be opened, a thousand animating reflections mingled with warm hopes, passed rapidly over my mind; and I confess that some agitation disturbed me, while for an instant I thought of the possibility of this being the last letter which they might ever receive, and admitted a momentary idea, that it might be my destiny never again to behold the land of

my birth or those to whom I was now writing. This letter, at length, safely reached its destination, and was, perhaps, the first ever received in Europe, which bore a date from Litákun.

Berends and *Hendrik* having ended their bartering at this town, were ready with their waggons and all their party, to take leave of me at noon; but I detained them an hour longer, till I had concluded my letter. They intended soon after their return home, to make a journey to the Cape; and promised to take the utmost care of every thing which I had committed to their charge: a promise which I afterwards, at my final return to Cape Town, found they had performed with the greatest punctuality. At parting, I made them some further presents; to which I added some more *gunpowder*, as they complained of being in great want of it. For this indispensable provision for a journey, they expressed the warmest thanks; the quantity being estimated as sufficient for procuring more meat than they could obtain by killing four or five of their oxen.

They were accompanied by *Mollémmi*; and I was not sorry at his leaving Litákun: for, his frequent importunities for gunpowder and his unremitting endeavours to get possession of another musket, were the source of much uneasiness and vexation to me. His intention, however, was only to visit *Klaarwater*; and though I had earnestly advised him to take advantage of so favorable an opportunity for going to the Cape, he was obstinate in refusing to make that journey with any one but myself.

28th. The dryness of the weather had caused the fellies of the little *waggon* to shrink so much, that the joints began to open, and the tire itself became loose. This misfortune was not entirely to be attributed to the weather, as the larger waggon, made by *Kilian* in Cape Town, was still in perfect order; while the one bought of *De Bruyn* at *Tulbagh*, was beginning already to fall to pieces. The difference was occasioned by the fellies having been made of timber not duly seasoned. I therefore employed *Juli* in filling up the vacancy between the tire and the fellies, with small wedges of wood dipped in tar and driven in as tightly as possible. A crowd of natives stood around us, watching our operations; and, if it be in the nature

of a Bichuana ever to adopt the arts of Europe, they gained, probably, some new and useful ideas. In this work Van Roye assisted; and now, for the first time, appeared willing to render us service. These symptoms of improvement were to be attributed to the threats and admonitions with which I had lately endeavoured to rouse him, and I readily flattered myself that they indicated a permanent change of conduct.

Cornelis also showed himself a more effective member of our party, and, mounted on one of the horses and leading another by a thong, had started early in the morning to fetch the *salt* from the waggons at the Makkwarin. He was to have accompanied Berends yesterday, but the horses, being gone to pasture, could not be found in time. He returned on the evening of the following day, bringing about a gallon. Those who have never been in want of salt, will scarcely think this small quantity worth a journey of ninety miles, or that when obtained, it should appear to us a valuable and important acquisition.

Being, if I may use the expression, the only 'portrait-painter' at Litákun, I should soon, had I not rejected many who presented themselves to me for this purpose, have been as much overwhelmed with work as their blacksmith, who, in his profession, was also the only artist; especially as my terms were more profitable to the person who sat, than to the painter.

Among those whose likeness I was desirous of possessing, was Mattivi's younger brother, *Mahúra* whom I have before noticed as a young man of remarkably handsome countenance as a black. There was a certain characteristic expression in the eyes, and a smooth and undefined cast of features, which I found extremely difficult to represent; and in this attempt I failed, or, to speak more favorably, I did not, at this time at least, succeed in a degree which could give a correct idea of that peculiar expression. The natives were not, on this occasion, so civilized as to flatter me and pay a compliment at the expense of truth: they very honestly declared, as soon as it was finished, that it was *máshuë* (ugly, or, incorrect.)

They then asked again to see the portraits of *Mollemmi*, of

Sillábi, and of *Mókwátsi*: the two latter were young men who were frequently among the Chief's party and, for the first three weeks, almost constantly in our hut. At the sight of these likenesses, the crowd were again as much delighted as when they first saw them: they examined them for a few moments with the same surprise and attentiveness, and then laughed most heartily, as if unable to conceive what caused the drawing to look like those persons.

In the afternoon, I took a walk to see another part of the town. While I was making a sketch of this view, two men came to beg for tobacco; but I affected to misunderstand them, and showed the drawing. They were, however, not gifted with much reflection or judgement; for they asked if that was Mollemmi. As some excuse for their apparent stupidity, these were, probably, people who, having never seen a portrait, had not the least idea of one; and having heard by report that Mollemmi was 'in the book,' they supposed that what they there saw, was that which had been spoken of.

All the *game* within reach of the inhabitants of the town, was either destroyed, or rendered by their constant huntings so wild and difficult of approach, that we were barely able to supply our daily wants. One or two of my men were out with their gun every day, and on such excursions several Bachapins never failed to accompany them. They were useful in looking out for the game, and in bringing it home; but the Hottentots were always obliged to give up to them a fore-quarter, the head, and all the offal; while the remainder was devoured, or carried off by our *parasites*, almost as soon as it was brought home. Every part of the carcass is eaten by the natives, and the filthiest of the entrails was therefore deemed by them too good to be given to our dogs, which they thus robbed of their food. From this cause, these poor animals began to grow miserably lean, and too much to resemble the dogs belonging to the town. The hut where my people cooked their food, was always so crowded at meal-times, that the Hottentots had scarcely room to sit down at their own fire. After the natives had finished their daily employments, they usually joined our party and remained with us till

they retired to sleep, which was generally between nine and ten o'clock ; although they sometimes stopped much later.

Such occasions afforded very favorable opportunities for learning their real character ; as they were always fond of conversation. But though they were ready in communicating information, I soon discovered that a traveller who should repeat every thing he might hear, would widely mislead others, as to a just idea of the character of the Bachapin nation.

29th. The Bachapins had but lately begun to practise the art of working in iron, and, as yet, there was but one *mötúri*, or *blacksmith*, among them. This man obtained his knowledge from the north-eastern nations ; and though he was at this time but a beginner and an imperfect workman, he was, notwithstanding, overwhelmed with work from every side. His townsmen gave him more to do than he could perform, though he daily rose before the sun and was constantly employed till the evening. His work consisted generally in making hatchets, adzes, knives, hassagays, and hoes or mattocks for breaking up their corn-land. For this, he was paid either in unwrought iron obtained by barter from the north-eastern tribes, or in corn, oxen, cows, goats, tobacco, beads, koboes, leather, or undressed skins. Even the Chief claimed no right to his labor, without paying him at the same rate as any other person. This blacksmith was, of course, rapidly growing rich and reaping the just reward of his industry : it is therefore surprising that he had not more imitators ; for I could hear of no more than one of his countrymen who showed any inclination to follow the same lucrative business.

I this morning satisfied my curiosity by paying a visit to what my men had dignified with the name of ' the blacksmith's shop ;' and of which a representation is seen at page 434. I found this industrious *motúri* (*motóory*) at his work as usual : he was sitting in the open space on the outside of the fence which enclosed his dwelling, and having on one side of him a slight hedge of dry branches to skreen his fire from the wind. This fire was made in the open air, and upon the bare ground, without any thing for retaining its

heat. The fuel was charcoal: the art of making which, he had also learnt from the Nuakketsies.

The most ingenious contrivance was his *múubo* or *bellows*: this was formed of two leathern bags made from goat-skins taken off entire or without being cut open lengthwise.* The neck was tightly bound to a straight piece of the horn of an antelope, which formed the nozzle of the bellows. These two nozzles lay flat upon the ground, and were held in their place firmly by a large stone laid upon them: they conveyed the wind to a short earthen tube, the end of which was placed immediately to the fire. The hinder part of the bag was left open, as a mouth to receive the air, and was kept distended by two straight sticks sewed along the lips or opposite edges, in a manner which admitted of opening the mouth to the width of about three inches. These sticks are so held in the hand that they may be opened on raising the mouth, and closed on depressing it; by which means the wind is collected and forced through the tube. By taking a bag in each hand, and continuing this action of raising and depressing them alternately, a strong and constant stream of wind was produced, which presently raised a very small fire to a degree of heat equal to rendering a hatchet red-hot in two minutes.

A stone for his anvil, a horn of water for cooling the iron, and two or three very small iron hammers, were the only apparatus, and all the tools, which he made use of. He was then busy in making hatchets and corn-hoes, of which latter, one is represented in the engraving above referred to, lying upon the hammer. He was surrounded by eight or nine people looking on; but whether for the purpose of learning the art, or of passing away idle time, it seemed doubtful. My presence did not interrupt his work; he appeared as much pleased at the attention with which I watched his operations,

* A bag thus formed of the skin of any animal taken off entire, and which is very common among all the native tribes, is distinguished by the Colonial Hottentots with the special name of *knapsak* (knapsack); and is occasionally used for holding even honey or other liquids, as well as dry goods.

as I was myself at beholding, in the midst of a nation which sought to enrich itself, only by the plunder of its neighbours, so rare a specimen of *honest industry*, one of those moral virtues which elevate the character of a people upon a basis incomparably more firm and respectable than any which can be raised by the sword, and in the same proportion in which the arts of peace stand morally higher, and are more honorable, than the arts of war.

That I might possess a genuine specimen of his workmanship, I sent him some spike-nails to be made into a knife and a hassagay. These he accomplished with tolerable exactness; and, if the tools with which he worked, be considered, they afford a proof of some skill.

After leaving the blacksmith, I went to a different part of the town to take a further view of it, and make another sketch. All the buildings were formed so nearly alike, that a painter finds but little variety of subject for his pencil, if the outlines of the houses only be regarded; but the scene is every where so strange and interesting, and the moving accompaniments so varied and remarkable, that he might for a long time employ himself at Litákun.

At my return home, I found a little girl standing in the mootsi, looking at my people as they were at work. She was the prettiest I had hitherto seen, and appeared to be about twelve or thirteen years of age. She was the daughter of Mattivi; her name was *Mässisān* (Massisaan); and as she presented a good specimen of Bachapin beauty, I asked her to sit for her portrait; to which she consented with a degree of good nature which might give a favorable opinion of her disposition. Seeing the book in my hand, she immediately comprehended what was required of her, and with remarkable patience stood perfectly still, till I had quite finished the drawing.

The accompanying *plate* will give a correct idea of her features and appearance, and will, besides, exhibit the usual dress, and the peculiar manner in which the females of this tribe twist their hair so as to give it the form of a cap. This singular fashion will be more particularly described in the eighteenth chapter. The only ornaments which she wore, were two *manjénas* or *mangjénas* (*manyánas*) or



Engraved & Coloured after the original Drawing made by W. Harris, Esq.

Portrait of Mafisjan.

Published by Longman & Co. May 1. 1823.

copper ear-drops in her left ear, and a brass button in her right. Round her neck hung several folds of thick cord * made from the sinews and entrails of animals, and a necklace formed of many thin strings neatly twisted of the inner bark of the acacia. Her hair was copiously adorned with sibílo; but below the part which has the appearance of a cap, some portion was to be seen of its natural color and appearance. The engraving of the face has been done with sufficient care to render unnecessary any particular description of her features, or of the expression of her countenance, which was, in the living person, exceedingly pleasing and innocent: her manners were mild and, in my presence at least, rather reserved.

Her father, who was much pleased at my drawing her portrait, seemed desirous that I should write down her name correctly, and repeated, as I wrote, *mössárri ð Mórrüpi, Massisân*, (Morrüpi's wife Massisân). From which it may be seen that she was already betrothed, although not yet of an age to take care of her husband's house, who in the mean time had, probably, one or two other wives. The custom of bespeaking wives while they are still children, obtains among the Bichuanas, as among the Bushmen and perhaps other Hottentot tribes. It thus happens that an unmarried woman is a rare occurrence, and a man without a wife, is still more rare.

As a reward for Massisân's patience and good temper, I tied round her neck, with a piece of pink ribbon, a pretty necklace of black and gilt beads; a present which, in her eyes, appeared of the highest value.

During the whole time, I was overlooked by a crowd of men and women who, without considering that I was then occupied, kept almost incessantly asking me to exhibit *Mollemmi's portrait*; and those who had seen it but an hour before, wished to see it again. As soon as I was at leisure, I was compelled to open the book to them: I had scarcely shut it, after one party had seen the portrait,

* Of the same nature as those which have been already described at page 209. of this volume.

when I had to open it again for another ; and thus the same scene of surprise and laughter was performed so many times over, that it became at last tedious, and I was glad to escape into my waggon.

Massisan's mother, whose name was *Kibbüktili*, was so pleased at seeing her daughter 'in the book,' that she earnestly desired to have her portrait taken also. This I promised to do, on a future day, when I should be more disengaged. Many more presented themselves for the same purpose, but as there were numerous other affairs of the journey which demanded my attention, it was impossible to dedicate, even to so agreeable a department of my labors, more time than was justly its due.

In the course of the day, a numerous party of *Kora Hottentots* arrived at Litákun, from a kraal situated at a considerable distance eastward. They were conducted by the son of a Kora chieftain named *Taaïbosch*. * This latter was lately murdered by some Bichuánas ; and the son, whose kraal was situated on the banks of the Gariép near to the 'English Ford,' was now removing all his father's cattle to that place. Among his father's property, was a musket, which he had formerly purchased. The inhabitants of old Taaïbosch's kraal, deeming that part of the country unsafe to live in, were also removing all their cattle and property to the son's kraal.

The younger *Taaïbosch* now reminded me that we were already acquainted, and I immediately recognised him as one of the *friendly Koras* who have been already mentioned as giving us their voluntary assistance when we crossed that river on our return from Graaffreyneet. At that time we did not know the names of any of these good-natured people, nor even of their captain : our meeting again was as pleasing to me as it was unexpected.

A day or two before this, I had given *Muchúnka* leave of absence for a few days, to go and see his mother who was living at old Taaïbosch's kraal. For safety, and as a companion, I allowed him to take Stuurman with him ; but having, in his way thither, unexpectedly met the Koras, and finding his mother among them, he

* See the note at page 234.

hasted home as quickly as possible, in order to be present at our weekly distribution of tobacco and brandy. I had given him, just before he started, a quantity of tobacco as a present for his mother; yet this affectionate son now came to ask for more, and confessed that he had not given her any, as he and Stuurman had, on the road, smoked away, not only their own share, but the whole of his mother's: and I fear that of the second quantity which I now gave him for the same purpose, she enjoyed as little as of the first.

Among the property which this caravan of Koras had with them, was a quantity of salt, which they informed me they had procured from a *salt-pond* at a considerable distance in an easterly or north-easterly direction. For a knife, I purchased of them about half a gallon.

In order to secure a continuance of friendly behaviour on the part of *Mattivi*, it appeared necessary at this time to make him some *additional presents*, especially as he had suffered me to rest for four or five days without giving me much trouble by importuning for things which could not be spared. Among these presents, was a *straw-hat*, such as are worn by the Malays in Cape Town; and this, being ornamented with twelve strings of beads of the favorite colors, pleased him the more as it was an act of liberality quite unexpected. But it is probable that his pleasure was occasioned more by the beads than by the hat itself.

I gave him also a bag of fresh *peach-stones* which had been brought from Graaffreynet; in quantity about a quart: nor did I fail, at the same time, to impress on his mind a just idea of their value and nature, by telling him, that they would produce trees which would continue every year to yield, without further trouble, abundance of large fruit of a more agreeable flavour than any which grew in the country of the Bachapins. The quality which I most insisted on, as recommending them strongly to his notice, was that of supplying food without requiring the labor and care of man. I advised, that he should give a few to each of the chieftains: which he promised to do. From the manner in which he expressed himself, he seemed to feel that in making him this present, I was

actuated by friendly sentiments, as I assured him that they were brought for no other purpose than to benefit the Bachapin nation by introducing into their country a useful fruit which it had never before possessed.

He then gave them to the care of his principal *herdsman* who was standing by, and whom he always treated as an equal; or, at least, behaved towards him with as much attention and familiarity as towards the richest or highest of his *kósies* or chieftains. This man had filled the same office under the late Chief Mulihában.

I had still in my waggon some *dried peaches* remaining, and with a view of giving him a foretaste of the fruit, to induce him to take more care of the young trees, I afterwards prepared a small quantity, by first softening them in water, and then adding some sugar and a little salt of lemons, to regain the flavour which they had lost. He greatly approved of the taste of these; and, contrary to his general custom when in public, of giving a small portion of such things to those who sat by him, he ate the whole himself, excepting a piece which he gave to his uncle.

As if prompted by a rising sense of gratitude, Mattivi said he should never come and tease me for tobacco as other people did; but would always wait till I gave him some, of my own accord. This was so handsome a speech, and so becoming the dignity of a *monarch*, that, with princely liberality, I immediately presented him with a pipe of tobacco.

30th. There being at this time but little game in the vicinity of the town, the difficulty of obtaining *provisions* reduced me to the necessity of giving up for the supply of my people, one of the oxen received from Mattivi, and which, otherwise, was intended for the team. We had now but one sheep remaining, and this it was prudent to reserve till want of candles, should compel us to kill it for the sake of the tallow and fat; which, while they were on the animal, were safe, but which otherwise would soon have been stolen or consumed. Our meat had been so often secretly carried off by the natives who frequented our hut, that we were constrained to complain to the Chief: he then gave some general reprimand, and we

were, in consequence, not so much molested; but as we could no longer trust our provisions in the baggage-waggon where we had been used hitherto to leave them, the Hottentots were at last obliged to keep every thing of that kind behind them in the hut where they were sitting.

This scarcity of provisions, and the continued state of fear in which most of my men had been during our residence at this town, determined me to make *an excursion* for three or four weeks, in order both to gain a stock of dried meat, and to allow my party some respite from their fears and some time to recover their former tone and spirits.

To convince them, that such was my intention, I desired Gert, who, as I have remarked, could speak the Kora dialect with tolerable facility, to inform the *Kora Captain* privately, that when he and his people left Litákun, they should wait for me at the distance of two or three days-journeys out of the town; and that I would follow them thither for the purpose of exchanging beads for some of their oxen: but that it was requisite that this arrangement should be kept a secret from the Bachapins, who possibly might endeavour to interrupt my bartering with them. This proposal afforded him much satisfaction, and was gladly accepted.

Mattivi possessed a large share of that species of *cunning* which is peculiar to low and little minds, and which often has, upon the unwary, its intended effect. As I had seldom shown myself very credulous of tales fabricated from such materials, he considered that they would more easily operate upon my Hottentots, than upon myself; and, therefore, frequently intermingled information of this nature, in his conversations with them, as he sat by their fire in the evenings.

It was with the view of deterring me from attempting to travel into the country of the Nuakketsies, that he informed my men that the three people of that tribe, who lately visited Litákun under pretence of bartering, were, in reality, only sent as *spies*, and detached from that body of robbers who had carried off the cattle from the three out-posts; that their object was to ascertain who the white-man

was, and the strength of his party ; as they remarked, he said, when they saw us, that we were only eleven in number, and that none excepting two were large men or seemed to be very strong.

The detachment of Bachapins who were sent in pursuit of these robbers, returned on the next day, without having fallen in with them or with any of the cattle. I found that the search had been soon given up, and that the whole of this display of spirit and promptitude had ended in nothing. Mattivi, as if ashamed that I should see any appearance of pusillanimity, and to cover his want of resolution in tamely submitting to the loss, told me that he had now sent out only a few men merely to trace the direction in which the oxen had been driven off, and to ascertain what tribe had taken them ; but that after my departure, he should go himself with a large army and bring them away with him, even should they have been carried to the enemy's chief town ; and that his reason for not doing so immediately, was, the fear that, if he left me alone and unprotected, the Nuakketsies, who would know of my situation, would send a party to murder me and all my men.

In this story he forgot that I knew the robbers were Batámmakas, and not Nuákketsies. Which proves that in Africa, as well as in Europe, he who attempts to fabricate a tale, or make a misrepresentation to answer his own views, will surely betray himself, and give evidence that he has been wilfully guilty of an untruth. But Mattivi's inveterate hatred against the latter tribe, was the real cause of his casting the odium of the robbery upon them, in order to raise in my mind a prejudice against them and to deter me from any idea of travelling into their country.

When I questioned Muchunka, who was at all times ready to support whatever Mattivi asserted, why those three *Nuakketsies* were suffered to trade at Litákun and were entertained as friends, if they were believed to be spies and robbers ; he replied, that to put a man to death in their town, even an enemy who visits them in a peaceable manner, is viewed as a very ' ugly ' act ; it being only in battle, that they kill their enemies. And in order to give me a suitable idea of the magnitude and power of the *Bachapin nation*, he added, that if,

their Chief were to order the whole of his people to assemble for a great war, I should behold so countless *a multitude*, that my eyes would open wide with wonder. His men would stand, he said, so closely together that they would tread on each other, and the ground all about us would be crowded with them, like reeds on the bank of a river. Whether my interpreter's assertions were well-founded or not, I could not but admire the beautiful *simile* which he employed, and which so expressively conveyed the idea of a multitude.

Mattivi complained greatly of the frequent losses of cattle, which his people continued to sustain from the north-eastern tribes, and spoke, with painful recollection, of the former attacks from the Caffres to the south, and who have been already noticed as having emigrated from Kafferland to the banks of the Gariep. But now, that he possessed a gun, he said, he considered himself able to defend himself from the latter, and should therefore remove back again to *Nokanniin*, a place to the south-west of the Kamhánni mountains, where the chief town of the Bachapins formerly stood, and where he himself was born.

31st. He this morning accompanied two of my Hottentots who went out in search of game. His object was to learn their mode of hunting, and the manner of using the gun; as he took his own with him. The men were unsuccessful, through scarcity of animals, and he, as might be expected, through want of skill; although he fell in with a springbuck and fired at it.

In the mean time *Speelman* and *Philip* were employed in exploring the banks of the river, for birds. The former, who was the keener sportsman in this department, added to my *ornithological collection* more than any of my other Hottentots. *Juli*, however, was in this respect, very little inferior to him, either in the number, or in the value and rarity, of the objects which his zeal and industry procured for me. I ranked myself only as the third, and Philip as the fourth; but the rest of my people were at a great distance behind, and most of them were unable to boast that they had contributed even a single bird.

Here, for the first time, I met with, in its wild state, a handsome

and singular bird, of the *finch* tribe, distinguished from all which inhabit the southern point of Africa, by the disproportionate length of its tail, together with the remarkable circumstance, of having this tail only in summer, at which season it is black; but in winter it is brown, and not longer than the common proportion of all other birds of that tribe. The wings are black, but the body undergoes the same annual mutation of color as the tail. In its full dress it is entirely of a deep black, excepting the shoulders which are orange-coloured or scarlet, and the margins of the wing-feathers which are white. Though but a small bird, it measures in length above twenty-one inches, of which the tail takes nearly sixteen. On account of this length of tail, it appears at that season to fly with difficulty, and is then generally seen on the ground or among the bushes. During the rain, and while its feathers are wet, it is scarcely able to fly at all; and it is a common opinion among the Hottentots, that it may then be easily taken with the hand: but no instance of this fact ever occurred within my own knowledge. The Bachapins call it *nuenjánni* (*nuenyánni*) *múláapo* or 'river-bird,' as it usually frequents the banks of rivers or reedy valleys. The Dutch colonists have named it *Kaffers-vink* (*Caffre-finch*)*, as it is found chiefly at the eastern extremity of the colony and in the country of the Caffres.

A species of *falcon* † called '*nchi*, was now shot for the first time on the journey. As several boys were accompanying Speelman, he gave it to one of them for the purpose of carrying it: but it narrowly escaped being utterly spoiled, as he accidentally and fortunately happened to turn his eye towards them, just at the moment when they were preparing to cut off the claws. These I have observed to be a favorite ornament with the children of Litákun, and are worn, either hanging round their neck, or affixed to their hair.

* See the note [‡] at page 20. of the first volume.

† *Le Roumoir*, of Le Vaill. Ois. d'Afr. pl. 16.

A particular account of the *ornithology* of *Litákun* and the vicinity, is here omitted, as it pertains more properly to a later period of the journal.

A number of women assembled round my waggon, and in a goodnatured manner demanded to see me. When, in due obedience to the commands of the fair sex, I presented myself before them, I found they were come to see *Massisān*. The fame of this *portrait*, which was the first female I had drawn, had spread throughout the town, and had, it appeared, excited a strong curiosity among that sex, who seemed to consider it an important mark of respect to them, that I had put *women* 'into my book,' as well as men.

The surprise, the laughter, and the whimsical gestures, of this crowd when I showed them the drawing, need not again be described; they were the same as before, or perhaps, rather more marked. Among this party, were *Mattivi's* two sisters: one was a fine woman, who, as a black, might be termed handsome; but the other was exceedingly ugly, a misfortune, if, indeed, it ought to be called so, which had been occasioned by the smallpox. Similar ravages on faces which before had, perhaps, been comely, were frequently observed among these tribes.

After this crowd had left me; *Massisān* herself came, and in a very modest and half-timid manner, begged me to give her some tobacco. As she did not smoke, I was at a loss how to interpret the meaning of this request, till I saw her run away immediately to her mother, who was standing at some distance, and give it to her. The old lady, or, if she must be called so, *the old queen*, so often came begging at my waggon, that she knew there was no reasonable hope of getting any more 'smoke' this day; and necessity therefore compelled her to devise a new expedient. She thought that I should not refuse her daughter; being aware that the simple petition of an innocent little girl might probably have in it more persuasive oratory, than the selfish importunities of an insatiable beggar.

I proposed to *Mattivi* that he should sit for his portrait; but he evaded the question by replying, that I must first draw his younger wife *Mahútu*. He then brought her to me; and having succeeded in obtaining a good likeness, with which he expressed himself much pleased, I hoped that he would thus have been induced to allow his own to be drawn also; but, without giving any reason for it, he

continued always to persist in his refusal. As his obstinacy in this respect, was never to be overcome by any solicitation, or by any offers of presents however great, there is little doubt that it arose from some superstitious belief connected with himself personally as Chief.

The *eighth plate* * gives a representation of *Mahútu*; but is not to be viewed as a specimen of genuine Bichuana features, as she possessed more of the Kora, than of the Bachapin, countenance. The dress here given, is exactly that which she then wore; nor was she ever, during my abode at Litakun, seen dressed or ornamented in any other manner.

Mattivi had two wives, and several children. *The eldest son* who, according to the Bachapin law in such cases, was to succeed him as Chief, appeared to be about fifteen, a handsome well-proportioned lad, and of a pleasing countenance; but I seldom saw him, or indeed any of the other children; as these were too young to be brought forward, or to attract much notice or attention.

Just before my departure from Cape Town, the Governor made a special request, that on my arrival among the tribes of the Interior, I would make all possible inquiry, for the purpose of ascertaining whether Dr. Cowan, or any of the persons who accompanied him †, were yet alive; and that, in the case of my obtaining the desirable intelligence that he or any of his party were still in existence, I would endeavour by all means in my power, to give them assistance, should they be in a situation to require it, or in which it might be practicable to afford help: or that, if on the other hand I should not be able to

* This plate requires here but little explanation, as the general description of the female dress and ornaments, in the eighteenth chapter, will render every part of the engraving sufficiently intelligible. It may at present be merely repeated, that the bonnet-like appearance on her head, is produced by the peculiar mode in which the Bachapin women dress their *hair*. The color here shown, is occasioned by the *sibiilo* with which it is powdered. (See page 256.) In her ear is a piece of reed, slightly ornamented with lines cut upon it. She wore a *necklace* of several strings of porcelain beads; and another of the sinews or entrails of animals, twisted into a thick cord. Her *kobo*, or cloak, is of that kind which has been described (page 350.) as composed of a great number of skins of small animals of the weasel, or cat, genus.

† Some particulars of this expedition have already been given in the first volume, at page 50.



Engraved & Coloured after the original Drawing made by W. J. Barraud Esq.

Portrait of Mahutu.

Published by Seymour & Co. No. 823

gain any certain account of their fate, I would engage some of the natives to go in search of them, by promising, in his name, an adequate reward for their services if they brought back any authentic information. His Excellency was pleased to add that, although himself on the point of quitting the Colony, to return to England, he should leave instructions for the colonial secretary to fulfil whatever promises of this kind, I might find it necessary to make: and concluded by requesting me to communicate to the secretary, by the earliest opportunity, the result of my endeavours, or any intelligence respecting this unfortunate party, which I might be able to gain.

To this request, my own feelings dictated the reply, that although His Lordship should not have honoured me with this commission, I should, for the satisfaction of my own mind as a point of duty and common humanity, as well as from natural inclination, have neglected no opportunity which circumstances might place within my reach, of affording all the aid in my power, to men, and countrymen, situated as they were: and that, should I gain such intelligence as might induce me to believe that they were still in existence, and stood in need of any assistance of mine, or that my presence would relieve them from any difficulties, I should not hesitate a moment in deviating entirely from my own track, to accomplish so important a purpose.

It now appeared to me, from various *reports* which I had heard since my arrival at Litákun, that there was a probability of gaining at this place, if not a satisfactory account of those travellers, at least some clue, as a guide to further inquiries: and, being prepared by these reports, I sent my interpreter to request Mattivi to come to my waggon, as I wished to have some conversation with him.

He came immediately; and when he had taken his seat and the waggon was closed, I informed him that I had been commissioned by the Governor of the Cape to ask him if he knew any thing relative to the fate of the persons in question. Hitherto, this subject had never been mentioned between us, although he had discoursed freely on it with my men; but he now entered upon it with much readiness, and seemed desirous of communicating the required information.

Mattivi's story ran thus. — A long time ago, when he was on a warlike expedition against the Nuákketsies, his people obtained, among various articles of plunder, many things of European manufacture which he knew to have belonged to those persons. Being afterwards at the chief town of the Barolóns under Makrákki, he there saw a quantity of clothes and many knives, of the same manufacture, which that people said they had received from the Nuakketsies. At a subsequent period when he was at peace with this last-mentioned tribe, he visited them in consequence of a friendly invitation from Mókkäba their Chief; and then saw a great number of other articles which were certainly part of the contents of the waggons belonging to those travellers. He particularized, a red-painted board, knives, clothes, and other things which, by his description, were a pair of men's-braces, and an epaulette. On my asking if he saw any guns, he said; No, the guns were beaten to pieces, and the barrels made use of for sharpening their knives upon. Expecting to discover, in his account, some traces of watches, or of optical or mathematical instruments, I inquired if he saw any things of shining metal different from those which he had seen in my possession; for I had been careful to conceal from the natives every article of this description: but he replied, that he had observed nothing but clothes, and the goods which he had specified. Molaali, he said, had brought home a green-handled knife; but this was lost on the day before I arrived at Litakun. Happening to cast his eye upon a metal tea-pot which was standing in the waggon, he remarked that one of his people was bringing away a similar pot, but at length finding it heavy and troublesome to carry, he threw it away on the road. When I asked if he could not send the man to fetch it, and promised to reward him liberally, he said; that could not be done, as it was thrown away at a spot too far off. I expressed a strong wish that, as the Nuakketsies were now at peace, he should send a party of his men to Melitta to purchase for me some of the goods which had belonged to my countrymen. This was a request with which nothing could induce him to comply, as the inhabitants of that town, he asserted, would certainly murder every Bachapin who came there.

And on my offering to accompany such a party, to protect them with our guns, his tone of refusal became still more positive and seemed to indicate that he was displeased at my entertaining even the bare idea of venturing to go among so dangerous a tribe of men. He then informed me that the detachment, which was lately sent to pursue the robbers who carried off the cattle, had returned almost immediately, as they were afraid to advance against the enemy ; or rather, as I suspect, were afraid to overtake them. On his boasting that, if I had not been at this time on a visit to him, he would have gone against them himself with the whole body of his people, I said that I would leave Litākun, and remain absent on a hunting excursion, till he returned ; but his answer then was, that he must wait till the season of hot weather, before he could make his intended attack.

During this conversation, I remarked that he mentioned nothing which might not have been known and seen while those travellers were at Litākun on their way to the more northern tribes ; and I therefore endeavoured, by various questions, to discover such circumstances as could have become known by no other means than by a complete plundering of their waggons ; but I could obtain only such answers as were mere evasions of my questions, or such as were inconsistent with the other parts of his story, and served only to strengthen my former suspicions that the whole was nothing else than a *fabrication*, for the purpose of creating in the minds of white men a prejudice against those tribes towards whom he entertained either enmity or jealousy. That this was the object at which he aimed, was sufficiently betrayed by his frequent exclamations against the Nuákketsies, and by his often repeating, with peculiar earnestness, that the governor of the Cape must send a strong body of men to punish them severely for this murder. When I asked how it could be possible for a numerous body of men to find provisions in his country, when even so small a party as mine, were unable to obtain at Litākun the necessary daily food, he replied, that he would engage to give them both oxen and corn, and would, moreover, accompany them himself with all his people. I then told him, that the governor

would not, I could assure him, send out a 'commando' unless he were fully convinced, by the most certain proofs, that the tribe which he had named, were the murderers of our unfortunate countrymen; and therefore it was requisite that he should command all his people who had in their possession any European goods which were believed to have been part of the contents of those waggons, to bring them to me, that I might, by examining them, be enabled to report to the white-men, that of what I related, I had myself seen indubitable proofs. This he promised should be done on the morrow. He gave me a complete and circumstantial account of the murder, which he said he had received from a man and woman who had been eye-witnesses of it, and who were now at Litākun. I desired that these two people might be brought to me, that I might ask them some questions on the subject. Here the conversation ended, and he took his leave.

As Gert and Muchunka were both present during this communication, they related all to the rest of my men, who, I found, gave full and implicit belief to the whole of Mattivi's story. Their reason for so readily crediting all the tales of this kind, which they heard, was, probably, the justification which these seemed to afford for the timidity of their own conduct and their reluctance to advance farther into the Interior.

After all the natives had left the *mootsi*, and my own men had retired to sleep, I took, unknown to any one, an observation to determine the latitude of this place; which I computed to be $27^{\circ}. 6'. 44''$. * The motive for keeping secret those operations which required the use of instruments, which might appear desirable to the natives, has already been stated †; and the present and every subsequent occasion, convinced me that it is always practicable; at least, with reference to the ascertaining of the latitude by a star: and I believe that in these regions, it was never known to any but my own

* On the 31st of July 1812. at Litākun, near the Chief's residence, the observed meridional altitude of α *Pegasi* (Markab) was $48^{\circ}. 42'. 7''$.

† In the first volume, at page 577.

Hottentots, that the waggon contained any thing so showy and attractive as my sextant. To travellers under similar circumstances, it may therefore be recommendable, that all their *astronomical instruments* should be made as plain as possible, and that the metal should be either discoloured, or its natural brightness concealed.

August, 1st. As the Chief received daily in his *móotsi*, or public enclosure, the visits of a greater or less number of *kósies*, or chieftains, who remain sitting with him generally the whole morning, he may be considered as holding a *píicho*, or council, every day. The number of chieftains assembled at these ordinary *píicho*es, seldom exceeds twenty, and is often not more than half a dozen; but on extraordinary occasions, such as that of debating on the propriety of making war, or of removing their town, or that of the arrival of a white-man amongst them, this assembly consists of a much more numerous body; and by their opinion, or that of the majority, even their Chief is influenced and guided.

Early in the forenoon, Mattivi informed his council of the conversation which we had held on the preceding evening. One of the *kosies* very strongly urged his opinion, that all goods of European manufacture which could be found, should be brought for me to see; and the Chief, in consequence, issued orders to this effect, or at least, pretended that he had done so. He was absent from the *mootsi* all the remainder of this day; and might possibly be busied in searching or making inquiry, for some articles which might be adduced in proof of the account which he had given me yesterday.

Nothing further worthy of remark occurred this day; and the evening passed as usual, with a house full of *parasites*. When the inhabitants first saw us making use of the ‘*unlucky wood*’ (*Vangueria infausta*) for fuel, they warned us of our danger, and among themselves made many remarks on our imprudence. They said, as Muchunka expressed it, ‘We shall soon see all these men die; for they not only make their fire of this wood and warm themselves by it, but they even boil their meat over it.’ It would, indeed, have been a ‘*lucky wood*’ for us, if it had sufficiently retained its charm, to have checked them from coming to our fire, and to have kept