

**R.J. GORDON - 5th JOURNEY - 19th NOVEMBER 1785 - 12th MARCH 1786**  
**[N.B. All entries or comments in bold are editorial and not part of the original text]**

**1.**

**19<sup>th</sup> November 1785**

Saturday

I sent my wagon ahead to Schabord's in the Tiger Bergen yesterday evening so that it could travel in coolness and by moonlight. It had a team of 12 oxen and was accompanied by my orderly Jansen and the painter Schoenmaker. In addition there was my Hottentot Hoedies as wagon-rider (his old father Matroos or Iteki is not able to accompany me any more(1). (This has upset him very badly.) Coerikei led the oxen while Cabas and my Mozambique slave Castor went as helpers. And so at half past six this morning I set off alone on horseback to the Tiger Bergen and had reached Mr H O Eksteen's by a quarter to nine. At half past nine rode on to Schabord's where, at half past ten, I found the wagon which had arrived in the night.

When I had enjoyed a friendly meal with Schabord and family I ordered the wagon to break camp toward half past three and to travel to the southern corner of the Groote Paarde Berg. Jansen went ahead with me on horseback. Near Pompoene Craal(2) came upon my slave Jak who had brought my new dog Wolf(3) and a letter from my beloved wife.

**2.**

Left De Faisante Craal (Cobus Louw) on our left hand side and passed by the farms of Gerrit Louw, Adriaan van Rhenen and Widow Niewkek and Tobias

**1a.**

Weather and Wind

Very hot towards noon and throughout the day. Thermometer in the shade.

6 am Noon At its hottest 6 pm 76 86 86 80

A S.E. wind in the morning at the Cape which blew fiercely yesterday. Slightly cloudy all day. Foggy, moist air as with a change in the weather. The wind blew S.W. in the direction of the Paarde Berg. (It generally turns to the S.E in the mountains).

owing to illness and old age

Observed that in the Bottelary Berg just as in the Wynberg these ranges have foothills as outposts and that these run into one another.

The slow and regular rise of the ridges and the way they come together gives one to reflect much upon Buffon's theory, now accepted, in which such ridges may run in all directions and yet lie close to one another.

(2) The usual camping place here is at an excellent spring of water which wells up through white sand, while that of the Tiger Bergen is very brack.

**2a.**

Bearings at Van Aarden's;  
Middle of Table Mountain Z.W.2 deg.  
W. across the Tiger Bergen. The small

Mostert's, De Klipheuvel. Eventually, because of the dark, we missed Van Aarden's farm. We were led astray by a light from the farm called Twegat, which place we reached very thirsty. The wagon was far behind. The farmer Jacob Tyssen received me in the most friendly way and refreshed me with excellent water and a pleasant, light wine. One of the slaves showed me the way to Van Aarden's which lay about a quarter of an hour to the south from there in the Valey. (It is called the tail of the Groote Paarde Berg.) It was nine o'clock and most of the family were already in bed. Somewhat tired on this first day. I was exhausted, also, from the unaccustomed heat and I took my rest in a clean room with a plank floor. The other rooms, which were made of unfired, moulded bricks were smeared with cow-dung about every fourteen days. They said it made the air fresh and kept away the dust.

### **The 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

The wagon had likewise been led astray by Jacob Tyssen's light and had outspanned in a Valey and only arrived here at six o'clock in the morning. I had been concerned that some accident might have occurred.

### **3.**

Because I have my new English quadrant (astronomical) with me, I take every precaution. It is packed in a case, lying on straps, and this sits within another case. My barometers, with my gown wound around them, are, as usual in their case.

Our friendly host Van Aarden was truly delighted that I had come to him. He is accounted the best shot in this area.

I departed about half past four when the great heat of the day was over and at a quarter to seven arrived at Burger's Drift, on the Berg River. It is presently but a knee deep in water and very narrow. Another three quarter's of an hour further on we came to Eikenboomen, so called, the farm of De Beer. At no time did we ride hard. The crop-farmer received me in a very friendly way. I spent the night here.

mountain at Klap Muts S.3 deg. E. The middle of Simons Berg (highest point) S. by E. 3.½ deg.

The northern point of Paarl S.E. by E. 1 deg. E.

Fransé Hoek

The middle point of Paarl S.E. 8 deg. S. The southern tip of the Paarde Berg N. by E. ½ S. by E.. A quarter of an hour's going. Middle of the Paarde Berg N. W. End of the Paarde Berg 5½ deg. N. Klipheuvel W. 4 deg. S. by N. Burgers Drift approximately N. E. Vogel Valey, the Kloof and church, three hours going.

Witsenberg, highest point, the chimney N.E. by N. 6 deg. N.

Outermost Mountain N.E. by N. 7 deg. N.

Rodesand Berg N.E. by N.

Groeneberg. E. By N.

Wagenmakers Valey E. 3 deg. S.

Entrance to De Toits Kloof E.S.E.

Exit from De Toits Kloof E. by S.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> It blew strongly from the west and north-west tonight and rained a little. The wagon arrived here at eleven o'clock yesterday evening and unyoked because it was very dark. But continued on its way before dawn in the moonlight.

Heard that my new dog had died on account of the great heat. Possibly also from grief at losing its old master.

### **3a.**

Weather and wind somewhat northerly. Thunder storm brewing. Sun scorching.

Calm and hot.

Thermometer in the sun (though somewhat overcast): 80-98-99-111 at two o'clock. 84 at six o'clock in the evening.

Eight farms lie around this Groote Paarde Berg. They produce good wine and wheat. But foot-rot is very prevalent amongst the stock. The mountain gets its name from the many wild horses (Zebras) that used to be here. There are possibly 4 or 5 still here now, the rest having dispersed or died.

N.B. Mrs Mouton, now widow of Hendrick Van Aarden, was a woman of 81, the mother of Hannes van Aarden, the present occupier of this farm. She was brought up at the 24 Rivieren. In her youth there were so many elephants there that they were no longer afraid of fire, going into the grain and destroying it. A foreigner, by the name of Andries decided to set an elephant trap which people regarded as impossible. It went off in the night and a very large elephant was found dead. It had pulled the whole trap over. This lady went and sat on the elephant when it was dead. For this trap Andries used three rags and bits of iron and it struck the elephant in the head.

### **4.**

Departed at a quarter past five under a cool, soft rain and at a quarter past seven arrived beside the Vogel Valey. I left this on my left hand side and after tramping for an hour and a quarter I passed the Coopmans River which is now dry. Was at Rodesands Kloof just before a quarter to eight. Another half hour and I had crossed the Kleine Berg River which flows through the kloof and after a further half hour was through the kloof itself. The kloof is narrow and, with a few bends, stretches S.E. to N.W.

Though one does find a few angles sailliants and rentrants it is certain that this kloof was not formed by water, since the force of that water necessary to form the deep, narrow gorge through this range(1) would have carried away the whole range itself instead of making these few regularly receding and advancing angles.

Arrived at Parson Kuis at half past ten this morning. He lives beyond the beautiful farm of a certain De Wet. Made preparations to go up to the highest point on these mountains tomorrow. I therefore put my barometers in order. Found the height of this parsonage to be 925 English feet above sea level.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday**

Departed before day at half past three in order to ride on horseback to a certain de Toit's below the mountain under the Winter Hoek. Took my Hottentots and some of Mr Kuis', as well as Pinar's slaves

### **4a.**

Rainy weather till nine o'clock in the morning. Light easterly breeze until I reached the Rodesand. It was hot yesterday and today the countryside very sandy and gravelly. A good level road, mostly 50 foot wide. Saw many hares and partridges. Before one

reaches the Rodesand Kloof the range of mountains becomes very low and then falls away completely. Then another foothill pushes out from it and between them both is the kloof. The strata of these long granite slopes tend to lie on both sides, falling away evenly to the S.E.

(1) (So then, this must have all been under one sea: the whole Rodesand district Goudeni etc., must have been covered by it.)

Thermometer: 67-84-71.

Towards evening a light, somewhat southerly, breeze, cool and clear.

Humid, westerly breeze, strong toward evening however. Clear on the mountain.

Thermometer: 76-80-60. Rain clouds driving up, blowing from the north.

**5.**

**5a.**

to carry the instruments and food.

Pinar returned yesterday evening from a journey to the Koebieskouw. When I went past his farm with a certain Abram Meyer who had offered to accompany me, Pinar suggested that he should go with us which I readily accepted. Thus from the clergyman we rode to De Toit's in an hour and a half and we climbed the mountain for about six hours. In the beginning the way is not steep because the foothills of the mountain, as within the basin, protrude very far apart. We crossed some rivulets full of low thickets and shrubs, antholysa and leucadendrons, and we saw some partridges and steenbok.

(1) This kloof is called 'De Hel'.

Pinar wanted to lead us by another way than the usual one, the better to reach a high peak(1) which appeared to be the highest on the Rodesand. However we struck, and then went into, some very difficult kloofs with the result that Pinar and Meyer (who had drunk water at every small stream) became dog-tired, sweating heavily from the walk. Pinar stayed behind, lying at a small stream, and later turned home. Fired some shots in order to find out where our party, who were on the right path, were. Thereupon they called out to us and we climbed up to them. We climbed the first kloof of the mountain for half an hour and, where the cliffs begin, Meyer collapsed completely and stayed behind, lying on the ground. Left one of our people

**6.**

**6a.**

with him so that I could be at the top before noon to take bearings.(1) Thus in a five and a half hours' climb from De Toit we had reached the place where the cliffs begin. We would have done this in nearly four had we followed the usual route to here. When I had completed my work here and when we had had something to eat, Meyer climbed up to us, which was all he could do. I was looking for a way through the cliffs so I sent my Hottentots out in order that each should search for a way to the high peaks. In the meanwhile I examined the nature of the rocks and how they lay. Found here many sweet-smelling herbs and shrubs, an abundance of grass and very good water. But being somewhat lower we are here 4020 English feet above the sea. Returned to our party in the evening. I had ordered them to look around for a hole in the rock because I had seen rainy weather coming up from the north. However they had not done this. Under a tree, between two rocks we made a shelter with bushes. But even before midnight we were all soaked through, making us very cold and the fire was more smoke than flame.

Wednesday 23<sup>d</sup>

With daylight we looked for a hole in the rocks and found one. We fashioned a fairly impervious hollow, though the wind blew into it and through it. We made fire and dried out bushes in order to lie on them. At about ten o'clock we had a heavy thunderstorm with much hail and sleet. Thunder clattered in the mountains as if it would crack them. This thundery weather lasted until the afternoon but was followed by wind and showers of rain.

**7.**

Wet through, our people arrived in the evening with food. They also brought a blanket for me, which was very welcome.

24<sup>th</sup> November 1785. Thursday.

Stayed here, not moving. We were cold and wet. It began to clear up towards evening and we could see the peaks of the mountains. They

(1) As recorded on my loose sheets of paper ... too long to insert here.

Stiff north wind with heavy showers of rain.

Thermometer: 47-56-40

Meyer turned back and I sent my Hottentots to De Toit to fetch food. Meanwhile having come up so far I chose to stay until the bad weather was over, since it is then normally more clear for observing.

N.B. In our cave the water ran over the outer rocks towards the inside which was an unusual phenomenon. When a shower began, drops started to fall on us.

**7a.**

The rain caused whole streams of water to flow alongside the cave over the stones across us, without wetting us, although in some places the hollow in the rocks was nearly horizontal above our heads. It happened in this manner because the water

were white in places.

25<sup>th</sup> November 1785. Friday.

With clear weather and a breeze from the S.E. we climbed one of the high peaks in order to take observations. Found that many were higher than this one and that the ridge along the highest was too steep to climb from this side. We climbed with great difficulty eastward towards a peak that was in the Witsenberg range.

Drank wine here mixed with snow which was very refreshing.

Saw that here all the highest peaks of the mountains do not consist of horizontal layers but that the highest points are broken off and are the tip of the layer that begins in the Valey or at its foot. However, while the remaining layers, three or more foot deep, are parallel to this layer, they form an incline. They consist of a crystallised, quartzite, granular substance. We could find no mica in it and it was interspersed with varying sizes of quartzite pebbles (from a pea to a fowl's egg and sometimes larger), especially high-up on the peaks. In places there were also some clear crystals lying jumbled together, but always in clefts, and

### **7a.**

The rain caused whole streams of water to flow alongside the cave over the stones across us, without wetting us, although in some places the hollow in the rocks was nearly horizontal above our heads. It happened in this manner because the water cohered to the rock and because the flow was so sudden. It was a strange sight and appeared supernatural.

24. Thermometer: 35-45-60.

Wind N.W. and W. to S.W. Still more showers. Southerly wind towards evening.

25. Thermometer: 33-70-60.

Beneath the snow 34-32.

Fine weather, calm, clear. Mists rising in places from the Valey.

NB The basin of the Rodesand is about 2½ hours going wide, and 5 deep. It contains about

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NB The basin of the Rodesand is about 2½ hours going wide, and 5 deep. It contains about 37 farms, of which about 2 are quit-rent. These farms however lie mostly in the low foothills of these mountains. These form the basin and they all extend transversally from the chain, whilst the highest peak (or end of the layer) leans towards the Rodesand basin. Seen thus (**insert drawing**) one can suppose that the Rodesand was once in a subsidence and that this is how the basin was then formed

### **8a.**

The highest peaks had broken off. The outer part was whiter, crystallised and harder than the inner, was a reddish-brown colour.

Fine weather, calm. Light southern breeze, below the mountain.

Thermometer: 70-80-80.

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**9.**

He was meant to show me the path but lost his way. To the bottom in danger of life and reached the obliging De Toit in six hours. At sunset found this place to be about 1000 feet above sea level. Returned to the most friendly Parson Kuis in the dark

27<sup>th</sup> November 1785. Sunday.

Took latitude here which is 33 deg-16 min-8 sec. Latitude again on Monday.

28<sup>th</sup> November 1785. Monday.

Went to the mountain slightly to the north of the Witsenberg wagon-road. Took my observations and returned in the dark to Thomas Terron below the mountain where I was entertained in a friendly manner. Spent the night.

29<sup>th</sup> November 1785. Tuesday.

Began to investigate what the scale, so-called, is. In this basin of the Rodesand and in many more places it has damaged, and still does damage, the loveliest orange trees. Thereafter rode back to Parson Kuis where I repeated my investigation, riding on to Pinar in the afternoon where I did likewise. I found that it was beyond doubt a small red louse which makes itself a very small abode upon the leaves and along the boughs. It may well be that it lays an egg which becomes its house. At the very least this burrowing creature sits beneath a small reddish-brown covering with russet stripes, like the top of a pie. Bitter things like aloe, gall, tobacco juice will drive it away, as well as keeping the plant clean by brushing.

**10.**

**9a**

Very hot. Fine weather. Southerly breeze.

Thermometer: 80-94-88.

Hot. Clear. Wind light S.W.

Thermometer: 80-96-90.

Overcast sky. Some rain in the morning.

Wind stood somewhat to the S.W.

Clearing up in the afternoon.

Thermometer: 76-86-80.

**10a.**

30<sup>th</sup> November 1785.

Here I drew up a short description for the Parson to inform his parishioners. Rode with the Parson to the waterfall. (Two hours going from there). When we reached home, prepared for my departure.

1<sup>st</sup> December 1785. Thursday.

Ordered the wagon to travel back through the Rodesand Kloof before daylight and to go to a certain Jan de Waal, De Leeuwe Klip at the 24 Rivieren. I and my boy, Castor went through the old kloof in order to take observations. We passed alongside the farm of a certain Lategan called De Oude Cloof. (The orange trees here were also beginning to get the scale). After an hour's going we came to Jan de Waal's farm De Leeuwe Klip, an hour to the S of 24 Rivieren. A neat and cleanly family. We investigated the fine orange orchard where there was scale, it came from the side with the least wind. We cut off some branches. De Waal wants to put my remedies to work.

2<sup>nd</sup> December 1785. Friday.

Yesterday sent the wagon along the east side of the Honing Bergen which is on the southern side of the Piketberg. They had to halt in the dark in open country and reached Natjesrivier (at a certain Burger's) at 7 o'clock in the morning. This runs into the Berg River a quarter of an hour from here in the west, has almost no water except in pools.

I left at five o'clock and after riding for three hours arrived at a certain Burgers, thereafter another three hours on horseback to Hanekamp's, Kleine Vogel Valey, the third farm on the Piket Berg.

**11.**

3<sup>rd</sup> December 1785. Saturday.

Encountered the Reverend Kolver, Mr van der Hegge and their party here. They were returning from the Warm Baths on the northern part of the Oliphants River. They came early this morning from

NB. The water runs into the Kleine Berg River. Good weather. Somewhat overcast. Southerly breeze.

Thermometer: 75-87-80.

Hot. Calm. Thermometer: 82-97-81.

Wind S.E. toward evening.

N.B. Since the new kloof no wagons use the old one. It is very bad and stony. (Found much clayey schist). To one side of the 24 Rivieren between De Waal and Lategan the mountain range rises high. It has a prominent spur forming the S.W. side of De Leeuwe Kloof which runs from the Rodesand to 24 Rivieren. Water from it runs beside De Waal into the 24 Rivieren an hour to the west.

According to Mrs de Waal, turtles live for eight days after their head has been cut off. This is done to collect the blood which is used as an antidote.

Calm. Very hot. Clear.

Thermometer: 80-98-86.

Out of jealousy a Hottentot drowned himself in the Berg River here, something Hottentots seldom do.

**11a.**

A fair SE breeze. Good weather.

Thermometer: 75-88-80.

Found the latitude of De Groene Valey to be: 32 deg. 43 min. 47 sec.

We found a slave boy hanging on an orange tree here. He hanged himself



Groene Valey, Captain Mulder's farm. Left Hanekamp and arrived at Mulder's after riding for barely an hour. The highest part of the Piket Berg is between him and Gerrit Smit who lives an hour's ride to the north. But one third of the way between both lies the farm Wagenboom, also Mulder's.

4<sup>th</sup> December 1785, Sunday.

Departed west up the mountain with my Hottentots, two of Mulder's slaves, Gerrit Smit and his young son who is just ten years old. After riding for a quarter of an hour we started climbing steeply on foot. Avoiding the steepest way (which we later found to be the best) we encountered cliffs and kloofs which made the ascent very difficult for us. Finally, with much labour and, after climbing for five hours, we reached the first plateau. But, because I wanted to make my observations from the highest point, we had to go far around and across a plateau with many cliffs. We saw many fresh zebra tracks and dung. (This is the striped ass or wild horse as they call it here). However, we did not see any, only a few rhebok and a large troop of baboons. Gerrit Smit stayed behind on account of exhaustion but his small son, who had to carry his heavy gun himself for some time, held his own

## 12.

The wind turning westerly and the sky becoming overcast, I left them there and clambered up over many cliffs before I reached the highest point. It is a deceptive mountain with several peaks. Found the highest point 4400 feet above sea level. It is all the same kind of rock but in this mountain, like all mountains close to the sea (so far as I have observed) the strata lie more horizontal. The sky became overcast with clouds in the west, indicating rain and making it very cold.

this morning. He was Bengali.

Fine weather. Becoming cloudy. Wind S.W. Soft breeze.

Thermometer 80-80-70

The honey-bird, a sort of cuckoo, called chirr, chirr, loudly, but although we looked for honey we found none.

## 12a.

(1) We still thought we could reach the bottom by late evening. While we were descending we heard a shot from Gerrit Smit who had climbed up by then. We only found water once and that but little. This mountain has scant water on account of its height and extent, and because of its steepness and hard rock.

NB. I had to keep my repeater watch with me this night. With a small bowl I caught about a wineglass of rainwater

I had completed my work and we started off across steep cliffs, first in an easterly direction.. (1)

We climbed down along a difficult kloof so that eventually in the dark we found our way blocked by cliffs and found that we could neither go forward nor back. We suffered from thirst and after a faint stroke of lightning, but without thunder, it began to rain fairly hard. I laid myself down under a low rock where I was, to some extent, protected from the wind but I still became wet and cold. So far as I could, I kept my people awake in order to keep them from catching cold, and with dismay, we longed for day. The rain stopped when the west wind turned S.E. and it cleared up completely. The wind is always cold when this happens.

Day came at last and we found ourselves on a steep cliff. It is probable that we would have had an accident had we

5<sup>th</sup> December 1785

tried to go further yesterday evening. After much searching about we climbed down the cliffs and after three hours reached Captain Mulder's. Gerrit Smit came all the way down at ten o'clock. He said he had to endure great cold on the top of the mountain although he made a fire there (which we were unable to do because of the dark and lack of fire wood).

**13.**

6<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

We rode to Gerrit Smit in De Droge Rijst Kloof. When we had enjoyed the midday meal I rode back, in one and a quarter hours' hard riding, to prepare the wagon for departure. Sent it at sunset to Mrs Ras at the southern corner of the Piket Berg. Her farm is called De Riet Kloof. They lost their way and did not get there before eight o'clock in the morning.

7<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

which refreshed me greatly.

Thermometer (on top) 60-89-80.

S.E. Breeze. Hot during the day.

Found much good-tasting water lying in the stones in the morning. It refreshed us greatly.

Rode beside a poor farm belonging to a certain Lievenberg. The only water there was brack. He told us that the wagon had lost its way, something which is easy to do here on account of the road which is hardly ever used. We lost the road even in daylight. We were shown a footpath, close to the mountain which, in four hours from Müller's, bought us across Hexe Valey to Mrs Ras at De Riet Kloof(1), where we were entertained in the most friendly manner and where we stayed the night. On the way we rode across a farm Witte Water, belonging to a certain Lucas, a Russian, which had very good water. Let the wagon depart at sunset for the farm of

**13a.**

Thermometer: 82-99-90.

Very hot. Calm.

In the evening the breeze somewhat S.E. There are 21 farms around the Piket Berg. Of these, there are three farms on the top, among the high peaks. On two of them good wheat, vegetables and fruit are grown.

NB. Josias Engelbregt and Botman came to visit me late in the evening, having heard that I was in these parts. They will make everything ready to receive me at Verloren Valey.

Thermometer: 76-94-90.

Western breeze. Very hot in the afternoon because the countryside is low and sandy.

NB. For the first time in his life my old travelling-horse Nobel fell with me. It was on the level road and I did not hurt myself but his mouth bled.

(1) which comes north from the Piket Berg. Ras also has a farm there

**14.**

Marthinus Melk, called Berg Rivier.

8<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Thursday.

Departed in the morning in Ras' horse-wagon (eight horses) and after an hour rode through a sand drift on the Berg River at a certain Visser's. It was almost dry. Because it was sandy we had to travel on the left bank of the river which has endless bends.

(The ox-wagon travelled straight across country).

After two hours we reached a certain Widow Brand, having first passed another sandy drift in the river(1), all the time however we remained on the left bank of the river. Thereafter in two hours to De Haase Kraal, the farm of Jan Losper where the Soute River runs into the berg River from the Swartland. Riding on for half an hour we reached Jantjes Fontein where we crossed by the Wilgenbos drift, an easy crossing(2) because it was very shallow. After riding for half an hour along the right bank we arrived at Melk's farm, a seven hour's ride in all.

9<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Friday.

Stayed here, resting. Want to inform myself about the hippopotamus.

10<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Saturday.

We went hunting hippopotamus but saw nothing.

**14a.**

NB. The Droge Brood drift lies below Lucas and goes through the Berg River to the Swartberg in the Swartland.

Thermometer: 78-94-80.

Hot westerly breeze.

On Melk's farm a strong S.E. wind. Here it starts to blow freshly once more but generally begins an hour after midday and usually dies down at sunset. But not always because the wind blows across this sandy plain at the start of day as well.

Very hot.

(1) where the water from the Captain's Kloof runs into the Berg River.

NB. Hippopotamus sometimes come onto Ras' farm. River pigs rather, in my opinion.

(1) But in riding uphill one horse fell over another, the wagon nearly overturning.

Many flies.

We caught fish in the river called palmoggels, they are soft and bony. We bathed.

Very hot. Calm in the morning. S.E. wind in the afternoon, fairly strong. Calm at evening. Lightning in the N.E., The Karoo.

Thermometer: 80-94-90.

10. Misty in the morning as after thundery weather. Northerly breeze. Calm throughout the day. As usual a S.E. wind in the afternoon until night fall.

Thermometer: 80-90-86.

**15.**

11<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Sunday.

Departed at daylight for the farm of Jacob Losper, one and a quarter hours' from here. It is called Welkom (1) West 10 deg. N. just to the north of Honing Klip.

12<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Monday.

We went hunting hippopotamus in a boat. From here we rowed upstream past all the innumerable bends of the Berg River to Melk's farm without seeing anything like fresh hippopotamus spoor. (We ate at Namacqua Drift).

At Melk's let the wagon be loaded to travel to Doornfontein this evening in order to be at the mouth of the Berg River (the middle of St. Helena Bay) by the morning. I shall travel there in the horse-wagon with Losper. Returned to

**15a.**

Good weather. Calm again in the morning.

Wind S.W. in the afternoon.

Thermometer: 78-86-80.

(1) a bare half hour from the river. Found lime stones in the sand and good garden vegetables. Was entertained in a most friendly manner.

Hot. Good weather. S.W. breeze.

Thermometer 76-88-80.

Namacqua Drift is half way between Melk and Losper.

Here they call a drift a place where cattle can get to the river

Losper's farm on foot.

13<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Tuesday.

At daylight rode off in the wagon with its eight horses alongside the Berg River and after two and a half hours' brisk riding arrived at the mouth. Found my wagon unyoked but a little too far off. Sent to them and told them to outspan at the so-called Ijsere Poort(1) This is 250 roods to the north of the mouth which is 200 paces wide and lined with sandbanks.

Left for the other side in Losper's boat and ordered my observatory to be erected. Before we came the boat had already caught some delicious steenbras for us.

**16.**

14<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Wednesday.

The sea is close here, 15 paces away from my observatory and last night at high tide the waters roared, waking and alerting me. Saw that I was on a dune however.

Took latitude which I found to be: 32 deg. 47 min. 38 sec.

This afternoon our friends Losper and his wife, Van der Byl and Smit came and ate with me in my observatory.

15<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Thursday.

Crossed the river and from the southern side of the mouth measured 2000 roods to the inside of the Soldaten Post Bay.

I then took bearings on everything and walked along this stony side to the north point of St. Helena Bay. Passed Jacob's Bay in which the Klip Duiker island lies and thereafter a larger one, also with white stones. Completed my task here as noted by me in the annexure. Saw the large Jurgen's Bay around the corner. With the other corner this forms a peninsular as it were. Turned back and chased a half-grown eland bull ahead of my horse but could not shoot it as I had no gun.

16<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Friday.

Took leave of my party and went along the shore, north east 5 deg east towards the Kleine

to drink. There are still lions here. Liefhebbe [sic] and opposite Doornfontein Schuitjes Drift.

Fine weather. Wind west.

Thermometer: 75-86-80.

(1) N.B. a gap in some low dunes.

There were many waterfowls here, especially divers and pelicans.

**16a.**

Cool weather beside the shore.

Thermometer: 68-80-75.

Southerly Trade wind beginning in the afternoon.

Measured the northern shore: 1250 roods straight to the Kleine Tafel Berg to where the first bend begins.

Good weather. Warm southerly wind.

Thermometer: 70-84-80.

Found only foul-smelling water here above the ruined house.

There were 22 wild dogs near it which ran off. This animal looks like a dog but is neither dog nor fox, nor wolf nor hyena.

Cool weather. Northerly breeze. Clear but somewhat misty in the afternoon.

Thermometer: 65-76-78.

Tafel Berg. This appears to lie close to the shore but on examination found it lies 2½ to 3 miles from same.

**17.**

Found that it was a flat, sandy shore everywhere which had no stones, and only after 2700 roods was there a low sandy point. After this, one again carries on as on the Kleine Tafel Berg but after 1500 roods one again turns off as if going towards the southern corner, the blunt angle of Verloren Valey.

After four hours' going we came to the so-called Bukram which is the mouth of a small rivulet that runs into the sea in the rainy season. But had not a drop of water now. We left the shore here and for an hour tramped through the countryside to Duinfontein, which was somewhat brack. Both these places are farms belonging to Melk.

This Duinfontein lies 20 minutes going from the sea. Some low dunes between the two. The wagon arrived here at 5 o'clock after travelling for eight hours. My Hottentot Platje shot a male ostrich. We saw many seals on the shore asleep. It appears they are not often disturbed here.

17<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Saturday.

Went to the shore and took bearings on everything.

18<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Sunday.

At daylight departed on foot along the shore N.N.E., according to the bearings in the tables, and after three hours reached De Soute Kloof Fontein, belonging to a certain Schalkwyk. It was all sandy shore with fairly high dunes in places with hard prickly grass as in Holland.

**18.**

The wagon travelled on the landward side, along the dunes. It was hotter. After an hour and a half we had crossed the so-called Platte berg and after an hour's going we reached the farm of Dirk Jacobus Coetse at the Verloren Valey. Up to there everything was dried out.

**17a**

Thermometer: 65-76-  
Fine weather. A fresh Trade Wind towards eleven o'clock which, for the most part, veered with the sun.

Sunday

Misty. Somewhat northerly wind which veered with the sun and then dropped.

Thermometer: 70-80-75

**18a.**

Passed a saltpan with good salt on our left hand side.

NB. The corner was too far to go around and too stony.

There is an old slave living here in a broken-down hut. It is a stock

Found Gerrit Smit and Jacobus Coetse fishing, lying on the other side.

19<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Monday.

Went alongside the Baviaans Berg and up the Platte Berg and took all my bearings. We saw many baboons. In shallow water using shotguns our people shot 14 large springers at the end of the Valey which were fat and good to eat. Some were two foot long.

20<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Tuesday.

Took latitude and got 32 deg. 20 min. 6 sec. Rode down the valley to the shore in three quarters of an hour. There is a salt-pan there through which the sea washes at high tide. We went round the point (very rocky) of this sandy inlet. All these strata lie horizontally but do face the sea. It is all the same quartz, small granular rock but with large quartz pebbles dispersed in it. We rode back in two hours.

21<sup>st</sup> December 1785. Wednesday.

We travelled through the valley and round the point but not through any water. Made camp after half an hour on the other side.

22<sup>nd</sup> December 1785. Thursday.

Took bearings at De Bonte Heuvel, the farm of Andries Gouws, whereafter we had a meal of delicious springers. Then we left northward for De Brand Wagt, Jan Louw's farm in the Lange Valey, and after three hours' easy ride on horseback arrived there.

23<sup>rd</sup> December 1785.

Travelled down the Lange Valey by ox-wagon where it was half an hour wide and pushes up against the dunes without breaking through them.

and a fish farm. There were thousands of water-fowl around the Valey. From these we shot some good-tasting ducks.

Good weather. Clear. Wind as before.

Thermometer: 70-82-78.

Found many shells in the gorges but it is clear that these were brought by the Shore-Bushmen. One finds them far into the interior, two or three hours from the sea, but none in hard rock or stuck into rock.

Good weather. A little more wind but from the same direction.

Thermometer: 72-84-80.

Some Hottentots came complaining that they had been driven out from here but said that their chief Kees (or Soutsak) Goejeman had returned from the Governor with a letter giving them back their old dwelling place.

Somewhat misty in the morning. All day the same weather and wind, but hotter.

Thermometer: 75-89-80.

Good weather, cool, and the same wind.

Thermometer: 70-86-76.

At the pass in 3/4:  
Modderfontein. In the Lange Valey

This part has no fish but grows abundant vegetables a little higher up, as well as good wheat, a vineyard and all kinds of vegetables. We travelled northwards within and beside the dunes, alongside the shore and after one and a quarter hours reached Steenbokke Fontein, the stock farm of a certain Lambregts. The water was brackish. There were some Hottentots living there as herdsman. After one and three quarter hours we arrived at the mouth of the Jakhals Valey River, on the shore. This is 120 paces wide and sometimes flows, but not now. It is a larger bend than Verloren Valey. At the southern point of this bend there is a large stony rock like an island. There are also some rocks more to the south, about 200 paces from the bank, all very stony and full of birds and seals. Took all my bearings and turned back to De Brand Wagt where we arrived at sunset.

**19a.**

From Steenbokke Fontein the shore is very stony.

Here we found the place where a large Shore-Bushman's kraal had stood.

They also had the children's disease amongst them in 1713.

Sandy shrub-country everywhere. In the past there was much game and elephant here but not any more.

Josias Engelbregt showed me a shrub where the Bushmen of that time had placed a very old woman in a wooden kraal. (N.B. She had no friends or children). They fenced it in and in order to get rid of her let her starve in this way, with an ostrich egg of water and some food. Josias who was passing by that way with one of these Hottentots (Shore-Bushmen) was shown this by him, a man called Courasi. He found the woman already dead. He had known her; she was called Kwabees and in his opinion she was over a hundred years old,

**20.**

24<sup>th</sup> December 1785. Saturday.

We rode in a north-easterly direction across the sandy heights and arrived at the Jakhals Valey River after a 1½ hour's ride. It had small though muddy pools but higher up there was a fairly good spring. Here we found the wagon which had taken three hours to get here. Took all my bearings and we rode with a turn beside Vogel Fontijn and on to Melkbosfontein through a slowly rising sandy kloof and then through the S.E. to Gerrit van Wyk at Zee Koeij Valeij, which we reached in four and a half hours. These mountains are all in broken lines and are the same as the Cardow range. This Zee Koeij Valeij has not been properly named because there are only springs here, but the water is good.

Everything grows very well here: fruit, wine, wheat and vegetables.

25<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

Took latitude here. Got: 32 deg. 8 min. 5 sec. Took all my bearings.

26<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

Climbed the Baviaansberg half an hour N.E. of here and took all my bearings. Rode N.N. eastwards in the afternoon to a certain Van Taak, Veld Wagmeester. Had to



make a large turn across the Narredouw to reach him. Otherwise my course was E. by N. to Jacob Louw, Onder Roggeveld. Arrived after two hours of not very hard riding, first through the east and then through the N.W. This farm has an abundant spring full of reed and birds but also coarse sand,

**20a.**

Hot, little wind, but the same region.

Thermometer: 75-94-86.

Hot. Good weather. Little wind but always from the same direction.

Thermometer: 75-90-80.

The same weather and wind.

The water, as that of the Berg River is more difficult to cross in comparison with that of the Cape, at the level [sic].

The strata of the mountains face the sea. Even the bare rocks are of the same kind of stone though they are smaller and have less large quartz pebbles in them. Still the same heavy sandy country, which amazes me because I found this place to be 1100 feet above sea level. This range runs from the Pikeniers Kloof past Van Zeijls on the Oliphants River with no apparent link however.

**21.**

with the result that if everything were not moistened daily in this region it would all be scorched up. This farm is called De Cromme Rivier and its tip lies on the Olifants River. It is so called because in the rainy season it forms a small river.

27<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

The two horses had run back in the direction we had come from so I left my orderly Jansen behind and at two o'clock I departed eastward towards the Olifants River. In order to take advantage of the coolness I let the wagon travel to below the Narredouw Mountain in the morning. After riding for half an hour I came to the Olifants River which was now hardly 12 paces wide and scarcely knee-deep. Sand everywhere and some willow trees but one could see from what had been washed up that the river can become very high and impassable. We rode upstream for quarter of an hour on the far side till we reached the wagon. We had the wagon yoked in and rode up Narredouw on a bad, stony road and the

**21a.**

Found beautiful snipe here. Thundery weather in the evening, clouds and lightning from the S.E. by E.N.E. But far over towards the Rogge Veld.

Hot. Thermometer 79-90-80

The same wind but blew more strongly towards midday and was south-easterly in the evening behind the mountains. Fine weather however, though hot at night.

wagon only reached the top after two hours travelling, having had much trouble with oxen's yoke-pins breaking. There is a large rock in the middle of the road which is difficult to travel around; this will have to be blasted.

Took bearings on a long sandy plain from the top of the mountain at sunset. The rocks are the same. We rode ahead of the wagon and after half an hour passed by the Duikerfontein. We saw no water however but heard frogs. Thereafter it was two hours to Knolle Valey, first going steeply down hill with a turn through the N. and N.E., the S. by E. and S.S.E. It was another half hour to the so-called Betjesfontein belonging to Abram Mouton which we reached at midnight and the wagon towards dawn. This rivulet is called Brandewyns River. It was dry now but when it runs it flows N. into the Doorn River.

## **22.**

28<sup>th</sup> December 1785.

In the morning left on horseback for a certain Mrs Coopman whom I discovered was a half-breed Hottentot woman who had been married to a white man called Coopman. Half-breeds, even if they are Christians may not perform any of the duties of a Burgher. The so-called cedar trees come to an end here, north in the mountains. This was the reason I rode to this farm.(1) By going an hour and a half with a turn through the W. and then to the S.W. I arrived on this farm and found the cedar trees to be Cypress trees. However they grow very tall here in the mountains and even stand up to 50 foot and higher and extend to the south for only a two days' journey. The same occurs with the Wolvegift shrub which only grows in the northern parts of the Biedouw and Maskamma. I first returned and then departed in the afternoon E.S.E. up a large sandy hill and after riding for one and a half hours, the sandy country fell behind, changing on the same ridge or hill into hard stony-clay country or Caroveld. Riding downhill from the heights I passed some very steep places, in particular one which was called De Uitkyk. For this reason I sent my young Hottentot back to the wagon to tell the same to make fast with straps. Saw the

## **22a.**

Very hot. A thundery sky still in east. Thermometer 80-94-86

The wind again whirled with the course of the sun and blew freshly at noon.

(1)N.B. But smaller cypress trees grow on many farms in this country. The basin at J. Coopman's is low and deep and is called Het Pakhuis. Brandewyns River begins here. In a derisory way this place is called Little Cape Town by the neighbours on account of the many small and wretched huts. Here, once more, I noticed that the cliffs on the surrounding banks face the basins.

The mountain range becomes more regular here with layers lying upon layers, only with stony banks. Also saw many with table tops as in the Sneeuberg. The rocks also changed and were harder and firmer.

Biedouw rivulet flowing from the S.E. It comes from the so-called Cederberg and flows east into the Doorn River in the Caro.

After three and a half hours in all arrived on the farm, called De Biedouw, of the Veld Corporal Frans Lubbe on this side of the Doorn River.

### 23.

*29th December 1785.*

*Found the latitude of this farm to be 32 deg. 8 min. 22 sec.*

*Error: 23 deg. N.W.*

*Took all my bearings and gathered together the different kinds of stones.*

*My orderly Jansen came back in the evening with the horses. I was well pleased, because had it been otherwise, I could not have waited for him and would thus have had to travel into the Caro without horses.*

*30th December 1785.*

*Made everything ready in order to depart this evening across the last farm on the Mietjesfontein which belongs to a certain Willem van Wyk. I shall be travelling beside the Biedouw River. We arrived at the aforementioned farm after travelling for two and three quarter hours with the ox-wagon through and beside the Biedouw River on a stony, winding wagon-road. And here we made camp.*

*31st December 1785.*

*At dawn departed further down the Biedouw River in an easterly direction for a quarter of an hour to where it runs into the Swarte Doorn River.*

*5 hours further on horseback, towards the right, the Tanqua River flows into the Swarte Doorn River(1) at a certain Vlock's. There are three salt-pans there, one of which has bitter salt.*

*There are more of these in this part of the country and they are mostly sal gemmer.*

*We broke camp at a quarter to four and after travelling for two and three quarter hours with*

*Sandy with thorn trees (mimosa) in places. N.B. Because much of the water here can be led out one could have everything here, such as fruit trees, vineyards and wheat. It would all be in sandy soil though because these crops would have to be sown in the river bed.*

### 23a.

*Great heat.*

*A strong east wind during the night. It comes from the thunder clouds beyond the gap in the mountains through which the river runs. It flows at all times for about an hour's distance but then stands in pools except for the rainy season. Heard far-off thunder but, as on previous days, the wind got up and followed the course of the sun so that it stayed in and behind the Caro, which we have to cross.*

*Thermometer 86-104-92.*

*114 in the sun.*

*Hot. The wind followed the sun but hardly any coolness.*

*Hot. The same weather and wind.*

*Thermometer: 89-98-92.*

*(1) But neither are running now. They were full of smooth, dark-blue stones and we made camp because there was no water further on. We have to travel through the great Caro in a E.N.E. direction.*

*Barometer at Doorn River a thousand feet above the sea.*

*the ox-wagon we reached the heights overlooking the Caro. This place was full of low mountains set against the ridge of this high plateau with the Caro and its vegetation on both sides.*

*The large subsidence's in this country are like moats of fortifications immeasurably deep.(2)*

#### **24.**

*By eight o'clock in the evening we had descended the large stony hill called Sadelmakersbank and after another two hours we had reached the now-dry Wolwe river and at midnight we had passed the place where the now-dry Nonjes river runs into it. We passed many ridges of stones which seemed like lines of fortification.*

*We passed beside and around one on the left hand side of the Kleine Elandsbergen.(1) We celebrated New Year while on the march with a glass of wine and a shot when it turned twelve o'clock and we dealt out rations of the water we had brought with us. Here Willem van Wyk, who had brought us to this point with his oxen, took leave of us. As day broke we rode around the tip of Vogelfontein Bergje and travelled on E.N.E. with the dry Nonjes River, alongside this mountain. The river here runs east and west beside the Grote Elands Berg and was full of thorn trees on the right hand side. A foothill of the high-lying land and parallel to the same high-lying land, has ravines in it, sometimes an hour's going and sometimes more, These end in the aforementioned deep, fortified moats through which small rivers flow in the rainy season as through a gap in the hills.*

*Found this country frighteningly dry everywhere. For some years it has had little rain and presently hardly a drop for six months.*

*Sunday 1st January 1786.*

*We made camp at a quarter past ten in the forenoon in the basin where the Nonjes river(2) has its source.*

*We found scant but good water. We were all very weary; sleep overtook us so strongly that I*

*(2) Horizontal strata.*

#### **24a.**

*(1) With many bends through the north and north east but the same Caro soil still.*

*(2) In it we saw two fresh lion tracks as well as gemsbok, hartebeest and striped horse or zebra tracks. Baboon tracks as well but did not hear any of these animals.*

*1st January.*

*Thermometer: 84-99-80.*

*Very hot light westerly breeze throughout the day. We went a 1000 feet uphill to this plateau.*

*2nd January. Thermometer below the mountain 86-75-65 Below a west wind and above a fresh S.E. wind.*

*fell asleep while on the march.*

*2nd January 1786.*

*Sent my orderly up the mountain, which here forms a very steep wagon-road, to ask Ary van Wyk for a team of oxen to help us. This he did and we were at the top in an hour and a quarter. This is his stock-farm which*

*25.*

*lies almost on the ridge of the plateau. It is inhabited by a half-breed. (From a European called Sas and a Hottentot woman). We had climbed 2000 feet.*

*After another hour we arrived on Van Wyk's farm. For the first time experienced a change of wind: from the west to the south east(1) and found that it was a great deal colder here. When I had taken all my bearings I left in a south-easterly direction and after four normal riding hours, but on a bad stony road with many bends, I passed alongside the stock-farm of a certain Louw. Thereafter I was on a rough. Stony hill called Knegtsbank, a good hour from Louw at the Hardebeestfontein. I was now on the road I had taken in 1778.*

*Except for the servant we found no-one at home. They had this day gone hunting lion and had killed a fully-grown young male lion.*

*3rd January 1786.*

*Took latitude and further bearings. Got 31 deg. 51 min. 41 sec.*

*Louw came home.*

*4th January 1786.*

*Left with him for Gerrit van Wyk senior, where I visited his stud and bought four horses. He lies one hour from Louw and in a triangle with Jan Nel. Left for his farm in the afternoon.(2)*

*5th January 1786.*

*Departed at daybreak in order to cross the Aape Berg(1). taking my previous road to Cornelis Coetse but the wheels of my wagon*

*25a.*

*(1) N.B. This wind had blown here for many days on end and had dried everything up. However it blew like the Trade Wind and not in gusts as at the Cape. This countryside was so parched that no one had ever seen it like this. Most farmers were preparing to flee with their flocks to the country around the Riet and Sak rivers which are in Bushmanland.*

*Fine weather. Still a S.E. trade wind.*

*Thermometer: 60-78-70.*

*(2) And after an hour and a quarter arrived at the farm called De Kuilen.*

*When it does flow its water runs into the Vis River. [sic]*

*(1) N.B. The Droge Berg is the same and only a high ridge.*

*Still the same weather and wind.*

*Thermometer: 63-80-70.*

*had dried out with the result that one of the rims broke and with difficulty we made these fast with straps and came down a high ridge veering right towards another Ari van Wyk, where we further repaired the wagon as much as we could.*

26.

*6th January 1786.*

*Departed up the Aape Berg and arrived at Cornelis Coetse in good condition. The stock-farm of a certain Albert Hanecamp came after an hour's journey across the Aape Berg, and this was an hour from Coetse's second farm Malans Gat.*

*7th January 1786.*

*Climbed the mountain called Sneeu Krants to take my observations. The large azimuth compass showed a totally wrong direction here, indeed it was wrong in two different directions. This is probably due to the iron or magnetic properties of the mountains. This is one of the highest peaks in the plateau. The grass is in slightly better condition than in the Onder Rogge Veld. I turned back along a certain Abram van Wijk's, 1½ hour's ride from Koetsee's.*

*8th January 1786.*

*Remained in order to put some more bands on the wheels of the wagon.*

*9th January 1786.*

*Departed on my previous road and stayed the night at a certain Visser's. Once more everything is parched as in the Onder Rogge Veld.*

*10th January 1786.*

*Departed for Olivier along my previous road. Found however that Nodde at Hottentotsfontein had died and that the farm was uninhabited. Olivier is living an hour more to the east than he did in 1779. Saw many ostriches. Departed on my previous road to Manes Schultz in order to carefully examine the strange Saltpeter Mountain once more.*

26a.

*Wind still south easterly but when thunder-clouds built up in the north the wind blew from the west.*

*Thermometer: 80-96-90*

*Weather and wind as yesterday. Still sultry.*

*Thermometer: 79-94-90.*

*One hour on from Korf below Sneekop. Again one of the highest peaks.*

*Fine weather but hot. The wind whirled round with the course of the sun.*

*Thermometer: 80-95-92.*

*10 Wind S.E. again but light. As almost always, calm in the evening.*

*Thermometer: 79-86--80.*

*Cool but clear. Wind S. Easterly. Calm in evening.*

*Thermometer: 60-80-75.*

*N.B. Looking superficially at the iron-stones of this mountain one would take them to be the product of volcanic action but there is no crater.*

11th January 1786.

*Went with him and a butcher, Akkerman, to the mountain and examined everything carefully. At evening travelled for two hours up the ridge of the Comsberg to the stock-farm now belonging to Cloete.*

27.

12<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Took observations with all the instruments, departed down the mountain, my previous road, and slept at Oranjefontein, farm of the widow Krieger.

13<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Departed for H. Swanepoel, my previous road. He is a wagon-maker and smith, so engaged him to do the repairs and all was completed in one day.

14<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Took observations on the mountain and rode ahead on my previous road, first by Widow Noddé, on the hill, and then to old Cortje, thereafter turning around left to Bottman's(1) which I reached after half an hour's brisk ride. The wagon came in the night.

His hands were badly wounded from catching a porcupine.

15<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

With turns departed down the mountain to De Soute Vlakke, belonging to the Widow Krieger, where I arrived after a 3 æ hours' ride. The wagon took 7 æ hours.

16<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Early in the morning to Boven Drift in Buffels River. Descended 2400 feet. Latitude: 33 deg. 6 min. 24 sec. N.W. 1 hour's ride. In the evening at Rietfontein 3½ hours ½ E. by N.

17<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

In the evening E.S.E, through to the Caro in ten and three quarter hours. Made camp at dawn

27a.

Cool. S.E. trade wind.

Thermometer: 65-80-77.

Good weather but hot during the day. Wind whirled around with the course of the sun.

Thermometer: 78-89-80.

Cool. Good weather. Wind with course of the sun. Calm in the evening.

Thermometer: 75-85-80.

(1) Farm called De Plaat. Found the height here 3400 and the first limestones and N.B. between the layers a sort of granite which I have found before in the interior regions. They were in Bottman's garden. N.B. this is very remarkable. I found no further trace of them. I was assured that they are to be found in the Tanquas Caro and that they are burned to make lime.

15 Cool fresh wind veering with the course of the sun. Calm in the evening.

The Swarte Bergen 2 miles to the south.

Thermometer: 70-84-80.

16 Hot. Thunder clouds in the

N.E. The wind whirled round.

N.B. This country gets rains from the north in winter but must rely

alongside the now-dry Jakhalsfontein in order to let the oxen rest. No water or grazing.

**28.**

Reached the now-dry Wolfefontein by way of our old road from Geelbeksfontein.

18<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Took latitude, got: 32 deg. 59 min. 41 sec. Departed an hour before dawn, crossing some dry Caro rivulets and after six and a half hour's travelling arrived at midnight at the Dwinka Drift which is now dry. Thus we were able to travel through it and arrived at the Gamka after five and a half hours, having previously crossed the now-dry Katte River barely an hour before.

19<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Made camp, exhausted, and found a pool of delicious water even though the river was dry. We saw fresh lion tracks here but observed nothing further except that the lions had drunk here recently and had rolled in the wagon-road like horses.

Rode ahead in the afternoon to Widow de Beer(1) who inow married to Adam Raubenheimer. The farm is called Queek Valey and lies on the Swarte River which is half-way to Gamka River. It was a pleasant sight for us who had now been travelling for a long time through dry, parched country. We found everything in abundance here with delicious fruit such as grapes, water-melons, peaches etc.

20<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

The wagon arrived in the morning without

on thunderstorms. Widow Krieger had a fine garden with fruit. Thermometer: 80-96-90.

Thermometer: 80-95-90

17 Good weather. Hot. Light wind. Thunder clouds in the north..

Saw many fresh lion and gemsbok tracks but saw none of these animals.

**28a.**

Some thunderclouds around.

18 Very hot with thundery sky. Thermometer: 80-100-90.

Some thunder in the evening and a few drops of rain. A wind-spout passed so close to the wagon that I thought it would overturn. Heavy thunder to the east of us. Saw lion tracks and a herd of gemsbok. The great tip of the Swarte Bergen extends to the Drift.

19 Brisk west wind which rose as the thundery weather built up. Very hot. Thermometer: 80-97-90.

Here at the Swarte Bergen the southeaster begins blowing just as it does at the Cape but does not last so long.

(1)Three hours on horseback. Fresh wind S. by E. on the mountains.

Six lions frequent this place now, according to Raubenheimer.

Fine weather. Calm in the morning. A brisk S. by E. wind in the afternoon which rose more



noticing anything. Obtained the latitude here:  
33 deg. 9 min. 10 sec.

21<sup>st</sup> January 1786.

Went in a southerly direction and after six hours hard climbing over difficult mountains on the farm of Steven van der Burg, I reached a high peak in the middle range, one hour's S.W. from here. The peak was very wide. The range in front of this contains the Congo. They all face east.

**29.**

That is where we slept. It was 5400 feet above sea level.

22<sup>nd</sup> January 1786.

We were cold here and were so bitten by black ants that we could not sleep. They stopped biting in the small hours of the night on account of the cold. Took all my observations clearly having a fine view. We arrived below at Van der Burg's in six hours, climbing up and down in rough and difficult circumstances. It was very hot both in the mountains and in the low places. We reached Queek Valey in the afternoon.

23<sup>rd</sup> January 1786.

Remained. Went.....

24<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Sent the wagon to Sleutelfontein in the evening, a normal five hours' ride from here in an easterly by north direction.

25<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Early in the morning rode to the farm one hour's going from where the Swarte River runs in to the Gamka. It was formerly inhabited by a certain Claasen. Found here a branch of a hill that was all good limestone.

(1) Riding very hard for four hours we came to Sleutelfontein in the afternoon. We found the wagon gone and caught up with it at Trakas Hoogte an hour later. After three hour's travel

strongly after sunset, coming across the high mountain and through a bite in one of the foothills of the Swarte Rivier Cloof. This river begins in the Trakas heights in the Koup hills.

21

Clear, calm weather.

Thermometer: 76-80-60 (on top of the mountain).

**29a.**

Fine weather. Easterly breeze. Hot in the afternoon below, and calm. Thermometer: 55-97-90.

N.B. Saw the sea at Mossel Bay to the south of us. Saw some klipspringers up at the highest peak. This peak was 5700 feet and the western one, close to us, was 6000 feet. The Kloofs of the Swarte Bergen: first Norties Hoek, then Swarte River, then Stevens Rivier, then Viljoens River. They all flow into the Gamka, then the Gamka runs W.S.W. into the Dwinka between two peaks.

23 Good weather. Strong S. by E. wind strong from the afternoon till night.

Thermometer: 75-86-80.

Fine weather. Somewhat hot. A strong S. by E. wind in the afternoon. Calm at night.

Thermometer: 77-92-84.

(1) Saw some kodus.

(2) as this place is called

we made camp at the top of Trakas(2). We found some wagons from Bruintjes Hoogte camped here. Includes Cango. All facing east.

**30.**

26<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Broke camp at break of day and after travelling for two hours reached middle Traka where we unyoked, having found both water and grazing, since there had been thunderstorms in these parts shortly before. Yoked in again after midday and travelling for three hours going down the Kauka we reached Soetendaals Valey, the farm of Jurie Graaf.

27<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Took my observations and in three quarter's of an hour passed through the Soetendaals Valey Cloof or Poort. Obtained latitude here: 33 deg. 59 min. 26 sec.

After travelling for four hours with S.S. Easterly turns came to the abandoned farm of Opperman on the Tover Water. The Tover Water Kloof is southerly  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. a good hour from us.

N.B. Most of the farmers have left here saying that this is because of the Bushmen, but they have gone over the Great Fish River into Cafferland.

28<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

At daybreak we travelled further east by south to where the Leeuwe Cloofs River takes a sharp turn to the north around the mountain. After 5 $\frac{1}{2}$  hours we unyoked opposite the Leeuwe Cloof. We sent the oxen eastward across a low mountain to where they could drink. At two o'clock again yoked in and travelled for five hours in all, first round this branch of the mountains(1), then W. and then S. and then S.E. till we came to a kloof which we took for Piet van de Merven's Kloof, but we were mistaken and made camp at an abandoned farm with a delicious spring of water.

**31.**

**30a.**

Fine weather. At times wind whirling a little with the course of the sun. Calm in the evening. Saw lion-tracks.

Thermometer: 66-87-80.

Thermometer: 80-92-84.

Hot in the afternoon. Wind S.S.E. Calm in the evening.

The strata here do not face to the north but some do lie towards the south. They are still part of the Swarte Bergen. However there is some resemblance between the overlying strata and there are no receding and advancing angles. The kloof lies three quarter's of an hour from Juries Graaf's grass-hut.

They were busy with a large lion near here yesterday but could not shoot it for the bushes. Some dogs were badly bitten by it.

Very hot. Calm in the evening. Rushing S.E. wind as strong as at the Cape. Very close to thundery weather. Wind became W. by N. as we travelled into the Swarte Bergen. It was calm to start with at dawn.

Thermometer: 65-99-80.

We saw many ostriches and kwaggas.

(1) After this there is another branch of Leeuwe Cloof, then De Qua, then Saansee. We have not advanced very far in a straight line from Jurie Graaf.

**31a.**

29<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Went up a mountain in order to ascertain the course and the road to take. Saw that we had gone astray and set forth once more out of the kloof. Going through the Nabee Kloof with its many turns we came across the boundary-pole between the Swellendam and Stellenbosch districts, and in four hours arrived at Piet van de Merven: Struivogelfontein.

30<sup>th</sup> January 1786.

Took observation and found latitude: 33 deg. 19 min. 5 sec. Climbed a high mountain in two and a half hours. (West north west from here). Returned at night-fall.

31<sup>st</sup> January 1786.

Departed west in the morning and in 1½ hours had travelled through the kloof. It was a further ½ hour's travel with the ox-wagon to Hoeridap, Widow van der Merven's. Thereafter it was 5½ hours' hard travelling with the ox-wagon to A. Nortjee, with a turn round the mountains E.S.E. and round the Oliphants River. Here we found the grapes were just ripening and other fruit in abundance.

1<sup>st</sup> February 1786.

Departed at dawn, still E. by S., but came to Ganna Kloof Hoogte in two hours which we crossed over and through with wide turns in four hours from Nortjee. We then went on a level road between the Pompoene Kraals Bergjes and the Winter Hoeks Bergen. Everywhere Caro country with ridges. After eight hours' hard riding with the ox-wagon we came to Denidouw, an abandoned farm, on the road over these mountains to Baviaans Kloof.

**32.**

2<sup>nd</sup> February 1786.

Set forth in an easterly direction with Koeyfontein and Bosfontein on one side. They are two hours apart, and Bosfontein is three hours from Denidouw. In the evening we made camp at a Doornrivier without finding water. We travelled for ten hours in all today, mostly between low mountains, the foothills of the

Fine weather. A fair S.E. breeze.

Thermometer: 70-86-80.

N.B. Came onto my previous road to Beere Valeij here.

30 Thermometer: 55-70-60.

Cold last night. W.N.W. wind in the morning. Overcast but cleared up. Brisk S.S.E. wind on the mountain with a clap of thunder so that I ceased making my observations. Very cold on top: 55 deg.

Good weather. Light S.E. breeze.

Thermometer: 70-87-67.

Height above sea-level at Nortjee's ... The Oliphants river begins to the east of him.

Wind brisk S.E. in the afternoon. Cold and overcast the whole night, in the morning cold, overcast with a brisk E.S.E. wind.

1 Dark, hazy. Brisk E.S.E. wind.

Passed the abandoned farm of Eerecroon's in Ganna Kloof. We saw kwaggas, kudu and ostriches. Wounded a kudu. There were Camdeboo Fowls (which are guinea fowl) at this place.

**32a.**

2 Calm in the morning. Thunder sky in the N. with lightening there. Very hot in the afternoon. Thermometer: 60-99-86.

Our dogs lagged behind most of the time on account of the heat.

Winter Hoeks Bergen.

We passed Roelof van Voren's Kloof and before that an abandoned farm.

3<sup>rd</sup> February 1786.

Departed at dawn around a high ridge and through a kloof. We then went, with some turns, over some steep places where we had to use the brakes. After four and a half hours of travelling we came to De Winter -- to Stephanus Scheepers, Veld Wagmeester. This is called Doorn Rivier, and is behind the Ronde Berg, called thus by seamen. A foothill of the mountain lies to the east, 2 to 2½ miles from us. Ronde Berg is to the south, three and a half hours on a difficult road.

Climbed Ronde Berg and took all my bearings and returned to the farm late in the evening.

4<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Took my observations and made ready to depart. Obtained latitude: 33 deg. 27 min. 4 sec. The Grote River runs on this side of the Gefestonneerde Berg edge and runs off through a narrow kloof. It is still brack there but the Winter Hoek's water makes it fresh.

5<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Remained here on account of the heavy bruising on my leg.

33.

6<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

My leg very swollen and so painful I could barely walk.

Ordered the wagon to travel round the

Hot. Still thundery sky in the N.

3 Fresh S.E. wind.

Thermometer: 78-97-86.

N.B. Found all varieties of fruit ripe here.

Hurt my leg climbing down, fell from a cliff and it could have cost me my life had I not held fast to a branch until I was hauled up. Was looking for herbs and because of the shrubs did not see the precipice. Fine weather but hazy. Wind veered with sun; was S.E. in the evening and calm.

5 Rained a little tonight. Light westerly wind in the morning. Hazy and somewhat overcast. Heavy thunder and rain in the south west during the afternoon. Thermometer: 70-98-90.

A wolf or hyena came in the [night. This is the first I have heard for a long time. It drove the oxen from the open grassland into the yard but it did not get any of them. This caused the dogs to make a terrible clamour.]

**EDITOR'S NOTE.. The passage in square brackets is taken from the foot of page 33 in the original Dutch Ms. It appears to be a run-on from this page (32.)**

33a.

Heavier thunder in the afternoon which lasted through the night, with rain.

Thermometer: 86-100-94.

mountains with a turn towards Nouaga, St. Scheeper's second farm. Did this so that it would not be impeded by the Gamtouws River which is there called the Grote River.

7<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Tried riding and it was painful going. Departed with the Veld Wagmeester, St. Scheepers, and came to the Grote River in two and a half hours, thereafter another quarter of an hour to Nouaga River. This is the house which, being remote, was defaced by Bushmen. Butter which was in the house was smeared on the walls.

Doors had been pulled out and broken etc.

This region is the same as at Denidouw. When the Nouaga flows, it runs into the Grote River. They then flow together in a large bend through Gefestonneerde Berg Poort. Then the river from the Kaugga and from Jacob Joubert's, a three hour's ride to the north by west, comes into the Gamtouws River at the wagon-ford and all of these together form the Gamtouws River.

Going easterly for two hours we reached Jan van Staden behind the large peak of Gefestonneerde Berg and after another good hour came to Stoffel Viljoen. In the most recent so-called war the Caffers came as far as here. (There are many lions here.) The wagon was still two hours ahead.

8<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

We rode eastwards down the kloof from Dolhaar or Valkenhagen and reached Joubert's farm, called ... (Sic) ..., in one hour. We passed the Kloof River and after another hour the Doorn River. Thereafter it was half an hour to Tys Strydom's River and to his farm. The wagon had travelled on. Rode back to the wagon which was below at Tys Strydom's River and made camp at the end of these mountains at Kaugga River, three hours' travelling by ox-wagon. Almost no water.

34.

At this place three years ago two Hottentots were struck dead by lightening, one in a house and one in the kraal. The one in the house was a woman who was sitting round the fire with several others. The lightening struck two holes in the chimney and came with such violence down the chimney that the others were tumbled over and rushed out of the door. The dead woman appeared unharmed and remained sitting in the same position. Lightening is attracted mainly to this Winter Hoeks Range which has its highest point in the Gefestonneerde Berg which is 5400 feet above sea level.

7

Good weather. The road somewhat slippery from the rain. Wind S.E. not strong. Thermometer: 76-86-80.

Fine weather. Light easterly breeze.

Thermometer: 70-88-80.

Called this place Robbert Gordon's Valey after my eldest son. It is a fine, grassy valley with trees. The Kaugga runs alongside it when it is flowing.

Everything here looked like Cafferland with high ridges. From far-off we saw clouds on the sea.

[night. This is the first I have heard for a long time. It drove the oxen from the open grassland into the yard but did not get any of them. This caused the dogs to make a terrible clamour]. **SEE EDITOR'S NOTE PAGE 32]**

34a.

9<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

We turned from the bed of the Kaugga and across the grassy ridge between the Sondags and Kaugga Rivers and after a further two hours again crossed the Kaugga. Found that all these high ridges at the end of this high range were limestone. We arrived in half an hour at the farm of Louis Holtshousen, having travelled in a S. Westerly direction. We set forth again at half past twelve and we almost managed to escape from a thunderstorm half an hour from Holtshousen, whose farm is called We took shelter on Frans Harhof's farm...(Sic)... beside Rietfontein which is a tributary of the Swartkops River. When the storm was over we travelled for three quarter's of an hour down this tributary of the Swartkops River to the farm of Gerrit Scheepers where I found a vineyard and all varieties of fruit.

10<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

We found that the axle of the wagon had broken but fortunately there was a wagon-maker at this place, since the wagon would not have gone another day.

Found the latitude of this farm: 33 deg. 39 min. 57 sec. Error: 26½ deg. N.W.

Travelled with St. Scheeper's wagon round to the mouth of the Bosjemans River in order to begin taking measurements on the shore with my new quadrant. This had been sealed up in the double-layered chest. It was perfectly in order notwithstanding the heavy jolting of the wagon. We rode to Holtshousen and the wagon went on to Sondags River.

11<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

After crossing the Kaugga Lange Kloof,(1) and a grassy ridge and then the Sondags River Kloof we arrived at the wagon after travelling for four hours. Here also there are deep clefts everywhere in the round lime-bearing ridges. We crossed Sondags River which was easy to cross although it was running again due to thunder storms. Like the other rivers it has been dry owing to the continuous, severe droughts which have occurred throughout the whole land for several years. We arrived after riding for two hours

N.B. The countryside was very green on account of the thunderstorms with large dense forests full of buffalo and also elephant. The latter however are generally found towards the Sondags River.

Heavy dew tonight and cold.

N.B. There was a strong N.W. wind in the morning. It was hot without a cloud in the sky but after three or four hours it was full of thunder clouds. There was loud thunder towards noon with some hail and rain. It appears as though the electrical, thundery material is carried here from places in the interior such as the Camdabo etc. and in an instant it is transformed into thunderclouds producing thunder and rain, We travelled beside the edge of the Gefestonneerde Berg all the way. Thermometer: 50-99-90.

10

More thunder and rain last night. Somewhat overcast; a thundery sky that cleared up slightly from noon.

Thermometer: 70-80-80.

(1) Called thus but not to be confused with the other at Attaquas Kloof.

11 Good weather but hot in the afternoon. Thunder again but loudest towards Gefestonneerde Berg and in the direction of Kaugga River.

Thermometer: 80-98-90.

Wind westerly.

### **35.**

at De Koerneui, my previous road, on the farm of Commandant Daniel. Khun who was away at the Cape. Ordered the wagon to travel on to Kwaggas Valey, three hours S.E. by E. from here.

12<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

We rode to the farm of a certain Bezuidenhout in four hours and found the wagon there. We rode on across the high ridges of my previous road for three and a half hours until we reached a certain Voslo at a point where the high ridge begins to fall away. Here we passed the night.

13<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

For six hours we travelled with the ox-wagon around the high wooded ridge and came to the mouth of the Bokna or Vaders River(1) on the shore. It emerges from these high ridges here but has not flowed into the sea for a long time. It has formed however a fairly large marsh, fifty paces from the sea. We placed our observatory at this point.

I went E.N.E. along the shore, which is sandy here, up to a prominent green hill where I found an old, shattered monument. Gathered together the pieces in order to carry them on the wagon with us to the Cape. After I had taken bearings here, returned to the wagon.

14<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Took my observations. Found latitude: 33 deg. 36 min. 13 sec. Error: 26½ -27 deg. N.W.

### **35a.**

This farm is called Aascoe or Geelhoute Boom in my previous journal but now I turned more towards the right, down to the sea,. In my previous journal there were many Caffer kraals situated here but these have been driven beyond the mouth of the Great Fish River in the latest war.

12 Good weather. Wind westerly, not much of it.

Thermometer: 67-80-70.

Saw numberless quantities of game; buffalo, kwagga, hartebeest, ostrich, springbok. Grassy, lime-bearing ridges everywhere with thorn-bushes as well as other trees such as yellow-wood and stinkwood and other types. It appears that the game has come here to take refuge.

The same weather and a S.E. Breeze

Thermometer: 70-86-72.

(1) Two hours on foot W.S.W. from the Bosjemans River mouth.

N.B. I went through the forest using elephant and buffalo paths. On a fresh elephant path we came directly upon a good fifty buffalo in a herd. I shot at a large bull and

wounded it whereupon they all went much deeper into the forest, leaving the way open for us. We climbed over another wooded hill and came to the wagon.

The Vaders or, in Hottentot, the Bocnat River runs through this Kloof.

An old cast-anchor was lying half an hour from the shore at the end. Six men were easily able to carry it. The Caffers had broken off the blades. They found it in the forest not far from here.

Fine weather. Westerly wind.

Thermometer: 65-84-77.

**36.**

15<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Went W.S.W. along the shore. Half an hour from the observatory found a stony ledge where there were iron cannons, an 18 and a six or eight pounder. They were badly rusted so that it was impossible to make out any of the letters. After a three hours' brisk ride along the shore, which was mostly sand but with stony ledges in places, I saw a long but low-lying island in the sea. I estimated that it was 1½ to 2 miles from the shore. There were yet more rocks above water surrounding it. I recognized this as being Doddington's Rock and this was where the people from that ship built another boat and crossed to Mocambique etc. There were high, white sand-dunes at this place. It became very dark because of the smoke from a fire that our people had made close to the eland, setting alight the whole countryside.

Returned in the evening.

16<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Went E.N.E. along the shore and riding for barely an hour around some inlets we reached the mouth of the Bosjemans River. We returned along the road I took in 1778 and half an hour from here we found a certain Jansen living. It appears therefore that where I had found this country full of Caffers it is now inhabited by our farmers up to the Fish River Mouth.

Found the wagon which had already loaded the stone fragments from the monument and had set out back to Voslo's Kleine Sout Fontein, five hours travelling by ox-wagon. Rode ahead with St. Scheepers in order to reach Bezuidenhout's Grote Zout Fontein. But we lost our way in the dark and making a fire in a wooded little valley we kept ourselves dry and warm with great difficulty. It was fortunately not very cold.

**36a.**

N.B. Our people shot an eland (Canna) bull.

Fine weather. Fresh S.E. wind.

Thermometer: 60-80-70.

We saw very many hartebeest (Bubalis) today. Before we reached the shore we found a particularly sweet spring which came from high sand-dunes and which flowed into the sea among the rocks. Called it Pieter and Otto's Duinfontein after my two youngest sons.

N.B. Two years ago close to this place, a boat probably from a Dutch ship, was cast up on the shore, without oars. It is still lying here.



16 Overcast. A stiff westerly wind. There were first clouds of a fog in the evening followed by stiff showers and drizzle until after midnight.

Thermometer: 60-70-65.

We saw many kwaggas, hartebeests, and springboks. There are also many gerbos here.

Heard elephants squealing in the morning.

### **37.**

17<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

With daylight looked for our road and found it, reaching Bezuidenhoud after a good hour's ride. The wagon arrived not long after us. Departed on our previous road to Koerneui at noon and arrived at Khun's in four hours. We found the Veld Commandant Khun's had arrived home and he told us that there was peace everywhere, according to the news from Europe.

18<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Left ahead on horse back and after six hours' brisk riding on our previous road arrived at Gerrit Scheeper's on the eastern tributary of the Swartkops River. Found the wagon repaired.

19<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Departed in the afternoon for the Bakens River mouth and arrived there after travelling with the ox-wagon for six hours. Two thirds along the way we came onto our previous road of 1778.

20<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Installed the observatory. Took observations. Found latitude: 33 deg. 50 min. 31 sec. Error: 26½ deg. N.W.

Had a fine view. Rode to the furthest point(1) in under one and a half hours and took all my bearings.

21<sup>st</sup> February 1786.

Departed at daylight on horseback. Made a large turn through a kloof and after many further turns arrived on St. Ferreira's stock-farm. The name has been noted in my tables. It is on one of the furthest tributaries of the Bakens River which is only just flowing into the sea. After an hour's brisk riding reached the road of my former journey at Cornelis Cok's, Kragga Kamma. All this countryside was very dry and the whole marsh was dried up.

### **37a**

The same wind. Still overcast, some drizzle now and then but clearing up after midday. Thermometer: 65-72-70.

19

Fine weather but hot in the evening and at night there was thunder and lightening but mostly around Winterhoek and Kuagga.

Thermometer: 70-94-90.

Wind S.E. where we were on the shore.

Fine weather, very clear. Fresh SW. wind.

Thermometer: 64-82-75.

N.B. Found a good, abundant spring close to the Bakens River mouth.

(1) Ate oysters but found them very slimy.

Overcast. A stiff, cold west wind with some showers which stopped in the afternoon, being the tail of a thunder storm.

**38.**

Arrived, after two hours on horseback, at Cristiaan Vogel's, an hour this side of the Van Stadens River mouth.

22<sup>nd</sup> February 1786.

Rode for an hour in a northerly direction to the farm of J. Hermanus Potgieter, which is near the source of the western branch of the Kruis River. In another hour came to a certain S. Potgieter on the lower drift of the Van Stadens River. This was too deep for the wagon as the mouth had been closed at the sea. For this reason the wagon travelled, with one turn over a high ridge, to Potgieter's farm, a quarter of an hour higher up where there was scarcely any water. We rode to the steep hill which is full of limestone. I took observations from a nearby hill and I could clearly see the western tip of the Kromme River Bay. Departed on my previous road, passing Galgenbos, and made camp at the Loeri River.

23<sup>rd</sup> February 1786.

Continued on previous road until across the Gamtous River which has almost no water in it now. Reached the Cabbeljaws River, Van Rhenen's farm.

24<sup>th</sup> February 1786.

Took observations. Found latitude: 33 deg. 51 min. 25 sec. Also took bearing along the shore. All as shown in the tables.

**38a.**

N.B. Straight behind the house found lead in the high, grassy, lime-bearing hills. The water was murky as well, tea-coloured, and unpleasant to the taste.

The Draayfontein River and the Klein River form the Kruis River here. When it does flow it runs into the sea as shown in the tables.

Found a true Caffer here, a soldier, one of Tsaka's. He was occupied cutting wood at Vogel's. He was his game-keeper and with his wife and children had already lived there for six or seven years. He spoke a fairly understandable Dutch.

Fine weather. Hot. Light S.E. wind, and clear.  
Thermometer: 75-86-80.

Very hot but last night thermometer was on 50 deg. Breeze more northerly.  
Thermometer: 60-92-80.

Good weather but somewhat hazy over the sea. Wind slightly S.E.  
Thermometer: 68-84-75.

**39.**

25<sup>th</sup> February 1786.  
Departed along my previous road and late in the evening arrived at the Widow Potgieter's at Kromme River Bay.

26<sup>th</sup> February 1786.  
Took my observations and found the latitude: 34 deg. Went around the bay to the little bay of Blombos and took all my measurements.

27<sup>th</sup> February 1786.  
Departed, not however on my previous road but through Kromme River Kloof and in six hours travelling with the wagon reached Leeuwe Bos, M. van Rensburg's farm. It was a further three hours on horseback to Diepe Rivier, Vermaak's farm.

28<sup>th</sup> February 1786.  
Reached Essebos in an hour and N. Bouer on the Caree Douw in one and a half hours on my previous road. In a further two hours was at Thomas Ferreira's Jagers Bos.

1<sup>st</sup> March 1786.  
Went up the mountains to the south and was able to see across the whole district of Sitse Kamma to Plettenberg Bay. Took all my bearings and found that this high mountain was 6000 and Thomas Ferreira's farm 1890 feet above sea level.

2<sup>nd</sup> March 1786.  
Took my observations. Found the latitude: 33 deg. 45 min. 25 sec.

**39a.**

Good weather. Wind somewhat S.E. Hazy.  
Thermometer: 72-74-80.

The same weather and wind.  
Thermometer: 70-82-78.

Good weather but hazy, caused also by heavy burning of the countryside.

Light S.W. wind.  
Thermometer: 60-75-70.

Good weather. Wind somewhat S.E. Overcast on the mountains to the south.

Thermometer: 68-79-70.

As it is on most afternoons: fine weather in the morning but a S.E. wind in the afternoon and thunder from the N.W. in the evening.

Thermometer: 70-94-82.

Overcast sky and hazy as it mostly is after thunder here. Westerly breeze.

Thermometer: 65-77-70.

Good weather but clouds in the S.E. all afternoon and hazy on the southern mountains. Climbed the mountain but could see nothing on account of the clouds.

Departed on my former road to the Widow De Pré at the start of the Lange Kloof. (Three hours on horseback.) N.B. the mountains do not continue on the left hand side.

Thermometer: 60-80-75.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 1786.

Departed and after a three hours' ride reached Stephanus Ferreira's between Strydom and the Widow Oelofsen. Behind this place lies the true Kenbare Piek, 6000 feet high.

**40.**

**40a.**

4<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Climbed up the mountain again and had a good view. Took all my bearings from Plettenberg Bay and Noetsis River mouth. Still on the same day departed on horseback for Mattys Sondag and reached him after riding for 4½ hours.

Good weather but misty again in the afternoon. Wind somewhat S.E. with lightning and thunder far in the N.

Thermometer: 76-90-80.

5<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Crossed the mountains on my previous road and after three and three quarter hours came to the Keurbooms River. Had heavy thunder and rain when on the heights, so reached Kretsinger wet through, after tramping for eleven hours.

Cloudy in the morning. Thunder in the afternoon and rain from the N.W.

Thermometer: 80-92-80.

6<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Obtained a latitude of 33 deg. 51 min. 20 sec. 6000 paces from the mouth of the Keurbooms River.

Overcast sky with drizzle. Calm but had sun in the afternoon.

Thermometer: 70-70-70.

7<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Went along the shore taking observations of everything until I reached the Robbeberg. Returned across Cornelis Bota's farm, Pisang River, to Kretsinger, two hours on horseback, N.N.W.

The whole day heavy, thundery weather from the N. with rain now and then.

Thermometer: 70-90-80.

8<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Stayed and rested on account of the rain.

General rain then the wind somewhat S.E.

Thermometer: 70-72-70.

9<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Departed on my previous road but did most of it on horseback and reached Mattys Sondag in 9 hours. Heavy thunder and rain in the evening

10 Fine weather. SE. breeze.

Thermometer: 70-80-70.

Very misty but cleared up after 11 o'clock. In the evening lightening and thunder in the N.E.

Thermometer: 77-92-80.

there.

Fine weather. Light S.E. breeze.  
Thermometer: 70-80-72.

10<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Took my observations and found latitude: 33 deg. 45 min. 50 sec. Departed on horseback and after 2 and æ hours came to Barkhuisen's at the source of the Keurbooms River.

11<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

Rode alongside Widow van Rooyen's, Jacobus van Staden's till Roelof Kamfer's farm called ...(Sic)... 4 hours on horseback.

12<sup>th</sup> March 1786.

In three hours by horseback to Klip River, the end of the Lange Kloof. A further hour to Ocker Heins.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES ON THE FIFTH JOURNEY

For attention Professor A Smith UCT.

1. Some reference should be made to two sections of Patrick Cullinan's book Robert Jacob Gordon 1743-1795, *The Man and His Travels at the Cape*. The first section, 'The Translation of Gordon's Papers' pp 16 & 17, draws attention to the problems of transcribing the Dutch text while also discussing the difficulties confronting the translator. The second section comprises the whole of the chapter 'The Fifth Journey, (November 1785-April 1786)' pp 139-157. This is an account of the journey, its geographical, historical, political and human components.
2. An editorial overview explaining the layout of the transcription and translation should be considered. *ie* the double or twin column format should be discussed. Difficulties inherent in the format should be posed and editorial solutions to these should be stated. Emphasis should be placed on the fact that the two sides should match if not precisely mirror—each other.
3. Apart from minutiae of the text in question, an overall view of all the journeys, should precede the comments above. For the moment, therefore, these notes should serve as an interim document or statement of intention.
4. The matter of the author's copyright on the translation and the format of the transcription should also be affirmed. The text of the book Robert Jacob Gordon has already been established -- © Patrick Cullinan 1992

PC 17 May 2002