

R. J. Gordon 3rd Journey 28 August 1778 January 1779
[N.B. All entries or comments in bold are editorial and not part of the original text]

Journal of the third journey through a part of Southern Africa, carried out between 28th Aug. 1778 and 25th Jan. 1779. R.J. Gordon

28th August 1778

Fresh N.W. wind. Rainy sky. Thermometer. 56-76-60.

Left the Cape through the dunes and at dark arrived at De Waal's farm, Vergelegen, in Hottentots Holland.

Went to sleep at four o'clock. Coerikei, my young Hottentot tried to wake me at five but could not rouse me. So at one o'clock was woken by the noise of the oxen. This was occasioned by a hyena.

18th September 1778

Left at seven o'clock and rode through better country, that is to say not so stony and with more flowers, mesembryanthemums, arctotis and ganna bushes; there were more flat stretches as well. On our right we had the Swartberg which appeared and then disappeared at a distance of one mile. The low Tygerberg was on our left.

Karoo country every where, that is to say yellow clayey soil, but not as stony as before. We saw our first game here, namely a wolf or hyena in the morning and many of their tracks, also the footprints of a lion, some eland, gemsbok (pasans), kwaggas, hartebeest, bubalis and many ostriches, of which I shot a female. Most of the time we had the Traka river on our left hand side, almost dried out at this time of the year. Also passed several, completely dried out rivulets, all running south east, and after travelling for ten hours with the oxwagons, we made camp at the farm of a certain Erasmus, abandoned on account of the drought. Two of the escorts stayed behind because their horses ran away. Good weather throughout the day, a little cloudy. The thermometer was 54 deg. at sunrise, 65 deg. at midday, 70 deg. at two o'clock and dropped to 54 deg after sunset. The wind veered with the sun, dropping and becoming cooler from the west in the afternoon.

19th September 1778

Departed Eastwards at half past six and after four hours ride arrived at the same Traka or Woman's river. The countryside the same as yesterday. One finds salt on the surface everywhere along these dry rivers and at many other places in these parts. Although the water tastes more muddy than brack after passing over the clayey soil, in most places at this time of year one can walk through these rivers which are not half a foot deep. Saw no game. At about seven o'clock some showers of rain with cold westerly wind. At sunrise the thermometer was at 46 deg. midday 60 deg. and fell towards evening to 56 deg. Strong west wind during the day. With correction the barometer showed 27 - 4.

The stones around the river were blue Cos, embedded with many pieces of quartz as well as pebbles (silices). It as though this has all been fluid once and that they had been baked into it.

20th September 1778

Left at half past six, east by north, and at half past ten arrived at a small rivulet called Loeriesfontein. Here there were as many lories as yellowbills (a sort of duck), so just named it At Libitum. Half way we passed the Kauka, a small rivulet like the Traka, running S.E. as do most of the rivers around this part of Africa. The same (Kauka) joins the same (Traka) at Soetendaals Poort, lying a good mile to the S. East of here and there they form the Toverwater which at Oliphantsbad is one of the largest branches of the Gourits river. The thermometer was 43 deg. at sunrise, rose to 56 deg. and fell to 54 deg. at sunset. Last night it was also very cold. Cloudy sky during the day. Strong west wind. The same terrain. We saw some kwaggas. After correction the barometer showed 27 2. The Soetendaals Valey Poort is one and a half miles to the south and to the east of this place. The Bleijenberg N.E. to N. and the tip of the Beere Valeij E.N.E. Today our course was east by north.

21st September 1778

Departed N.E. to N.

28th September 1778

Left N. by E. towards the Sneeuwberg on my previous course. Below at De Beer's the barometer was Thermometer stood at 56 deg. at sunrise. Half way up the mountain at about half past ten it was 74 deg. We rode and tramped over some steep places. To the top easily in three hours, and after half an hour came to Van der Merwe. The Thermometer. midday: 65. Fine weather. S.E. breeze. The wagons reached us after travelling for five hours. Barometer at Van der Merwe 25-7 points. Departed N.N.E. to Het Riviertje, the farm of the widow Venter, where we made camp at sunset. Plotted our course three miles N.N.E, somewhat N. The thermometer 61 deg. At sunset. Restating my previous journal, I maintain that there is not the least sign of volcanoes in this country. The mountains are all Cos, a pale blue and grey colour. In these high parts the summits are mostly flat. Regular strata-horizontal, but in the Swartberg and other ranges of the Cape they are mixed, though most strata parallel to one another. In the low and flat places they mostly rise and fall rather than sink away; but towards Table Mountain, towards the sea, the strata are uniformly horizontal. About a third of the way up these mountains I find Cos mingled with quartzite and much schistus or slate. In many places it is pulverised. Round hillocks here sometimes 10 foot in diameter, just as at the sea in False Bay.

29th September 1778

In the morning I measured with the barometer and got 25 - 9 corrected. Which gives 10 feet above sea level. A little before sunrise the thermometer showed 40 deg. and remained so until a while after sunrise. It should be noted here that it gets coldest at dawn, however it does not long remain so. The wind was westerly in the morning but veering at times when it struck the mountains. I kept my course south towards evening. Very fine weather but very cold. At twelve the thermometer did not rise higher than 50 deg, even in the sun it was not more than 52 deg, and two hours after sunset it dropped to 50 deg. Course north to Van der Walt with some turns. The wagons took five hours. To Burgers, where we made camp, took four hours. Markedmiles on the map. The last course was N. by E. The barometer at Burgers, corrected, showed 24 - 9 points; thus the watershed is between Burgers and Van der Walt: the one stream goes to the Camdebo and the other one goes to the north, being the start of the Plettenberg River.

30th September 1778

Last night standing water was frozen in $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch of ice, and it was white everywhere with a clear sky and a southerly wind which blew briskly; otherwise it would have frozen harder here. It began to get coldest in the morning, about two hours before daybreak. Half an hour before dawn the thermometer stood at 30 deg. And at sunrise at 32 deg. Left at half past six. We have got a Chinese or Bushman called Carel who used to live at a certain Van der Walt's. He is meant to accompany me into the interior. The Governor and I rode ahead on horseback and taking my previous course, we arrived after two and a half hours at Stephanus Smilt's, the last farm. We saw some bushpigs (sanglier d'Afrique), bubalis, and springbok. On our left we passed three streams which come into the Plettenberg River from Sneeuwberg. At Burgers, on the 17th last, three thousand sheep were smothered and killed by the great snow which lay 3 foot deep. 5 to 600 were still lying there in his kraal. Barometer at Smilt's: 25 - 3. Thermometer midday 63 deg. afternoon 73 deg. sunset 63 deg. Clear weather. Fresh S.E. wind. Departed N.E. by N. and came to a spring overgrown with reed after a ride of four hours. It had good water in it and we made camp. We saw some gnus, springbok and bontebok, but these do not have as much white as those at the Cape, however they are the same animal. Barometer 25 - 4 therefore has hardly dropped at all. The countryside is drier than last year, it being also two months earlier. The ridges still all lie in the same direction, namely S. Easterly and N.W.; but sometimes N. Easterly and S.W. We call this place Van Heijden's Fontein after Lieut. Van Heijden. Course today four miles N.E. by N

1st October 1778

We heard a few jackals in the morning and some of our people saw the footprint of a lion. In general there was no firewood on the veld here so that they had to fetch it from some stony hills, and it was still very scarce. The stones are a brownish Cos and lie scattered and exposed around the hills. Thermometer at midnight 27 deg., two hours before sunrise 25 deg. and at dawn 32 deg. It has been very cold though almost no ice formed in the standing water. Light S.E. wind. Fine weather. Departed N.E. by N. Measured the sun. We passed Champagnes Poorts Stream which is flowing now, and here, on account of the mud, the wagons crossed with difficulty. After travelling for nine and a half hours we arrived at a marshy valley which we called De Wett's Valey; it was three hours travel by oxwagon this side of Schuijelhoek. Saw many gnus, kwaggas, eland, spring and bontebok, small hares, partridges, duck and quail. We shot a gnu, kwagga, and four eland. Thermometer rose to 77 deg. and dropped to 60 deg. after sunset. Course N.E. to N., four miles. Since yesterday we have seen signs of fires and veld set alight by Bushmen or Hunting Hottentots.

2nd October 1778

Left on the same course at daylight and made camp at half past one at a spring which we called Seit's Fontein after the doctor. We were about half an hour from the Plettenberg River and made camp at this place in order to get to the hippopotamus in time in the morning. Barometer 25 - 7. Thermometer rose from 43 deg. at sunrise to 73 deg. at midday; was 77 deg. in the afternoon and dropped to 56 deg. at sunset. Course N.E. by N. four miles to the river.

3rd October 1778

Left for the river which had more water than last year. After we had ridden around a while we found the animals and so many that we were weary of shooting: many killed. One received more than thirty balls and still lived for a long time.

4th October 1778

Found we had shot 21 of them, namely 8 bulls and 10 cows and 3 young. This day we were busy slaughtering and salting.

Ascertained the latitude here, (two observations) average: 30 deg. 55 min. southern latitude. Error 21 min. N.W. The thermometer rose from 45 deg. to 85 deg. and dropped at sunset. The barometer showed 25 - 5 therefore 4230 feet above Cape Town. Erected a stone in commemoration of the Governor's visit and found, after a closer count, 20 hippopotamus dead.

5th October 1778

Departed, going back on our old course. We unyoked a while at Schuijelhoek and at sunset arrived at Gordon's river (or Brack River) and there we camped. All these rivulets run into the Plettenberg River. Thermometer 37 deg., rose at its hottest to 73 deg. and dropped to 57 deg. after sunset. We took the skin of a hippopotamus bull with us. I saw Mercury before sunrise; it was very beautiful. We saw some of the aforementioned game but did not hunt as his Excellency the Governor would like to be back over the Sneeuwberg within the next four days. Fresh S.E. wind. Fine weather.

6th October 1778

Froze somewhat last night. Thermometer was on 32 deg. Fresh cold wind from the south: it gets coldest here in the wind. Left before day. I rode ahead with Van der Walt and arrived at Stef. Smilt's at 9 o'clock in the morning. Three men who had gone before us saw three male lions. His Excellency the Governor and his company also saw them while hunting gnus. Some of the company fired several shots at them from 4 to 500 paces. Two ran away but one kept turning back after each shot with its tail high. It lay down but then got up and walked away again. They considered this lion to be very ferocious so they left it alone. When we passed, these lions had been lying in some reeds. I rode ahead to Tjart Hannes Van der Walt's. Arrived there at nine o'clock in the evening. Southerly wind; cool, good weather. Thermometer 33 deg. at sunrise, rose to 64 deg. and fell to 56 deg. The first tributary of the Gaats River comes from the Compass Berg.

7th October 1778

Very misty at daybreak. We rode, Hannes de Beer and I, to the rivulet where we had breakfast and arrived at his father's farm below the Sneeuwberg after sunset. Good weather during the day; cool, with a S.E. wind. At evening overcast, rainy sky from the S.E. Thermometer from 35 deg. to 64 deg. and fell to 57 deg.

8th October 1778

Stayed at De Beer's. H.E. The Governor arrived toward evening. Good weather. North wind. Thermometer: from 58 deg. to 73 deg. falling at sunset to 64 deg.

9th October 1778

Day of rest. Warm weather. N.W. wind. Thermometer. 59 deg. to 78 deg. and fell to 62 deg.

10th October 1778

From noon strong N.W. wind. Overcast sky. The wind went to the S.E. and it began to rain heavily; continued the whole day. Thermometer. 58 deg. rose to 69 deg. and then fell to 59 deg.

11th October 1778

The whole night rain from the S.E. It cleared up at noon. Left on my previous journey's course to the Caffers, first S. by E. to Opperman, thereafter round the Sondags River; and higher in the mountain range, E. to S. to a certain Smilt (at Landrost River) where we arrived in the evening. There is clay everywhere in these parts, making the roads very slippery in rain. S.W. wind in the afternoon; fine weather. Thermometer from 59 deg. to 73 deg. and fell to 63 deg.

12th October 1778

Course S.E. by E; alongside the Sneeuwberg range on which we saw snow. The range here runs East S. East with large indentations. The cavities generally face south. At one o'clock, the retinue arrived at a certain Joubert, but I rode on to Breede Camp's. Fine weather; brisk north west wind in the afternoon but calm in the evening. Everywhere we went in these parts it had rained heavily on 17, 18 and 19th August. Thermometer. From 62 deg. to 80 deg. and dropped to 64 deg.

13th October 1778

Fine clear weather. North westerly wind, calm at sunrise, getting up S.W. in the evening, and was strong as yesterday. Thermometer. Sunrise 56 deg. noon 71 deg. (75 deg. highest) and 62 deg. evening. Left in the morning for Grovelaar's below Bruintjes Hoogte where we arrived in an hour and a quarter's hard riding on horseback. Took latitude, got 32 deg. 33 min and 26½ deg. N.W. error. Started out on horseback over Bruintjes Hoogte, taking a good hour to get over same and arrived in 2½ hours at Potgieter's on the Kleine Vis River. The whole plain of Camdebo was dotted with springbok, as well as some hartebeest (bubalis). From Bruintjes Hoogte measured the angle from Lottering or from the tip of the mountain W. by N. to De Beer (W.N.W.). The next course is East to Prinsloo.

14th October 1778

Rained a little at sunrise. S.E. wind. Wind was west when it cleared up at 8 o'clock in the morning. At Potgieter's found the eleven Swellendam men who will act as escorts to the Governor, and heard that the farmers of the Sneeuwberg and from this part fled before the Bushmen and that the Caffers wanted to murder a certain Joubert but he, realising this, escaped in the night. N.B. Thermometer. At sunrise 55 deg. Afternoon 62 to 73 deg. Found the mean latitude at Grovelaar's 32 deg. 34 min. The retinue arrived at half past one at Potgieter's. The Bruintjes Hoogte lies W to from Potgieter.

15th October 1778

We left East from Prinsloo, but with a turn going round the Bos Berg. From Bruintjes measured the angle of Sneeuwberg from Lottering W. half N. De Beer W.N.W. Good weather today. Soft west wind. Arrived at Prinsloo before noon. Thermometer. 67 deg. To 84 deg. and dropping to 78 deg. We heard from the farmers that there were some thousand Caffers in the mountains, waiting to fight us. Jacob Joubert also came and complained greatly. I had doubts about the case and I rode alone to the Caffers. (Asked a man called Durand, who went with me to the Caffers last year, whether he would go with me again but he declined). I came upon them only two hours from here; they were under the leadership of Chief Coba. In the beginning he remained lying on the ground and appeared suspicious. But when I asked him if he no longer knew his brother, Gordon, he jumped up happily and gave me his hand in a friendly way. I proposed that he should come with me to our great Chief which he accepted; 39 of his people also accepted. They did not want to take their assegais with them.

18th October 1778

Left on my previous course past the place where someone called Schalkwyk had lived and then on to Durand, arriving in the afternoon. At midday had some rain from the south, clearing in the evening. Thermometer. 69 deg. to 77 deg. dropping to 65 deg.

19th October 1778

Mist in the morning. Took leave of H.E. the Governor and with one half-caste Hottentot on horseback crossed the country to Potgieter's farm. Arrived there after 5 and a quarter hours' hard riding. At a kraal there were four young calves lying. I saw more than a hundred vultures or what are here called Aasvogels. These let the calves live unmolested whilst the herdsmen are out in the country. Fine weather this day. Soft S.E. wind. Thermometer 63 deg. to 84 deg. and at sunset 66 deg. After sunset rode with De Beer, who had arrived at Potgieter's with me, over Bruintjes Hoogte to Grovelaar's, where we slept. Brisk S.E. wind at evening. Thermometer. 66 deg. Clear weather. Feeling the cold. The air is so sharp here that it hurts when the wind blows strongly.

20th October 1778

Left at daybreak. De Beer's stallion sprang onto a pole in the stable and injured itself so badly that it cannot live. We arrived at De Fontein, the farm of Greef. Brisk N.W. wind. In the morning the wind blew directly to the N.W. and then to the S.E. This caused so much dust that we almost could not see. Thermometer. 50 deg: 79 deg: and dropping to 60 deg.

21st October 1778

Arrived at De Beer's. Good weather. Thermometer 59 deg. to 80 deg. dropping to 63 deg. Soft west wind. I was not at all well. Just as we arrived a Hottentot woman sang a song of welcome for her son, who leads the team of oxen for our wagon. (It does happen that the children are cast out, but not generally, and not by every tribe. It is only done for reasons of hunger or great affliction. Otherwise most Hottentots are very fond of their children).

22nd October 1778

Fine weather. Light wind. Thermometer. 66 deg. to 79 deg. to 68 deg.

23rd October 1778

Was not at all well. Found the latitude of this farm to be 32 deg. 6 min. Error 25 deg. N.W. Brisk W.N.W. wind. Clear, fine weather. But had to cover the astroblade with mats because of dust swirls even though it was behind the house. Thermometer. 60 deg. to 80 deg. dropping with sunset to 74 deg. Calm in the evening. Found by examining a Hottentot child that flat noses are natural here.

24th October 1778

Overcast, snowy sky. Storms from the N.W. and W. with snow on the Sneeuwberg, but here only a little rain and some snowflakes. At midday the wind veered round to the S.E. We had some showers of rain and hail. After this, at sunset, it became calm and clear, though cold. Thermometer. Sunrise 56 deg. to 60 deg. then fell to 50 deg.

25th October 1778

Clear weather, cold. A little wind from S.E. Last night it froze white. Thermometer was on freezing point. I am getting worse rather than better and have no medicines. As two of my best Hottentots, Iteki and Platje, are also sick, I resolved to pursue my intended journey no further but to survey the land west of here and then, if I get better, to act according to circumstances.

We have got a female gerbo here which is pregnant and tame already. Took an accurate latitude here and got 32 deg. 5 min; error 25 de. N.W. The vineyard, which already had young grapes, was totally ruined by the frost last night. At about 10 o'clock in the morning the leaves were already withered by the sun. This is late frost and unusual.

26th October 1778

It again froze a little last night. The wind generally from N.E. and as usual, blew a little stronger at noon. Fine weather. Made everything ready to depart from here. Am not at all well. Thermometer. from 32 deg. two hours before sunrise, to 56 deg. at sunrise. Rose to 80 deg. and fell at sunset to

27th October 1778

Left with the greatest regret in the world, seeing that I had brought my boat and other supplies to this point. But having no medicines and not knowing if I might become sicker, already so far away, I decided that my health and that of my people would not allow me to set forth on my intended journey over the Orange River, north and then further west.

Took leave of my friendly host, his wife and family and travelled around the Reusen Casteel, which was on the right hand side, along Opperman's, to De Clerk's where I arrived at 4 o'clock. The oxwagons arrived six hours later.

Took bearings: De Beer N.N.E. behind the mountain range I have called Reusen Casteel.

Cos everywhere in layers and very thick, as if solid and as though split by water at right angles to the horizon. The uppermost parts were also completely bare as though eroded. Took bearings as recorded in the map. The mountains across the Little

Camdebo River to the peak on Opperman's farm form a half moon. The mountains lie further to the east of the peak, about 3 miles from the peak.

Overcast, rainy sky, sultry, thunder about. A rather cool S.E. wind. At sunrise thermometer was 59 deg. went to 75 deg. and at the hottest time of day (usually between two and three) it rose to 80 deg. and then fell to 75 deg. Some rain in the evening. My Hottentot Mallegaas, who went ahead with my unyoked oxen, saw a lion and a lioness this morning. They ran away from him.

This evening at De Clerk's I saw the young Madagascan called Goliath. With his long assegai he stabbed and killed the lion which killed the Hottentot Valentyn a month ago. It was his fourth lion. Gave him some gifts. Saw springbok and bubalis.

28th October 1778

Some showers tonight and wind from S.E. From morning it was clear with a pleasant S.E. wind. Rode west and went around the edge of the Camdebo Mountains in the N.W. After travelling for four and a half hours with the oxwagons came to Lottering. After a further two and a half hours we made camp at Piet Meintje's.

Still not at all well.

Fresh S.E. wind. Weather cool, cloudy sky. Thermometer 60 deg. to 72 deg. to 59 deg. at sunset. There was a cold, fresh east wind through a cleft in the mountains. Took bearing on the southern tip of the Zoute Rivier Mountain in the West from the ridge in front of Lottering. Bearings taken at Meintje's: Charles Marais N.W. by N; Tys de Beer (at the northern point of the Zoute Rivier Mountain).

W. by N.½ N; De Clerk E.S.E. Lottering S.E. to S.½ S; Beere Valeij S.S.W. Four degrees south.

29th October 1778

Cold at night. The same phenomenon occurs here as at Table Mountain: the wind from S.E. drops at midnight and in the morning it is clear, not a cloud in the sky, but a heavy evaporation is drawn into the atmosphere. With correction the barometer showed 26 8, we are therefore 3030 English feet above sea level. At sunrise the thermometer was 41 deg. went to 80 deg. and fell to 75 deg. The wind veered with the sun and was strongest at noon.

Departed W. and then N.W. making a short turn. As on most of the farms, I crossed a rivulet. All the water from Meintjes runs into the Karica or Beere Valeij River and then into the Gamtous River. Went N. and N.E. through a gap in a ridge of the Sneeuwberg Range. Arrived at Pretorius' at twelve o'clock: a four hour ride to the N.W. with oxwagons. After two and a quarter hours N.N.W. arrived at Marais'. Up to here the veld has been Karoo, stony. A few flowers: some arctotis and mesembryanthemums, low shrubs, and, in the rivulet, thorn trees. With correction the barometer showed 26 5. We are still in the Sneeuwberg range and one is here two thirds of the way up to the highest point. The Zoute Rivier Mountain is also the same but subsidence or erosion is greater around it.

30th October 1778

Fine weather. Calm. Wind from the west at sunrise. At evening a strong S.E. wind developed. Thermometer 52 deg. to 80 deg. and fell to

Departed W. to Tys de Beer. First S.W. through a kloof for half an hour. (This means that we were nearly out of the hills when we passed Pretorius'.) From the kloof we

went West to South to Esterhuijsen, a journey of three hours with the oxwagons. Took latitude here: 32 9. Departed west to Tys, four hours by oxwagon. Karoo country everywhere, stony with mesembryanthemums and some large Euphorbias (Spinosa). Bearings from Tys de Beer's: Meintjes E.S.E. 3 deg. south 5½ miles; (Meintjes had shown me a hillock where he said de Beer was, but he is somewhat more to the north); Charles Marais: E. by N. 5 deg. E; Esterhuijsen E; Piet Pretorius E. by S. 2 deg. E; our course goes W. by S. 4 deg. S. along the edge of the mountain; E. by N. is the source of the Buffels River; then it runs West roughly to where Hop's farm lies, a mile N. by E. from here. With correction the barometer showed 26 9, 2840 ft. Saw a few springbok at De Beer's. The Buffel's River is flowing, the Karica is below it. Large lizards which also go into the water are plentiful here; càm gàro.

31st October 1778

Departed west by south through a kloof. Cold last night with a strong S.E. wind blowing. Some dew. Wind still S.E. Overcast, rainy sky. Thermometer at sunrise 49 deg. to 78 deg. and fell to 56 deg. Took latitude: 32 8. At sunset a fierce S.E. wind developed. Clear and cold. At nine o'clock in the morning it was clearing. S.E. wind. Fine weather. Up till noon the wind was veering to S.W. Clear. Some evaporation.

Between Lottering and De Beer there is a large plain of Karoo country in the shape of a half moon. The Karica or Buffels River runs through a poort in the Zoute Rivier Mountains. From De Beer's we rode West and slightly North through a plain of Karoo country which, after a mile, rose to a height of 400 feet above De Beer's. The Sneeuwberg Mountains still surround us. Took latitude one and three quarter miles further on at the Bosdijve River which is dry. This goes into the Karica but it forms one half of the Zoute River. Three quarters of a mile on we came to the Zoute River. It comes from the North and runs S.W. into Beere Valeij beneath Swartberg. It took us two and a quarter hours to ride there. Took bearings; a good road, without stones. From there it took two and a half hours to another branch of the Zoute River which runs through a gateway in the Zoute Rivier mountains at this place. The water was brack and scarcely running. The Caree Bos is half a mile N. half E. from T. de Beer. The Zoute River begins half a mile behind T. de Beer's, and N. by E., and then runs, with bends, in a westerly direction. We rode to Rhinoster Kop, the first tributary of the Gamka, in four and a half hours. Water good but in pools. Half way we made a turn to the N.W. around a ridge. Course west over the same veld. We were unable to see the horizon to the south. There was an abandoned farm on the Zoute Berg River. Calm, overcast. Thermometer 56 deg.

1st November 1778

Our course today was W.S.W. The Sak River begins in the N.W., three miles from De Clerk. After being shown the direction, estimated the widow De Beer's S.W. by S., 3 deg. S. The Kleine Rogge Veld is in the west, but our course will be S.W. by S. tomorrow. Barometer at Jacob De Clerk's, (at Twee Fontein, beneath the Groeneberg. N.B. still the Sneeuwberg) 27-2 therefore 2550 on the plateau. The beginning of the Koup or flat country is to the south and south west of De Clerk's. At Rhinoster Kop saw the Swartberg Range through a plain on the right hand side. The Koup begins at Rhinosterkop and the Nieuwe Veld behind De Clerk's.

2nd November 1778

90 0

72 34

With the astrolabe got 17 26
south declination 14 52
 32 18

Thermometer from 60 deg. to 84 deg. and to 70 deg. Soft S.E. wind. Clear. Once again the wind rose in the evening. The flies are beginning to pester us. In this respect they are like the swallows who gather early where it is hottest.

This morning just I was adjusting my instruments, a rhinoceros came close to our wagons but as soon as it caught our scent it turned away, Two of my Hottentots tried to shoot it but after sniffing the ground trotted twice it trotted off fast. We saw three hunters go after it. It went upwind and they rode after it, almost alongside it, without seeing them. At last from the high place where I had gone I saw powder flashes and shortly afterwards the young masters, Viljoen, J. Jacob Kruger, and Dolf Bronkhorst came up. They told us they had a rhinoceros bull. Viljoen had given him the mortal shot at 118 paces. However, when it fell after walking a short distance, they did not trust it, for they consider it to be one of the most ferocious of animals, so they fired another four shots at it. We rode over to it. I made a drawing of it, and wrote a description of this wonderful animal. I came back late in the evening. I left my Hottentots to skin the animal in the morning. It had already begin to swell up. It is a medium-sized but nevertheless an adult animal.

3rd November 1778

We rode over to the rhinoceros again. Found him quite swollen up and smelling strongly.

The weather overcast, but at two o'clock there was sun and it cleared up. S.E. wind. Calm and warm. Thermometer 64 deg. to 87 deg. falling to 75½ deg. at half past one in the night.

Was not at all well.

We cut the animal up in order to preserve the skin as a specimen. 65 (sic). The meat was already rotten.

Left in a S.W. direction. Made many turns, at least twenty of them, across this rivulet, the Gamka. It is now very low. After travelling hard for six and a half hours with the oxwagons we made camp by the same rivulet at half past one at night. Beautiful moonlight. Good going. There are many thorn trees by the river. It is all downhill; stony Karoo. S.W. wind. Soft and cool.

4th November 1778

 90 0
Latitude 73 15
 16 45
Declination 15 29
 32 24 Error 25½ N.W.

Somewhat cloudy sky, thundery. A fresh N.W. wind now and then. Thermometer 73 deg. to 86 deg. dropping to 75 deg. At 10 o'clock at night overcast and cool. 57 deg. Fresh S.E. wind. Sound of thunder from far N.W. Found some pieces of quartz

here on which there were small crystals. The Sneeuwberg Range here is called the Nieuweveld Mountains. We continued East and West but we could only see one half of these mountains because we were in the hills of The Koup.

Am still not well today.

Barometer 27 - 8 corrected. Gives 1985 English feet above sea level.

Just as we left the place where we had made camp a black and then yellow snake appeared in our way. The black one was three and a half foot and the yellow was four foot 2 inches long. The leading ox took fright. I shot them both with my double-barrelled gun and they died soon after. It is said that the black one is slightly poisonous but the yellow one is deadly. Snakes have scaly rings underneath their bodies. These scales open to the back and are pulled in and out, thus enabling it to move ahead quickly, using the ground for this.

Everywhere still Koup Karoo country. At the river, which is nearly dry and which we rode through two or three times, there are still thorn trees, ganna and other shrubs to be seen. See almost no game. Many turns but course mostly W.S.W. A five and a half hours' journey by wagon.

5th November 1778

Thermometer 57 deg. to 72 deg. dropping to 55 deg. Cool east wind. A few drops of rain. Continued S.W. Again passed the dry Gamka a few times, also some dry streams, which come from the North. After a seven hour's journey made camp at the river again. At midday a strong S.E. wind with some rain towards noon and then throughout the rest of the day. We passed through the same kind of countryside.

We saw a kudu cow in the thorn trees. It had no horns. We could not get it. Last night we were trying to catch my runaway horse. We only found him this morning, 6th November. It is said that there are many lions to be seen here. We were not aware of any. Today we found two abandoned farms beside the river. Shot a large hawk.

6th November 1778

Blew strongly from S.E. Cool weather, calmer. Took bearings: the Widow de Beer S.E. 5 miles and the Gamka River Kloof S. by W. 5 miles. Thermometer from 55 deg. to 72 deg. and dropping to 59 deg. Rain at noon. The wind veered N.W. Blew briskly the whole day and night. The wind from the N.E. brought the clouds for the S.E. back. Three of my Hottentots remained behind to look for an ox. They saw the footprint of a large lion.

7th November

	90 0
Latitude	<u>73 40</u>
	16 20
Declination	<u>16 23</u>
	32 43

Barometer 28 3. This morning heard a lion roar. At our camp found the top of the peak which I had taken bearings on from Widow of De Beer's: N.W. to N. 3 deg. N. The Buffels River N.W. to N. 5 deg. Fine, calm weather. Hot. Thermometer from 67 deg. to 87 deg. falling to 80 deg. At 2.30 in the night 57 deg. Light S.W. wind.

The Swartberg range is a varied massif. It is broken; seemingly without verdure or grass anywhere. The strata are not so horizontal. The land rises slowly but gently. It is totally unlike the Sneeuwberg range, which is also made up of plains and peaked mountains and a few round hillocks. The Swartberg range is everywhere round and crenellated like the Hottentots, as well as the Swellendam ranges, but it is all Cos (without layers, however, the front being lower than the middle and then lower again behind). The ridges between it and the Sneeuwberg range also lie S.E. and N.W. and are perpendicular in form. Have seen no schistus from the Sneeuwberg to here. We departed through the Kloof, leaving the Gamka behind. After a two hours ride we came to the farm of a certain Letig. Again had much trouble with the oxen; this conveyance, the wagon, is very necessary in these parts but most uncomfortable for people unaccustomed to it. A seven hours' journey from our camp of the 5th. Very dusty. We are pestered by many horse-flies. Reed and grass beside the river.

8th November 1778

Have seen storks. They differ in character from the European in that no one has seen their nest. It is said that they keep to the cliffs in the mountains and in general do not frequent houses, or places where there are people, but that crows and hawks almost always do. When one leaves the camp to go along the river there are 'long-legs' (cousies) beside the river but they do not worry one. The Swarte River runs into the Gamka here. The Kleine Gamka comes from the flat topped range east of the Tafelberg; it runs into the Groote Gamka where Wy. Claasen lives, to the south, at the confluence of the river. It flows on some farms but not on others, losing itself in sand, only to seep out in another place, a little further on. There is grey sand with small stones in all the rivers. Digging here one finds water. Many thorn trees. My Hottentots have still not arrived. Everywhere the same countryside. Fine clear weather. Hot, but cool wind from S.W. Thermometer 65 deg. to 86 deg. falling to 70 deg. The Gamka River here has a wide, flat bed. There was water in it in June and July with the wind from N.W.; but it has most water in December and January with the thunder storms.

	90 0
Latitude	<u>73 45</u>
	16 15
Declination	<u>16 41</u>
	32 56

Took bearings: Widow de Beer S.E.½ S.: Gamka Kloof S.W. 5 miles. The ridges on the Tijger Berg and The Koup vary. At noon a fresh S.W. wind. The whole Swartberg region had what looked like thunder clouds. The whole day a fresh S.W. wind.

Shot various strange birds, amongst others one of those storks which differ from the European kind. With joy saw my five Hottentots returning in the evening. They had eaten nothing for two days. The ox had run away.

9th November 1778

Sky somewhat cloudy. Fresh W.S.W. wind. Cold in the night and the morning. Coolest an hour before sunrise. Thermometer 57 deg. last night. At sunrise 60 deg. to 72 deg. falling to 57 deg. at 2.52 at night. Till now little or no dew in these parts.

Barometer 28 7; gives 1150. Error 25 deg. N.W.

Latitude: none today.

Departed S.W. First West. S.S.W. after that. A cold S.E. wind towards evening. After a seven hours' journey we made camp towards evening at the Dwinka River or the Drift. We struck the Gamka S. to W. after hardly an hour's journey. From the Gamka we travelled for another hour to the Katte river, which also comes from the foothills. It is dry therefore. It runs at Dwinkas Poort into same (the Dwinka) and then with the Gamka into the Gourits River.

My two Hottentots saw a lion in the night; saw its fiery eyes clearly. While driving the loose oxen the fired a shot, after which it left them alone for a while; however afterwards it followed them quietly until dawn. At daybreak it roared at them a bit and then left them.

Took bearings: Dwinka and Gamkas Poort S. to E. One and a quarter miles. The Gamka first runs behind a mountain before it enters the Dwinka.

10th November 1778

	90 0
Latitude	<u>74 15</u>
Declination	<u>17 15</u>
	33 00

Barometer 28 7. Error 24 deg. N.W.

Thermometer from 60 deg. to 78 deg. falling to 75 deg. Fine weather, cloudy until 9 o'clock in the morning. The mountain in clouds. Soft south wind. Departed on our previous road and made camp at Hartebeestfontein. The course this evening west half south. A small branch of the Swartberg rises here N.N.W. two miles west of us. This branch turned out to be nothing more than a tall, projecting foothill.

11th November 1778

	90 0
Latitude	<u>74 25</u>
	15 35
Declination	<u>17 32</u>
	33 7

Barometer 27 9. Error 23 N.W.

Thermometer in the morning at four o'clock 59 deg. Sunrise: 62 deg. fell to 70 deg. (sic). Light S.E. wind. Fine weather. A gust from the west now and then.

Was not at all well.

Fine weather in the afternoon. Brisk W. wind. Once more had to wait for two of my Hottentots. They could not keep up with herding the oxen. They arrived in the night.

12th November 1778

Light S.E. wind. Fine weather. Thermometer 54 deg. to 82 deg. falling to 70 deg. at evening. A fresh S.W. to S. wind until evening.

Left in the morning W. 4 deg. S. after having the edge of a mountain W.½. S. pointed out to me, and arrived at the Geelbekke Fontein after a two hours' ride. There we unyoked in order to take latitude and came across Aswegen's wagons.

	90 0
Latitude	<u>74 44</u>
	15 16
Declination	<u>17 48</u>
	33 4

The Chinese-Bushman called his people Swy ei. The Nieuwe Veld is called a'rou. While speaking they always gesture with their arms and hands. They say we are evil, and come in the night like wolves and have hair like lions. Most of the time they either listen to the witch or the chief.

Neib a giraffe, also a house

A house is also called a comma

They learn witchcraft from the Devil. He lives up in heaven. They call him noe ei. The Sun: uij; the moon cakare.

The Bloed river comes from the east, from the Kleine Rogge Veld, and forms the most important tributary of the Dwinka, one hour to the north of the drift.

Bearing on the Platte Kloof S.S.E. 3 deg. E. On the western side where the Gamka runs, the mountains are divided. It is six hours on foot from here across the mountain. From there Swanepoel is 1½ hours further than the Geelbek.

After taking latitude we left and after riding for two hours we arrived at Buffels River, and after four hours on a very stony path we came to the spring called Rietfontein. Today we went through a stretch half an hour wide, made up of dry, whitish Cos. A low range, the Caro Mountains, that stretches to the Kleine Roggeveld with all its foothills is called the Onder-Klein Roggeveld, and the Dwinka divides it from the Koup. On the Swartberg side the hills or mountains, are at their highest. Took possession of a chameleon today.

13th November 1778

	90 0
Latitude	<u>75 0</u>
	15 0
Declination	<u>18 4</u>
	33 4

Fresh wind W. S. W. Clear Trade Wind weather and sky. Thermometer 56 deg. to 76 deg. falling to 50 deg.

Departed for Jagersfontein which lies seven hours west of here. But got no further than Meintje's farm where we had talks with some Hottentots and were held up. Rain at half past nine. Fresh, cold, W. S. W. wind.

22nd November 1778

Was not feeling any better and since I wanted to test the temperature of the snow, as well as to ascertain the height of the mountains I sent Schoemaker and two of my Hottentots up the mountain. They found it very difficult to climb because the strata all lie aslant, full of broken-off stones, as though the earth had subsided in front and been pushed up from behind. After climbing for six hours they reached the snow, which was from four to five to six feet deep in the wind drifts but only here and there and not in every place. The nature of the rock was very hard Cos, with much quartz as well as some very small imperfect crystallizations. About half way up the mountain 81 deg; at the snow 76 deg; lying five minutes under the snow 50 deg; (At noon very clear, a cool east wind) again high above the snow 78 deg; near the snow but not touching it, 74 deg; about half way down the mountain 77 deg; nearly at the bottom 86 deg. Barometer 24 inches 2 points giving 5582 feet. The eye is very easily deceived here. From this point one would not give the mountain half its height but it turns out that it is about 2200 feet higher than Table Mountain in the Cape. The snow was in a melting state, especially underneath. It was cold to touch. Below at De Vos' it was beautiful warm weather. At half past eight in the evening the thermometer was 75 deg. A light wind from the east, not a cloud in the sky.

My two old Hottentots arrived from the southern mountains as well, having slept a night there, but without having shot anything. There are still quite a few zebras and kwaggas around here.

23rd November 1778

Warm weather. Calm. The atmosphere somewhat hazy. Thermometer 70 deg. to 92 deg. falling to 75 deg. At about half past three in the afternoon a thunder storm approached from the W.S.W. over the low mountains. Normally these storms come from the N.E. It lasted about an hour with little rain. It was quite strong however and set fire to the grass on the mountain south of Jordaan's farm where I was. It is the first thunderstorm in these parts since winter.

24th November 1778

Calm, warm weather. Thermometer 75 deg. to 88 deg. before noon. After which there was a thunderstorm from about eleven to twelve o'clock. Came from the North. Not heavy with a fair amount of rain, and as always gusts of wind when it is nearly over. After it the thermometer was eight degrees colder. In the afternoon it was again up to 86 deg., at sunset 78 deg.

25th November 1778

Some dew last night. Calm, warm weather. Thunder clouds. Some N.W. wind towards noon. Thermometer 72 deg. to 84 deg to 74 deg.

26th November 1778

Calm, warm, clear. Thermometer 70 deg. to 65 deg. to 60 deg. About nine o'clock this morning the weather became overcast from the N.W., with wind and showers of rain. Still continues. Cold.

27th November 1778

Storms and showers last night. Snow on the mountains. The new snow melts first, leaving the old. A little wind, which dropped this morning. Now and then a small

shower of rain. The Buffels Kloof range, which protrudes S. from the Bokke Veld, generally has the most rain. Thermometer 50 deg. to 75 deg. and falling to 52 deg. The gap in the Kloof is S.W.½ W. from Wouter de Vos. The extension of the Hex River Kloof W.S.W. Still storms and rain showers the whole day. At evening the wind veered more to the west. This change of weather takes place now, about the first quarter of the moon. Last night the hyenas howled very much. The Hex River starts from a strong spring at De Vos' and from a rivulet of the Geidow on the road to Verkeerde Valey. The road to De Straat is called Candouw and the one to De Ko, Quadouw.

28th November 1778

Still the same weather. The wind N.W. Storms with rainshowers. Last night it snowed heavily on the mountains to the north. It grew calm towards evening. W.N.W. wind. Generally it can be observed here that it freezes when it is calm. Thermometer 50 deg. to 60 deg. to 55 deg. (After the storm.)

29th November 1778

Fine weather. Fresh W.N.W. wind which brings many clouds. Thermometer 58 deg. to 70 deg. to 65 deg.

30th November 1778

A fresh west wind S.W. at evening. Fine weather. Thermometer 60 deg. to 76 deg. to 64 deg.

Still not at all well. Have bad diarrhoea.

1st December 1778

Fine warm weather. Calm in the morning; at midday a fresh west wind, somewhat cloudy. Thermometer 65 deg. to 80 deg. to 70 deg.

Am much better. We are making ready to go into the country once more. The Sak River, Vis and Riet Rivers run into the Groote River.

Namaquas always milk at noon. They hold their hands high before drinking milk. Many have the first joint of their fingers cut off (like Bushmen). One seldom sees small children with the first joint of their little finger. Sometimes two joints of the middle finger are missing. They say they do this for a sickness. Most of the Great Namaquas have one testicle cut out.

In the evening Captain de Lille, the Botanist Paterson and Van Reenen came from the Cape to visit me. They had heard of my illness.

2nd December 1778

Fine weather. Light W. wind. Thermometer from 65 deg. to 78 deg. falling to 70 deg. Am becoming much better and am resolved to leave tomorrow.

3rd December 1778

The abovementioned friends left for the Cape and I: S.S. Eastwards, first through the Kwadouw then through a place called Eselsjagt, through the Uile Valey, finally through Zand Valey and arrived at De Ko. The oxen refused to pull the wagon through the Kankoos, a rivulet. Rode ahead to Gideon Joubert whose farm is called

Gordonsfontein. From a high place I saw the farm but in the darkness missed the road and arrived at Conradie's farm, Harmonie, at ten o'clock in the night. Stayed there and sent to Joubert who ordered my wagon to be fetched by his servants. It was still standing in the same place. It arrived at Joubert's towards morning.

The terrain today was sandy in places but otherwise Karoo. Low shrubs, much Rhinoceros bush.

When we reached Kadouw we were three hours from de Vos. We descended very slowly with little progress: it was steep hilly country. Little water. We saw many ostriches, but could not get within shooting range of them.

We had travelled for twelve hours, but we advanced only four to five miles on account of the many steep places and turns especially around Remhoogte. The high parts of Kwadouw are steep, though not very stony. The nature of the rock is much quartzite in Cos.

Fine weather. W. wind. Somewhat cloudy. Thermometer 60 deg. to 74 deg. to 58 deg. Cold after sunset.

Though we rode far, I am strong and healthy.

4th December 1778

Rode back half an hour to Joubert's farm where I found the wagon. Obtained a true wild pig from Mrs Conradie. It has incisors in the front part of its muzzle, as it has in Europe, quite unlike what has been called the "sanglier d'Afrique". This last animal is mistakenly called a bush pig here. It runs faster and further than a horse, its tail held high, and frequents plains, making holes in the ground. The first kind is the true wild pig and frequents bushy undergrowth.

N.N.W. wind. Cloudy, rainy sky. Thermometer 58 deg. to 70 deg. to 63 deg. Barometer showed 26 8, therefore about 300 feet lower than Table Mountain.

5th December 1778

Fine weather though cloudy. Rained a little last night. I am here at an excellent place to complete my triangulation. I can map the snow on the Hex River mountains, all the way to the Cape, from these mountains.

Saw a capon here that looks after chickens and ducklings with the greatest solicitude. There are many of them in these parts.

This afternoon rode E.S.E. for two and a half miles on a mountainous road to the baths behind Cogglemanskloof in the Keissi or the Lekik River. Passed fearsome heights. Behind Kooshoogte, stony, bushy Karoo.

Concerning a kind of sheep which they call blinkschapen or shiny sheep: their wool is very fine, but it does contain some hair in it and over it. Their fleece begins to drop about this time, which is a sign that it is a good time to start shearing.

Had much rain from the S. Cold. Thermometer 56 deg. to 60 deg. to 58 deg.

Kooshoogte, ½ mile E.S.E. from here, divides the water on Conradie's farm De Concordia. Kleigat River, Diep River, Blaauwfontein, Jakalsvaley, Gordonsfontein, Samagoos River, Middelste River, Leste River, Diepe Kom River, all come together in the mountain pass at Bekker's and become what is called the Koos River. Witte Water River also comes in here. We have passed Eselsjagt, the farm of Wouter de Vos. The deepest Kloof at Bekker's is called Keerom, it then forms the Neui and runs beside a place called Bavi just before Brandvaley. It first goes into the Hex River and then into the Breede River. Therefore all flow from the Koosbergen.

6th December 1778

The hot water in the baths at Roux's was 112 deg., at Grovelaar's 104 deg. Found no trace of iron as in the others. There was a somewhat tart taste in both, but the one of 112 deg. was the strongest, coming from hard rock. Silver did not tarnish it. Salt rose in a froth in the hot water, which hardly ever cools off. Though these waters are very clear one can see some fine substance rising in it if one uses it to make tea. Never becomes cloudy. It washes linen well and foams easily. The smell of the soil at the bath was somewhat sulphurous. A frog which jumped into it died immediately.

Walked up the mountain between De Ko, the Hex River and the Goudeni area. Found a large plateau at the top with many zebra foot-prints. Nearly fainted at the top. The rocks are the same kind as at Table Mountain; many herbs are also the same, Barometer on the mountain 25 2. Thermometer 65 deg. on top; Thermometer 70 deg. below. Took bearings on Du Toit's Kloof W.½ S; Bastiaan Kloof W. by N; Elands Kloof W. by N. 4 deg. N; Goudeni (the centre) W; Brand Valey, (De Wit) W. by S; Franse Hoek Kloof at Daniel de Cok S.W. by W; Hex River N.N.W. 4 deg. N.; Wouter de Vos, De Straat N. by E. 2 deg. N; Rode Zand W.N.W.; Beginning of the Swartberg N.E.½ N.

Fine weather; somewhat hazy. Fresh wind on the mountain. At sunset thermometer 75 deg.

C'hari is the name of the root from which the Hottentots make their honey beer or gordeni. Comes from the Namaquas and is valued highly by them.

8th December 1778

Fine warm weather. West wind. Calm. Thermometer 65 deg. to 84 deg. falling to 70 deg.

The Valks River begins on the other side of Kooshoogte, then comes the Bavianns River, Harmonie River, Bos River and thereafter the Warmwaters River from the Wagonboomsberg. They all form the Cogglemanskloof River where it comes from the east at the Keina not far before the Kloof on the Keisies side. Keinaashoogte, two and a half miles East of Coggelmanskloof, divides the water that flows into the Buffelsjagt River. The Boere Berg and the Wagensboomberg form part of the Koosbergte. They appear to have been formed by subsidence. There are also many round hillocks in this range, through which one can ride as through a pass. Found here three kinds of Watteboom. People have said that even the bark can be very useful. It grows from seven to eight feet high. There is much white and red clay. The strata of these mountains are arc-shaped. One can see that it was all once soft and that the strata have collapsed. Coggleman's River runs between Poesenek and Keisies River which in turn flows from the Riversonderend Mountain into the Breede River. The Rodezand extends with a bend to the north. Two heights: Wimmers at Franse Hoek and the other at Du Toit's Kloof. Goudeni and Brand Valey are low foothills. The Sandberg lies between the Ko and the Sonderend River up to the Franse Hoek Mountain.

Took latitude: 33 deg. to 35

Saw an old Hottentot sorcerer who did not want to acknowledge that he was making gordeni. He sometimes strikes fully grown Hottentots and they do not dare to defend themselves. He was frightened of me. The others did not dare to refuse him, whatever he demanded. In the evening I saw him, in their own manner, doctoring and practising his sorcery on a boy. He did this after refusing many times and mostly because he was frightened of me, for I had let him see the sun through smoked

glass. He thought that I would bewitch him otherwise. He ordered the youth to come naked to his hut in the twilight. My Hottentot, Iteki, was also frightened of him and he sat by the fire showing great attention, alongside the sorcerer's wife and a young Hottentot girl. I had a candle lighted in order to see better, whereupon he went and sat by the youth who had a pain in his foot. He rubbed the thighs and the leg, and, holding the foot to his head, he roared and snorted like a lion and a tiger. Then he held his hand to the head and heart of the boy, and did this several times. Then sneezing three or four times, he opened his hand showing some insects, like beetles, which he said he had pulled out of the leg. Having smeared some mutton fat on the leg he rubbed the rest over himself. After this he took some roots (from thorn or mimosa trees) which were hollow and tied together and filled with stones that rattled inside. Then he began his sorcerer's song, all the time sitting, but twisting his body continually and striking the bundles on the ground, often singing furiously and shaking his head while his wife accompanied him, clapping her hands all the time. We could not understand him, even Iteki was not able to; he said it was Bushman sorcerer's language. When he broke off, sweating, I asked him several questions but all I could get out of him was that tuiqua (God) had taught him this in a dream. Joubert said that he must have been very frightened of me to have practised witchcraft in my presence, since they say it never goes well if there is a white skin present and that they would never practise witchcraft in front of him. The whole time I kept a most serious demeanour though often I could hardly help myself from bursting into laughter at his cures and the terror of my Hottentot. They say that they have jackals and other animals in their service, that these take messages to other sorcerers for them. Bought his magic rattle for a tinderbox.

9th December 1778

Fine weather, Fresh West Wind. Thermometer 60 deg. to 82 deg. to 70 deg.

10th December 1778

Good weather, though somewhat cloudy. Fresh S.E. wind which nearly always brings moisture in these parts. Made everything ready to depart tomorrow; having had everything repaired by my friendly host Gideon Joubert. Thermometer 60 deg. to 75 deg. to 58 deg.

11th December 1778

Misty and raining from the S.E. in the morning so did not set out. Cold. Thermometer 50 deg. to 58 deg. to 52 deg. What they call wild dogs here have killed a milk-cow. They roam in the daytime and are not hyenas.

12th December 1778

Still misty in the morning from the S.E. Cleared about nine o'clock. At ten o'clock rode E. by N. with a turn across Joubert's two cattle farms, Eendragt and Sand Valey. In this stony mountain range found many seams of quartz between the Cos, also some reasonably clear crystals formed into slabs. Crossed much sand and De Vos' stock farm. Thereafter, with a turn through the East around a difficult ridge four miles further on, I came in a straight line to De Straat. Halfway it still had not rained but a strong S.E. wind had been blowing these two days.

Thermometer 58 deg. to 63 deg. to 60 deg

13th December 1778

Rode through much sand; though everywhere up to this point the basic formation is of clay; then on to the Verkeerde Valey with a turn through the N. We arrived at W. Jacob's after a five hour ride with the oxwagon. Very hilly. Light S. East breeze and then calm. In the morning thunder far in the S.E. In the afternoon a heavy shower in the Verkeerde Valey with rain and wind.

Thermometer 76 deg. to 96 deg. to 80 deg.

Here ate delicious cherries from a small, young tree, the same as a European May Cherry, however there is only one tree. It is difficult to cultivate.

14th December 1778

Fine weather. Light easterly breeze. Somewhat cloudy. Hot.

Thermometer 76 deg. to 86 deg. to 70 deg. Thunder in the afternoon; started on the Sneeuwberg and then from all sides. A heavy shower about two o'clock with hail, wind and rain. Fine and cool towards evening.

Bearings from Jacobs: De Straat (after having been pointed out) two miles E.S.E, the middle of the Valley. To the East the large water basin is about a two hours walk in circumference; at its narrowest has a diameter of a quarter of a mile; Juriesfontein, and at the footpath to the Karoo is $\frac{1}{2}$ mile N $\frac{1}{2}$ East; Pinaar's farm one mile N.W, Wouter de Vos one mile S.W. to S; The Witsenberg: (after having been pointed out) W.N.W. Thus the road turns N.W. to west in order to reach Rodezand. The Koude Bokke Veld or Friesland Mountains, when visible are N.W. three and half miles. This whole Verkeerde Valey is a basin, two miles long, extending N.W. and S.E. from Jan Pinaar's farm at the Poort. The waters begin to flow from the S.E. of the pool on Schalk van der Merwen's farm. The other water, N.W. of Pinaar's up to the ridge near a certain Rensenberg, runs through the Buffels Kloof into the Hex River, and all the rest of the Bokke Veld flows through Mosterthoek and forms the Brede Rover. The Valley is very sandy and with vegetal soil over the clay. It is a third longer than it is wide (to the N.W.).

The barometer shows 27 inches 1 point therefore the height in 2650 feet. It snows up to a foot here and generally stays for about a day. Sometimes water is frozen up to an inch. From the taste the cold drinking water from Jacobs' spring has some sulphur. This side of the mountains the massif contains quadrate rocks, otherwise Cos, also much quartz and imperfectly formed crystallisations.

In many parts of the country here people complain that the growth of the grass is greatly impeded by Rhinoceros bush (*santilenea*). The seed is propagated by wind, and even by it falling into the wool of sheep as they wander. When the Colony first began these bushes were not so plentiful.

This place, Verkeerde Valey, has the solid massif of the high Hex River Mountains to the West. The mountains on the otherside, towards the Roggeveld, look very much like the Sneeuwberg and form a gently rising high type of Karoo, behind which are found this same kind of veld. There are 16 farms between these places, including the Verkeerde Valey, the Koude and Bokke Veld. Here one generally finds beans and peas. Small turtles in the vleis. They have a strong stench and their blood is used as an antidote for snake bites.

15th December 1778

Fine cool weather. Soft westerly breeze. Went back to De Straat. From there we continued on our way and after 2½ hours arrived in the evening at De Draai where the roads divide, and made camp. Thermometer 68 deg. to 80 deg. to 70 deg. Heavy dew last night.

16th December 1778

Fine, warm weather with a fresh easterly breeze which veered as the day progressed, making the heat bearable. Thermometer 70 deg. to 86 deg. to 73 deg.

We departed N.E. with a turn through this low mountain range. Thereafter N.E. by E. and arrived after a five hour ride. The track was very sandy with shrubs. We made camp at the Namgas Riviertje, where Pinaar's stick farm is, and which has the same name. There are flattish basins here surrounded by low ranges. The strata are mixed and as though covered with slabs. Cos. A little quartz. A scarcity of water. Took bearings on Hex Rover; the Sneeuwberg at De Vos, W.S.W. 6½ miles. Barometer 27 inches 1 point.

17th December 1778

Fine weather in the West. A white cloud bank to the north. Fresh breeze. Thermometer 65 deg. to 86 deg. to 70 deg. Departed E.N.E. After riding an hour we altered our course and trekked northwards with some turns through a kloof which is sandy and easy to traverse and called the Vlakke Kloof. It was one eighth of a mile wide at most and half a mile long. In the same was a rivulet running north, now dry. After an hour and a quarters ride we were through it and came onto a large karoo-like plain. Here the sand ended. Took bearings from Smits Winkel; the Vlakke Kloof S.W. by S.; Hex River S.W. by W. therefore my course to here is N.E. by E. Five miles off we saw before us a range of mountains stretching east and west with a large bend N.W. of us. The so called Toover Berg is in the middle three miles to the west. Saw from the Bokke Veld side the mountains stretching N. and S. ten to twelve miles from us. The horizon in the East South East is flat. This karoo-type country runs through the Koup. While coming out of the Kloof saw that the plaster-like effect on the sides of the mountain was nothing more than southward subsidence. Rode on N.E. After two and a quarter hours we passed in front of the so-called Groote River, which at that time was almost dry. It runs west. We rode along a rivulet that appears to come from the N.E. After three hours ride we made camp at the so-called Smits Winkel, an abandoned farm. We saw no game, only an ostrich. There are many small lizards in the Karoo. We rode uphill again to Groote River.

Barometer 27 inches 5 tenths, but in the Lower Karoo, as at Beere Valeij, 28 inches 0 tenths.

18th December 1778

Fine weather. Fresh east wind. Thermometer 65 deg. to 90 deg. to 73 deg. We departed, going further up the rivulet, first N.E. then east over Reeboks hoogte until the oxen halted before entering the Kleine Rogge Veld. I rode ahead and found a man called Coertze. Ordered the wagons be fetched. Found all in confusion because the drink had been badly guarded. The water at Coertze's is the beginning of the Groote River. It runs into the Oliphants River but first forms a salt pan at Braksfontein. The Smits Winkel River runs into the Groote River half an hour from our road. Other waters, those of Bottman, Nodde, and Krieger form the Buffels River.

Barometer 25 inches 9 points. Everywhere in the Kleine Rogge Veld one finds clay with stones in it. There are large hills that rise in the Karoo. Wild rye, barley, Rhinoceros bush and other plants. No Rhinoceros bush in the Karoo. Two hours from Smits Winkel to Reeboks hoogte: 2 hours to Kleine Rogge Veld hoogte, one hour to Coertze. Tanquas River starts at Appel fontein W.N.W. half a mile from here, runs alongside the Caro River which terminates in the middle of the Rogge Veld and becomes the Oliphants River. Thermometer 70 deg. to 95 deg. The ridge at Coertze's is the western end of Kleine Rogge Veld.

19th December 1778

Fine weather. Fresh east wind. In the afternoon a thundery sky in the west. Departed on a N.E. by E.½ course today; two miles with a turn through the east. All downhill. Another large basin. River nearly dried out. Made camp at Nodde's. Course to Piet Krieger: the course to him should fall a little more northerly than N.E. Also two miles. Was shown that the drift at Buffels River, which we have passed, was six miles S.E. It has been observed here that when there is a S.E. wind and thundery weather approaches from the N, the thunder and rain passes over with a strong N.W. wind.. It has been like that now, very little or no thunder.

Barometer 26 8.

20th December 1778

Thermometer 70 deg. to 82 deg. to 73 deg. Barometer at Krieger's 26 inches 3 tenths. Fine weather. Fresh south winds. Course to Krieger through two high basins, uphill, N.E. by N. 3 deg. N. 5½ hours journey with oxwagons, 2 ° hours on horseback. We passed Swanepoel's farm and also Carel Krieger's, the Sergeant. They are an hour and a half apart.

	90 0
Latitude at Krieger's	<u>80 46</u>
	9 14
Declination	<u>23 28</u>
	32 42

The inhabitants all travel to the Karoo in the winter on account of the cold. Piet Krieger stays but his stock goes. They take their possessions with them or bury them in the ground. We made camp at Schalkwyk's below the Comsberg Range after two hours riding N.E. Very dry. Not a single tree on the way to Hollands Com. Barometer 26 0.

21st December 1778

East wind. The longest day. Barometer 24 6. Thermometer 58 deg. to 75 deg. to 69 deg.

Fine weather. Cool. Bearings at Comsberg. Wouter de Vos twelve miles at an estimate; Hex River S.W. by S. 2 deg. S.; Buffels River Kloof S. by E; Seven miles distant tip of the middle Rogge Veld W.N.W. 2 deg. W; Cloete N. 2 deg. E. one mile; a peak of the Onder Bokke Veld W.N.W.½ W, fifteen miles distant; Pinarskloof S.W. 3 deg. S. Bearings a quarter further to the east: Bonte Berg where Phaisante River begins N.E.½ North; sharp peak N. by E. 3 miles; Onder Rogge Veld 4½ miles, last

point or start of Hantam. From Onder Regge Veld N.W. 2 deg. N. One of the new field points E.W.E.½ N. 8 miles.

We departed northwards to the Comsberg. Has stepped layers like the Sneeuwberg. Almost no grass. Bushes. Almost all the stone is Cos. Three hour's ride to the top. The long wagon broke half way. Made a new one in half an hour from a piece of Schalkwyk's wood. After one and a half hour's ride we arrived at a certain Jacobus Cloete's and made camp there. Barometer there was 25 0. We saw no game, only a few small birds.

22nd December 1778

Fine weather. Hot N. wind which veered during the course of the day.

Departed N.W. 1/2 W. to Hendrik Olivier's farm, one and a quarter miles. The same veld everywhere. In some years the springs dry up.

	90 0
Latitude	<u>81 6</u>
	8 54
Error S:S	<u>23 28</u>
	32 22

Thermometer 63 deg. to 82 deg. to 73 deg. S.E. wind in the evening. I rode to the sharp peak I which I took a bearing yesterday. The Rhinoster River begins behind Van der Westhuysen. Three farms lie on it. The Middle Rogge Veld is 11 miles long, 4 miles at its widest. N.W. and S.E. It is narrow. On both sides here many flat slabs of Cos. Mostly low brush country. A little grass; like the grass one finds around springs.

23rd December 1778

Departed from Visser's farm, which is one hour N. from the start of the Vis River. We arrived after three quarter's of a mile. From there ½ mile to the farm Knollefontein, (Korf's). There is also a tributary of the Vis River which runs N.W. through the middle of the Rogge Veld.

	90 0	Barometer	25 6
Latitude	<u>81 15</u>		
Error	20 (?)		
	8 45		
Declination	<u>23 28</u>		
	32 13		

Course from Visser N.N.W; From Hottentotsfontein N.N.W. half W; from Cloete N.W.½ W.

Fine weather. N.W. wind fresh, veering with the sun and became S. in the afternoon. Thermometer 70 de. To 88 deg. to 72 deg. Course to Koorlands Kloof N.N.W.½ W. 2½ miles.

First rode N.W. then north with a turn at Kruijs Rivier Kloof, because the river from Van der Westhuysen enters it here where there are two abandoned farms. Halfway to

Koorlands Kloof: travelling always beside and many times through the Vis River which has small standing pools. Many ridges and rhinocerosbush after Visser. Willow trees beside the river, no thorn trees. Many partridges. Another farm, Hou den Bek belonging to the widow Smit, is one eighth of a mile from Kruijs Rivier Kloof, many large convex stone slabs as though formed by the sea. Koetsee's farm De Koorlands Kloof is very fine. Here once more saw trees that had been planted, vegetables and garden fruit. Barometer 25 9.

24th December 1778

Thundery sky. Fresh N.W. wind. Thunder around, mainly from the Karoo. Stayed here. Thermometer 65 deg. to 80 deg. to 75 deg. Further course N.W. to the Onder Rogge Veld

25th December 1778

Thundery sky. Good weather. Light westerly wind. Thermometer 70 deg. to 82 deg. to 73 deg. Left for Nel's farm, Brak Fontein, in the Onder Roggeveld. Hilly everywhere, and stormier than anything we have yet had, caused a wheel to come loose. Fastened it with leather straps. We passed two farms and then, after two miles, the Aape Berg. (N.B. no monkeys). This is a large ridge which separates the two Rogge Velds. We unyoked for a while at Klipfontein, the cattle post of one Visage. The water is bad. After riding five miles N.W. with some turns, we reached Nel, in eleven hours. The people here make a living mainly from sheep. Eight families living here, but most of the farms are just cattle posts. We travelled down hill most of the time. The water from this side of the Aape Berg flows into the Tanguas River; on the other side of the Onder Rogge Veld it flows into the Vis River. The Kapok or Tontel tree I found to be the same as those at Coggelmankloof Bath. Much amaryllis or goat-poison bulbs. If animals eat this they die. We were very careful with our oxen.

There are still many edible, fleshy roots in these parts which, though they are high, have soil and bushes as in the karoo. The length of this part of the Onder Rogge Veld is 6 miles S.E. and 3 miles wide N.W. The Groote Rogge Veld is 10 to 12 miles long N.W. and 5 miles wide S.E. Has twenty families. Repaired the wheel with the hoop of a half-aum cask as best as we could. Saw game nowhere here. We had a small thunder storm from the S.E. at two o'clock.

26th December 1778

The barometer at Nel's showed 26 2. Thus we have descended about 300 feet. Fine weather. Light easterly wind. Thermometer 70 deg. to 75 deg. to 80 deg. Very hot and sultry in the afternoon. Course from Coetsee to here and further to the Hantom N.W. by W.

	90 0	
Latitude	<u>81 36</u>	Error 19½ deg N.W.
	8 24	
Declination	<u>23 23</u>	
	31 47	

Reached Jacob Louw, Hartebeestfontein, after going uphill over a large ridge, a distance of 1½ miles. We passed Klaver Valey halfway.

27th December 1778

Thundery sky. Northerly wind. Thunderclouds here and there. Barometer 25 3. Thermometer 70 deg. to 86 deg. to 65 deg. After a thunderstorm there is always a fresh west wind which, coming from the sea in the west, cools the air. The Vis River is north of here. Four miles to the north behind the Vis River is the Sak River. The Riet River runs five miles north of Coetsee into the Rhinoster River which takes in the Riet River, north of Coetsee. Low has seen Rhinoceros with horns over 3 feet long and with a protruding fold of skin.

Bearings from the mountain S.W. to W. half an hour's going from Louw's: Nel's farm N.W. 3 deg. N; Hantamsberg N.N.W. 2 deg. N. Four miles: van Zyl's farm. N.W. to N. 4 deg. N; the three high peaks of the Onder Rogge Veld, the middle one W.N.W. 2 ° miles; "the tower' 2½ miles N.N.E; Piet van Zyl, Oliphants River estimated W.N.W; Neus River ° N.W. (it flows into the Doorn River and then into the Oliphants River at Compagniesdrif, Gerret Nieuwhout's.) The Sak River makes a bend to the N. up to either the Orange or Hartebeest River, from here N. to E.

Frost often kills the crops in these parts and the inhabitants seldom cultivate fruit trees. Fine weather. S.W. wind. Thermometer 65 deg. to 82 deg. to 73 deg.

28th December 1778

Departed N.W. 2½ miles over some ridges to Steenkamp, Elandsfontein where the Douwns Rover begins, running N.W. N.E. from here found a bushman girl who had the same features as the others. My Coerikei understood her perfectly. From Steenkamp we went over a mountain where we found a very steep but good road. The mountains here resemble those of the Camdabo at Reuse Casteel. The same cliffs. The Hantam district begins here. We named one of the mountains on the right hand side The Redoubt. Saw some bubalis here. Had a view of the mountain range that lies on its own. The Hantam mountains are behind it 2½ miles S. and N. On top it is flat as at Reuse Casteel. After two miles we passed the Douwnes, a dry river, and a quarter of a mile further on, one of Schalkwyk's farms which has the same name as the river. Turned more to the W.N.W. on the south side of the Hantamsberg and after half a mile came to Gouw's farm and, after another half mile, to Adriaan van Zyl's. At Akkerendam there are fourteen farms, twelve of which have people living on them, that is: on the Hantam, lying around the mountain. The flies are a terrible nuisance, they fly in swarms from one place to the other. They are a worry even at night.

29th December 1778

Fine weather. Light east wind. Thermometer

	90 0	
Latitude	<u>81 46</u>	Barometer 26 6
	8 14	
Declination	<u>23 14</u>	
	31 28	

The last peak of a mountain range which I still have to cross is W.N.W. The peaked 'tower' N.N.W. Spionberg Pramberg Buffelskopfonteinbergen The

Oliphants River Bath S.S.W. ½ S; Hex River S; Oliphants River mouth at the sea W.S.S.

Barometer at the top of Hantamsberg 24 8.

Bleskopsberg N.W. by W. Koebieskousberg N.W. My compass placed on a rock showed S.E. ½ E; off the rock it showed S.

30th December 1778

Stayed here and rested.

From the start of the Rogge Veld there are no antheaps or thorn trees. Many willow trees and Wool or Kapok trees on the small, dried-out rivulets.

31st December 1778

Sun went down in the W.S.W. Barometer at Soet Waterfontein 27 4. Fine weather. Fresh W. wind. Thermometer 65 deg. to 82 deg. to 71 deg. At night at 12 o'clock: 62 deg. Course to Soet Waterfontein W. by S. 3 deg. W 3½ miles; towards N.N.W. the Pramberg ½ mile. First a turn to the S.W. around the Hantamsberg along the Douwnes Tiver, at the tip of the Kevete or Roep Niet Mountain, also 3½ miles E. by S. 4 deg. S. At first we had many flat stretched but thereafter, from the Pramsberg it was hilly and went steeply downhill. Everywhere the same brush country with few stones a good road.

1st January 1779

Rain showers. Fresh west wind. Cold. Thermometer 62 deg. to 63 deg. to 60 deg. Departed W. along the Douwnes River which had little water, and that brackish, and then down through several flat, slowly rising stretches. After travelling for three hours we then crossed the river, leaving it on our left hand side, and reached, after another four hours, a large grassy plain, Here the Bokke Veld begins. We saw a few springbok and many kwaggas. There were also ostriches here and there today and some small tortoises. We arrived at Losper's stock farm (Groen Rivier) after a seven hours' journey with the oxwagons. We reached this place today by going W.S.W. with a turn to the N.N.W.

2nd January 1779

Bearings from Groen Rivier in the Bokke Veld. Barometer 27 7. At the beginning of this region the soil is sandy, though it has a clay base. The flat stones at the farm crumble easily, are sandy and are embedded with some quartz pebble.

	90 0	
Latitude	<u>81 32</u>	
	8 28	Error: 19 deg.; N.W.
S. Declination	<u>22 56</u>	
	31 24	

Bearings from the farm of Adriaan van Zyl at the S. point of the Hantam E. by S. Therefore our course to here W. by N. 7 miles. The farm where we came from

yesterday E.S.E. gives a course W.N.W. Fine weather. Cool southerly breeze. Thermometer 65 deg. to 82 deg. to 70 deg.

Left in the afternoon for the farm of Mrs Ryk, which I plotted N. by W. 2 deg.

N. Rietfontein Mountain in the N.½ W. 1 mile; the northmost tip of the Hantamsberg is at E.½ N. The 'tower' at E. 3 deg. N.

Here too some small antheaps. W. wind in the afternoon.

A dry summer afternoon. Wind in these parts is westerly and strong at times. It is sandy on the heights, from Groen River to Mostert 3½ hour's journey with oxen. Took bearings: Adriaan van Zyl in the E.S.E; Mrs. Ryk N.W.½ N; Roep Niet mountain S.E. to E. 2 deg. S; Koebieskouw Mountain where chief Schoneveld (or Doeroep) lives with his Eiquaas or Grass country people is N.E. to N. 3 deg. E, 5½ miles; Chief Klaas (or Cannoep) is lord of the Konatoe or so called Chinese people. Chief Vredevelt (or Groinam) is of the Cammaga or Hartebeest River People.

3rd January 1779

Schoon weer ooste windje die met son omlietp vertrok n:o: op camdeni [komt uit coebiskow] loopt in ondere doornrivier die uit hantams berg onder piet van zyl in oliphants riv loopt willem riv loopt z van grasberg [van renen plaats] een quartier. Ook in doorn rivier.

Term: 65. 92 78. passeerden de twe doorn riv [rinosterbosjes, veel harde grond] klein en grote daar vele grote doornbomen stonden. door een draay door het oosten: vele diepe cloven al berg af spanden [na 2 en ½ uur rydens] by een plaats van Juffr ryke uit. hier had men koorn getrapt dog woonde men niet. allerschoonst maneschyn weer

4th January 1779

(in margine: term 70 100 80) het selvde weer. seer warm in den morgen kwam de bosjeman capt. doeroep met een van syn volk my afhale. Leek veel na Capt reuter. was heel geschikt in syn spreken en had een goede phisionomie had een lang gesprek met hem. vertrokken verder n:o: op en arriveerden na seven uren rydens by de bosjemans aan Camdeni

sagen enige sogenaamde koker boomen. de hottentotten eeten grassaat stampen het.

5th January 1779

(in margine: term 70 100 80) het selvde weer. seer warm in den morgen kwam de bosjeman capt. doeroep met een van syn volk my afhale. Leek veel na Capt reuter. was heel geschikt in syn spreken en had een goede phisionomie had een lang gesprek met hem. vertrokken verder n:o: op en arriveerden na seven uren rydens by de bosjemans aan Camdeni

sagen enige sogenaamde koker boomen. de hottentotten eeten grassaat stampen het.

5 [hawaap hiet de sakrivier loopt in Camagaqua nou caap ook een grote rivier loopt aan de andere zyde de cammagaqua. ein eip volk zyn bastard namaqua. nou eik nog andere bosmans. briqua nog ander volk. zyn Caffers hebben beesten schapen en grote bokken

nb dese bosmannen repeteerden de meeste laatste woorden als imand met hun sprak: veelen tegelyk]

term: 75 103 80 snags 12 u: 65 barom 27 - 9

warm weer selfde wind. 90

(in margine: miswysing 18 ½ gr nw)

brete 81 50?

8 - 30

dec 22 37

31 - 7

6th January 1779

den 6 't selver weer w wind. term 65 82 70 amuseerden my seer met de bosjemans dat een goed volk was. sag een oud wyf toveren en een duivel [quaad spook] die zy seide te konnen sien en als een Capel geleek. uit haar soons lyf snorken dat haar neus bloeide zy liep als dronken er me weg terwyl een ander haar onder den armen hieuw men gaf haar schielyk een stok daar zy alleen me liep en op de grond sloeg. zy snorkte weer op haar soon vreef hem de buik met boegoe en eenige bysittende wyven [vol?] boegoe in de neus.

arriveerde deselvde weg te rug na vyf uren rydens te paart by mostert. [van mostert een uur na Juff ryk.]

7th January 1779

den 7 peiling op bokkevelds berg. 5 inhoeken na de zee kant waarvan Coebe en maskamma bergen de laatsten zyn

[goed weer w wind term 62 86 75]

men siet van dese hoogte alles [in een halve maan] lage caro gele kleigrond. het eind der roggevelt en hantam bergen in het. de grond begin by de hantam te breken

plaats van mostert bokkefontein een 3 quart myl in het oost van van zyl hantam o z o 2 gr o 7 a 8 myl.

roep niet berg o z o 2 gr z hoek van roggeveld of liever uitschietende hoeken onder roggevelt z:o: 7 a 8 myl. coebe berg z 4 myl.

masamma z ½ w 2 gr. w. [bord?] der bergen [of windhoek] na oliphants riv daar hy in zee loopt z z w: waaronder de troetroe w. bidouw hoek z:z:w: van zyl aan oliphants riv: z:w: troetroe, 5 myl camies berg [8 a 9 myl] en na gissing n:w: half noord.

barometer op Swellengrebels fontein eer men de berg na de Caro afdalt 27 3

(in margine: potklei riv: droog gouna tussen doorn riv en camdeni en graaf water dese bosjemans maken netten van senuwen van dieren net als de onsen ider draagt er een om het lyf om als hy wild schiet in te bergen draagt dan over schouder.)

't Selfde weer en wind mistig dauw gepasseerde nagt.

't bokkevelt is agt myl lang n:o: en z:w: scheid uit agter de Coebe en 5 myl breed tve doorn riv aan ieder eind die niet ver van zyl in oliphants riv loopen. 5 boeren huisen dog 10 plaatsen by wed ryke de grote en soute valey de laatste brak. arriveerde na 16 uur rydens ossewage door de Caro by troetroe riv: Slegt water hier. een uur houd de steiltes op by Juffer ryk na vier en een half uur rydens de leeuwen dans [droog riv:] geen water als by troetroe en slegt. de bergen scheiden hier volkomen uit. het land tot na Camies bergen die niet hoog zyn seer laag. barometer in dese Caro by troetroe 29 d 5 tiendens. dus al de bergen in brinks kaart oneigen. de paarden liepen terug dus stuurde 2 hottentotten terug en bleef hier.

8th January 1779

W. wind. Hot. Thermometer 65 deg. to 92 deg. to 76 deg. Maskamma Mountain is N.W. and S.E. to S, ½ mile from the Troetroe camping place. It is flat with a cliff; Cos on top. The other basins are solid rock.

9th January 1779

Mist and rain tonight and this morning W. wind. It cleared up about nine o'clock. After travelling for eight hours with the oxwagons we arrived at the edge of the mountains ate the Oliphants River. It was shallow at this time and at this point was about fifty paces wide. We made camp at Van Zyl's on the southern side of the river. The mountains come completely to and end here. There are only large ridges up to the Kamies Mountains. The people there move to the Karoo on account of the snow, just as they do in the Rogge Veld. Thus at this height this part of the Karoo stretches from the inside corner of the Maskamma to the Kamies Mountains.

N.B. But the Cari Mountains lie 5 or 6 miles across the Oliphants River. On the projecting ridge at the Ati beside the Doorn River we passed over much reddish sand.

10th January 1779

At van Zyl's.

	90 0	
Latitude	<u>80 14</u>	Error 18 deg. N.W.
	9 46	
Declination	<u>21 58</u>	
	31 44	

The same weather and S.W. wind. Thermometer 66 deg. to 92 deg. to 75 deg. Bearings from the N.E. ridge at Mrs. Ryk's: Oliphants River mouth W. by N. 6 miles. At the confluence of the Doorn and Oliphants River S.E. 1½ miles. Cari Mountain N.N.W. 2 deg. W. To the west is a place where they get salt; it is called Compagnies Drift.

The Ati river, the Troetroe, the Maskamma and the Biedouw run beside Van Zyl's second farm. The Vredendaal River goes into the Oliphants, also the Doorn River on the other side of Kokounaap (a Hottentot name).

Along the Oliphants River there are many kapok bushes, the kind that have a hard bark, as well as thorn and willow trees. At Windhoek there are wolf-poison trees.

Departed W. to N. to the mouth of the river and arrived after a four hours' journey with the oxwagons at the farm that used to belong to Koekemoer, called

Bakkeleyplaats. The countryside has low ridges and reddish brown sand (but with a clay base). Low shrubs, many Harpuis bushes but of a different kind. There is much gum lying under the shrubs.

11th January 1779

The same weather and wind. Thermometer 66 deg. to 90 deg. to 73 deg. Cool; hazy on the sea. Departed again, passing over the same kind of karoo country and, after a five hours' journey with the oxwagons, came to a small brack spring at the beacon of the river. The spring was three quarter's of an hour's going from the sea and opposite a small, low green island in the river, a quarter of an hour's walk in diameter. Rode to the sea; found heavy surf. The sea shore ended on both sides with a hill. A flat shore: half an hour's going between them. The river runs by the more northerly hill, and there cuts off a rocky hill, making another rocky islet. The river ran fast. Saw tunny far up the river. No where could I map the extent of the beach; it was so misty. To do this one should be on the hill across the river, the one which is nearly quarter of an hour wide. The tide makes the water salt a very long way up. It would be impossible for even the smallest boat to enter it from the sea. Looked for waxberry bushes but found none. I found a lot of cari or rootbush from which the Hottentots make their honey-wine.

We saw many elephant paths today. They had no ridge in the middle like those of a hippopotamus; they are also not as wide. We saw dung as well and bones which appeared to be old. The river meanders a lot, but finally runs into the sea to the west. At high tide it is possible to go from Van Zyl's to the mouth in a small boat, but only then. Shot some birds which had been pointed out to us in the valeys of the Sneeuwberg as being most rare. Came back to Bakkeleyplaats in the evening after we had caught some fish in the river.

12th January 1779

Thermometer 60 deg. to 84 deg. to 68 deg. Misty: rain the whole day. Calm. We saw fresh footprints of a lion and vultures on the wing which generally follow them. Arrived at Van Zyl's after a two hour ride on horseback and found my runaway horses.

13th January 1779

Misty and rain. Calm Fresh S.W. wind. Clearing up in the afternoon. Thermometer 60 deg. to 75 deg. to 70 deg.

The grapes planted here to make vinegar are beginning to ripen. Also some watermelons.

Stayed here. A great deal of quartz and various mixed rocks.

14th January 1779

Warm weather. Calm in the morning. Sea wind got up at ten o'clock. Thermometer 70 deg. to 95 deg. to 74 deg.

Departed S.W. leaving the Oliphants River Mountains on the left hand side. They are a branch of the Heere Logements Mountains which lie in a Southerly direction. After a turn to the W.S.E. we again came round the mountain and arrived at the Heere Logements at 12 o'clock in the night, three and a half miles south of Van Zyl's. The water is bad and ever since De Straat has been brack. However, on and close to the mountains it is good. But there is no water if people make camp there. No

game. Sandy heights. Much carix. Could hear the murmur of the sea very clearly. Cured a boy at Mrs. Ryk's who had just been stung by a scorpion in two places below the navel. I gave him a rubbing with tree-oil.

15th January 1779

Fine slightly cloudy weather. Fresh S.W. wind. Barometer (sic) 62 deg. to 86 deg. to 70 deg.

After climbing the so-called Heere Logement in five minutes I saw that it was an overhanging rock which had split in two. The cave was neither very deep nor very wide. The most remarkable thing here was a melkboom tree which had grown about six feet high from the hard rock and alongside it, as ivy does, and thus formed a fairly high tree. Saw some names here, but not Van der Stel's. Departed southward at a quarter to ten and, because the oxen were reluctant to go on, only arrived at Mrs. Louw's, the Lange Valey, at one o'clock in the morning. Otherwise a twelve journey with the oxwagons. Stayed at Mrs. Louw's at Lange Valey. Many baboons here.

Heavy sand and some clay in low lying places. Many long slowly rising heights, with carix-reed as on the Cape dunes, but found no wax-trees. The dry, Soute Valey: Jakkalsfontein: four hours from Lange Valey. No game, many tortoises.

	90 0	
Latitude	<u>78 40</u>	
	11 20	Latitude 18 deg.½ N.W.
Declination	<u>20 56</u>	
	32 16	

Thermometer 66 deg. to 86 deg. to 72 deg. Fresh S.W. wind which blows strongly here, also the S.E. Fine weather. Can hear the murmur of the sea here.

From Van Zyl's along the sea shore to the Gariep or Great River there are twelve farms, five of which have families. They live wherever there is water. Between the Oliphants river and Lange Valey there are also, flat ridges. There are some fairly high mountains lying on their own, one at Ratelklip. I called the three peaks, which can be seen from the Heere Logement and Lange Valey, De Drie Broers.

16th January 1779

Hot weather. Calm in the morning. The Lange Valey has five farms and lies N. to W. It starts below the range at Swartbaas Kraal and extends as far as the dunes. It becomes salty and completely dried-up there. Here as in all the marshy valleys there are small turtles whose blood is reckoned to be an antidote. They creep into the soil in dry times and sometimes are ploughed up, but they are on their feet in no time.

At times elephant used to come here, 150 of them in one herd. Some still come here annually for water. Most of them have died or fled into and beyond Namaqualand.

Very hot; the sea wind started at midday. Thermometer 68 deg. to 92 deg. to 73 deg.

Bearings from the Lange Valey mountain behind the Widow Louw.

Piket Berg peak S.S.E. 2 deg. S; Top edge of Verloren Valey S; Oliphants River, the Baths S.E. by E. 2 deg. E; Maskammahoek N.N.E. 2 deg. E. (or Bidouwhoek, Windhoek: N. by E.½ E); the old van Zyl's North; The Heere Logement N. by E. 2 deg.

E; Swartbaas Kraal S.E. by E. 2 deg. E; Rinosterhoek S.E; Kruis River S.S.E.½ E; The end of Lange Valey N.W. by W. 2 deg. W; Berg Valey S.S.E.½ E.

Through the use of a well regulated watch found that the compass had an error of only 11 deg. N.W. on the Mountain which is 1500 feet high. Climbed down the mountain with great difficulty. Found a large piece of Dassie piss which was lying in such a way that I do not think that it could be piss.

17th January 1779

Fine weather. The S.W. wind came up at eleven o'clock. Thermometer 68 deg. to 88 deg. to 73 deg. Departed eastwards through the Valey and arrived at Swartbaas Kraal after a four hour's ride. This is the stock farm of a man called Villier. There are some Hottentots there. Everywhere heavy sand, dune country.

18th January 1779

Fine weather, somewhat overcast. The wind came up at noon. Thermometer 60 deg. to 87 deg. to 70 deg. Climbed about in the mountain in order to see the so-called drawings and strange characters which I had been told of and found this to be false. The characters were some scratches and the drawings were worse than those of the Bushmen, but the hollow rock looked like the entrance to a great church: 24 feet deep, 15 feet wide and 50 to 60 feet high. Saw some farmers names there.

Departed, left going uphill over a sandy height and after a three and a half hour's ride reached the Berg Valey. The same kind of countryside. The Berg Valey which comes out lower to the S.E. of the same Mountain range runs partly south and into the Kruys River. It then runs with same behind Piket Berg into the Verloren Valey. Josias Engelbrecht lives on this farm. A small marshy valley.

19th January 1779

Fine hot weather. A light S.E. wind which came up later.

Thermometer 67 deg. to 88 deg. to 73 deg.

After a two and three quarter hours' ride arrived at the farm Het Kruys. The same countryside. We then travelled for three and a quarter hours' round the side of the Piket Berg to Gerrit Smit's. It began to change here, the sand becoming hard ground with Rhinoceros bush and stones. Rode close to the eastern side of the mountain. All the water from Hanekamp, (Piket Berg) down to Pikeniers Kloof runs past into the Verloren Valey and the rest goes to the Berg River. The fruit was nearly ripe here; the harvest was in and everywhere abundant.

20th January 1779

Hot, calm, hazy. In the afternoon a wind: westerly.

	90 0	Barometer 29 - 2
Latitude	<u>77 23</u>	Thermometer 68 deg. to 94 deg. to 80 deg.
	12 37	
Declination	<u>20 7</u>	
	32 49	

Bearings at Gerrit Smit's. The Pikeniers Kloof E.N.E. 3 deg. E: 3 miles; Kardouw S.E. by E. 2 deg. E: 4 miles; The high Roodezand range S.E. by S.: 7 miles; Winterhoeks Kloof S.S.E. ½ E; the high Platte Berg between Pikeniers Kloof and Kardouw across the Oliphants River E. by S. half E.; the Baths E. by E. half E.; northernmost end of the Koude Bokke Veld E.S.E. 2 deg. E; Rinoster Hoek N.N.E; Course to Mrs. Krieger: South after a turn through the S.E. Arrived after a five and a quarter hours.

Ground sandy in places. Rode through a strong fire in the grass. Twenty one farms around the Piket Berg.

21st January 1779

Hot, calm, hazy. At ten o'clock a light wind began from the S.E. At evening it blew strongly. Thermometer 68 deg. to 95 deg. to 85 deg. Departed S. and arrived after a six and a half hours' ride at the Ferry-boat on the Berg River, at a certain Joubert's. Four and three quarter hours to Matjies River which brings together the Piket, Kardouw and 24 Rivieren at this point into the Berg River. But because the water was low, two feet deep, I rode through it. Hard ground, gravel, some sandy places. Arrived at a certain Hobregt after riding two hours S.W.

Bearings at Mrs. Krieger: Honing Bergen, Louw Pretorius' farm which is close by, a stony place which is not grazed, S.S.E. 3 deg. S. Riebeeck Casteel S. ½. E; Rodezand Kloof, the edge: S.E. by S. 4 deg. S. 6 miles; Kardouw E. 4 deg. N; Vier-en-twintig Rivieren 3 miles.

22nd January 1779

Last night brisk S.E. wind. Here had these unpleasant winds for the first time.

Bearings from Hobregt: Klipfontein; Roodezand Roodezand Kloof S.E. to E; the high Roodezand range begins E. 2 deg. N. 3½ miles; Riebeeck's Casteel S. by E. 3 miles; Piket Berg (Mrs. Krieger) N. ½ E, middle of the Honing Bergen into the Groote Berg River; highest point of the Piket Berg to the north.

Hot weather, hazy. A S.W. wind in the afternoon. Thermometer 66 deg. to 96 deg. to 80 deg.

Saw Table Mountain in the afternoon five to six miles in the S.S.W. Caught many tortoises.

Departed S.W. After four hours' riding passed the farm Driefontein, leaving the N.W. edge of Riebek's Casteel Mountains one mile on the left hand side. After three and a half hours ride arrived at the Reverend Golbag in the Swartland, which starts as soon as one reaches the Berg River.

High ridges, much clay mixed with gravel and sand, the ground is not black but yellow. Much Rhinoceros bush and no stones. Diep River comes from Riebek's Casteel, and runs west and S.W. Thereafter S.

The Diep river source is in the Swartland, also the Sout River which enters it at a certain Louw's. The Mosselbank River comes mostly from the Paarde Berg side, running into the Diep River between Gouws and Louw. It was not running then. When it is full the Diep River breaks through into the sea at the large salt pas, Jan Biesjes Kraal. Otherwise it runs alongside Paarden Eiland and into the Sout River at the Gallows.

23rd January 1779

Clear weather. A fresh S.W. wind in the afternoon.

Thermometer 66 deg. to 86 deg. to 73 deg.

Bearings at the Reverend Golbag's: Riebek's Casteel Mountains mid N.E. one degree North. One mile; Paarde Berg, mid S.S.E. 1 deg. S.

The air here is much cooled by the S.E. wind so that when it begins to blow in the afternoon the hottest time has been in the morning between ten and eleven o'clock.

There is a hot spring at the Reverend Golbag's, but it mingles with other cold springs. However I did note a difference of 3 degrees from one side of the basin to the other. The water was 90 degrees, the air 85 degrees.

Arrived at Andries Gouws after four and a half hours. The same terrain.

24th January 1779

Good weather. A S.W. wind. Somewhat hazy. Thermometer 68 deg. to 86 deg. to 73 deg. After five hours' ride arrived at Vissers Hok between the Koe Berg and the Tijger Bergen.

25th January 1779

Hazy. Thundery. Cool S.W. wind. Arrived at the Cape after a five hours' ride.