

**R.J. GORDON — 4th JOURNEY — 27 JUNE 1779 TO 13 JANUARY 1780**  
**[N.B. All entries or comments in bold are editorial and not part of the original text]**

Journal of the fourth journey of Captain R.J. Gordon in the Southern Part of Africa, beginning on 27<sup>th</sup> June from the Cape of Good Hope. The thermometer observations are taken at sunrise; again at the greatest heat of the day, which is generally in the afternoon about two o'clock; and finally at sunset.

**27<sup>th</sup> June 1779**

Fine weather, a light wind from the S.E. Thermometer 60-68-52.

Slightly overcast towards evening. Wind coming up from the north which in this region and season usually means rain. Sunday, at ten o'clock in the morning, left the Cape on horseback with my young servant Koerikei. Captain De Lille and his wife, together with my Lieutenant Bleumer wished to accompany me and my two wagons as far as the parson Golbag in the Swartland. Thus, after three hours travel together we arrived at Vissershok where we spent the night. My one wagon and my boat which was on another wagon, each drawn by ten oxen, arrived a few hours after me. I shall not be giving any distances or routes till I arrive at the pass over the Oliphants River as I have already noted these in my previous journal.

**28<sup>th</sup> June 1779**

Therm. 50-56-50.

Wind still coming from the north, sky overcast. Left by way of Diep River first to Andries Gouws. We had a heavy shower of rain there, making us hurry to get to the parson Golbag in the Swartland where we arrived this evening. My wagon and boat stayed behind.

**29<sup>th</sup> June 1779**

Therm. 49-51-50.

Same weather. Clearing up a little towards midday. Found that the hot water in the garden spring was 82 degrees. The wagon stuck in the swampy ground close to the house. A certain Basson and his servants helped pull it out.

**30<sup>th</sup> June 1779**

Therm. 50-56-51.

The same weather but becoming calmer in the evening. S.E. wind. Stayed on with the Parson. Dug in the soil: clay mixed with sand and small pebbles; in many places, less than a foot underneath this there was ironstone.

**1<sup>st</sup> July 1779**

Fine weather, light S.E. wind. Thermometer 52-64-55. Took leave of the Parson and of the party that accompanied me here and left for Losper at Riebeek's Casteel where I arrived after a two hour's ride on horseback. Ran a temperature in the evening (having been feverish for some time at the Cape).

**2<sup>nd</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 52-70-64. Fine weather, light N.E. wind.

Left on horseback for the ferry. Because of the rain the veld was sodden. Flowers such

as ixia lilies and oxalis are beginning to bloom. After a three hours' ride came to the Berg River which was full although beginning to subside. Crossed over with the ferry and slept at Joubert, the ferryman's house. This crossing is called Vleermusedrift. The wagon kept ahead. Today shot a grey swallow, which spends the winter here but one does not see them often. As far as I know there are four kinds of swallow here. There are three kinds that are not seen in winter, only the grey remains. There never appear to be many of them; they mostly keep to the mountains and to river banks. They make a hollow, open sided nest under roofs and often chase the other swallows.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 42-72-63.

North wind, somewhat hazy. Rain threatening but otherwise fine weather. Frost and dew last night. Here we are only about three miles from Rodesants Sneeuwbergen. The wagons were taken across the river by ferry, I and my young Hottentot left on horseback for Mrs. Krieger's at Piket Berg. After four hours on horseback we arrived there. Feeling better. The Matjes River was not deep.

### **4<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 58-66-63. Calm. Light S.E. wind. Hazy. Weather, however, good.

Left Mrs Krieger's and riding eastwards alongside the Piket Berg, arrived after an hour at Albert Hanekamp. The wagons arrived in the evening.

### **5<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 48-56-50. A light drizzle from the S.E. coming across the Piket Berg.

Rode over a farm that belongs to a certain Cok. The stream there runs towards the Kruis River which runs into the Verloren Valey. Thereafter to Coetse's farm Het Kruis where I stayed. The wagon arrived late. Found good sweet oranges along the Piket Berg. De Rinoster Hoek is linked to Verloren Valey by hills and this high, broken range appears to be distinct from the Piket Berg.

### **6<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 46-58-50. Overcast; a northerly wind, not strong.

Rode with my servant Koerikei first along Berg Valey to Josias Engelbregt's, then through sandy, dune country to Mrs. Louw at Lange Valey but she was not home. The wagons arrived here late at night having found the going hard. The angles of the hills in the Berg Valey meet each other exactly as Buffon has related. The same thing occurs at Hout Bay in the Cape.

### **7<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 48-56-50. Showers from the North West.

Stayed at Mrs. Louw's. The wagons went on to the Herenlogement. Plenty of sweet water in the Lange Valey.

### **8<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 48-60-53. Weather clearing up with a few showers from the N.W. Light S.E. wind towards evening.

Came along the Ratelklip by horseback to the Drie Gebroeders Berg. There is now water in the salt pan. Found my wagons unyoked on the other side of the Herenlogements Berg. After riding for seven and a half hours reached Van Zyl's on the Oliphants River, here I found my travelling companion Pinar, a burger from Rodesandland, as well as the

botanist Mr. Paterson, who wants to accompany a certain Van Rhenen to the Orange River. But they are first riding to the Bokke Veld.

**9<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Fine weather. A light S.E. wind throughout the day. Therm. 44-63-58.

There was a white frost last night. Misty this morning. Stayed and waited for the wagons.

**10<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 42-66-58. Fine weather. Light wind from S.E. Frost last night. Mist in the morning.

The wagons, which had got stuck in the sand, arrived. Forthwith put the boat in the water, dismantled the wagons, and brought everything over piecemeal. This way the day passed.

**11<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Fine weather, calm. Therm. 48-66-56.

Brought the oxen and the remainder of our goods across the river. Last night, because it has been raining for three days, the river rose three feet. At this time of the year it is unhealthy for cattle and horses near the river. It is said that this is on account of the young grass. They get diarrhoea. Yesterday one of van Rhenen's horses died of this, and one of Paterson's was so weak that he could not take it any further. It is however, not yet the dangerous horse-sickness of this country. Broke camp one hour before sunset and travelled three quarters of a mile in a N. by W. half west direction making a few turns. A sandy surface at first then loose Karoo soil; this is a loose crumbling, red clay. Pitched our tents at dusk close to the Oliphants River. Since this was our first night beyond the settled farms, we made merry.

**12<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Overcast sky. Light S.E. wind. Therm. 50-64-60.

A light N.W. wind throughout the day. Some oxen wandered off. The greatest unpleasantness about travelling in this country are these unavoidable complications with the ox wagons. Rode N.W. and after seven hours slow going through loose Karoo soil we again made camp by the Oliphants River. It was after three hours' travelling that we crossed the Doorn River which flows from the Troetroe. There was little running water in it. It runs quite close to the Oliphants River at this point. Went on a (so called) pheasant shoot but although they were plentiful I could get none on account of the bushes and thorn trees. An hour before we made camp we saw an elephant's path crossing the river at a place we called Noasdrift. One ox could not go any further, had to leave it behind. There are a few elephants here, but we did not see any.

**13<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 49-70-60. Fine weather. Partly cloudy. Light S.E. wind.

It rained from the west last night; the sea roared loudly. Estimate that we are two and a half miles from the sea here and just about a mile from Kokoúnaap. On the whole the Oliphants River is about 50 paces wide and here makes a turn to the west. Rode uphill through Rem Hoogte in a N.N.W. direction. After four hours travelling on a difficult road of Karoo sand we crossed the deep Dwars River which comes from the Koebieskouw region and runs into the Oliphants River here. Half an hour after crossing, the oxen became tired and we made camp on the road. Throughout the day it was cold from the east. Clear. Went hunting but saw nothing except a fresh elephant track and a hare.

Where we made camp there were many yellow oxalis. All the bushes have fleshy leaves and most are mesembryanthemums. The soil is mostly reddish brown Karoo sand. Poor grazing for the cattle and the water is very brack.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 42-75-64.

In the evening saw a faint aurora australis. Fine weather, a light westerly breeze. Ticks were a nuisance as they were last night. They are little black creatures like the ticks on sheep which attach themselves to animals, gorging themselves. Dug in this Karoo soil. Under two foot of loose reddish brown soil there was ironstone. At midday set off in a N.N.W. direction. It was a difficult road with reddish brown sand. Three oxen became so weak they had to be unyoked. At evening arrived at the Cari mountains, which are not mountains but ridges without cliffs, rather like the Tiger Berg at the Cape and they are certainly no higher. The road became firmer here and we came across some stone. We made camp, after three hours of slow travelling, at the so-called Drogekraal. Even though there was little water here it was much better than that from the Dwars River. Heard the sea raging loudly. Found Pinar here. He, like myself, had been out hunting, but in vain. Saw much elephant dung today. The countryside, with small shrubs continues. At ten o'clock at night with a mist coming off the sea, the thermometer was 44 degrees.

#### **15<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 46-65-53. Wind from S.E. throughout the day.

Took bearings on our course to here from the hill N.N.W; \_ W. (Had a straight line for about two miles). Sky overcast, cool from the North East.

Because our food was finished and we wanted to save our biscuit and because hunting had yielded nothing we slaughtered a calf that had been running with the loose cows. Koerikei shot two veltmuisen as they are called here. It was the size of a small blesmol and had almost the same paws with four claws in front and five behind. However the tail, 4 \_ inch long, had short hair and it had very large testicles for such an animal. The body hair was somewhat lighter than that of a rat. For the rest it looked more like a hamster than a rat or mouse. They make shallow passages underground with many openings. But these are not as dangerous to fall into as the holes made by what are called moles in this country. They are very plentiful in this area but in the Cape it is otherwise. Set off N. to W. toward Eland Kraal, two miles from here.

This is a very poor region. The longer I observe the more strongly it strikes me that all the angles or tips of these hills fit into each other, but with this peculiarity: every two hundred paces the hills lie in such a way that there are four gaps in them, one east, one west, one south and one north. But all the tips fit between each other in whatever direction they may be: that is to say the gaps in the hills lying east and west have tips or rather roots in the north and south and the roots lying north and south have angles in the east and west. This region, consisting entirely of such hills, is the same in all directions. Thus though I am sure this area was once covered by water, this particular phenomenon could not have been caused by this, i.e. not by normal currents, because one cannot logically suppose that two currents could flow in the opposite directions so close to each other. I also observe that in low mountains and hills there are not cliffs or piled-up rocks. Most of the rocks that one sees on these hills are smooth and round and conform to the profile of the hill: i.e. they are round and the flakes that drop from them are in concentric layers. The country here is all Cos, very rough and of differing colours, sometimes more of a reddish colour and sometimes more grey. There are no scattered quartzite pebbles to be found here. The ground has become a harder type of clay but vegetation is the

same: mainly mesembryanthemum bushes. Shot a bergrot today which is wrongly called a dassie in this country. It has the teeth of a rat, and a tail which, though not visible, can only be felt. It has four toes in front, the smallest of which is hardly visible, and three behind. The size of its back foot is very like that of a human being. It lives on herbs and on grass and is good eating. It has four teats. Pelt brown and soft. It is said that they have the *écoulement periodique*. This may well explain the oily crust which is known as dassie-piss.

After 5 hours hard riding came to Elandsfontein. The water was brack but our cattle, which were nearly starving, had more to eat. Course N. to W.

### **16<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 44-66-60. Strong S.E. wind. There was a strong dew this morning and it was cold last night.

Pinar went hunting yesterday morning. Has not yet returned. He came back in the afternoon but had seen nothing. Much elephant dung around here. Left in the afternoon and arrived at Meerhof's Casteel after travelling for five hours N.W. It is a rocky cavity 15 ft deep, 24 ft wide and 12 ft high. It is made of Cos, white with pieces of quartz in it. The elephants come here to rub themselves. Looking at the opening there is a spring on the right hand side. It has quite good but rather brackish water, but not in abundance.

Although this used to be a stock farm belonging to a man called Warnek it has now been abandoned. Opposite this rock, on the other side of this shallow basin among low hills, there is a similar but smaller cave on the left hand side as one enters the cavity. On a rock, badly chiselled, are the letters *de: E.H:S:Vde:S. A.S. 1684*. The 16 is hard to make out. This must be the Honourable Simon van der Stel, possibly the son of Adriaan, who was the Governor anno 1684 and who travelled to the Koper Bergen.

Near the top of the rocky cliff there was a great swarm of bees; but the honey had been removed. My dog Keiser held a porcupine at bay. I went after it with a stick but it was already dark and I could not get close to it fast enough and it got away. The dog was not hurt.

### **17<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Good weather. Light S.W. wind. Therm.50-75-65. Cold (in the evening) at nine o'clock: 48 deg.

Degree of Zenith

Took latitude and got 52 — error 19 deg. N.W.

Northern declination

21 13

gives latitude 30 deg. 43 m.

Left after midday and after nearly three hours travelling including turns through the Cari Bergen N.N.W. arrived at the Paddegat. Brack water here but a good spring, somewhat brackish behind the first hill. Made camp in the road. The terrain is reddish brown Karoo soil with clay; brack soil. Dug two and a half feet deep and found Cos stone. Everywhere the same shrub veld. Some ixia lilies and elephant dung.

### **18<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Examined the barometers, found two had leaked. An inch to a point. Repaired them.

Therm. 38-75-63. Barometer showed 29-6, thus 250 ft above sea level. The hills are still 100 ft higher. Fine weather. Not a single cloud. Heavy dew last night and it was cold.

Light S.E. wind. A fresh S.W. wind in the evening. Two of our Hottentots went hunting

yesterday morning and have not yet come back. There is little game here. Only the so-called korhaans to be seen and they are very shy so we had to shoot another calf. Departed N. NW. in the afternoon and after a three hour journey came to Boven-Koegelfontein where there was an abandoned cattle kraal. Rode on for another two hours and made camp in a kloof among the hills. It is called De Poort. The same countryside here but a bit more rocky. One of the Hottentots brought tidings that they had shot an eland close to Meerhof's Casteel. Sent two pack oxen for the meat.

### **19<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 44-33-70. Fine weather, light east wind. It was cold and there was a fresh breeze last night.

Left. N. to W. and arrived at the Swarte Doorn River after travelling for three and a half hours. This river rises in the east in the middle of the Kamies Berg and flows into the Groene River. It was just running with little water and it was brack but still drinkable. Along these rivers which do not deserve that name, there are always mimosa or thorn trees. Made camp here for a while and then at five o'clock trekked on in the same direction. After a four hour's journey we made camp alongside the Groene River. It was no larger than the Swarte Doorn River although it had better water. It rises in the mid-west of the Kamies Berg which we saw to the N. of us. From afar they look like the Piket Berg. Looked for the cattle post of a certain van der Westhuijsen which is used on the rainy season; did not find it. The same terrain today, very brack and no grass. Saw a flock of ostriches and shot a korhaan. Heard hyena and jackal.

### **20<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Good weather. Was cold last night; light east wind. Therm. 38-80-60.

At daybreak heard the bleating of stock and half an hour ahead of us found the farm, which is the first on the way from the Oliphants River to here. Sent there for some milk. The wife was alone with only her children at home. They come here in the rainy season when there is grass. They had one room, a round hut built of sticks and covered with mats and without a chair or table. There was no bread to be had here. The husband was ploughing on his lower farm beside the river. Stayed here. Pinar rode over to him. When ostriches have young the females walk in such a way as to lure one away from them, beating their wings as though they have been wounded. Was myself duped in this way yesterday.

### **21<sup>st</sup> July 1779**

Was cold. A light dew and frost due to the vicinity of the Kamies Berg. A fresh breeze from the South. Them. 36-83-65. Error N.W. 19 deg.

From the zenith

Latitude shows northerly declination.

30 deg. 22 m.

Took bearing on the peak of the Kamies Berg N.N.E. 6 miles. Highest northerly peak N. 10 deg. E.

The wife of the house is quite a heroine and can shoot well. Her mother's name is Guilliame, from France, but her father is an Amsterdamer called Engelbregt. She hates the French deeply. She told us that she had once fired at a lion and that it nearly leapt on her after the shot but, because it was almost dark she managed to escape to a hut. The lion pursuing her jumped into their Hottentot shepherd's hut, but it jumped with its front paws into the fire and burning itself sprang back again. Just before this a Hottentot had shot it in the paw with a poisoned arrow. This caused its death the next day. Heard

here for the first time that when a lion has been shot in a trap and is lying dead, its companions, even from the same pride, will eat it, just like hyenas. Pinar returned as well as the Hottentots with the eland meat. Heard that we had passed by elephants at Beneden-Koegelfontein.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 36-81-53. Dew and it was cold. Light S.E. wind. Fine weather. Stayed and waited for the owner of the house to come so that he could help us cross the Namroos mountain with his oxen. He came in the evening, his name was Van der Westhuisen. Went hunting along this rivulet, the Groene River, and shot some duck and mountain geese. Listened to contention that there is a particular hostility between the rhinoceros and the elephant.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 48-70-60. At daybreak wind from the N.W. Rain threatened. Clouds and mist building up from the west and what looks like thunderclouds in the east: these are taken as signs of rain here. Still need to have fine weather tomorrow in order to climb the Kamies Berg. Left for the north along this river. All the way along the road from the Piket Berg we have seen a quantity of pied crows whose call differs to some extent from the European ones. They also differ in that they have a white streak on the neck and under the belly. It is however the same bird. It is the same with the sparrow found in this country, it also differs slightly from ours; as indeed do the people. There are chameleons around here which are at least five times as large as those at the Cape. Was not able to catch any. Arrived here after riding for four hours. Half way here we passed a little river. We rode along the right bank and arrived on the farm called Garies in the afternoon. We are once more on the Groene River close to the cattle-post of one Coetsee. Some Kleine Namaqua Hottentots who live on the farm brought us milk. Today the same terrain but stonier, with higher ridges and the same round boulders. Along the road find much quartz and mica mixed with Cos, just as on the Cape beaches but darker. These high ridges jut out from the Kamies Berg. Uniform angles outward and inward. Mr Paterson arrived in the evening from the Bokkeveld. Shot several mountain geese. Examined a young so-called duiker. It has no gall; a long, bare, black, moist streak under the eyes; four teats, each pair close to the other and on each of its teats there are two bags or folds in the skin which end there on opposite sides of the teats. Only the ram has horns and a tuft of long hair on its head as well as small horny growths, ergots. Something poisonous must have stung me last night causing a swelling behind the knee of my right leg which has spread to the groin and which makes walking difficult.

### **24<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Cold south wind. Overcast from time to time. Therm. 50-70-60. Barometer 29 in. — 6 tenths thus 350 ft. high. Very clear towards evening; cold north wind. Rained a little last night. Left going north. First with a turn through the N.W. up Namroos Hoogte; much stone and sandy gravel. After travelling for four hours came to Oogfontein and stayed there. These are all foothills or branches of the Kamies Berg. One of the Kleine Namaquas has the knucklebone of a small buck on his right hand. It was tied onto him by the kind of sorcerer they call kai ouw or Garap at Wiltschut's kraal. A hole had been worked through it. The Garap had dreamed that Canseep would

become sick. He therefore went to him and made *camie* for him, which means to make lucky and did it so well that the danger was warded off. This is a different ceremony from *dro* when a man is "made" or "made different". It is when pissing by the old Hottentots is regarded as fitting (not at their weddings as has been said). He wears it round his hand until it drops off. He then sticks it down a mouse hole, believing it would be unlucky for him if someone were to find his knucklebone (it is the same kind our children use when they play knucklebones). At these ceremonies they slaughter something or other which they eat and finish, all together. While making *dro* they have to carry the membrane of the animal's belly round their necks. Passed by a Kleine Namaqua's kraal.

### **25<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 48-75-63. Same cool breeze throughout the day. Stronger towards evening. Cold north wind. Clear.

Got very cold last night due to the wind although the thermometer is higher than when the weather is calm but cold. Left ahead on horse-back for Field Corporal van den Heever's. Took bearings on Vygemonds Berg (*Gobeóoms*) in the middle north. Since my leg is still stiff I shall postpone making measurements of the Kamies Berg until my return journey. It is certainly the mountain of "The forty eight days' ride", although I make it higher than Table Mountain. Perhaps van der Stel said "the mountain range 48 days' ride from the Cape" because in the beginning of the Colony they were not able to ride so far in one day because of the roads. Although I have now been travelling for nearly four weeks, an East Indiaman with a good wind could easily sail this distance in twenty four hours.

Rode N.E. uphill and down dale making one turn and after three hours easy riding arrived at van den Heever's farm, in reality Hottentot's hut. He was not at home but at a certain Hermanus Engelbregt's. After getting some milk from van den Heever's Hottentots, went S.W. over a mountain below the peak called Vygemond. From there N.W. and after one hour came to Hermanus Engelbregt's. He has a Christian wife, crops, and lives in a walled house. However the door was made of two thick planks which had to be propped up and even then did not fill the gap. Here I found van den Heever sick and a certain van Rhenen who had come from the Great River. The house full of children. Saw today that the Kamies Berg and all these mountains are the same, having depressions or basins into which the angles (or roots) fit exactly, even on top of the mountains. The mountains are not formed of strata, but all are rounded, even on the peaks, by action of water. There are many quartz-like stones as at False Bay, on top it is Cos. There is almost no growth on these mountains but toward the Vygemond side there is plentiful vegetation. Apart from the rounded peaks which are bare rock, here and there one also finds many other smaller smoother rounded stones scattered about. Some are hanging so loosely that one can kick them down with one's foot. The flowers here are beginning to come out in profusion; saw many white hymenthus, yellow oxalis, Quiver Trees (*kokerbooms*) there are no aloes but agava, ixias, mesembryanthemums of various colours. The terrain varies, is sometimes sandy. Everywhere shrub veld with stones. The wagon is not able to come this far. After a four hour ride, it had to unyoke at Lange Klip, near Wiltschuts kraal (Chief Noebee, a Kleine Namaqua). Course north. The walking made my leg swell to the groin and made me feverish. Placed some beeswax (which bees had used for lining their nest) on the swelling where I was bitten, having bathed it in warm vinegar first.

### **26<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 60-78-66. Wind N.W. throughout the day. Rain threatening. Blew strongly from



the East last night, but was not cold. Have had a high fever but my leg is drawing well and is somewhat better.

Engelbregt took me in his horsecart to the Lange Klip where my wagons were. Took two hours. Found a runaway Swede called Vicar who was a year with the Namaquas. He claims to be the cousin of Merchant Hasselgreen of Amsterdam. He was formerly a schoolmaster in the Swart- and Sneeuwberg. Ran away from the Cape seven years ago but has now got a pardon. He was thirty days' journey up the right bank of the river. His account is on the other side of this. He had the skin of a female giraffe with him. Found Mr. Paterson here again and we ate together. Some oxen having strayed, I stayed with the wagons and they, Paterson and Engelbregt, rode to Engelbregt's. Saw here a Namaqua who had very long wool on his head so that it hung to his shoulders. Asked him for a lock and having told him why I wanted it (namely to show it), he let me have it for some beads.

Saw some old Namaquas here who have been disfigured by smallpox. They talked of having it in Groote Namaqua Land, when he [sic] was young; that the sickness comes from the interior, the North of the land. It comes from time to time and many have died of it. When asked again, the Hottentot said that he had not heard that it had been there since.

Again heard a tale from one Chief Cupido, saying that the evil spirits are angry with the Kleine Namaquas and that the Hare has said that they must die and stay dead and that he has told a lie about this. Therefore he must summon the *gowaaps* of certain spirits in order that they should come over the sea together, with all their livestock and animals. For this reason they have a strong feeling of hate for the Hare.

At their *Camis* or good-fortune-making neither children nor women join in the eating. Cupido has some knucklebones around his right hand and his right leg.

### **27<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Therm. 58-76-66. Rained a little last night. Strong west wind. Sky overcast today. After putting a plaster on my leg, I was better. Departed N.N.W. half W. and after a four hour ride along the same route arrived at Engelbregt's. Before the wagons left, I went to Chief Wiltschut's kraal with the Chief. The kraal lay a quarter of an hour off the road. It consisted of nine straw or rather mat-huts. There were about fifty men, women and children. Observed that those who had most children had not more than four and that each man had only one wife. Saw two women from the Groote Namaqua Land. Married here. Each had the first joint of the right hand little finger cut off. They said that their parents had done this when they were still young — for beauty. But when this took place there was a slaughtering: therefore a ceremony. They said that this was not done by everyone. Some said it was done as a way of bloodletting because they were ill.

### **28<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Latitude 49 degrees from the zenith. Declination North 19 degrees giving 30 deg. — 0. Could not get the right correction. Barometer 29 inches 7 tenths giving 2080 English feet above sea level.

Therm. 44-70-50.

Rained from the South West last night. Clearing up towards afternoon; in the evening heavily overcast in the South. Had fever yesterday and today.

### **29<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Showers from the South and South East; clearing up towards the evening.

Therm. 42-50-48.

Here the closest the sea can be seen is in the S.W., near the so called Spoeg River, six miles distant. Therefore Africa must take a sharp bend to the N.W. at this point. This region has many high ridges and the same round rocks (but no strata). Everywhere brush countryside and mingled soil. The rivers, apart from the Oliphants River, run into the sea only in the rainy season.

Enquired about the Amaquas but was told that the Kleine Namaquas and the Amaquas are the same; that there are, apart from Wiltshut, four more chiefs and that this whole tribe consists of about four hundred men, women and children. None of these people cut out a testicle or a finger-joint. Heard however from a Groote Namaqua that some of his people did do this, sometimes because of illness. Another said: so that they can run faster. These Namaquas make long pipes from reed or thorn tree bark, and then block it on one side so that only one note is produced when they blow in it from the top. Each has a longer or shorter pipe thus producing a different note. Then they form themselves into a circle and each in turn blows his note, like threshers or smiths, which goes very nicely. They maintain a sort of melody while dancing, or rather bending very low, (their kind of dancing) while turning and stamping on the beat, while others, just as with the Caffers, jump around them singing and clapping hands all the while. They pour milk into their flutes to keep them moist and sound. The tone comes out mostly as a minor third (which sounds much like a quarter tone) but there is little diversity.

Also saw a goura which was as tall as I was, and in place of a bird's feather quill at the top, as with the other Hottentots, it had a thinly scraped cattle horn. They make a sound on this which, though softer, is just like the noise one gets on a second attempt at learning the French horn. By repeating a complete chord of eight-five-three together, each one adds the half tone of the lower octave to the sound from time to time.

### **30<sup>th</sup> July 1779**

Fine weather, fresh East wind. Therm. 48-76-60. Heavy dew.  
Am much better.

Let one wagon go North up to the Orange River under the supervision of my trusty Hottentot Iteki. I shall try to cross the mouth of the Great River by going along the sea shore.

When everything had been arranged, departed N.W. making some downhill turns W.N.W. Everywhere the same veld. After three hours ride made camp on a rise. Took bearings on the Kamies Berg at Beukes': East. Our course to here has been N.W. half W. Thus we were at the second peak of the Kamies Berg at Van den Heever's. At Engelbregt's was asked if they could try my horse Snel. Snel won: and Mr. Paterson, who wanted to ride on him, could not hold him in and fell into a ditch. He did not hurt himself.

### **31<sup>st</sup> July 1779**

Fresh east wind; fine weather. Therm. 44-82-70.

Departed in the same direction. From the mountain, which I climbed, I could clearly see the sea in S.W. and W. But closest in the S.W. 6 miles. At the sea there appeared to be a low flat plain with a white sand dune. The descent with our wagons was steep at first so that even after travelling for about six hours (the length of the flat, dry Leentjies River) we were not more than six hundred feet above sea level. We found it warmer at first and the grass on all sides blazed with flowers, the most beautiful colours in the world: yellow oxalis, orange arctotis, red, yellow and bluish-purple mesembryanthemums etc. There were many Quiver Trees (agave) in bloom here. (There were three kinds of geranium). We called this place the Floraas- or Bloom Kloof. After a seven and a half hour's ride came to a spring but a Hottentot said it was not the Kook Fontein which we were trying

to reach. He was mistaken however. We therefore went on riding for a further seven hours along an uneven track and beside a dry rivulet. Eventually we found a fairly good supply of water and so we made camp. Shot a hare and my dogs caught a porcupine, all getting themselves badly wounded by its quills. Because our servants complained of hunger, I called this place Honger Kloof. We slaughtered a sheep for them. Everywhere sandy, poor karoo-veld. Brack water as well.

### **1<sup>st</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 66-80-60. The barometer indicated 450 feet. Fine warm weather.

Pinar rode out hunting with his Hottentots. Departed in the same direction and after travelling for three hours, same terrain, arrived at the little Cammaga River. Brack water. At dusk the dogs barked loudly. Let off a shot in case it might have been a lion. Heard nothing further.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> August 1779**

Strong east wind which veered during the day and calmed down toward evening.

Therm. 60-80-68.

Departed first in a westerly direction riding for an hour around a hill. Thereafter the same course.

Saw much elephant dung and fresh tracks; one was almost circular and 17 inches wide. Saw many tracks: zebra, eland, gemsbuck, (*pasan*) and hartebeest. Went hunting but saw nothing. Pinar sent one of his Hottentots who took us to the eland bull he shot yesterday. Slaughtered it and took the meat along with us.

Departed N.W. again and in the evening came to a kloof where a small river, now dry, runs. Followed this kloof along a difficult track. Had to make camp because of darkness. I called this kloof the Voorsigtige Kloof because I had to point out the track ahead the whole way and because I was fearful the wagons would overturn. Gave orders to make camp although I would rather have gone somewhat further. My horses got lost in the dark.

Caught an animal today that looks like a field mouse. Called it elephant mouse because it had a long, very flexible trunk or snout. It had no front teeth in the upper jaw but six in the lower and had flat upper and lower molars. This was a young mouse. Found a fully grown one with two upper and two lower incisors. The lower ones fitted between the upper. Hind legs somewhat longer than the forelegs and five separate nails on each paw. It was very nimble. The same terrain again today. Rode for six hours, on flat ground mostly. Find the angle of the hills everywhere uniform. With the rising of the moon sent two Hottentots to follow the tracks of the horses. Pinar and his servants have ridden after the elephants.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 60-76-63. Fresh N.W. wind throughout the day. Rainclouds. Calm. Overcast with some banks of mist.

Can observe that I am not far from the sea. The ticks were a nuisance last night. After much trouble arrived at this kloof and then took six hours to ride out of same.

Everywhere heavy reddish-brown karoo sand so that our tired oxen had to be unyoked about a thousand paces before we got to the Groote Sand River (called the Kouwsie). The rivulet from the kloof runs into the Kouwsie here. What little water standing in it was briny-salt, and I also found plenty of salt that had crystallised. The Kouwsie is running and has sweet, brack [**sic**] water. All this water is hardly thirst-quenching. We found Pinar here. They had shot an eland. Saw many elephant tracks.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 60-77-63. Fine weather, calm. N.W. wind. Overcast in the evening.

Degrees from the Zenith.

Latitude: 46 40 Error 19 \_ deg. N.W.

Northerly declination 17 15

29 deg. 25 min.

Hard clay two feet under this sand. Still found no rocks in strata. Yesterday our Hottentots tracked four female and one male lion in the Sand River and heard them roar. Departed westerly along this river which was just flowing evenly and like all Karoo rivers has a flat, wide bed. Small thorn bushes because elephants eat them. After three hours on a heavy, sand track made camp at the river.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 58-73-60. Rained a little last night. Overcast during the day. N. wind.

We rode across the river here. I rode ahead in order to get the lie of the land and to hunt.

The wagons went along the west side of the river and had to cross it twice. Because this was rightly named the Sand River due to the abundant reddish-brown sand which was water-logged, it was easy to sink in deeply, even on foot. There are low ridges everywhere now and the Cos-stones became more sandy and are no longer evenly rounded, but lumpy. Still no strata.

After an hour's ride heard the sea in the west. Rode down the river and found Pinar and his servants on a rise and saw the sea hardly an hour's walk away from me. Found many shells on these ridges and though some appeared to be sea-wrack many of these shells seem to have been brought here by people or baboons. Also heard that Strand-Hottentots had spent some time here. They eat only the right-whale or shell fish. There were also big heaps of shells, too recent to have been left over from the time when the sea was here. Found whitish, chalky soil and salty, white earth and the rock is now beginning to lie in strata. Many of these very brittle and sandy, and although they lean to the N.W. their angles fit into one another. Found the abundance of pebble and quartz in the loose stones so hard that if one strikes them they sound like an anvil. Because it was getting late, returned to the wagons which we unyoked a good hour from the shore.

One of our Hottentots found a dead elephant cow and calf. He brought the tusks along, each of which weighed about twelve pounds. Saw many elephant tracks and the slides where they descend from higher places, slipping down on their hocks.

N.B. The front teeth of eland etc., are loose. Found the river water better here than higher up.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 60-75-63. Weather clearing up this morning. Westerly breeze.

Rained from the west last night. Rode to the beach in order to survey. Before I went off, Mr. Paterson and company came up close to us. Went to the shore and on a rise found a tunnel washed out by the rain (I had been there yesterday). Because of this, found various of same kind of shells in the soil. Means that the sea must have covered this part. They were the kind of shell-fish that clings to rocks and have this kind of shell. They are just like this on Robben Island. Found a large, irregular alabaster or quartz rock. Although the ridges run downhill to the shore and are not steep, there is only 20 to 30 foot of sand for the beach. There is however so much rock about that this shore is as wild as can be. Though there was little wind, the sea broke a quarter of an hour from the shore. Thus it would be impossible to come ashore here. It was studded with stratified rocks of differing hardness and colour, which fell away to the N.W. Some were light blue and others, which had flaked a lot, reddish-brown and somewhat transparent, like

alabaster; very hard and flinty. There were beautiful slabs, suitable for floor stones and for tables. Many of the aforementioned shells were lying in this part and another kind as well: more oblong, narrower but also a stone-shell. Saw crab and crayfish shells though no oysters or mussels, much bamboo washed ashore, some right-whale bones and many flamingos, duikers and ducks along the shore. Just as I had a few days previously found, pieces of wood were set up in the low hills along the shore. They were strengthened with stones in order to catch wild jackals.

Went across the mouth of the Kouwsie. Could almost jump over it and it was less than half a foot deep, though it earlier forms a good stretch of water. Then I went on a good way south. Everywhere the same wild shore. Found no wax-berries and few shrubs. Found a dead elephant with its tusks gone. Not long ago there was a Baster-Hottentot here who shot elephant. Turned back to the wagons and found Mr. Paterson and my wagons on Pieter van den Heever's farm. He stayed here with his stock a few years ago. Called Renoster Kop Fontein by him, now abandoned. The Hottentots brought news that they had seen 20 elephant a good hour away from us.

### **7<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Fine weather, east wind. Frost tonight. Therm. 38-68-55. The shore lies, as far as I can see, N.N.W. with no inlets. Fresh south wind during the day.

Rode with Mr. Paterson to the marsh at the mouth. Made one cast with the net but found it too shallow and no fish. Went after some duck along the south shore.

Rode along the shore to the north, everywhere the same wild shore, and returned to the wagons with a detour across a low, sloping hill. Found seven huts standing together which the wild people had made out of right whale bones, all were protected towards the north west. Large heaps of the aforementioned shells there. Saw a steenbok and two hares. Some of the party went to look for the elephant but returned late without having seen anything.

### **8<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 44-66-50. South wind during the day. Clear; wind easterly. Wind last night though no cold frost.

Last night as well heard hyena howling close to us. Departed northwards along an elephant track, mostly N.N.W. Course alongside the sea. After a distance of half an hour we passed low sandy veld with low shrubs; few flowers, mesembryanthemums and euphorbias, and a beautiful kind of red ixia. Left a strip of low sand dunes on the seaward side with two sandy marshes which had a small quantity of salt water.

Arrived after ten hours' heavy trekking for the oxen. Otherwise it was fairly flat. We were a quarter of an hour from the sea there and made camp on account of the dark. A Hottentot, called Pedro by the farmers, said there was fresh water around here but we could not find it because of the dark. Shared out the little water that we had brought along in a barrel. Had not a drop of water left between the two of us. At the top of the Kouwsie mouth there is a small spring, half an hours walk away. In the dark a hyena came close to the wagon and my dogs caught hold of it but before we could get to it with our guns it was gone.

Pedro the Hottentot has the wildest appearance one can imagine. He was utterly amazed at my binoculars, compass and watch. Van Rhenen said I knew by my watch whether he had put us on the right road to water. He said that in order to see this proved he wanted to go the wrong way but when I showed him the compass and how the needle still showed our course, through deviation, he was greatly astonished.

Only one of our servants could converse with him easily. Although it is still the Hottentot language it is a different dialect.

This is a very poor region. Found sea shells everywhere, apparently brought by Hottentots. Went hunting but saw nothing except a steenbuck. In the morning I heard the flutter of wings: larks as in the Cape, but none of them were singing which they do in the interior. Saw mountain swallows at the Kouwsie. The sea is everywhere very rough and I can see some low rocks a few musket shots from the shore.

### **9<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Heavy dew and was cold. Fine weather; S.E. breeze. Therm. 48-60-50. Went to sea shore. Shot a dozen flamingos, which though oily were edible. We had a stiff south wind with a bank of fog. Returned and found the wagons at the same place because the oxen had run away, there being nothing to eat or to drink here. Went ahead with Pedro to look for water. Found a small hole dug six feet into the sand (they said by jackals) where we found a little water. Drank here and let our horses drink out of our hats. The shore here is all flat, the dunes smooth, sandy and low. There are many low rocks far into the sea, so that from far out at sea one would not be able to see the shore. We found the water that filters out of the ground alongside the sea. There is also a little grass surrounding it, making it visible otherwise one could pass it ten times without seeing it. Unfortunate for anyone who might be stranded on this shore. The little game that is here is mostly gemsbuck. They drink salt water. The water was quite good but hardly quenches one's thirst, and at high-tide it is covered by the sea. Pedro and I rode back to the wagons alone with two calabashes of water, which I shared out among the thirsty party. Secured the oxen which had come back to the wagons.

### **10<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 40-65-50. Heavy dew; was cold. S.E. wind which became stronger during the day and more southerly along the sea shore. It seems to be the strong S.E. trade wind. Rode off at sun up and after five hours the wagon arrived at this place which the Hottentot calls Goewaap. The boat-wagon had overturned and arrived an hour later. The party had shot a young gemsbuck (*pasan*) and wounded another. It is one of the tastiest kinds of game. Found mussels on a bank which were very good. The shore here makes some small, sandy, inlets; everywhere the same features and the breakers still heavy. Went five hours N.N.W. along the sea shore. Saw many porpoises playing in the sea. Since yesterday found many dry thorn and willow trees washed up, which must come from the Orange River.

### **11<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Was cold; thick mist. Cold north wind. Therm. 45-68-50. At midday mist cleared up and the wind again became southerly and warm. Departed on the same course after midday. It was overcast again and became very misty. Went with Mr. Paterson along the shore which is everywhere full of washed up trees. Saw much water fowl. Sandy bays here and there, but everywhere half an hour from the shore, there were low rocks on which the sea broke heavily. Saw one of these rocks like a small island, full of seals. Everywhere we found remnants of the wild peoples' huts and seal bones and shells, but saw no people. One of the Hottentots told us that a fish was washed up around here and that the strand people ate it and they all died. Got lost and found the wagon again by chance. After four hours of slow travelling, heavy going, we made camp when darkness fell. Had taken water along otherwise we as well as the oxen and the horses, would have had to endure thirst. Pinar, who had gone ahead, hunting, did not come back.

### **12<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Rained last night. S.E. wind: good weather. Therm. 50-66-56.

We rode on the same course. At midday came into heavy sand and because on the two previous days I could not take the latitude on account of an overcast sky, I stopped the wagon and took latitude. Got 28 degrees 1 minute. We went along the shore where we found the tracks of people and the skin of freshly slaughtered seal. There should be a water hole here. Pedro said that the tracks were those of hunting Bushmen, who had come here for hunting, and had drunk all the water. Found sea coral (a plant) and dills, but there was no coral at all, but we did find sponges. Here the rocks from the sea were full of pebbles and quartz. We saw a promontory jutting out N.W. into the sea. It looked as if the shore here had caved in and as if the sea had drawn back.

Searched everywhere on the shore, which was about 70 to 80 feet high, and eventually found perfect, petrified shells. Went down into the hollow and found a deep hole in which there were washed up trees.

Without water and tired because of the heavy sand the oxen would not move. We let them walk around a bit here and in the evening I gave orders to yoke them again. I went to where Mr. Paterson's wagon was unyoked and though dark we found them in their tracks a good hour later; and though Pedro had assured us of water we still found ourselves a good two and a half hours walk from it. Stayed this night there. Our course was one mile from the promontory N. half N. We saw two jackals on the sea shore.

### **13<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Good weather. S.E. trade wind; clear. Therm. 50-78-60.

Found a scorpion on my coat which, however, did me no harm. Went back because my wagon had not come, and found it one hour from there. Yoked in the oxen and after four hours travelling downhill N.W. reached a deep kloof, formed by the flow of the water in the river. There was no water here except for a small spring which we dug out, but it was good and not brack. Let one team drink and then the other drink here, so allowing the water to seep back again. These animals had now not had water for 50 hours. Stayed here. There is more water in places lower down which is briny-salt. Everywhere the same veld with many shrubs.

See some mountains in the N.E. but not high, 5 to 6 miles distant. Saw some eland and gemsbuck tracks, one rhinoceros and lion track but because this place is so badly situated for water one finds nothing here but a few wolves and jackals which live off the sea shore. Gave orders that each of us and two Hottentots were to keep watch for two hours at night.

### **14<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Fine weather; S.E. trade wind. Therm. 60-77-65.

Went to the sea shore which is now one and a third miles west of us on account of our more northerly course. Mr. Paterson and I went to where this watercourse which, if it runs, flows into the sea; but found not a drop of water there and only signs that the sea sometimes breaks through a gap in the low dune. It appears that the water never runs so strongly that it overflows into the sea. The shore was covered with low dunes and many rocks (but there was no stony beach). It had formed a small sandy bay however, with heavy surf. We found the same features everywhere: regular inlets, washed-up trees. Many large mussels and shells which attach themselves to rocks. Rocks: the same variety and facing the same way.

Paterson gave a scream and at that moment a skaapsteker slithered away over my feet but without trying to bite me. Searched around the dunes but found no wax-berries only the succulent plants of this coast mentioned earlier; many in beautiful bloom. We

returned along this watercourse which became longer and steeper and narrower the further we progressed till we arrived very thirsty at our spring. I saw the tracks of two lion, also a Hottentot grave which did have stones around it but it was hollowed out inside. Saw many large heaps of shells all of the aforementioned kind and never a mussel although they were abundant here as can be seen by the hollowed out places where these people have been. As always saw how the angles of the hills fit into each other. We called our camp Diepe Kloof.

Apart from the spring found only two small water holes, but the water in them was briny-salt. Returned very hungry and thirsty. We saw some bees nests but they were too high in the rocks to take out. The strata are horizontal, desiccated and have subsided. Have many irregular bands of quartz or alabaster. We have seen game tracks but only one ostrich. Two miles away, close to us by the shore, we see two small mountains in the N.N.W. At sea the wind is as always southerly. We had it very hot in the kloof. The therm. on 88. Killed a snake.

### **15<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

The same weather and wind. Therm. 56-75-60. Very misty on the sea at evening so that the sun displayed angles of light as it went down.

Last night about twelve o'clock, it being my watch, they called for help in Paterson's tent. Found him nearly unconscious and very ill, but after heavy vomiting he became better. He had, against my advice, drunk too much water when hot and thirsty and then eaten a piece of very fat mutton.

Because there is nothing to hunt we must now live on the sheep which we have been herding with us. Unless one is very careful the Hottentots would eat the lot at once without thinking of future need. After midday we travelled on N.N.W. and arrived after 8 hours.

Deg. Min.

42 53 from the zenith gives

28 deg. 49 min.

Found latitude to be 14 4 Northerly declination

Error: 19\_ deg. N.W.

Took no barometer reading because this is all low-lying land, varies only fifty foot from one place to another.

After sandy rises, the oxen tired, we made camp at dark, without water and with little grazing as well. But the fleshy, brackish shrubs, mesembryanthemums and asphalagus etc., always provide good moisture for stock and game.

### **16<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 56-73-60. Fine weather. S.E. wind.

Saw several, freshly printed lion tracks. Saw the two aforementioned stony hills on our left, at a half a quarter. Went on to the same with Paterson. The eastern is the largest, called them the Twee Gebroeders. Apart from using latitude these are the only way of finding out where the mouth of the Orange River is, being close to the shore. As I saw from the mountain the smallest, sharply pointed one is three miles south from the mouth. At the same (hills) the sea shore runs due north and makes a considerable inlet after which the land runs N.W. to the mouth. There were many outcrops of iron and in many places the Cos rang like an anvil. Found the wagons unyoked half an hour further on because of the weariness of the oxen. Let the same graze a while on the shrubs and departed on the same course in the afternoon. After seven hours travelling made camp at evening in dune sand. Again the animals had to stay without water and the drinking water that we had brought with us was very bad. Before dark rode ahead. Saw the plain



of the river and a large marsh of water (the water was salty) on the left hand. It would take two hours to reach same. The countryside the same. I called this valey after the Count Charles Bentinck of Sorgvlied.

### **17<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Fine weather. S.E. wind. Therm. 56-74-60.

Departed at daybreak to give the horses water since they have had none for fifty hours; also to have a good drink myself. Mr. Paterson and Van Rhenen rode with me and as we came over a rise an ostrich sprang up and we found a nest with 34 fresh eggs. Since everything is so scarce it was a great treasure for us to find. The nest was a round place scraped in the sand, round and ten feet in diameter, raised slightly in the middle. Here in a shallow little hollow were 22 eggs where the male had been sitting. Around this bare place or circle there was another circular ridge as though dug out to the depth of a hand (thus surrounding the nest) and in this lay twelve eggs. It is said that they always keep these to feed their young with when they are hatched. They say that one can find up to 84, even more in a single nest where five or six females all sit. Some say that when the female has hatched some of her eggs she goes off with the chicks and rolls the remaining eggs into the nest; and they do not feed their young with those (eggs) which lie in the circumference.

Once over these rises we came upon countryside hard as gravel with small, sharp, hard pebbles. They were of every kind of colour and facet also many beautiful geraniums (*spinosa*). Ugly, barren countryside everywhere. We saw some zebra and two springbuck. We have seen hardly any game as large as this since leaving the Cape, though we have seen tracks. Wounded a zebra but it got away. We saw the rising land across the river and that it has the same sandy appearance as the place where we were. Saw several fresh lion tracks and after half an hour's travel from the wagons arrived at the river. This is the same river that I was at in December 1777 and which has its source to the North, beyond the Caffers. It was low and about four hundred paces wide, not flowing fast and with a steep southern bank. There are large sand-banks with a few small thorn and willow trees. We found elephant and lion tracks. Cooked one of our ostrich eggs. We buried the rest in the ground and left a coat on some piled up shrubs at the nest as a mark for our wagon should it pass this way. We went a short distance up river, letting the horses graze the meagre grass that was there.

We imagined we could see a band of wild people so we returned to the horses, having but one gun with us. Then we rode to the place but found that our eyes had deceived us. We had sought so hard for various stones and had been staring so intently that our eyes grew dim from looking at the sand (also from the atmospheric phenomena common in these regions). In this way we made several blunders which we had to laugh about. Because we were waiting impatiently and in vain for our wagons, not knowing whether they would make camp below or above us, rode up on to a rise but saw nothing more than a herd of eland. When evening fell therefore, we decided to ride across the veld, first to the west to look for the wagon tracks, then at the shore to turn east and do the same thing. Mr. Paterson saw the wagons at a great distance but because we had all had so many optical illusions this day we could not be sure until I found the tracks close beside the shore. Soon after this we found the wagons unyoked close to the river where it makes a large marsh one hour from the mouth. This marsh changes completely at high tide when it is one and a half hours' wide, with an island against the left bank. At ebb-tide however it runs very shallow, revealing many sand-banks and one can then go to the island on foot. So far as I can discover the sea breaks strongly at the mouth and the opening is not wide. Found many water-fowl here: pelicans, ducks, two different kinds of flamingo, etc. To our astonishment we found that the water was very sweet, though

ebbing and flowing strongly. It surprised me that I saw no hippopotamuses and only one track; however there is not much to graze here.

Brought the boat to the water, hoisted the Prince's flag and we drank to the health of His Highness. We bade welcome to the river to which I gave its name in 1777. Some more stipulated toasts such as the welfare of the Company, all done to the accompaniment of some shots. We have still heard nothing from Pinar, having learnt nothing from him and his four Hottentots since Goewaap. A stiff N.W. wind this evening. Sky overcast.

### **18<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Strong wind and rain clearing at daybreak. A brisk N.W. wind continued to blow but calmed down in the evening. Therm. 50-66-55.

At low-tide walked down the left hand side of this flat stretch of water and on to the island. Found that it was nothing more than a sand-bank. There were a few reeds on it and a fresh hippopotamus track. Went further along the vlei. Saw another three of this kind of track but nothing of these animals. Shot some duck and returned.

The Hottentots whom we had sent out brought our runaway horses back, as well as the buried ostrich eggs. We had taken the horses for lost on account of the lion.

We started fishing. At first we did not seem likely to succeed because of the strong wind and turbulence of the water but on the second cast we caught enough for all our people. This caused great rejoicing, the catch consisting of so-called harders or Cape herring and some barbel. In his hunger, my dog Keiser swam over to the sand-bank where we were fishing and greedily ate up a live fish, surely for the first time in his life.

Returned with our catch and found to our joy that Pinar and three of his Hottentots had arrived but they had to leave the fourth one behind. (Believed to have died of thirst, something they just escaped.) They went for three and a half days without water.

Yesterday when they reached the river, which takes a large turn to the North at that point, they shot a bull elephant and a hippopotamus. They brought us a piece of the trunk which was very good eating. They found a wild Bushman and with difficulty got him to speak since he was very afraid.

### **19<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 50-66-56. Nice weather. A light S.E. wind rising in the afternoon. On the shore it blew from the S.W. because the sea creates more wind than the land. Calm after midnight.

Departed in my boat for which we had made a sail from the covering (tent) of one of our wagons. After some trials it sailed well. Because it was calm we rowed over to the left hand side of the mouth, where we fished but did not catch much: some small harders and steenbrass. Found that the mouth was a quarter hour's going wide: about a thousand paces. The surf breaks so strongly into it that there is no place where one can discern a current and the same occurs along the whole stretch of coast a half a mile from the bank with the result that, although I saw not one rock along the shore, it is impossible for any vessel or boat to get in. (The sand is almost entirely a grey colour and contains mica. I also found red particles in the sand which looked like little rubies under the microscope; they were also transparent). It was at the middle of high-tide when I came and at low tide it was everywhere just the same. I found few shells along the shore, some pebbles and trees that had been washed up. The coast is low everywhere so that it must be completely covered when the sea and the river are high.

Took bearings on the Twee Gebroeders: S.E. by S. three miles; the northern tip of the river mouth: N.W. \_ W. Returned again on foot. Because the marsh or flat basin of water formed by the river before its mouth has a tributary running south right up the sea (half an hour's going) this means that the left hand side of the mouth must make an island at

high water. Grass and rushes grow here and it is frequented by waterfowl, but there is little grass here now so that the hippopotamus have moved upstream, with the exception only of the two or three whose fresh tracks I have found. I have not seen them however. Returned in the evening and having a fresh southerly wind sailed briskly back with the rest of the people.

Found with great joy that the Hottentot that we had previously taken for lost had come back. He was parched with thirst. To start with I refreshed him with a tot and then gave him food to eat. He was almost exhausted with hunger, since he had not found the dead elephant his companions had shot. Received the good news that our Hottentots had shot a zebra and that they had found 12 ostrich eggs. So now once more both dogs and men had food. They had also followed the tracks of a lion which had sprung upon an eland. It held fast to it, its rear claws on the ground, while the eland continued to walk forward with it.

### **20<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 48-55-52. Fine weather. S.E. wind. Dew tonight. Misty in the evening and the wind at the sea was again a fresh S.W. Crossed the river to see how things looked on the other side and to see whether we could track down any people. There is a sandbank in the mouth which lies right in the way. It took us more than half an hour to cross the river because our boat kept on running aground on the sand-banks. There were eleven of us in it and we had to keep on jumping out to lift it. With our fishing net we were much too heavy for the boat, thus making our trip across dangerous. Once on the other side our people went fishing. Before this, on the sand-bank in the river we made one cast and caught some harders. Mr. Paterson and I went due north into the country; together with a Hottentot and my young Koerikei. It was low-lying country; the soil of clay (at the river, but later only sand without any water) with a few small, fleshy shrubs, Cacawas which give off resin. There were low dunes on our left hand side. After we had been going for an hour we came to a rainwater marsh. Beside this we found the small and large footprints of people, very fresh. We also found large, dry, washed up trees here. Soil had been washed over these and shrubs were growing on them; this means that the river must have been very high some years back or that there was a heavy storm at sea. We followed the footprints which led to the dunes, being most curious to see those people. We first set our course a short half hour landwards and then turned once more towards the dunes in order to anticipate them. When we reached the dunes we found a well-trodden track and saw first one and then three of the wild people rising from the ground. After looking at us for a moment, they dashed off, like deer. In order to stop them I stood and waved my hat as hard as I could but they ran down the dune and onto the shore. Upon this I sent my Hottentot after them, without a gun, but he could not catch up with them. We then followed the footpath which brought us right to their huts, where we found their fire burning and a puppy which though very young, was very vicious.

There was one large hut, different from the kind the Hottentots make, with two high doors or rather openings facing east. It was made of wood (washed-up trees, right whale or whale ribs) and was thatched with grass and undergrowth, very warm. In same there were 9 to 10 sleeping places on which lay dassie and jackal skins. The other was smaller and had only one opening and another place made for sitting in the day time. They were all in a row and joined together so that one wall served two. There were pouches made of skins hanging in the huts and horns (Canna or Cape eland) with buchu and fat and an earthenware pot. There were many ostrich eggshells, some empty, some filled with water in store, and the fireplace was high enough for a man to stand upright in it. They had stuck dry, washed-up trees in front of the door and on the branches were hanging pieces of raw right whale meat which they had cut off. They broil or cook this for

their food. We found two beautifully dressed seal-skins.

We left everything in the same place and in order to get these people to come and talk decided to leave them something as a present; to place it there and to come back the following day. Having brought nothing, I at once cut all the copper buttons off my coat, save one, and added these to the copper tinderboxes which Mr. Paterson and the Hottentots had placed on a skin where these people were drying herbs, such as buchu, in the sun. I also left a piece of biscuit, which we had baked, next to them.

Before we decided to go, however, I ordered the Hottentot to make a fire in front of the huts so that we could first cook and eat an ostrich egg which we had brought for food. (First one makes a hole in the top, since otherwise the expanding air would make it burst open violently, then it is cooked in the shell, as though in a pot. Having done this, one makes a spoon from a piece of the shell and one eats it thus in the Hottentot manner). After we had cooked the egg and were busy eating we saw three of the wild people coming on to a dune not so very far from us. Once more I waved and sent the Hottentot to them, letting him show them that we had no gun, by throwing off his sheep skin and holding his hands high. The Hottentot was frightened to go near them so I encouraged him by loading my gun and showing that I was on the alert for the wild people; (they had bows and arrows and long thick assegais, 7 to 8 feet long). He went rather reluctantly toward them and when he reached them, they all sat down. After we had spent some time waiting Paterson said he would like to accompany me to them without taking a gun; however I judged it more prudent that one of us should keep the gun because they could surprise us by coming from behind the dune. Whereupon the botanist stayed with the guns and I went up to the foot of the hill with a bottle and a jug held high in my hands. Finding that their number had grown to seven, and judging it inadvisable to go amongst these people without a gun, I sent Koerikei to them with a bottle and a jug in order to make them a present of some brandy but he came back and said they did not know what it was and did not want to drink it. Upon this I sent him with a tinderbox, a flint and flintstone (about which they also knew nothing) for the chief. I said that two of them should come to me without weapons seeing that I too had no weapon. While they were talking to each other, I saw some more of the wild people on a dune to my left hand side. After Koerikei had delivered his message, two of them came down without weapons. In the meantime another, who at closer hand turned out to be a woman (on top of the dune), was jabbering most violently, pointing with her hands to the river. When I saw that they had voluntarily laid down their weapons I went out to meet them and found the three men suspicious and frightened. But the women were talkative and merrier. They had a child with them that appeared to be the bastard of a slave (but later found otherwise) because his hair was curlier than the Hottentot's, it was still however, woolly. But closer saw that this was from being smeared. There was also something different about his features. These creatures had the same posture and shape as Bushmen (their dress etc.), but their teeth are short and bad. Their women too carry ostrich shells filled with water in just such nets, wood as well. I counted that one of them was carrying 24 full shells on her back. Gave them the aforementioned buttons and they immediately became bolder, but they would drink no brandy even though I did so first. Gave them some tobacco which they smoked out of our Hottentot's pipes (later from a buffalo horn using water).

So we all went together to their huts and we showed them that we had left everything in order, and they were happy about this. They speak a Hottentot dialect of which we and our Hottentots were able to understand a fair amount. One woman showed us the belly of her husband. He had been wounded with a knife by Hottentots from the other side of

the river a long time ago. That was why they distrusted people from the other side and why they had been frightened of us. Told them that they should not fear us but that they should go with us; I also said we had nothing now with us to give them. They said yes, that they had already seen us yesterday on the other side of the river and that they were utterly astonished with our boat and its sails (at first they took it for an animal). Found a piece of deal there. They said they found it on the beach, but that they had never seen a ship. One of their women was born in Kleine Namaqua Land and she had seen Dutchmen and guns before — as a result she was frightened to touch my gun. I asked them if there was water further north or a river. They said 'No', and that they had always lived here and that they had gone far along the shore in search of food. But they know of no other people, such as Bushmen, along the river. They all had very short, flat, small teeth and only one young fellow had good ones and his were rather small. He was of average figure and thin. Two women had the first joint cut off of their left hand little finger. They said that this was because of 'Other Making' or *Canie* when they were ill. Gave each of them a European name which they were pleased about and they laughed. They had their wool plaited: one of them as though it was a wig in curlers — with thornwood pins. Some also with little pig-tails. They had a few beads and copper earrings which they said they had had for a long time, passed down from hand to hand. Their chief was a young fellow, his nose badly disfigured by a lion. He had an uncle, a mother, a wife and children. He was called Koet, his mother is also called Koet. His father had also been chief of this band. The people that used to live on this side of the river died out but for two women who are now here. They denied that it was through eating a poisoned fish, but they said that once one of their girls had died from eating what had been washed up (they called it this 'evil spirit'). The uncle was called Hanni, the other one Cabesi, the women — Camaz, Sanága, Nauta, and Camouta. Four other of their men folk were out hunting and some women and children did not dare come. They had a puppy and an old bitch, black and yellow, much resembling a jackal. They showed me two beautifully dressed seal-skins. Exchanged the one for the last button that I had on the front of my coat and I cut off another from my sleeve in order to obtain a skin for Mr. Paterson.

Went along the shore to the Northern side of the mouth, followed by nine of these people. Took bearing on the shore: N.W. by N. as far as I can see. The sea is very rough for half an hour out from the shore, though I could see no rock and the shore is completely sandy without shells. Returned to our fishermen following the right bank of the river, completely certain now that no skiff or boat could ever enter here, because the breakers are too rough and start too far out. Also, when the river is full it flows out too far. The greatest depth in the river was two and a half fathom but this did not last for long. When we reached our fishermen, who had caught a fair amount of harders, I gave the wild people some fish which they first grilled and then ate. I ordered another cast to be made so that they returned to their huts with some fish, very happy, and they promised to cross the river to us next day. Because the party was eleven strong with many fish, we left our net on the bank. The moon was shining now and we started back for the camp. Mist began to come up and because we had to pass many sand-banks, the boat being heavily laden with no more free-board, the crossing over was dangerous. At times we shipped water on account of the rippling of the river but guided by the fires on the bank towards which I steered we did at last, fortunately, reach our camp; but not without often going aground.

It is mostly hazy along the shore though the weather is fine.

### **21<sup>st</sup> August 1779**

Sky overcast, hazy weather. Wind N.W. Therm. 48-65-56. Weather clearing in the

evening.

Because visibility was not good, stayed on this side. The wild people came to us, numbering three men, four women and one child. They had gone upstream a little and crossed, the water up to their bellies, by a route known to them. I gave them some fish and tobacco and when we had had a talk about this country, they departed happy towards sunset.

Took a latitude but not accurate because of the misty weather. Got 28 deg. — 32 min. Most of us had pains in our body today. We attributed this to eating a lot of fish without bread.

The Bushmen said that there were never many hippopotamus at the mouth of the river but that they were plentiful two or three day's journey upstream. Saw the wild people make fire. They had two little sticks of a light wood the thickness of a little finger and about two feet long; it grows alongside the water (of this river). This wood is very dry. They place one of these sticks on a skin or on one of their veldschoen, put a foot upon it to hold it still, then they push the other stick into it, and, spitting on their hands, they twirl the stick as rapidly as they can between their flattened hands. Thereupon one sees smoke issuing from the stick and afterwards fire. They always have these kind of sticks tied to their quivers; the wood is called *Goeroep*, almost the same name a white flint-stone is given.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 50-65-53. Sky overcast. Light N.W. wind. A little drizzle in the evening. Crossed the river, an hour's rowing and we caught some harders. Mr. Paterson and I went to the Hottentots where we had our midday meal of ostrich egg and a piece of grilled zebra meat we had brought; and very good it tasted, although the Dutch inhabitants will not eat it; they say it is unclean. Took a few shots at a hide with the Bushmen. Examined some of their jackal traps. Two of them accompanied us a little further inland. Low-lying, sandy country everywhere although the sea has retreated for good. The wild people said that there was absolutely no water for as far as they had been and they said that when they went hunting they took water in shoulder bags, also in seal-bladders. We bartered for one of these and the water from it tasted very good. We turned toward the shore. On the way a so-called horned snake ran out in front of us. I took one of the wild men's assegais and lifted up the bush under which it had crept, sitting there hissing. As I lifted it struck the blade of the assegai. I hit and killed it and took it with me. It was about a foot long, with two small fleshy knobs just visible above the eyes which were split like cats' eyes. Because of this it is known as *hoornsmannetje* in these regions. Here one can see just how wrong Kolbe was who gave it two yellow horns. In the upper jaw and high to the side it has two canines which bend slightly inwards below; it has no incisors. In addition it has six upper molars on each side. No canines or incisors below but also six side-teeth on each side (much like a fish) slightly crooked and bent backwards. It is said to be very poisonous. Its colour is grey and it is flecked. Its tail ends in a sharp point. We saw another longer thin snake but we could not catch it.

We reached the sea and found that the shore was the same as the day before yesterday, not a single rock though the sea broke heavily. The wild people said that the shore had this same feature for as far as they had been along it; no rivers and no rocks so that they had to cross the river at low-tide to get shell fish. They said that it was their foot-prints we had seen at the Kouwsie River and that they had also killed an eland then. Returned to their huts, gave them some tobacco and drew the picture of their huts. Returned, crossing the river in the after-noon. We sailed back with a fairly brisk N.W. wind in half an hour, had many turns avoiding sand-banks even so ran aground twice.

These people, men, women and children are about 20 strong. They appear to be concerned about their children, since most of them were always somewhere. They said: looking for food in the veld, roots, bulbs, etc.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> August 1779**

Overcast. Calm. Last night several fresh showers of rain from the west. Therm. 50-68-55. Weather clearing in the afternoon. Westerly wind. S.E. wind in the afternoon.

This I have long observed about the Hottentot language: I know of no word which contains an f, l or v or p. They can however learn to pronounce these letters.

Took latitude: 40 deg. — min. from the zenith.

Northerly dec. 11 deg. 27 min.

28 deg. 33 min. Error : 20 deg. North West.

Took bearing on the mouth from our camp: S.W.\_W. Half a mile.

Went with the boat to the mouth and into the breakers. There was a small channel inside the mouth where I got three fathoms of water. About a fathom deep and right in the middle of the mouth there is a sand-bank in the breakers on the inner side so that there is a gully on both sides, three fathoms deep; but this does not continue into the breakers which have been very rough all the time we have been here. The deepest or greatest current of the river is close to the right bank. There I found a narrow channel two and a half fathoms deep; sandy as well as muddy and but one rock far inside the shore on a sandy place at our camp. One could observe no current running through the wide marsh that the river makes here, but one can notice it at the ebb. Completely convinced that no boat can get in here. It may be that it could get through once in January and February when the river is at its fullest. However the sea, which is very rough across the shallow beach, would have to be dead level, and to be at high-tide. However I still doubt it: and how could one find this small low-lying mouth, even if one had the latitude?

Sailed back with a fresh south west wind which became S.E. at the wagons, as previously related. We again caught some fish. Some of the Hottentots who went out hunting have not come back. Drew a map for Pinar so that he could go up the river; it being impossible for wagons to do this.

### **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Fine weather. Heavy dew tonight. Therm. 50-66-56. Light S.W. wind. A S.E. Trade wind throughout the day.

We made ready to go up river. At low-tide the Bushmen came over the river to us. Two of them had come back from hunting but had got nothing. They complained much of hunger. We ourselves and our servants had nothing and because we wished to preserve our remaining 8 sheep I went fishing and we caught a fair amount of harders and barbel. There was not however, enough for us all. The Bushmen asked our servants for two worn-out veldskoen made of eland hide, whereupon they rubbed the hair off with a stone and then grilled and ate them. Gave them some fish and tobacco. One of our party who had found a dead, washed-up right whale, told them of it, upon which they rejoiced greatly. They said they would go to it tomorrow and would not come with us up river since they were suffering the greatest hunger.

Our Hottentots have still not come back from hunting. Placed the boat on the wagon in order to go up river tomorrow. I could very easily sail up river but would not know where the wagons had made camp.

### **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 52-66-55.

About ten o'clock went up river which runs N.E. by north for half a mile, after which it goes E.N.E. for one and a half miles and alongside a fairly steep ridge, then on to another ridge which forms a kloof. Thereafter the river makes a short bend to the south and then runs north by east. The river was very low and full of sand islands. There are rocks of schist along the banks, and when one is half a mile up stream, the banks become steep. The soil at the river is clay; beyond it the ground is pebbly with dusty Karoo sand and rough hills, some of which are of a hard reddish-brown Cos. Saw clearly that the rocks inland face S.W. and N.E. just as they do along the shore: saw also too that they have subsided. Also saw a line of fairly high mountains parallel to the direction of the rocks six miles inland. At the start one finds some reed along the banks (the Hottentots' firewood), as well as lithium and some willows. Much mica in the sand. After going up river for three hours (to the place where we first reached it) we ate a grilled duck which we had brought with us and cooked an ostrich egg. While we were eating, a hippopotamus came to have a look at us, sticking only its nose and eyes out, but we had no gun. He continued repeating this, and in the same place the whole time we were eating. As he stuck his head half out in this way he did look somewhat like a horse and this could be the reason that the ancients called it a river horse. The Hottentots have told me that there is a sort of wagtail at the drift higher up the river, which, when the hippopotamus sticks its head out, fly onto it. When it goes under again they fly to another head which has come up, without the animals (and there are many of them) paying any attention. It may be that the little birds pick ticks off these animals for they are full of them. It surprised me that, because there are so many of these animals up river and because there are more people, they are so shy here because they are never disturbed. That there is little grazing is probably the reason why there are so few here. It is also said that they are much smaller here that they are beyond the Sneeuwberg. The wild people here did not know of the giraffe. Near the place where we had our meal, thorn-trees begin and a thick undergrowth of raisin bush, as well as willow trees which are a three-leaved *rus*. A berry growing here, which was not ripe, is eaten by the Hottentots. I also found wild spinach which has thorns and is called 'dubbeltjes' by the farmers. After we had been to the narrow poort of the river we found on our return that the wagons had made camp by the first thorn bush. The wagons are not able to continue further along the river than this poort.

### **26<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Good weather. Westerly wind. Therm. 54-70- and because we were further from the sea: 60.

We rode along the river (by way of elephant paths) to where the elephant was lying. It was three good hours' ride to a place where the river runs N. by E. having first made a short bend through the south. Saw an uneven line of fairly high mountains six miles from the shore and parallel to same. Estimated the same to be the height of Table Mountain. We found many tall thorn-trees and undergrowth beside the river some small trees, black ebony, cypress and raisin bush (but inland it was bare and sandy with rough hills). The river banks are all high.

The Hottentots told us that they had found a pride of lions by the dead elephant. My dogs chased a large band of baboons in the thickets beside the river, and most probably killed one because their muzzles were bloody when they returned but, because of the undergrowth, could find nothing. When we reached the elephant it was lying in thick undergrowth between high thorn-trees and it stank greatly. We went with our guns at the ready in case of lions. Although the Hottentots had lighted a fire at the elephant and a pride of six lion had walked through the smouldering ash so that we saw only that there was a great deal of their black dung around and that they had eaten into the elephant's



head and eaten part of the brains, in addition to a piece of the ear, which in this animal covers the whole shoulder. Measured it as much as I could: its height in front, in a straight line was 10 feet and 2 inches (Rhineland); it was the same height behind, from above its anus (it slopes sharply away below the tail). Its length in a straight line was 12 feet 4 inches. The sole of its front foot was 18 inches in diameter. Its rear foot had a diameter 2 inches longer and was just as wide. Since it was a bull its tusks stuck out three feet, therefore a young animal. An elephant can trample down a large thorn-tree and feed itself along this river where there are still a fair amount of them. In this poor country they eat the foliage and bark of the trees along rivers especially the thorn-trees (mimosa), thus stunting the growth of the trees. This one was hit by four or five heavy, half-tin balls before it died. Following this, a herd of elephants were here once more but they again departed. These thorn trees produce a good gum which is eaten by the Hottentots. On a thorn-tree which was a good seventy feet high saw an ape like those in Outeniqua Land. Today also saw some quail, turtle-doves and so-called pheasant. Because I had forgotten my cloak I first took bearings (though it was in the evening) and then rode back to my tent with a Hottentot. Arrived there in moonshine after three hour's hard riding without noticing any lions. Made one turn to the left across the range or rather the high ridge.

Our Hottentots who had not shot anything while hunting were very hungry; they went to the elephant and found its paw or lower foot still very good eating but the eight hungry men were still not able to finish it. Pinar and the two van Rhenens stayed at the elephant to forestall the lion, but this evening it got too late. The lions came roaring half an hour after I had left the elephant. Next day they found that one foot had been almost pulled off, showing the great strength of this animal.

### **27<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 48-60-50. Wind from the N.W. last night. Blew violently and it was cold. Now it is full moon the sky is overcast. In the afternoon the wind turned S. W. Some light showers of rain which stopped before sunset.

One of our Hottentots came with a foot of the elephant which he had cooked. Tasted it and found it very good though somewhat harder than ox-feet. Our people shot a hartebeest (or bubalis), a great joy because they were so hungry and since we only have seven sheep left which we must keep for the dry country ahead. (It lies a good hour away from us). Measured it: a bull four foot two inches high in front and two inches lower behind. Five foot four inches long in a straight line. It holds its head very straight in the air. Its tear-ducts lie two inches under the lowest point of the eyes, four inches apart. The hair growing on it is clotted with a yellow substance, smelling of balsam. It has two teats. The rear hoof is somewhat narrower and smaller than the fore one. Has two ergots. Small hooves on the feet. It was darker than any seen before. The gemsbuck (pasan) has a longer foot print: it is distinguishable by this, it is also not so pointed in the front. The giraffe which, according to the Bushmen, does not live in this part of the country, has a print like an eland. It has no ergots, and little hooves.

Kobus van Rhenen has returned. He has still seen no hippopotamus. The others were meant to have made two traps for the lions (whereby they shoot themselves dead). Sent Pinar a sketch of a map and the route he must keep to, also a pocket-compass and some provisions. He is to go along the river to Company's Drift and wait for me there. Five Hottentots go with him. I am most sorry I cannot be of the party since my presence is needed most at the wagons. Must now go back one and a half degrees and then due north to the drift on account of the water and the road and Pinar can be there in twenty four hours, travelling in a straight line.

### **28<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Good weather. Wind S.E. Calm. Therm. 53-66-50.

Two beautiful kinds of geranium grown in the hard, stony clay around here; the *spinosa*, close to the ground, a red flower. I have found this characteristic: the whole dried plant has a resinous substance and is hollow inside, as though the sap had been drawn out through the stalk from the inside to the outside. I set fire to one and it stayed burning like a candle for a short while, giving off a pleasant smell. They are readily available here. Got a thorn in my finger which developed into a bad sore; it has troubled me greatly. Bad water and an irregular way of living make a bagatelle of a wound develop into something highly malignant.

Went out shooting small birds which are neither plentiful here nor beautiful. Van Rhenen wounded a sea-cow (hippo) but did not get it. Pinar sent a Hottentot back with the elephant's tusks. He has left with six men.

### **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

Good weather. Cool S.E. wind. Therm. 50-68-55. All day a fresh south wind on land.

Abated slightly in the evening.

Had a fever last night and my whole hand was swollen. Made everything ready for our return; filled our barrels with water. Because of the scarcity of water we will now travel back for 80 hours with the ox wagons. Also because it is impossible for a wagon to go further up river at this point on account of the steep cliffs (although not as high as one is given to believe). It will again be one degree, sixteen minutes due north before I reach the river where I want to cross. It will still take a good 50 hours' travel with the ox wagons and that in bad country where there is almost no water and what there is, is brack (not much game as well). It will take six days to where I was, a reasonable journey by wagon, with water, to the drift. (Or so I imagined). We travelled back along the path we had previously taken with the horses and reached Bentinck's Valey where we rejoined our wagon road. We decided to travel by night since we now knew the road and where there was water, letting our stock graze during the day. Also to arrange things that our stock will drink every second day, until we get to Kouwsie and to let them rest a day at each watering place, there being but two of these for cattle. Tried to dissolve the geranium resin in hot water in order to make candles from it, but without success.

Departed south at six o'clock in the dusk, saluting the river with a discharge of guns and with a tot of brandy. This is almost finished so that we have to distribute a ration of two or three tots a day. After we had been travelling for three hours and the moon had been up for about an hour there was a loud barking from the dogs. We ran to them and found some zebras, six I think. A Hottentot had shot a mare before we got there and the rest of the zebras were being harried by our dogs, in particular my Keiser and Koning. The zebras ran with open muzzles towards Van Rhenen and Pedro who evaded them. They ran down a hill and Kobus van Rhenen wounded one of its foreleg so that the dogs were able to pull it to the ground repeatedly. It bit several of the dogs even though it was wounded. More than once my gun had got wet would not fire but at last, among all the dogs, I was able to shoot it. It was also a young mare. While this was happening we heard the remaining zebras calling their companions. I heard this sound for the first time: a grating noise as when a stone is thrown over freshly frozen ice and differing greatly from that of the kwagga. The largest mare was in a straight line 6 feet 2 inches long (Rhinelandl). The height in front: three feet nine and a half inches; behind: two inches higher. We cut off as much as we could take and since we could not linger, because we were short of water for our cattle, we travelled on, having delayed a good hour there. We made camp at four o'clock in the morning after nine hours good travelling. We were now a half mile W.N.W. of the Twee Gebroeders, at the smallest of the two, by the sea. While

chasing the zebras the wound on my hand had burst open and is still painful and swollen.

### **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 1779**

A fresh southerly trade wind. Therm. 52-65-50.

Departed southerly and came into our previous road after three hours travelling S.E. and after seven and a half hours in all reached the Diepe Kloof (Waterval Fontein). Made camp at one o'clock in the morning. The southerly wind which generally drops some hours after sunset, was very cold and strong at about sunset, but dropped later at about ten o'clock when the moon rose.

My hand was very painful and swollen; this is chiefly because my dog Keiser was hungry and when I was going to give him a piece of meat, in his haste took my hand with it. This made my boy Koerikei laugh and got him a few cuffs over the ear.

### **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> August 1779**

Therm. 56-83-60. The same wind and weather but warm and calmer. Stayed here, lying down. My hand has become so bad that I have caught fever as well. Used a lancet to cut open the finger which had accumulated very much proud flesh, so that much blood and pus came out. I cannot walk because of the great pain.

Three of our Hottentots, who had gone out hunting from the Orange River and who were on the way here, arrived hungry and thirsty. We had seen their fire at the small Twee Gebroeders mountains. One of them came in the evening only, after staying behind, nearly exhausted at a spring. This spring was shown to us by Nebuchadneser (Pedro) and is half an hour from the sea towards the S.S.E. of the Gebroeders. He called it Tancas Fontein which also means Gebroeders.

The abundance of big, white periwinkle shells which are found everywhere in the veld must originate from the wild people or animals who feed on them, otherwise one would not find so many dead ones and so seldom the living. Their colour is somewhat grey and one sees them here and there under the euphorbia bushes, crawling suddenly into the earth.

The abundance of sea-shells to be found here can only come from wild people and with time they will probably become covered with earth. Under the euphorbias (or what are here called melkbosjes) there is a fungus or growth like a mushroom which has a taste something like that between a potato and fish-roe (because of its small seed). It is not unpleasant and is eaten by the Hottentots and called *kaniëp*. It also grows in the Rogge Veld. We also found a small spider whose nest contained many insects. The material of this nest most resembles the little nests that the kapok bird or penduline tit make. Inside were threads resembling thin darning wool: they were thick and very strong. Koerikei brought me good honey which he had scooped out.

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather. Light westerly wind. Therm. 56-78-60.

Could not sleep on account of pain. Made another incision; it appears to be getting better. In order not to overheat myself rode on horseback up a small rise and took bearings on the Twee Gebroeders (as one object): N.W. three degrees north. (The highest point in the south that I could see was the little Table Mountain) I was a quarter of an hour's going east and three degrees south to the west of our camp, which was now on the northern side of Diepe Kloof.. This kloof lies S.W. by S. S. One can just see the sea from there at a distance of one and a quarter miles. Our further course to Goewaap: S.S.E.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1779**

Departed an hour before dawn and after many difficulties we made camp at half past two. We advanced by seven and a half hours; one hour south from where I took latitude, near the Koesaas inlet.

Therm. 53-70-60.

I was a quarter hour's going from the shore and took bearings here on the furthest outside angle N.W. half N. The coast here lies N.N.W.

Some rain and mist last night and a fresh N.W. wind. Cloudy this morning, clearing in the afternoon.

Departed two hours before dawn S.S.E. and arrived at the Goewaap after seven and a half hours ride.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 56-65-57. Rained somewhat and blew freshly from the N.W. last night. Clear in the afternoon but a fresh N.W. wind.

Took latitude 53 deg. 15 min. above the horizon from the zenith 36-45.

1. 45

Error: 20 deg. N.W. 7 32

1. 13 min.

The so-called horned snake, fully grown, is from 20 inches to 2 feet long. Has eight teeth on each of the lower jaw: none right on front. Its black forked tongue plays within the gap. It also has eight teeth above and on each side. The two incisors, as I saw in a large snake, misled me in my previous observation; they conceal another three small ones on each side. If one moves the front tooth forward or the largest one with a small knife, then four of these incisors are displayed on each side. Therefore this animal can give a very sharp bite indeed. The teeth are white and transparent, curving back slightly like those of a pike, and as sharp as can be. Its horns were each composed of three oblong scales, divided at the top into three.

Departed an hour before dawn and advanced half way to the Kouwsie's mouth. Seven hours travel.

Calm at night. Light N.E. breeze. Heavy dew.

Walked up a high dune at Goewaap or Zyperfontein. (The dune lies three miles E.N.E. of here, parallel to the coast, and is joined to a small, low mountain and called Oegárabé by Nebuchadneser). From there I took bearings on the southern shore with its small regular inlets as far as I could see, at least five miles: S.S.E. Also the northern shore to about Koesaas: N.N.W. 4 deg. W. Thus, from here, the mouth of the Orange lies in the same direction. Our course from here to Kouwsie will lie S.E.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 52-70-60. Fresh south wind: at first gently easterly then calm after sunset.

Departed along our former road, passing by the two salt marshes halfway and arrived, after travelling for seven and a half hours, at the Kouwsie's river (Renoster-Fontein or -Kop). Found no spring there; drank the river-water which was sweetish-brack and hardly slaked thirst. My supply of Orange River water came to an end today. One of my oxen collapsed. We are having a hard time of it.

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 48-92-66. Dew last night. Calm, cold at sunrise, soft east wind which then blew violently all day from the E.N.E. Clear sky. The wind came from far over the land, very hot, and dropped at sunset.

One of our Hottentots shot a hartebeest and wounded another (but did not get it). Our people went to it, an hour away from here, and brought the meat back. We again found much honey in a nest from which we had take about a month ago. Shot two steenbuck and some duck.

### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 54-99-80; and at ten o'clock in the evening 60. Calm. The same weather and wind but not as strong.

Took latitude in a kloof in order to be out of the wind.

Obtained: 36 deg. 0 min. from the zenith.

6 26 northerly declination

Gives: 29 34

Error: 20 deg. N.W.

Took bearing on the high hill in the range lying around Engelbregt: S.E. half E. Saw that the same range runs about six miles across the Orange River. Kouwsie's mouth S.W. \_ S. a quarter of a mile.

We departed on our previous road along the river and made camp after travelling for three hours. Course N.E. by E. \_ E. to where we turned away from the Kouwsie's River. Through the negligence of the leader, Mr. Paterson's wagon overturned as we were travelling along the bank of the river by starlight. I was sitting up in front, there were three of us in it, and we were hardly harmed, but some boxes were broken.

### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 56-95-76. (throughout the night 65 deg.) Same weather and wind. Wind slightly less. Very hot. (The wind, E.N.E. veered with the sun and was calm at sunset).

Corrected my map.

We followed our previous course in the evening and made camp after 5 \_ hours travelling at half past eleven at night. The so-called blind-flies were a nuisance the whole day and the gnats in the evening.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Fresh westerly wind. Sky overcast and thundery. Therm. 52-70-60.

(A little thunder far off and sheet lightning in the night).

We travelled over our previous course into the Voorsigtige Kloof and made camp after travelling for three hours. It was pitch dark and an hour away from where I made camp when coming here.

On our previous journey Koerikei noticed a bees' nest in a rock and now removed it by the light of a lantern. Brought us lots of delicious honey but he was badly stung. It was very welcome since we had eaten nothing but mutton for several days and had not even a tot of brandy left.

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 50-65-53. A S.E. wind at first. In the evening a W. and then an E. wind, then calm. Rained last night and there was thunder from far. Gusts of rain this morning from the S.E. clearing up at midday. Departed along the same road as before. After five hours' travel, which is the whole length of the Kloof, we made camp at a valey a little

past Camaggas or Comma Fontein. To the right, 5 \_ hours beyond the Kloof, the course runs very much alongside the range S. by E. The Camaggas is a basin. Here a branch of low-lying mountains runs to the W. The rivulet that begins at Camaggas, at the first rise where we made camp, I called Mimosa River, on account of the trees. It runs off at the very start of the Voorsigtige Kloof. The other water, as well as Kook Fontein which is at Engelbregt's mountain (Floraas Kloof), is called Noegaree or Swarte Riem River. It flows in to the sea S.W. of Camaggas. All are now dry.

### ***Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Therm. 49-66-53. Good weather. Somewhat overcast. Light N.W. wind.

Rode ahead on horseback to Engelbregt's with Van Rhenen and my young Hottentot. For a mile to the E. very hilly, thereafter S. to E. low-lying veld. Everywhere a varying terrain: hard veld to within a mile of Kook Fontein, and then a sandy Karoo veld again with many Blesmol (sand-mole) holes, which are seldom, if at all, found at the sea in these parts. Reached Kook Fontein after three and three quarter hours' riding. Off-saddled there and roasted a piece of mutton. After resting for two hours, saddled up and after riding for an hour, arrived at one of Engelbregt's stock kraals which lies almost under the mountain. Ordered the Hottentot to do some milking.

Here I saw for the first time that after they have milked a while they grip the labia of the cow's vagina in both hands and then blow strongly into it. Shortly afterwards the cow pisses and they go on to milk. They say they do this if the cow withholds its milk. With some turns, we rode east up the mountain, leading our horses most of the time, and reached the top in the dusk in another half hour. It was pitch dark when we arrived at Engelbregt's at eight o'clock. On the plain that one enters, a mile more to the south than our last camp, we saw some ostrich. This plain is terminated to the south by the branch of foothills that run to the west of Engelbregt, but not as far as up to the sea. To the south of the same, S.W. of Engelbregt, is Spoeg River.

All these rivers have names derived from the Hottentot. Engelbregt's Elleboogfontein runs north by west between the mountains into the Kouwsie River. These mountains lie N. by W. and have basins and are the same that we saw at the Orange River. From Engelbregt it is three quarters of a mile through the west then N.W. until the top of the mountain.

### ***Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Overcast. Rain and mist all day. Fresh N.W. wind.

### ***Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Clearing up. W. wind. Therm. 50-65-53.

Sent fresh oxen to pull the wagons to the top. Paterson and Van Rhenen came in the afternoon on horseback. His wagon arrived battered because it had overturned. Most happily, at ten o'clock in the pitch dark my wagon and boat arrived. It has hardly rained at all below the mountain. It has been raining here steadily, off and on, since our journey to the mouth.

### ***Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Got everything ready to continue my journey. Therm. 48-60-53.

It rained hard from the N.W. last night. The wind westerly all day. It seems to be clearing up.

Chief Wiltschut, the Kleine Namaqua, came to visit me. Presented him with a sheep. I had been given the skin of a young giraffe at the drift. Observed that the horns of this

bull are like a knob on top, hairless; about the same thickness below as above, thinner in the middle, flattish from behind. The cow has thinner more pointed horns with hair on top. The skin between the eyes was about the width of an egg, thicker than the rest of its skin and in the live animal it must lie higher. Put it in water to soften it.

### ***Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

More showers of rain from the N.W. last night. Overcast. Wind fresh W.N.W. Cold weather. Therm. 47-54-46.

Chief Wiltschut came to tell me that a Hottentot from another kraal had stabbed and killed the brother of one of his Hottentots with an assegai. They had quarrelled while drinking, had got drunk on honey-beer (chari). The man who committed the deed had fled and the brother wanted to take revenge on him by taking all his cattle: to make him thin, as he put it. He could not be satisfied by merely taking some cattle — only by fighting, as they do sometimes.

### ***Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Heavy showers of rain last night. Cold. Wind W.N.W. Therm. 46-53-48.

S.W. wind all day. Gusts of rain. Good weather in the evening. A light S.E. wind. Cold.

### ***16<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Therm. 42-60-50. Fresh S.E. wind. It froze a little last night. Was cold. Went up the highest peak close to Engelbregt's house to the north. Found the height above sea level was 3130 ft., therefore 1050 higher than Engelbregt. Took bearings on the hills at the mouth of the Kouwsie River: N.W. \_ W; the highest peak of the Kamies Berg at Cloete's: S.E. 3 miles (there was some snow on it but was melted by noon); Beukes' peak: N.E. \_ E. 3 miles; two miles away — the most northerly point: N.E.; the mouth of the Leentjes River W. by N.; Spoeg River's mouth S.W. by W. \_ W. We were busy drying off everything and making ready.

### ***17<sup>th</sup> September 1779***

Therm. 48-66-55. Cold last night with a fresh east wind that continues. The Hottentots consider that the black snake is not poisonous. A Hottentot who knew Dutch expressed it thus: it is the only human snake. It has thirteen teeth in the upper and lower jaws, the same shape as the horned snake but slightly larger; also bent back. Thus all round there are 52 and none in front of the mouth where its forked tongue pushes out. Then in the upper mouth it has a further two jaws and in each it has another twelve of these teeth. There are therefore 72 in all.

Today saw some Gam or Kleine Namaquas performing their dance. Seven sit down in a circle close to each other. Each had a thin cylindrical tube made of thorn-tree bark with a diameter of one and a half inches and more; each differed in length as well; from 2 and 3 to 4 and 5 feet long. A chewed-up plug of thorn-tree bark is then pushed in, after it has been moistened with milk. After this they tune their flutes: it is often a quarter tone but not even. Each generally produces his tone twice in succession, after that they carry on one after the other like smiths or threshers. It produces a very wild melody. Each begins by making his tone twice and at the same time stamping with his right leg putting it down slightly to the right and the left leg follows behind in the same way. Whereupon they start the same thing again, following one upon the other, all of them bending forwards so that their heads come together. (The Hottentots always bend forward in their dances, the

Caffers never). And so they stamp, always to the right in the same circle until their dance is over. The women stand up at a distance of ten paces, skipping and singing "Ho,ho,ho: ha,ha,ha," clapping their hands and going up to the men from time to time, as if to rouse them, turning quickly back to their former place, sometimes turning once round the men and then away. When the men who are blowing are a little apart, one or two of the women go between them and then the men make as if to catch them. One of these women going through the circle fell upside in such a way that we all had to laugh, and she ran off ashamed. This was one of the prettiest Hottentot women that I have ever seen. She was almost white and although she had a Hottentot face, she had fine features.

The sudden change to moist, cold weather inconvenienced us.

### **18<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

The wind east and less strong. Nice weather. Therm. 50-76-62. (But we were lower down this evening.)

Departed in the afternoon with a short turn in the road through the south east, thereafter northwards. Everywhere very broken terrain, the soil mixed: hard sand and stones. Shrub-veld with many flowers, mostly dark yellow arctotis. One can take it that this range begins at Namroos Heights and that it is the start of the Kamies Berg range which runs up to the Orange River and further. Basins and kloofs everywhere with now and then high koppies with stones, of the same appearance as the koppies, and loose lumps of Cos and a few which are partly gravel. Although, from afar, there appears to be nothing growing, it is however full of low bushes and flowers and aloes etc. (But not on those smooth rocky koppies). Dassies, a sort of marmot, and baboons live on it. Thus this part of Africa is one high broken ridge two or three miles from the sea, which rises up to about four to five thousand feet (which is so far the highest peak on the Kamies Berg. It is also from where all the water flows.) The Kouwsie River and the Swarte Doorn (which runs into the Groene River) start not far from one another at the furthest eastern side of the Kamies Berg. They first run somewhat east, after that the one makes a bend to the right and the other to the left, receiving more little rivulets which come from kloofs on both sides. The watershed is to the east of Engelbregt's but the rivulets between him and Namroos Oogfontein are the start of Spoeg River. Nieuwkerk's Fontein rivulet runs north down the Kloof; rode down it for four hours today after which it runs to the N.W. It joins Elleboogfontein stream (which runs north through a kloof behind Engelbregt) and both run into the Kouwsie. This rivulet ran like a brook and had delicious water, but it is because it is just after the rains.

Made camp where the rivulet runs to the N.W. There was a Kleine Namaqua here with stock belonging to Gerrit Geukes who brought me milk. I also passed a small Namaqua Kraal of five huts and there found some Hottentots of Pinar who had come from the Bokke Veld and who went with me. Mr. Paterson stayed behind at Engelbregt's.

### **Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather last night, warm and there was moonshine. A cool N.E. breeze. Therm. 58-92-65. We were 1700 feet high. Thus have dropped 380 feet since Engelbregt's. Had to wait because the oxen ran away. Yoked in the oxen in the afternoon. After travelling for three hours downhill (but with many rises and falls within this same range) arrived at the Aloes Kloof.

(Brink's great Aloe had been destroyed by fire and was dead.) Measured one of them along the way: 16 feet high (stem and crown) with a circumference of 10 feet in the middle. These are Agavas. The Hottentots make their quivers from the young shoots. Two hours travel to the Kouwsie or Groote Sand River which although flat and shallow,



is now running strongly on account of the last rains. Rode ahead to Jan van den Heever's cattle post, De Rivier, two hours travel by oxwagon N.N.E. \_ E. One has to cross same three times. This river comes out here four miles from the east then makes a bend behind the Kamies Berg. Notwithstanding the recent heavy rains which fell a few days previously, the sharp desiccating easterly winds have again so dried out the countryside that it looks like ash. Everywhere the same, hard, stony terrain. The wagons arrived at half past seven.

**20<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather last night. Warm. A fresh S.E. wind which veered with the sun from dawn and blew briskly. Calm after sunset.

Therm. 60-95-[sic]. Found the height at De Rivier to be 1420 feet; thus 660 lower than Engelbregt's.

Was not well and was feverish.

**N.B. FOLLOWING ENTRY IS CROSSED OUT IN THE MS.**

deg. min.

Latitude 30 - 58 from the zenith.

1 - 4 northerly declination

29 54

**21<sup>st</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather last night. Calm. At dawn calm. At midday a light S.W. wind. It is cloudy in this corner of the hills. Calm in the evening. The course and the latitude (which I took accurately at Engelbregt's) did not tally too well. Decided to take latitude again since the wind and my nausea prevented this yesterday. Was somewhat better today having bled from the nose yesterday and this morning.

deg. min.

Obtained 30 - 28 from the zenith

41 northerly declination 88

41

Thus latitude 29 - 47 error 20 deg. N.W. 47

The flies, especially the blind-flies which look like bees, began to be a great nuisance and in the evening it was the gnats.

Departed N.N.E. \_ E. in the afternoon with a turn uphill through the mountain. Half a mile on took bearings from a rise: van den Heever's farm: S.W. half S; the Koperbergen N. \_ W. at a distance of four miles.

Everywhere the same mountain range and large round smooth boulders. Hard road, mixed soil, sometimes brack, sandy Karoo. Crossed this range of which the highest point is about 1000 feet. It has level places that slope slowly away between plateaus. The rivulet was not running now but had brackish water. Most of the time as we rode along, it was on the right hand side and it is called the Caro River. It comes from the Koperbergen running south; thereafter, half an hour from Van den Heever, it goes S.E. and into the Kouwsie. Silver Fontein lies one mile N.E. of van den Heever and is the farm where he usually lives. Many Kokerbooms or Quiver trees. For a period of five hours' travel the road is mostly downhill and good. When we had crossed the range, climbing and descending, though mostly uphill on a bad stony road, we came to an undulating plain. We made camp, an hour from the Koperbergen Kloof, at a brack fountain, having travelled for 8 hours and the last half by moonlight. A hyena howled close to the wagons and then ran away. We found an old Hottentot and his woman here

who want to bring us milk in the morning. Half an hour from the spring we came onto the road that Hop used on his journey, but our road is better and closer to the Kouwsie.

### **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 1779**

It is not possible to find the six hills (Koperberg) from the description in Hop's journey. It is mountainous everywhere, and the place is 500 paces to the right hand side of the road in a cleft of the foothill of a mountain, two to three hundred feet above the road. Fine weather. Therm. 60- **[sic]**. East wind which became brisk from the north at dawn. Found the height of this plain to be 2360 ft.

Yoked in the oxen at a quarter to ten and rode N.E. up into the Koperberg Kloof. After travelling for one and three quarter hours we saw a small undulating plain ahead of us and on the left hand side at a distance of five hundred yards we saw a rocky reef going up into the mountain: the copper mine. It was thickly covered with verdigris.

Took latitude: 29 deg. — 53 min. **[N.B. CROSSED OUT IN MS]** from the zenith.

Northerly declination shows 29 deg. — 36 min. The wind spoilt the observation. Took bearings: Brakfonteinberg: N; our camp one third of a mile S.W. \_ S; camp at Neigenasfontein N. \_ W.

On the right hand side of the road another large hole full of verdigris. Where the rocks are naturally dark one finds this exudation.

Went to the holes where the verdigris was and found three. The largest was highest up in the cliff. Had been excavated to a depth of about five feet. Searched and took many pieces away with me. Climbed further up the mountain and found the highest peak of these parts. It was one of the highest of the round rocky mountains, although from afar it looks quite different, especially in the summer. (There are, however, herbs everywhere except on the flat slabs). Its widest diameter was that most parallel to the sea. It can be taken that this is all the same range that begins at Groene River with its kloofs and high undulating plateaux, 3700 feet above sea level.

Yoked the oxen an hour before dawn and after three hours' travel arrived at a spring which has fairly good water now. Called Neigenas Fontein: on a high plateau surrounded by low mountains. Barometer on the plateau 2950 feet.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather. Fresh east wind. Therm. 60-89- **[sic]**

29 deg. - 15 min. from the Zenith. Error N.W. 20 deg.

6 Southerly declination.

29 deg. — 21

The country is beginning to look like Bushman Land: that is to say high and flat with stony koppies and as though the high mountains at the sea were high because of erosion or subsidence of the land itself. The terrain still mixed with rocky slabs. Many flowers especially arctotis, (these are red and yellow) and shrubs. One comes across a few light-green plateaux here which the inhabitants call 'mouse-plateaux'; here are to be found many field-mice and yellow snakes which hunt the same.

Yesterday I rode to the cattle post of a man called Beukes. There was a lot of stock there and many shiny-haired or woolly sheep. This is excellent sheep country.

From Groene River there are nineteen stock farms in Namaqualand. On these there are five married farmers; the rest mostly take a Hottentot woman or two, which, so I hear, they marry according to their custom. In the Hottentot marriage ceremony no pissing is used (but they do so in their 'Man-making'). It is the most natural way of doing things in the world. If a young man takes a liking to a young girl he seeks her company without declaring his love or speaking of anything; he is too embarrassed. However since a family usually live together pell-mell in one hut, the young man crawls across to the girl,

even if this is just for his own amusement and she is willing (which is said hardly ever happens) he goes back to his sleeping place. But when the girl is modest she stands up and goes to lie in another place, well outside the hut. If now the young man has serious intentions he stays in the sleeping place of the young girl until full daylight so that everyone can see this. So it goes on until she consents or until he gets tired and sees that she will not have him. If she consents she continues to lie there but this seldom happens at the first proposal. Once he has got her to sleep with him he stays with her so that everybody can see it and even if her parents hear something they let nothing show, saying that it is embarrassing, even if the marriage is not to their liking. In the morning the bridegroom or man stands up and takes the beads round his waist off and throws them on the parents' sleeping place. If these are accepted, the marriage has been concluded. But if they do not want to consent (and they almost never refuse) the daughter remains with her parents, even if she is pregnant and they live as before without scandal. However if the beads have been accepted the young man fetches his cattle and generally gives them ten heifers mixed together, according to what he decides. In addition he must also slaughter one for his wife and some of them hang the stomach fat around their necks and the gall-bladder on their heads. They also mix some other fat together with buchu from the head (one of the older ones does this) and they (man and wife) eat it from each other's hands. And so everything is completed. However, nine of the oxen are a kind of a loan and one is for the parents for having brought the girl up. After three or four years the remaining nine, or others in their place, must be given back. The Hottentots have daughters willingly because they get stock at their wedding. A poor young man is in an equally bad way as he would be in Europe; and a Hottentot who owns a lot of stock very often has two or three wives; which causes them more trouble than pleasure. The wives quarrel among themselves, first one running away and then the other. At this the Hottentot who does not want to miss his wife must go after them and bring them back again. One of these, who had both an old and a young one, was asked why he did not let his young wife go since she was always running away, replied that although it certainly was true that his old wife cared for him better he still liked the young one. Their 'Other-Making' occurs at births, marriages, (becoming man and woman), deaths and at other events. (Sometimes just for diversion). They never tie knuckle bones around their hands but almost always tie a gall-bladder in their hair until it falls off completely. Hottentots marry very young, a Namaqua told me, and that is why they are so weak.

From here took bearing on Brakfontein Berg: N. by E. 3 deg. E. course to here yesterday: N. 3 deg. W.

Departed E.N.E. through a small shallow kloof (de Poort) and came out of the mountain range. After one and a quarter miles we turned through some stony hills and reached high flat country with stone hills almost like those at the Agter Sneeuwberg but not as high. (The small round Little Copper Mountain at our outspan-place is much richer in ore than the original Koperbergen). Still saw no grass but only shrubs. After three and a half hours made camp at a filter-spring close to a low hill. It was all made of a type of smooth stone, beside it was a stony hill with some bushes like those at the Agter Sneeuwberg. Once more it is Bushman Land. The land undulates continuously from the sea to here and I still cannot see a single ridge from the plateau. We are now on a plain 2750 feet high. Hop went north to Brakfontein; thus I left the road of his journey yesterday.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Fine weather. Calm and hot. Therm. 62-93-74. A fresh N.E. breeze rose at about ten o'clock in the morning, veered with the sun and grew calm in the evening. Went up the smooth round rock here which makes a small mountain of 600 foot. The stones on top of the rock were very much of the kind one finds at False Bay and behind Lion's head. Here and there they appear to have been washed up by the sea. Although nothing appears to grow on these smooth slabs, climbing up them one finds herbs and shrubs where there are clefts or pulverised earth. Have found here kokerbooms, wild apricot and kouw-booms.

Saw that the country was flat with many small, stony isolated mountains which one can ride over. It is an ugly landscape with little verdure. Riding across the plains however, one finds bushman grass and low shrubs, mostly mesembryantheums.

Took bearings on the place where we made camp yesterday: W. by S. half a mile.

Course ahead to a poort in the fairly high, stony hills: E.N.E. 4 deg. N.

Departed half an hour before sunset across a level plain of bushman grass which had many mesembryantheums; there were also some Cari-berry trees which yield a small red elongated berry which was good eating. We arrived at the poort after travelling for about five hours with a further half hour uphill into same. We travelled over some very sandy uneven places which occur on these little mountains; it appears they have been caused by subsidence.

A few hours to the west of the same poort, camelthorn trees begin to occur in places and in the moonlight they make a beautiful variation to this flat countryside. Three hours further on at half past twelve in the morning we arrived at a small underground water-hole; called Huib. Saw nothing but an ostrich, two skaapstekers and some horned snakes. Some zebra tracks. The countryside consisted mainly of large tussocks of bushman grass: very gravelly, sandy Karoo-country.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Warm last night, calm. Fine weather. All night the thermometer was mostly on 65 deg. Moonlight. Full moon in the evening at about 5 o'clock. Fine weather this morning, the same as yesterday. There is a fair amount of moisture in the air. Height on the plain 2265 feet.

Latitude 28 deg. — 23 min. from the zenith.

0 - 53 southerly declination.

29 deg. — 16 min.

To the east of us we still saw camelthorns as well as an ostrich and a steenbuck, otherwise no game or people although I am told that there are bushmen living around here. Plotted our course ahead: E.N.E. to a small hill. Hard, flat country. Much quartz and pebbles that glistened in the moonlight like diamonds. Flat everywhere as far as the eye can reach though it is slightly hilly in the north east; fairly high broken hills from the south west to the north east. After five hours' travel it became sandy and heavy going. Made camp at 8.45. at an underground water hole, Camasauws, another place where one has to dig for water. Thus one cannot travel through this whole dry region except in the rainy season. There is thunder as well but not much rain at the time of the dry Cape S. Easter. It also snows in the winter.

We found a small kraal of Bushmen here: 16 of them, men, women as well as children

(although at first only some of them came to see us in the night). They had twenty head of stock of which one was a milk cow they had taken from the Kleine Namaquas; they were living in enmity with the same.

**26<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

The same weather and wind which generally becomes light easterly three to four hours after sunset. Very hot on account of the loose, hot reddish-brown Karoo sand. The wind fresh, veered with the sun.

Therm. 68-100-80. Barometer gave 2165 feet.

62 deg. - 12 min.

27 - 48 from the zenith

giving: 90 - 0

1. - 16 southerly declination

29 deg. - 4 min. Latitude.

N.B. The course therefore fell in a more northerly direction.

As the sun was setting yesterday saw an animal that looked like a rhinoceros; it was standing against a hill but it was too far and the sun was going down. (My boy Koerikei sees as well with the naked eye as I can with my pocket spy-glass).

The great change in the heat since Engelbregt's has caused my nose to bleed from time to time. Yesterday I ate a wild cucumber which was so bitter that I became ill from it and vomited, as also happened to a Hottentot beauty.

There were four robust young fellows of middling stature among these Bushmen: brothers. They arrived here from the east yesterday. They were very open and friendly and brought me milk this morning. There were only three children and a young girl and two older people. Had never seen people like me. Gave them some tobacco and they searched the countryside around here for stones for me; different kinds of pebbles and flints. The sand in this country is looser. Being grass-country it is bushman-grass-country, or *Taaneina*. Plotted course ahead: E.N.E. 3 deg. N. Have used the compass to travel over this countryside. A Hottentot has been showing me the only waterholes. He has learned this from the Bushmen.

Last night, while travelling over this flat country by moonlight we found an ostrich nest which had twelve eggs which had been sat on for a time but were still good. In the outside circle however (as in the previous description of the ostrich nest) there were seven very fresh ones. The male, even though he also sits on them, makes himself a nest in the sand close beside the nest containing the eggs.

There is a scarcity of water here and it does not taste good (but not brack). We have to let the oxen drink two at a time, digging and letting it fill up again each time.

Departed E.N.E. 3 deg. N. and reached Sandfontein, Pinar's cattle-post after ten and a half hours' travel and found him there. It took him twenty one days to reach here from the dead elephant. He had shot two elephant and thirteen hippopotamus along the left bank of the river. It has no waterfalls but it does have rapids over the reefs and very large bends. Found my two Hottentots and my wagon all in order. Because I am the first to come this way by wagon they were not expecting me to come from this direction. Until a mile of Camasauws we had difficult, reddish brown, sandy ridges; thereafter hard pebbly flat stretches and more than half of the way to Sandfontein we had loose reddish-brown and gravelly karoo sand. Shrubs everywhere and more stony hills up to 400 feet high. Saw where the river lay, one and a half miles to the north east, between a mountain range which is not, however, high. Runs E. \_ S. thus Brink's map is totally inaccurate on this.

**27<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

The same weather and wind. Very hot. The Orange River E. N. from us, one and half miles.

Latitude: from the zenith. 27 deg. - 16 min.

1 - 40 southerly declination

28 deg. - 56 min

Barometer: 2550 feet.

Therm. 67-100-84

Yesterday a Bushman came to me: of middling stature and a robust young fellow. He had come across the tracks of the wagon and since he had never seen anything like these, he followed them out of curiosity. He came to me boldly and was most friendly, had never seen a white man and was astonished at my beard! He told me he had once wounded a hippopotamus and thinking that as it had fallen it was dead, he walked over its body. It caught both his arms in its mouth and bit him very badly but, he said, two of his companions had set him free. He showed me deep scars and said that if a hippopotamus is running, in the beginning no man can escape it, but eventually, in time, the man could escape but he would have to be a good runner. This Hottentot's name was Uijsita. Gave him some tobacco and he departed very content. Thus they roam from one small underground water-hole to another. These Bushmen were very friendly but were great enemies of the Namaquas, stole stock from them and said that it was because they had come into their country to graze stock. They are very proud and magnanimous. Some went looking for stones with me and were very happy that I was pleased with them.

Plotted the course of the Basters where Wikar went, twenty days' journey up the river from here: E. by S. \_ S; the waterfall lying half-way: E. \_ S: The Company's Drift: W.N.W.8 miles.

**28<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Therm. 60-96-76. The same weather and wind, though not as hot.

29. The same weather and wind. Therm.56-88-63. Thundery sky in the afternoon but no thunder.

Today for the first time saw two old Eini or Einiqua. Both had one testicle cut out, the one on the right and the other on the left. The remaining testicle was slightly larger than usual and filled the pouch so that it did not swing loose at all. They were called Naugaap and Oegaap. They were married and lived with the bushmen who stay around here and are called Haussa eip. Naugaap's was cut out by the Eniquas when he was an adult and he said it was because he had a pain in his loins and because it would make him run faster. He had four children and a wife. Oegaap's was cut out when he was still a young boy. It happened casually and not in the normal course of circumcision. He was not obliged to do it. It appeared to be partly superstition and partly an old way of treating sickness; it happens at slaughtering as well, always with two head of stock or at "Other Making". For as long as Naugaap could remember only one of them had died of it. Oegaap had nine children. Naugaap was sorry he had let himself be cut since he now lived with the Bushmen who never do it. It had made him very ill. He did not want his children to be cut. Laughingly, he said that he was now almost an ox. His wife was pregnant with her first child when he let himself be cut which was done by a man called Caumaap who did this at their kraal. At most there were two who could cut. Very often they did this together in the rainy season: also about June. (Rubbed themselves with red paint). They must then each sit apart without letting any woman come to them until they are healed.

The first joint of the finger next to the little finger on Oegaap's right hand was cut off, for sickness; their parents do it if they are very ill, also the head woman or head man. In each kraal of the Einiqua (which is the name of all the kraals though every kraal has its particular name) which lie on this river there are as many who do not have the ball cut as those who do have it cut. They say that these are too afraid, but do not despise them or consider them to be different from the others. The women make no distinction between them and everything stays the same. They are all Hottentots and their speech varies only slightly from the Namaquás.

These people are called Hoensing eib meaning Spider Kraal. Some of the Einiquas (the Ein comes from the name of the River) — those who live almost behind the Sneeuwberg on this side of the river — have much stock. The Coraqua are somewhat further up on the other side of the river. They, the Hoensing eib are good friends of the Bushmen who fight with the Sneeuwberg farmers.

Klaas and Piet Bastart are living on Pinar's farm; they went with Wikar but have now returned.

Two good days' journey to the north of them the black Briqua or Brinas begin. Saw a Kouqua (or People-who-cut-kraal), an Einiqua too who had been to the Briqueas and he called their corn zlemica just as the Caffers do. Earlier they did not use the bow but now they do. The Kouqua also had his left testicle cut out and said that all the people in his kraal had this done according to an old custom, excepting only a few who were too timid. The Briqueas cut themselves.

The river that runs behind the Orange River is called Koeroemana by the Briqueas. It runs from the east to the N.W. and somewhat more north-westerly than parallel to this river. We are making all ready to go east up river in the moonlight. We are making a wagon ready and are leaving the boat here since we are not able to travel very far with the wagon; after that we are taking pack-oxen. Am longing very much to see the so-called Briqueas.

### **29<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

Same weather and wind. Therm. 56-88-63. Thundery sky in the afternoon. Hot but no thunder.

Departed with a small turn through the N.E. by E. Course generally E. by N. to a place called Soubeesjes by the Bushmen, meaning black ebony. A good spring there where I filled my water barrel. It is an hour from the river which here runs very low through the mountain range so that one can reach it only on foot. There are fewer slabs or round hills to be seen but rough, irregular mountains, about 3500 feet above sea level. No strata but hard reddish-brown uneven rocks, with much mica and quartz and often very old and decomposed. Although one can see no herbage on them from afar there are however some kokerbooms and herbage growing there; a poison tree as well, which grows like a bush. It has a small trifoliate leaf and to windward had a strong, unpleasant smell. The Bushmen make a strong poison from the worms that feed on it, and by crushing it with a kind of euphorbia, they poison water.

This region is all sandy, reddish-brown decomposed stones, much quartz with shrubs here and there. The range on the other side of the river is the same. The flat country is higher up, thus it appears that these ranges, parallel to the river, are nothing more than broken parts of the plateau. Many so-called raisin trees grow beside this river. The flower is almost like that of a grape and the tree is like a pussy-willow, it has the same kind of leaf but is actually trifoliate.

After travelling for two hours N. E. by E. we turned east through the kloof of an isolated mountain and made camp at dusk because the road was almost impassable. The stones here, which contain much quartz, are so full of fire that with the slightest touch of a foot (bringing one stone against another) one sees fire given off. We tried rubbing them lightly together and they gave off a bright fire-like electricity. We called this passage Vagevuurs Kloof [**Purgatory Kloof**].

#### **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 1779**

A cool, fresh east wind in the evening. Therm. 55-72- [sic] . Overcast. Light S. W. wind. We left with daylight after many difficulties: having to remove rocks from the road and having to hold the wagon steady in this place which is a good hour long on the flat. After two and a half hours we made camp at a brack spring called Commas, a little less than an hour from the river. This is the last farm and where a servant of Buurman keeps his cattle but he is now at Soubeesjes.

Some Bushmen and four Einiquas, two men and two women, were going with us. We are now two and a quarter miles east by north of Pinar's stock farm. We must now make a wide turn through the S. E. by E. to avoid a mountain lying across our way. Today saw giraffe tracks for the first time, a cow's since it is smaller than a bull's. It is very bad, sandy, rocky country. Yesterday we saw kokerbooms, trampled over by elephant which live here beside the river, also cypress and camelthorn trees (a type of mimosa). They are called red Brazil wood in these parts.

The kouw is a *rojana* the same as those I found two years earlier on the Great Fish River. It has a small red core inside the green capsule; the kernel tastes of almonds, and oil is made from it. They are very large here and the Bushmen get fat eating them.

In some kokerbooms there are always two branches which grow out again from the original trunk. Saw large nests of dry grass in these which looked like the lower parts of our stork's nests; they were full of small holes where many little birds each had their apartments.

At dark made camp in the countryside after four hours' travel; many dry rivulets, the same terrain, rocky slabs, uneven ground.

#### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 1779**

Yoked in the oxen in the morning and after three and a half hour's travel arrived at the dry Cabas River, which runs through the mountains here into the Orange River.



Therm. 56-70-53. A cold, west wind which turned southerly during the night. Height at Cabas: 2850 feet. Six hours on foot over the range south of the river. At this point it runs north for two miles and then turns east. (It is possible that this bend is the place called Coeboes where it seemed to Kobus Coetse that the river ran from the north and this is what he told Brink who had never been here). Took bearings on Pinar's farm: 5 miles W. by N. Thus we have made a wide turn around the range that lies beside the river. It was the first since Maskamma to again be formed of somewhat horizontal strata. Yesterday we saw a little table mountain situated on flat country beside a low, flat, long mountain. Course still a good half mile E. by S. and again E. by N. to reach the river. A man called Model, Buurman's former servant, lives here with his stock. Found much mica in large slabs here and found no strata in the mountains but everything lying confused and mixed together. However, because the rivulet was easily a thousand feet deep between the range it is as though it had been formed by an earthquake. But the protruding and receding angles of the range match each other.

Saw many giraffe tracks today, larger but like eland (canna) tracks, its dung also. It had eaten off the tops of many of the kouw trees, about 12 feet up. It can however eat from the ground without bending its knees as has been claimed.

The Bushmen here are divided into two, with the names: River and Sandveld Hottentots, but they are one people. Two men who belong to the Sandveld Hottentots, called Noeroep and Kan kon seep have the most influence. The first is a small elderly Hottentot who is swift and courageous and as a result all are respectful of him. The latter crossed the river last January and went to the Namaquas at Camingnoe kraal, which lies three days' journey north of here. They carried off cattle as well as a young Hottentot whom they captured and then cut his throat. It was in revenge for one of them who had been shot dead in a previous fight. At the beginning it was the Namaquas who lost but taking up their fighting-shields they pursued the Bushmen, coming upon them at the river. They overwhelmed them on account of their numbers and especially because of their shields, even though the Bushmen could shoot better and were braver. Abandoning everything, they lost 15 men, most of them drowned in the river, wounded by arrows. They were about 50 strong. I found Kan kon seep on Pinar's farm and told him that I did not want them to steal any more cattle from the Namaquas and this he promised me. These Bushmen serve our farmers and are good herdsman but they do not tolerate bad treatment.

### ***Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1779***

Very cold last night. A fresh S. wind and as there was a clear freezing sky throughout the day the wind veered S.W., blowing freshly.

It is likely that it has been raining from the N. W. towards the Kamies Berg and the Cape. The climate is different in this high-lying land, far from the sea and almost like the Agter Sneeuwberg; there is certainly a fair amount of snow in the Cape's rainy season and thunder in the Cape's summer.

Found that the stones in the river differed greatly in hardness. (Model travelled with us because the underground water in the rivulet was finished). In the stones found a wasp which is here called giftby or poison-bee, reddish and longer, very thin in the middle with long narrow wings. Its sting is more powerful than a bee. Its nest is round and not bigger than a fist.

Departed first E. by S. half a mile until we reached a small hollow in the branch of mountains that extend to this point. Half-way we crossed the dry Cabes rivulet which runs S.E. from the plain during thunderstorms. After one and a half miles we came on to a bad, stony road going downhill: first a quarter of a mile N.E. then E. through a flat kloof which I called Susettesdal. Through the kloof ran a dry river. There were many Kouw

trees and much Bushman grass making it very pleasant. But looking for water we found none and travelling on for a further quarter of an hour we made camp without water after four and a half hour's brisk travel. In this marsh we saw many giraffe tracks; they had grazed on every kouw tree and looking at their tracks I was astonished to see that when they stand still the rear hooves were only a foot away from the fore hooves. We saw rhinoceros tracks as well.

We travelled now like the Children of Israel, since Model, due to the fact that the water on his farm had run out, had loaded his hut and his household goods onto pack-oxen and a pack-sled and was moving with us, which, together with all his stock produced a great hubbub of sheep and cattle. Some of the ewes lambed on the way; the lambs were then picked up and carried and placed on the sled as well.

At the end of the kloof we saw a great, flat country in front of us (lying between N.E. & S.E.) as far as we could see, broken only here and there by small irregularities.

### ***Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1779***

Fresh S.E. wind which remained soft and cool from the east all day.

Therm. 45-70-55. Height: 2460 ft.

Departed by a turn through the N.N.W., (having the Samoep to the N. by E., i.e. where we reach the river again) and arrived after two and a half hours' travel at a dry rivulet which lies a quarter of an hour to the west of the kloof. It had only a little brack water which our oxen drank with difficulty: called this place Dorstige Kuil. Travelled for an hour and three quarters further north and made camp (waterless) in the dark, on flat sloping country full of large beautiful kokerbooms, which I called Agava or Kokerboom Vlake. Today we saw much giraffe as well as zebra and gemsbuck tracks but, except for a hare, no living game.

Went hunting giraffes. Saw many of their tracks and rhinoceros tracks but no animals. The firm, stony, reddish-brown sand is mixed in places with dusky reddish-brown clay and one does not have to dig deep to find rock everywhere. These low mountains look as reddish-brown as the soil, scattered lumps everywhere, a few slabs and many large pieces of quartz. Today much grass and haakjesdoor, a kind of mimosa, kouw as well and cameep. In addition this whole country is full of many mouse holes.

The Hottentots (the ones I saw), the Einiquas, all called themselves Naugaap; this is their family — or mother-name, but they also had another name, thus one of them was called Naugaap Toenemap. Naugaap was his mother's name (and daughters are called after their father).

Also saw many of the aforementioned birds' nests. A kind of finch, grey, lives in them. Broke one of these huge objects off which was plaited into a kokerboom branch. It was at least five feet in diameter. All of it, right into the centre is full of openings and dwelling places but found no eggs or young. The openings are now in the lower part.

### ***Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October 1779***

Therm. 56-76-68. At dawn a fresh east wind (calmer two hours later). Fine weather, somewhat cloudy on the horizon. Very fine all day with a light east wind. There is little dew here and seldom.

Departed north over the plain downhill and after half an hour's travel we were out of the kokerbooms and going uphill over difficult reddish-brown and stony sandhills. We made a small turn to get through the rises and thereafter followed our course on a hard road. Being ahead, we saw many rhinoceros tracks. They had been cutting all sorts of capers and running round in circles. At every place where they had dunged they had scratched two furrows, had kicked their dung and uprooted shrubs from the ground. Was nowhere able to find traces of horns in the ground but everywhere the scratching where they had

dunged.

After we had been travelling for four hours, it being one o'clock in the afternoon, we saw two rhinoceros standing at about 1000 paces away on the plain, between caan and kouw thickets ten to twelve feet high. We loaded our guns and the three of us went towards them, the Hottentot Klaas Barend, Model (an infantry pace-maker, a German) and I. They went off to the right, into the thicket, in order to stalk the animals from down wind while I stayed up in front in case they intended to come forth there. The rhinoceroses were standing facing me, their ears flapping up and down. Before we had left the wagon to go into the thicket a hartebeest (bubalis) bull came right up to us, about 80 paces distant. It appeared to fear nothing nor to be aware of us. However, while we were on the plain we did not want to shoot it since we did not wish to disturb the rhinoceroses. It would, I believe, have come right up to us had my dog Keiser not seen it and flown at it. Fortunately it took a course away from the rhinoceros, bounding off in the most beautiful way, making beautiful jumps like a spring buck, which caused the dogs to aim too short. The rhinoceroses had not been aware of anything and we went to the places mentioned before. Model and the Hottentot crept to within a good hundred paces of them but were then unable to see them well in the thicket. They had still not become aware of me because I saw them calmly lying down with the result that the two hunters were unable to shoot them. I went about fifty paces nearer, whereupon one of the animals stood up; shortly afterward the Hottentot shot and the animal fell down dead. The shot, as we afterwards found, had gone close to or into the heart. The other received the ball high in the foreleg, in the body, and limped off. But my dog Keiser, who respects no animal flew at it on the first shot and attacked the rhinoceros from in front and from behind. It tried to gore the dog but Keiser was too quick for it and before I could get to it Model shot it dead.

We found that both were cows with two teats that were much bigger than those of a hippopotamus and with light, pendulous udders very much like a horse's. They were almost the same length and height and were fully grown. The largest was four feet ten inches high in a straight line in front and one and a half inches lower behind. It was eight feet four inches long, measured in a straight line just as the animal lay there. We placed it in the same position it would have had were it alive and as if we were seeing it from the side. The other differed by one inch from the above measurements. The largest horn was 15 inches long and that of the smallest 8 inches thus differing from last year's bull by one inch. The thickness also hardly differed and with these the head was 23 inches long. The eye lies just between the tip of the nose and the middle of the ears, below the posterior horn, nine inches above the lower jawbone and only six beneath the horn. Its muzzle is very pliable and loose (probably so that it can be extended and retracted) and the lower part as well; its tongue is not hard but very soft, although it is rough higher up towards the back. It can see forwards without turning its head. Although the eyes are placed as they are and the opening is one inch in diameter, the pupil is clear and protuberant and not sunken. The thick horns on the nose allow room for the line of sight to pass completely unimpeded. In addition, since the hindmost part of the eye, at the side of the ears, is much wider than the foremost part of the eye, this exposes more of the eye. Thus I was wrong in suggesting that the rhinoceros cannot see straight ahead but it was the hot weather that misled me last year. Also because it was the first rhinoceros I had seen I was busy with everything at the same time. An animal shot in the heat will swell up in less than an hour. Because of this its muzzle and folds around the eye were so swollen that one could see no movement in the muzzle and almost no eyes from sideways on, let alone from the front. The drawing is accurate as the animal then was. However since one of these rhinoceroses was dying as I came up to it I saw,

looking closely at the face, that it could see well in front of it and I saw that the eyes did not look inward but sat straight under the lids. It has a dark blue pupil, a darker iris; the white of the eyes was clear as well. I also saw how the rhinoceros stands as if looking at something, as it does in the drawing, however its more natural position is with its head held lower down so that the head forms an angle of forty five degrees to the horizon. For the rest both these animals had no folds in their hide, only at the flank; one did have a fold on the foreleg and on the neck. They also had a much smoother hide and not as rough as last year's bull. Still do not know whether it is common for cows to have no folds. For the rest they are somewhat smaller than the bulls but they have the same stance. Both the horns were loose. Although they have no incisors the teeth are however close to each other in the front of the mouth in such a way that for a space of two inches there are no teeth.

Saw no giraffe tracks here since they live further away from the river.

Because there was no water here and since our cattle had not had water since yesterday, we cut a piece off the rhinoceros and at two o'clock departed N., then, with a short turn, N.W.; thereafter N., and within half an hour we came to the river. This place is called Naisees Klip by the Einiquas. We will have the animals slaughtered tomorrow. We had hoped to find water in a kloof but there was so little that we rode on to the river through an opening in the range. It took us half an hour descending steeply and we made camp 500 paces from it on account of the elephants which come to graze on the trees close to the river and which could, perhaps, trample the wagon. Today saw about a dozen zebras as well as elephant and rhinoceros tracks around the mountains at the river. Also two fresh lions' tracks which showed they had chased a zebra, and, close to the river, hippopotamus tracks. Found the river full of large slabs and rocks so that when the river is full here there must be a great noise of water over the stones. It was evening when I reached the river and I was very thirsty. Found very good water and man and beast drank as much as they could. Could not see much of the river because it was dusk but while descending to it could see that the high plateau country falls away, just as it does on this side of the river, and that the mountains which were slightly higher than the plateau at its highest, followed the same slope to the river on both sides, and that they were just jumbled rocks, although they were sparsely covered by kokerbooms and other shrubs in places. Pinar went up the river from Cabas where it begins to turn to the north, ending here. Have no news of him.

### **5<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Hot easterly breeze that veered with the sun. Therm. 59-96-80. Latitude (700 paces from the river) 28 deg-43 min. Error 1 deg. (more to the N.W. thus 21). Height of the river bed: 1065 ft.

How was this gorge formed between these two steep banks?

Thus at the place where I reached this river in 1777 the bed was 3000 feet high but the river lies very low between flat, sloping country and on it there were mountains which looked as though they had been planted there. It ran to the W.N.W. and it stretched easterly as far as I could see. Both up and down the river today, so far as I could go and look, it was full of large, smooth, stone slabs; rough, grey Cos so that one hardly sees any water. It seems that one can cross the river dry-shod everywhere except for a few small streams. Tried to cross but was stopped by some strong small streams which are distributed everywhere between the banks. That this river (more often empty than full) only becomes full in the thundery season or Cape summer, can be seen from the many

willow and mimosa-type trees which grow vigorously everywhere beside and within the river (apart from a small area in the middle) as well as on the banks and on a type of small island. When the river is completely full it must come pouring down over the stone slabs. Thus the river is everywhere full of stones and is now at its lowest.

In the afternoon went to the river and by turning this way and that crossed over it to the mountains: the distance between is 7 to 800 paces. Found fresh hippopotamus tracks and saw a medium sized iguana but it was too quick for me. On the other side a small stream of about twenty paces cut me off from the mountains. When it is full the river runs right up to the cliffs. Shot two beautiful birds which were a kind of kingfisher. Saw two green parakeets but they were too quick for me. Saw a small ape of the kind one gets in Outeniqualand. I shot and it tumbled out of the tree. After I had bathed in a small stream, returned to the wagons at nightfall.

When this iguana moves, it drags its tail on the sand leaving a notable print.

### **6<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Calm. Wind somewhat from the west (fresh westerly all day). Fine weather.

Therm. 60-86-70.

We left the river and once more set forth over the high plateau till about where we found the dry rivulet on our journey here: half a mile from the river. We then turned S.E. through an opening in the stony hills and then E. by N. travelling for some time on a somewhat uneven track. So it is that a person sometimes has to be as much as two miles from the river in order to reach the high plateau and this applies to both banks. Made camp at nightfall without water after having travelled for four hours. Everywhere the same terrain and vegetation. Koerikei found a bees' nest but it lay so deep in the rocks he was unable to remove. Found that the massive poison-tree at our camp on the mountain, whose crushed branch, full of milk, can poison a small spring, was euphorbia. Saw fresh rhinoceros tracks. The rhinoceros meat was most delicious eating, but that of old animals is tough. These pieces were from fully-grown, young female animals, very fat. It tasted much like beef. It had, however, a gamey taste rather like hare's flesh.

### **7<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Good weather. Therm. 60-80-70. A cool westerly breeze. Very fine. After going E.N.E. with a turn through the north we arrived after four and half hours at the river. Once more the last hour was over the same descending terrain. Our Bushmen called this place Samoep. Here, as before, we could walk almost dry-shod over the stony places. N.B. so far as I know the river, the current is strongest on the other side. Saw many elephant — and some hippopotamus tracks and the same trees but up till now they have been sparse and very poor, deserving the name scrub rather than trees.

This morning as I was riding after giraffe tracks, my horse stepped into some deep mouse-holes with which this country is infested, and it fell upside down and on to me, but jumping up quickly it did not hurt me in the slightest. Called this camping-place 'De Gelukkige Val'. Here at Samoep the river runs N. and half a mile S. It is three mile E.N.E. \_ N. from our outspan-place, Klipbank or Klip plaat. There it turns completely to the S.E. Toenama tells me that we are now two days' journey from the great waterfall, according to him. There is so little game that I have sent one of my Hottentots, Mallegaas, with a bushman to fetch 12 sheep from Model, to use in case of need.

I am surprised that there are so few hippopotamus here because there are so many of them up-river.

### **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Calm, but not so hot. A westerly wind in the afternoon becoming moist from the direction of the sea, or westerly side, in the evening. It can be supposed that it will be raining in the Cape.

Therm. 61-78-64.

We left the river in the afternoon and once more travelled back for half an hour uphill. Thereafter in an easterly direction: N.E. and E.N.E. A difficult track of sand and stone, steeply uphill through the high stony hills: grey Cos with much mica. Uneven stone outcrops everywhere, much bushman grass and shrubs in the flat places. Mimosa and strong-smelling poison trees among the stones. When we were almost to the top of the high plateau we passed an opening sloping away downhill. We also saw the high Namaqualand plateau north of the river which flows here as if through an abyss. Made camp at dark. My dogs caught an aardjakhals or earth-jackal, called an A. The same kind as I caught beyond the Caffers in 1777.

We had travelled for four and a half hours but it was a difficult track; thus two miles E.N.E. \_ N.

N.B. In the low-lying parts at the river one finds clay.

The Einiquas with me were delighted that their fellow countrymen would be astonished at me. They asked especially that I should wear my long hair loose when with them.

There were now two male Einiquas and three women of that nation with us, as well as a Hottentot and a good shot called Claas Barend. In addition there were another four Hottentots, one of whom was Koerikei and that, with Schoemaker, was all our company; the Bushmen having gone with Pinar along the river. We have missed them this same day, although our agreement was to meet on the first evening.

Took bearings on the KaiKaap or Great River. Called thus though it does not flow except in thunderstorms. It comes from the N. by W. and flows into the Orange River here in the N.N.W. From here the Haman river or Ha Hamma, another dry rivulet runs into the river closer to Samoep and also on the right bank. The river begins to turn to the E.S.E. from the waterfall. Our Einiquas called this outspan-place Houceib. Half an hour further east there is sometimes water in a stone but there was none there now.

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Therm. 52-76-60. Fine cool weather. Calm. A light breeze, sometimes from one side and then from the other.

Travelled with many turns, sometimes S. then N. and then N.E. A bad road, sandy and stony between the mountains, through flat places and between cliffs. Reached a small underground water-hole after travelling for five hours on a course N.E. by E. It is called Aiaas. We dug beside a stone. The water was fairly good but there was so little we had to let the oxen drink from the pool two at a time. After resting for two hours (saw some parakeets but they were very shy) and then travelling for a further three hours in an E.N.E. direction we arrived and made camp at nightfall. It was mostly flat, grass-country and already dried out and yellow; waterless as well. From here we saw, on the other side, the long, flat table mountain range of upper Namaqualand stretching E. to W. and two and a half miles to the N. Everywhere the same terrain. Found some tiny rubies; the quartz also began to be a reddish-brown colour.

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

The same weather and wind. Therm 56-80-62. Took bearings on Haries or Garies, an

underground water-hole: E.N.E., one mile.  
Latitude: 21 deg. - 45 min. from the zenith.

6 deg. - 41 min. southerly declination.

28 deg. - 26 min.

Left at seven o'clock and had to travel S. and S.E. for three and a half hours with many turns around the range before we came to the underground water-hole Haries. It had good water but little of it. The whole range is the same; there are underground water-holes in the rivulets which only flow in thunderstorms. Found Pinar here; we had been looking for each other. Saw many giraffe and rhinoceros tracks and yesterday a herd of zebra, about 30, but could not get within range. They had shot four rhinoceros, two hippopotamus, killed an elephant and severely wounded another. They found a Bushman kraal the other side of Samoep. A woman gave him two young Hottentots about eight years old. One ran away again, the other stayed with me; his name was Cabas or Red.

Still many kokerbooms on the mountains as well as poison-euphorbia. It is 6 sided, rounded, with two thorns close to one another from top to bottom, along each edge. One had a diameter of 12 feet and was 8 feet high. The countryside is bushier than the Agter Sneeuwberg: has small trees of different kinds of mimosa.

My Hottentot Mallegaas arrived this afternoon with 12 sheep, 2 goats. Today ate an excellent soup of young rhinoceros meat; it was as good as veal.

The so-called haakjesdoorn mimosa is so clinging and sharp that once in it, it is impossible to make a movement. The rocky sand is mixed with reddish clay in parts. Found some spar. Both yesterday and today we had to work hard, removing stones from in front of the wagon and it was hard work getting through the mountains and the stones, although there were small openings and flat grassy places in between. There was also flat country further away from the river but we had to stay close to the river on account of water.

One of Pinar's Hottentots was bitten at the Aloe Kloof by a hoornman snake but was cured by having the poison sucked out and with buttermilk.

At the Aloe Kloof shot some kind of Namaqua partridge which came in abundance to drink at an underground water-hole. A hyena came close to the tent but after howling a few times departed, escorted by my dogs.

### ***Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 1779***

Cool last night. The same weather but hotter. Therm. 54-96-70. Pinar, three Bushmen, four of our Up-country Hottentots, my two boys Koerikei and Cabas and I went N. to the river. It was one and a quarter hour's going downhill through the Haries or Garies-poort. Found the river just the same here but there were somewhat fewer stones and it looked much like the Meuse at Namur where it winds through the mountain. Here it flows E. and W. but winding all the time. There are few trees and birds. We saw fresh rhinoceros and elephant tracks and the tracks of a large lion, fresh, but none of these animals themselves. Saw two hippopotamus in the river and both lost their lives. We remained watching for them to come up which, with the first, took more than three hours after death. This sometimes varies very greatly; possibly depending on whether they are large or small, fat or thin. In many places along this river salt strikes up from the soil. Model at Camaggas collected good salt at a pool beside the river, although water never becomes brack here.

Saw the Bushmen swimming across the river; this they do with a piece of dead willow-wood between their legs, going from one stone to the other. Pinar did this as well and the Bushmen with his gun and powder.

Stayed on this side and took my latitude. Even though the dogs ran into the astrolabe yesterday I found that the observation was accurate. Observed the barometer and got 28 inches 8 tenths: therefore 1060 feet above sea level. The same as at 'De Klipbank'. The same weather as well. This shows that the river has very little fall here and that one takes measurements with the barometer to an accuracy of 200 to 300 feet. The high, flat range stretches for half a mile on the other side. However there are also rough stony mountains on both sides, apparently formed by subsidence, which are lower than the high plateau.

Returned to the wagon in the afternoon. Was most astonished at young Cabas who is only three feet, four inches high. (Koerikei is four feet high). He carried the copper measuring stick of the barometer and he was always as close to me as a dog although I walked very fast and it was very hot. He paid close attention to everything and did everything to win my favour.

The sand at the river was so hot that it burned through the soles of my shoes. Came very thirsty to our underground water-hole.

### **12<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Wind westerly. Therm. 60-76-55.

This morning found little rubies in the brittle slabs of Cos. But they were neither large nor clear and the reddish particles were so brittle that most of them disintegrated into fine grit.

Departed eastwards in the afternoon; everywhere the same terrain: flat, rising veld. Still keep the high table mountain range of Namaqualand on the right hand side, two and a half miles away. The river runs alongside the same. Generally in an easterly direction. This afternoon saw first on one occasion and then on two, a pair of rhinoceros cows with their half-grown calves. Thus five in all. Hunted same and wounded one but got nothing. Cannot accurately determine our numbers since every day we are joined by more Bushmen who live by our hunting, and most helpful they are.

About sunset (N.B. after travelling for six hours) I saw the first giraffe but far off and I used my pocket telescope. He came towards us in his course to the river, at times standing still and waving his neck from side to side to the other like the mast of a ship that heels over strongly at sea. One of my Hottentots had already seen it, and stalking it, wounded it slightly but it got away. Pinar, who had been hunting two rhinoceros, came from behind, right into its path. Following the animal and setting my dogs upon same I heard the dogs barking and two shots. Although dusk was already drawing in, I left my horse and went on foot to the barking and came upon Pinar who was making signals by shooting and with fires, being an hour from the wagon. There I found this handsome and extraordinary animal, one of the most beautiful formed by nature, dead. Lighted by burning brands I could not inspect it enough for my satisfaction. Young Kabas and Koerikei had followed and stayed by me up hill and down dale; as full as it was of thorn bushes. I told two Hottentots to fetch the wagon although the other Hottentots said it would be dangerous in the dark, on account of rhinoceros of which there are many around here.

It arrived at midnight. My up-country Hottentots were the most astonished at the animal. In the evening a cold, brisk southerly wind came up and since I had become hot from walking, and being thinly clad, I suffered greatly from the cold until the wagon came. Had no water but for that in my water barrel.



**13<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Wind still brisk but S.E. Fine weather. Therm 55-80-65.

Was busy the whole day measuring and examining this beautiful animal. It was to be regretted that I could not possibly take the skin with me. But I shall try to do this with the skeleton. From everything I hear the height of these animals is 15 to 16 feet. Commonly the height of these animals is exaggerated by a few individuals in Natural Histories. Measurement of a fully grown bull giraffe. (In the Namaqua Hottentot language: Neib, plural: Neina. In Briqua or Moetsjaan: Toeka.) (N.B. It has difficulty in lying down and also in standing up. It lies in two different ways: sometimes like cattle with its feet under its body but generally flat on its side with its feet and neck outstretched. When it is going to lie down its body first dips behind, going down first behind and then in front. They are very inquisitive and when they notice something they gather together in a cluster, sometimes 14 or 15 in a herd.)

Feet. Inches. Lines

Height In front, the animal standing,

From the top of the head to the ground 15 2 0

Length From the tip of the muzzle, along the

neck and back, to the base of the tail,

following the curve: 13 0 6

" Of the head to behind the two tufts 2 4 4

" Of the tail with hair: 4 3 0

" and to where the hair begins 2 2 6

Height. From the ground to the top of the shoulder,

Straight line: 9 11 0

" Following the curve: 10 4 0

" From the top of the breast (where the neck

begins) to the ground: 7 5 8

" Behind, to the top of the crupper,

straight line: 8 2 0

Ditto. Following the curve 8 8 8

(In the chest by the neck, the ribs lie 4 inches apart and converge in a point below. They are very round at the back of the body and are only two feet apart in the middle.

The wild people say that sometimes the giraffe mounts camelthorn trees (Mimosa) with its fore feet like a goat in order to reach the higher branches. It then stands on its hind feet, and sometimes twists the branches down with its neck while it takes the leaves to its muzzle.)

Feet. Inches. Lines

Circum- Behind the fore feet including the

ference shoulder: 10 6 0

" In front of the hind feet 8 4 6

" Of the head behind the eyes in front of

the horns 3 7 4

" Behind the incisors 1 8 0

" Of the neck at the ears 2 6 6

" Of the neck in the middle 3 0 0

Ditto at the shoulder 5 3 0

Length Of the horns: 0 7 0

Circum- Ditto at the base: 0 11 0

ference in the middle 0 9 0

round the top 0 7 6

Distance between the horns 0 4 0

at the base 0 2 0

at the top 0 4 6

Length of the ears 0 9 0

Circum-

ference at the base of the ears 0 11 0

From one corner of the muzzle to the

Other, the muzzle closed 0 10 6

(The upper part of the muzzle is 2 and

a quarter inches above the lower part.)

Diameter Of the eyes when open, measured

length-wise 0 2 4

(N.B. The wife of a certain Gideon Visagie, hunting once on horseback, rode close to a herd and came alongside two of them. They were not shy or vicious but gazed at her with great curiosity, the woman being dressed in striped clothing. These animals even bent their heads over the head of the woman who was sitting on her horse, moving their lips without harming her in the slightest. Thereupon she rode away. According to the wild people the giraffe reaches maturity in three to four years.)

Distance from the middle of the eye to the

Front of the muzzle 1 6 6

Ditto to the middle of the ears 0 8 6

from the middle of the horns to the muzzle

following the curve 2 4 0

Length in from the forehoof to the knee 3 2 3

front from the knee to the elbow 2 7 3

from the hoof to the first joint 0 9 0

Length behind of the first joint 0 9 0

Altogether from hoof to heel 3 3 9

From the heel to the hip (or rather at

the joint near the stomach) 2 8 3

Height from the body to the ground between

the forelegs 5 7 6

Ditto in the middle 5 7 6

Ditto behind the hind legs 5 7 6

Length of the body in an horizontal line

From the base of the chest to the rump.

Straight line 5 7 7

Following the curve to the middle

of the chest 7 10 0

of the fore-hoof or spoor 0 9 0

of the width at its widest in front 0 6 6

of the rear hoof 0 8 0

of the width at its widest 0 5 6

Circum- around the fore-leg below 1 2 0

ference in the middle above the knee 1 10 0

at the body 3 6 3

around the hind legs below 1 1 6

in the middle above the knee 2 0 0

at the body 5 0 0

(Its ribs generally lie two inches apart and are placed like those of a cow. Iteki tells me that a buffalo's are close together and above each other. The front bone of the backbone or spine forms the high shoulder. It was 9 inches and two inches apart from the other bones which lay but one inch apart. The space along the second was a foot — thereafter they taper like a saddleback.

Found that both sides of the giraffe are not completely spotted. Spots appear to be perpendicular.)

Width of the breast 1 7 0

Width behind, at the rump 2 2 3

Size of the balls, longest diameter 0 6 0

(Very large balls)

Tip of the penis (which is very like an  
eland's) to the balls 1 2 0

Width of the muzzle above the lips 0 7 0

Width of the chin (very narrow) four

and a half inches from the lower lip 0 2 0

Length of the neck 5 11 6

Width of the body (flat) at the shoulder 4 0 0

Around the middle 2 11 0

From the crupper to the groin 2 7 0

(It has four teats like an eland)

Apparent horizontal width of the neck at

the shoulder, at its widest 2 7 0

in the middle 1 2 6

above at the head 0 10 0

Apparent width of the head from the tuft

to the jaw 1 1 9

at the nostrils 0 6 6

at its narrowest 0 6 0

at the tufts behind the ears 1 0 6

The head at its widest, above at the eyes 0 11 6

Width of the mane, in the middle 0 4 6

at the top 0 2 6

at the shoulder where it ends 0 2 6

Height of the hoof, in the front 0 4 6

at the back 0 1 0

Circumference of the tail, above 0 10 6

below 0 3 0

It has six upper and six lower molars, almost like the eland, thus 24 and 8 incisors. The lower rear one on each side had three roots. The tongue was narrow and like an eland's and was also somewhat rough in front and behind. It had a gnarled ram's head. The bulge on the nose above the eyes was raised three inches above the ridge of the eyes. Thus from the middle of the eyes it was seven inches. From there it was seven and a half inches to the jaw. The front corner of the eye was a little higher than the back. The upper lip flat and two inches over the lower. Diameter of the nostrils — three inches long; opening — half an inch. Two inches below and three inches above the head, apart. The upper bulge was four inches long, three wide in the middle. No hair, horny and calcareous. Three and a half inches lower down the nose there is another protuberance. Here as well: a bare, round, horny white spot, diameter — one inch. The horns had some small ridges, uneven, in the middle, like growths. Had a certain similarity to those of the stag in Europe; but it does not shed same. Thus not round but somewhat edged. The top of the horns was round and bare. The black ridge of hairs is an inch long and comes to within an inch of the upper part. (The skin on the nose grows so close that the cartilage comes off with it when it is cut.) The bow-shape of the head makes it narrow at this point. It has two round bulges behind the horns and between the eyes, two inches high and same diameter, one inch apart. (Grey black hair on it and somewhat longer than the other hair). Also those three rectangular ridges in the ear with hair on, like other gazelles. Russet mane in general about four inches long, the tips black. Eight incisors and loose as in the eland. Its tufts or horns do not stand upright but are angled backward, almost like an eland's. The jaws, behind at their widest, eight inches. Has fine lively eyes like an eland, one and a quarter inches at its longest and one inch at its smallest diameter. The muzzle is very flat, wide and rounded. (Has no tear-ducts), There is a ridge raised an inch above the eye, it is round, diameter one inch, two inches from the eyelid between the eye and the horn. (Bristly black hairs, half an inch long, more marked above the lids than below).

On the outside, the ears were completely greyish-white, with short hair, except for the inside of the ridge above. From there on until about three inches from the tip there was soft white hair an inch long. Around the upper and lower lip sparse, black bristly hairs, mixed with some russet and white. These were mostly an inch to three inches long, behind, where the narrow part begins which is smooth as is the rest. The hair round the horns is stiff and half an inch long and there is black hair above the ridge of black hair. The head is mostly a reddish brown but somewhat black and white, as though piebald at the nostrils which are placed high up on the flat muzzle. Russet in front of the nostrils, more whitish under the chin, up to eyes as well but speckled a light russet. Between and beneath the eye and the ear three elongated, darkly flecked patches. The white stripes which now begin along the neck and thereafter the large uneven three or four or five-angled dark russet patches are a good two or three inches wide and run like the streets on the plan of an irregularly built city. The patches become larger and darker towards the sides and the breast. It had two oval, blackish ones on the side, somewhat towards the belly and a foot long in diameter.

Up to the knees and to the heels the feet are a whitish-brown, lightly speckled a dirty russet in places. The hind- and fore-quarters have lighter and smaller patches (the inside of the legs as well) thus more whitish than the rest of the body. The small, light patches continue under the belly and breast and are close together. The penis and scrotum are, however, a dirty white. It has no secondary hoofs but its main hoof protrudes two inches behind. The hoof is divided and very like an eland's. It has small horny places on the heels and elbows as if from lying down. Also under the body behind the fore-legs. (Lies on its side as well however).

The hair of the tail is black and half as thick as an elephant's, and has the same length of tail. It begins with a round bulge at the tip of the tail. Above the seam of the tail some long russet hairs, some half an inch long protrude like a seam up to the crupper. After this, above and in the middle of the body between the two legs a place begins like a star in the mane. It runs with the tips forward, and on upwards until just behind the fore-legs when the animal stands. It is narrow where it ends and not as far up the back as shown in Allamand's drawing. For the rest, the skin is smooth and short-haired. The shoulder of this animal is placed as though the breast formed part of the neck. It moves the neck backwards and forwards, slowly as it walks, like an ostrich, and this must be, as it were, to keep its balance, and this causes it to appear low behind. Otherwise the chest and crupper are level. The crupper forms a rather narrow and pointed peak on the back and the two breasts are curved in front as well. When this animal stands, the shortness of its body and the neck and shoulders sticking right up erect, make it seem very much like an ostrich. Indeed some Bushmen call it the four-legged ostrich.

This animal has a small gall-bladder. On the whole its entrails are like an eland's. (Has no fifth pouch to hold water like a camel). Has 14 large and 4 small ribs (or rather the four on either side are flat bones between the ribs and the pelvis) on each side which start about halfway up the body. The high pecten forms the shoulder and makes for the great disproportion between the fore and the rear of the body. The ribs are otherwise the same as the rear ones.

In general its skin was half an inch and one line thick. It was full of ticks. Its flesh tastes like eland and is good. Both bull and cow have horns and vary, so it is said, little in stature. The vertebrae in the neck are extraordinary: there are altogether seven, each about eleven inches long.

Sent the oxen to the river to drink and, since it is far, they have not yet returned. Most of the Bushmen have gone to the river with Pinar. Course here E. by S. \_ miles. This morning a rhinoceros badly disturbed the women travelling with us, however after a shot from one of my Hottentots it ran away. Some of these Hottentots carried a great many leather straps around their hands, like a large nest, this was a hunter's sign of honour.

#### **14<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Good weather. Hazy, thundery sky. Somewhat overcast. Easterly breeze. Therm. 60-79-61. Height found to be 2360 feet. The plateau and the high Namaqualand or long, sloping table mountain range about 1560 feet higher.

A rhinoceros came close to us this morning. Iteki went up to it and shot it. Was a cow and of the usual size. Cut up the whole skeleton of the giraffe. Succeeded in making an accurate drawing. On account of wild animals buried the bones in the ground until our return. Nothing could equal the surprise of the Bushmen and Einiquas on seeing the

drawing. They said that we were extraordinary people and that they now saw that I could *coeroeo* everything (this was the word for imitating and writing.) they said they now saw why it was I had walked so far, backwards and forwards, looking, because at first they could make no sense of this.

We were almost dead from thirst here and having accomplished our tasks departed easterly and after three hours' travelling made camp at a brack underground water-hole. (The same terrain, bushy, tuft-grass, hook-and cross-grass and camelthorns everywhere).

The rhinoceros has no gall-bladder: I have now investigated this fully.

This dry rivulet is called Gamsei or Gam-Eij., Not wishing to ride on because we would then have to travel there and back with the wagon over a stony path, I let my thirsty men and animals go to the under-ground water, an hour ahead. They were to dig it out while I stayed with Iteki and Schoemaker alone at the wagons. Sent the half-aum barrel for water. All our people came back at midnight with the animals and the barrel half full of water. They had tracked a lion.

We saw a small herd of kudu twice today. The Einiquas call them Geib. Some zebras, many rhinoceros and the fresh tracks of giraffe and elephant. I walked under a tall camelthorn tree which has a good flower just like the mimosa but a different leaf. It was a good forty feet high. Schoemaker made a fire upwind to grill meat. With the fresh westerly wind it put fire to the parched veld to such an extent that we had difficulty putting it out, otherwise the entire wagon could have been consumed. We threw some sand on it and hit it with green mimosa branches.

On the other side, the long table-mountain range still runs ahead and on this side the lower, more level country continues.

### **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Therm. 60-80- . Light S.W. wind. Fine weather.

Departed east just after sunrise. But to reach the better road we had to go further away from the river, with a turn to the S.E., but thereafter went N.E. to the waterfall. Arrived after travelling for a good five hours, at the underground water-hole Koekabassi. Once there, made camp half an hour from the waterfall which I had long heard about and which the Einiqua call Aukoerebis or Holleplaats.

The same terrain. Today saw some gemsbuck, some kudu, one ostrich; many elephant and rhinoceros tracks. Iteki wounded a rhinoceros but could not get it. It is full of these animals here. Once more, but for the first time here, saw some aardvark holes. (Have seen no tortoises for a long time).

Saw at last what I had desired for so long: six giraffe close by so that we were able to examine them thoroughly. One of them (had blacker patches being a bull) was at an estimate, half a foot higher than the others but was probably not higher than about fifteen or sixteen foot at the most. They stood and grazed off the low trees. They paced ahead slowly, one after the other, like flamingos. Because they had become aware of us, I saw that, although, while standing, they sometimes hold their necks completely straight in a line with their feet in walking, their posture is such that their necks form an angle of thirty degrees in a straight line from the zenith to the horizon. This means that the extension of the neck, shoulder and rear part of the body appear to make a slanting line, thus:**[diagram of giraffe drawn here]**. The head and mouth bend down. In walking their neck moved forward and down but not being able to trot (so it is said and I did not see them doing this) it fell into a hard-gallop when chased by my dogs. Every time the front part of the body came down, the neck also went backwards and forwards; most curious to see. Nevertheless this animal runs as fast as an eland, but both can be overtaken by an average horse.



It is said that they can give a fearful kick and that they fight each other thus. The one we shot still bore scars from this. A dog cannot keep it at bay, not daring to approach its feet, and unable to get at its body. We were most anxious to shoot one but the dogs were on it too quickly. Also, in order to spare my horse Snell, I had left him behind which could have chased and circled it. Furthermore, I planned to shoot one closer to the place where I left my boat so that I would be able to take the skin back with me.

There is nothing ungainly about the legs, which are well-proportioned. It can eat from the ground without bending the knees but it mostly grazes off the leaves and branches of trees where its horns play a part. Without the dogs they would have remained standing, within shot, looking inquisitively at the wagon because they were not used to seeing anything like it.

Half a day's travel ahead we saw a fire. This, Toenema said, was that of the Anoe eijs (Heldere Craal or Bright Kraal) being cattle-less Bushmen or of the Namneyqua (Caros or Kaross Kraal) who do not have stock.

Went to the river to look at the waterfall which I could neither hear nor see. Nevertheless when the river is full, swirling vapour can be seen a day's travel away and can be heard from even further off. Because the countryside is flat around here, found that the river forms deep clefts, entirely of rock, which are about ten to twenty feet wide below but a good fifty feet above. In some places they are 300 feet deep. As far as I know at present, the river divides here and forms three long rectangular stony islands but with some shrubs on them. This lasts about a mile before the next confluence of the river. Was fortunate that the river was now at low water, otherwise I could not have reached the islands and thus the deepest crevice. (Although I missed the fine view of swirling spray and the rainbow.) From this arises the legend of the enchantress who sits in the middle and stirs it all up. It is said that hippopotamus sometimes get sucked into the crevices of this divided water labyrinth -- which would be a better name for it -- and that they never find their way back. The first stretch is water but going in a westerly direction for a mile one would be able to see them coming down. However they could fall into holes since I saw water flowing up beneath the holes for a considerable distance.

Went down into the first cleft (not without danger) and found some beautiful stones, a mixture of agate and flint. My young servant Cabas was the first to climb across and down the steep krantzies and when I followed him my three Hottentots did the same as well. This was the most savage place I had ever seen. If the river was full and one came to this place, which one can do by coming down the first cleft, one would not be able to hear or see anything. However, the incline was not steep, it was on the whole only slightly more than that of a water-mill, as far as I could see.

Went on east for a quarter of an hour. It was high and flat here again and we went over the rocks of the first cleft and then over the second which was deeper but of the same nature. Into this fell a stream, now nothing more than a brook: about 50 feet high. Being overtaken by evening I returned by moonlight and found Pinar who had gone off alone along the river. They had shot a hippopotamus and some of them nearly had an accident with a rhinoceros that they had managed to wound. They discovered two Bushmen Kraals beside the river, who first fled before them but later came to get hippopotamus meat from them. They also had wicker traps and caught many fish, mostly barbels. Each kraal was about 50 strong. One had a young woman whom they did not like and she was as thin as a skeleton from hunger. She was frightened that they would take the hippopotamus meat that Pinar had given her. When we come back again, shall ask her to accompany us.

Have been surprised by the Bushmen: though all our things lie unguarded before them

they will touch nothing with the intention of taking them away. Although we are so vulnerable in this distant, savage country, full of wild animals, yet we are quite at ease in our minds, as in the middle of Cape Town, even though on our guard. When one compares the descriptions of people who, even in the surroundings of Cape Town, find all kinds of danger, one can see how little danger there really is because it is only in the minds of men.

To my sorrow have broken my thermometer today while clambering over the rocks. This observation, therefore, is now ended.

### ***Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October 1779***

Fine weather. Normal heat. Cool easterly breeze.

Went to the river to take latitude. Bushmen and some of my people carried the barometer and the astrolabe. Between the second and third streams, which are further apart from each other, there are many trees and bushes of the aforementioned kind (though here and there a little soil among the stones). Come midday obtained the latitude: 28 deg. 31 min. Error: 22 1.2 deg. N.W. to here. We had grilled rhinoceros tongue to eat and went on a good half hour northwards across stony ridges and uneven places with the same trees. Here I again saw a crevice through which the water ran as in a powerful water-mill. Coming from a more easterly direction saw that this stream is formed from four others. Standing here in order to look round, I saw some Bushmen running away. I waved and called to them but they continued on their way until Toenema saw them and knowing that they were his friends he called one of them by name and said that he should not be frightened but should come to us across the stream. This the others then did, showing however that they were most timid, and astonished by me. Gave them some tobacco and Toenema, greatly praising my kindness towards them said that he was like a child to me and told them everything that I could do. This the others repeated almost word for word, or the latter half of the sentence only, which is their way. This has an extraordinary effect if there are many of them together; everything that one says is mimicked by way of confirmation. The Bushmen stayed close to my side repeating often to the others: 'This is my Hoenequai or Master or Lord.' Then another two of them came up. These two or three Kraals are the Anoe eis (or bright kraal) and they stay here by the waterfall. Three of the four, since they had been joined by yet another, lacked, like Toenema, one ball, except for one old man. Thus most of them are half castrated.

They told me that beyond the third there were still more streams and that, as far as they knew, it continued thus with streams all up the river. They said that the water runs over places with great noise when the river is full. Found that, at this point, the height of the bed of these streams is six hundred feet higher than at Haries or Garies; and so it continues eastwards, a singular phenomenon to occur in a river: It is caused by the land which is flat here and higher. The flat range or ridge of the High Namaqualand (just parallel to the river and to the Rogge Veld) stops here and the branch appears to end two miles to the east.

Returned to the wagon with the Bushmen. Found some of the others busy filling my water-barrel. These Bushmen catch fish and live off hunting, digging pits on the side of the river in order to catch hippopotamus and rhinoceros. These pits are just like the one I and my horse fell into on a previous journey. On this kind of island saw many baboons and not many birds, but saw some ducks and divers. These Anoe Eijs are Einiquas who, because of a quarrel with the Namneyqua Kraal, have lost all their stock but they are

once more good friends. The Namneyqua live a day further on. The Anoe Eijs stay mostly on the other side of the river or on these odd types of island when it is low water. But when it is the season of thunder and rain and the river is full they stay on this side. The Hottentots who half cut themselves call this ceremony Tabie. So far as they knew there are more Bushmen living north of here: they told me these were called Noe Eis and Ei Eis.

### ***Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1779***

Fine weather. Normal heat. Cool, east wind.

Last night hyena got into my twelve sheep and one goat, close to the tent. I woke just too late and, although there was moonlight, was not able to follow their tracks to where they were. With daylight we found three sheep and the goat dead and half eaten.

Fortunately we got the others again.

Went on half a mile westwards onto one of the hills in order to see the dividing of the river upstream more clearly. It comes together again at this point. Saw three crevices close together in a large chasm where it again forms the river, and another that flows behind the most distant one. It came only a sixth of a mile to the west. A little old Bushman or rather Einiqua from the Anoe Kraal showed me the way and everything else. He took me to the fourth stream in the afternoon over small stony islands where he showed me that the river makes the most noise when it is full. There are two such places a good quarter of an hour apart. It was just a crevice. He told me that when the river is full most of the islands are submerged and that a man's head spins from seeing and hearing the foaming water. After I had spent the whole day roving round with this good fellow Doëga, for that was his name. I made ready to leave in the morning. Here the river starts to turn E.S.E. We estimate reaching the Namneyquas this day. The Anoe Eijs brought me finely pounded dried fish in a bag which they said was a store for their provisions.

### ***18<sup>th</sup> October 1779***

Good weather but a sultry, thundery sky threatening. Soft easterly wind. Two heavy thunderstorms in the afternoon, each lasted about half an hour. The first with much hail, normal size, little wind. The last was very low and as heavy as I have ever heard: no rain or wind for a long time and as soon as it began to rain hard it was over. Came from the north and then from the N.W. Good, calm weather in the evening.

Departed S.E. in the morning in order to get somewhat away from the river and to have a better road. Furthermore, there are a multitude of sunken rivulets which in the thundery weather are flowing for a short while into the river. (We saw a rhinoceros which we wounded but could not get.) Our correct course is E.S.S thus in four and a half hours we came, after the bend (same terrain) to a part of the Namneyquas or 'kaross wearers'. They were living on an island one and a half hours' wide. It is formed by the river on the northern side and a stream on the southern side. The island and everything below the watery labyrinth is forest, mostly mimosa, willows and large raisin-trees, as big as the largest mimosa. It is covered by plentiful and good soil. This band has ten mat-huts in the trees and I estimate there are five to six people in each hut, They have small gardens like the Caffers, containing nothing but dagga or hemp. They get it from the Namaquas which they get from us. Not one of them was half-castrated. They had two elders at the most, i.e. richest men or chiefs: the one was Doëga (brother of yesterday's Bushmen) and the other was Aboegoeb. Here alongside the river we found many holes which had been dug to catch rhinoceros, hippopotamus and elephants without stakes because they were deep enough. Thorn branches lay alongside some of the holes like traps in order to guide the animals gradually. Saw wicker traps as well for catching fish,

which were almost like eel-baskets.

They are certainly true Hottentots. Find the language on this side of the Cape differs much less in its dialects than on the Caffer side; and in each part although the dialect varies it holds to its own variation.

Two came to me and I went with them across the stream which was about 20 feet wide and less than a foot deep and reached their island, which they abandon when the river covers most of it at high water. Found this a most beautiful place. The trees and the foliage below which we walked and of which there is so little in this land made it delightful. The change from the parched, ugly, stony and poor countryside made the difference all the greater.

I was received in the most friendly manner by a cousin of one of the chiefs (chefs) which they call Ghawoep. His name was Tamega and he was much whiter than the others. Thundery weather coming up I took shelter in his hut. There, however, the rain poured in so heavily that I had to cloak myself with their large oval bedding skin of cattle-hide. The opening or door was so narrow and low that one could scarcely creep in or out of it. The storm over, I went to take the altitude of the river with the barometer, getting 2000 feet. Tamega, the son of Aboegoeb, who showed me the way through the forest, could make no sense of my work although I explained it to him. Like all wild people the quicksilver astonished him the most; how it is wet and yet dry.

Found Pinar here. Yesterday he and his people shot five elephant (these forests are full of them). They shot three cows, a young calf and a young bull from a herd of 20. We heard them shooting close to us and saw the brightly burning fire that they had lit in order to keep the live elephants at bay and to guard the carcasses. This is an old custom; Tamega told me too that they often have to burn wood to keep the elephants away from their huts. The elephants also chase them when they encounter them. These Hottentots possess cattle, though not very many, also sheep and goats and are great hunters. (The sheep are smooth-haired like goats and have long thin tails. N.B. They milk their sheep). Met some of them in the forest; their pack-oxen and cows were laden with elephant meat and they were most satisfied.

Returned to my tent which was pitched a little distance from the stream, accompanied still by thunder, hail and rain. Tamega was astonished at my house. Gave him some meat but he did not like the biscuit or the bread which we had baked with some meal. When the heavy thunderstorm was over, the two kinds of chief each brought me a wooden cylinder with milk and I gave them some tobacco. They said that they had continual arguments and war with the Kau Keys or Kaw Eis (Sny Kraal) and the Agokwa (Smal Wangen. These are actually the Einiqua.) They said that they were always stealing each others cattle and killing each other. A nephew of Aboegoeb walked with a limp from a poisoned-arrow in the knee which he had received two years previously. They mostly complained of the Ogoqua but they owe each other nothing. I told them that our great Chief wanted them all to live in peace and that I would also discuss this with the Ogoqua, upon which they were delighted. Nothing astonished them more than my long hair which I was wearing loose at the request of Toenema, my thick beard as well. No King in Europe could have received more respect than that which they gave me in their own manner.

These woods are full of birds: Polipentaten or Cambedo Chickens as well as pheasant, (francolin). Saw only one most beautiful woodpecker, which to their amazement I shot. But further saw nothing but the usual birds of the river. I traded a sheep-skin for two of jackal which only exist here, Coerak Coelak [**caracal**], as well as some smaller skins of animals I had not seen but which only exist here. It is reported that there are once more four dead elephants though this is not certain because of the thundery weather. (If an

elephant falls down and there are others with it they push and trample it as hard as they can in order to get it to stand again.)

We are now 2 degrees, 9 minutes east from the latitude of the Cape and 4 degrees, 4 minutes from the mouth of the river which is now to the west of us.

### **19<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Light easterly breeze. The air much cooler but sultry (thunder brewing) once more in the afternoon.

Again went to the kraal and the river which are on the same path. Would have fallen into a pit, dug out for the hippopotamuses, had I not been forewarned by the Ghawoep Aboegoep and his son Goroe who were walking ahead. They were very wary going through the forest on account of the elephants which, they told me, were liable to chase and trample them to death, although they never hurt them. As they showed me by their tracks, the elephant often come to their kraal, which they called by the name of Commè. In addition a short while before, an elephant had trampled one of their young girls to death while she was walking in the forest looking for food.

For some time we wandered through the forest and along the river where I found some beautiful blue stones as transparent as sapphire, also some opaque, speckled, green ones. Saw fresh elephant tracks which yesterday, according to the Hottentots, had passed 50 paces away. Six elephants had gone that way, one of which was wounded and they advised me not to use this path to venture through the forest. It is certain that one cannot see far in this thickly wooded place and that the animals can be upon one before one knows it. The Hottentots say that in very bad weather an elephant will stand still in the same place from fear. Till now these people have not found any of the elephants that have been shot.

Arriving at the kraal I saw a Hottentot who lacked an eye. I asked him how he had lost it and he told me, in the presence of the kraal, that a star had fallen out of the sky on to his head and in this way had wounded him badly. Enquiring further I found that superstition was mixed up in it and that he had probably had a kind of stroke. Asking how the star had fallen from the sky he and an old woman said that although he was a very rich man and had already slaughtered much stock (this being 'other-making') he had not been able to become strong and healthy again. Thus all their customs end up in eating, as indeed with most peoples, who also add drinking. When a rich Hottentot dies, many cattle and sheep are slaughtered and eaten at his grave. The bones and joints are left there as a memorial.

I presented the two Ghawoeps or headmen with some beads and two little mirrors (one each) for their favourite wives and we were good friends. They warned us to be on our guard with the other Hottentots saying that they were treacherous.

Today again saw some hippopotamus in the river which here runs S.E. and N.W. Saw some blue ixias as well; and otherwise up to here there have been few flowers, but much honey.

### **20<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Cool and overcast in the morning and very hot in the afternoon: about 96 degrees. Not much wind; it veered with the sun and for a few hours in the evening was a brisk S.E. Departed S.E. at dawn, and after travelling for two and three quarter hours, made camp where we hoped to find the second party of Namneyquas. It was still heavily wooded on both sides of the river which was flowing deep and unbroken, without streams as at higher water. It is of the same width as where I reached it beyond the Caffers. The countryside also has no high mountains. (By observing the temperature so often I have become so practised that I can estimate it within a few degrees. Have made several

tests of this.)

We discovered that these Namneyqua live across the river. Some of the first kraal are accompanying us. We saw many heaps of stones (Hottentot graves). Upon one of them there were many cattle and sheep bones and the entire head of an ox, the sign of a rich man or of a chief. To begin with, they cover the grave with thorn-branches to keep off the game; thereafter, when the smell has gone they remove the branches so that snakes cannot make their nests in them.

Departed after midday and after two hours travelling reached the Camaghaap, Camagaqua or Hartebeest River. This was flat, a good two hundred paces wide and full of dry reed and cypress trees. Low trees but much less so than on the Garies and found not a drop of water in it. Saw two large fresh lion tracks as well as a rhinoceros but it was far off. Because the road was fairly good we today travelled alongside the trees of the river. The same terrain and countryside. The Camagha or Camagaqua has as its source the Sak River which takes all the water of the Nieuwe- and Rogge-Veld and flows north. The other source must be in the high plateau country between the Nieuwe Veld and this region. Thus it is a single river which runs only in thundery weather and for this reason not for long. It lies south and north. Walked along it a little and saw no water but many hippopotamus tracks. Had previously heard from the Bushmen that to the south large pools of water remain in it where the hippopotamus live and where the water turns brack. Bushmen live beside this river and they bear its name. Saw no people but on a stony hill found some cattle had been eaten and which, to my mind, had been stolen. In the meanwhile our Hottentots had shot two hippopotamus and wounded another. My dog Keiser ran to where they were shooting and tried to attack the hippopotamus in the water. It kept diving and once came up right beneath the dog but because it was bewildered and wounded it did not get him, otherwise he would certainly have been gone.

### **21<sup>st</sup> October 1779**

Was up twice last night with my gun on account of loud barking from my dogs. Once because a horse had got loose and the second time because a Bushman who was dreaming shrieked loudly.

Fine weather. Light easterly breeze. Hot.

18 deg. From the zenith.

Latitude: 10 deg. 45 min Southerly declination

28 deg. 45 min. Error: 23 deg. N.W.

Height: 2100 ft.

Went to the river to look at the hippopotamus. Found some of our Bushmen and Namneyquas busy putting an end to a wounded hippopotamus with their assegais on the other side of the river. It was almost out of the water and was defending itself. From time to time it tried to bite the Hottentots but it was too badly wounded to do any harm. On our bank a band of these people were busy slaughtering a second one that was dead. They were upon and over it like vultures, talking and shouting wildly as they cut the flesh off with their assegais. A third animal was carried off by the current.

In the afternoon went S.E. on a tour of the country. Found it was flat everywhere with small stony hills and very stony flat places but slowly rising and falling here and there. The stony hills are uneven lumps of hard Cos with much quartz. There are also small sharp fragments in this countryside which rapidly wear out shoes and which make the hoofs of horses and livestock tender. While looking at the same flat countryside (on the other side of the river a little higher up however) one sees that it is everywhere equally stony, arid and ugly. Among this one sees a raised green band which is the forest, formed by the trees on both sides of the river.

The wild people were exceptionally astonished when I lighted one of their pipes of tobacco with a burning glass and played upon the cither for them. The country appears to be becoming barer and it seems that there are no more giraffes. We can now take the wagon no further with us, because we have to cross the river two miles ahead and, because I wish to continue beyond it I am sending the wagon back to the Namneyqua with two of our people to await us there. I shall have to cross the river at a place called Hosabees. The Einiquas and Coraquas live on the other side. Left our supplies in the wagon, taking only as much as four pack-oxen could carry including my astrolabe. For a time then there will be no barometer observations.  
Continuation of the Journal of the 1779 Journey

### **22<sup>nd</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Course easterly. The breeze came late, after we had left the wagon (which has gone back to the Namneyquas together with three of our Hottentots). We have lost a slaughter-ox which was certainly taken by a lion. Since it was the astrolabe that I needed most, I told one of my Hottentots to see that it be carried on a pack-ox with an additional sleeping-robe. It was already so laden with hippopotamus meat etc. that the load was nearly half as high as the animal itself. One can only wonder at the tameness of these animals that allow themselves to be led by the nose so easily. We were not ready until shortly before half past six in the evening. We departed along the river S.E. half E. and after half a mile reached a place that Toenema called Takemas. They planned to cross the river here by making a raft of willow-wood. At this point the river was wide like the Meuse at Maastricht, running deeply and evenly. We heard hippopotamus growling and also saw one. The sound is hollow and more like an ox than a horse; it ends however in short gasps. It also has a clear squeal. We slept here on the stones by the water. There were now three Europeans and nine Hottentot marksmen as well as my two young servants and some Bushmen. Our five sheep were left behind. We tracked several elephants with their calves. One turned away close to our wagon.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> October 1779**

The same weather. Toenema said that we could cross over the rocks, without making a raft, at a place called Eintamies half a mile this side of Hosabees. We left on the same course alongside the river and in two hours reached this place where we crossed, not off-loading the pack-oxen, and without getting wet above our hips and generally not above the knee. Around about noon we were on the other side. We crossed three streams, first where the river had formed piles of stones and then again in the middle where there was the same kind of island. Found a skull in the stones. (Saw a large herd of buffalo across the river, the first that I have seen on this side of Africa. They were in this region previously however but have been hunted out and killed).

Saw much elephant and rhinoceros tracks today and a herd of about 8 kudu, mostly bulls (the cows have no horns). This animal has a smaller, rounder track than a gemsbuck or hartebeest.

When a hippopotamus sticks its head out, one hears them giving two snorts, one close upon the other, the first being the loudest. It snorts the air out and then inhales a good breath, storing it up.

Sent a Hottentot back to the wagon for something I had forgotten. He told me that just after our departure a whole herd of elephants, some rhinoceros and a lion had been near the wagon. They had been uneasy all night and had made a fire. Some of our party also said that they had heard a lion roar and I see now that the reason that Toenema

made camp here was that he was afraid of the elephants, and that even in the brightest moonlight he does not go through the thickets.

On account of the heat we stayed in the trees until four o'clock. The sand in the dry streams beside the river is so hot that my bare feet were not able to stand it and would have been truly scorched.

At four o'clock we departed along the right bank of the river. Here, however, around Hosabees, there are high, stony hills close to the river and for this reason we made a turn through the hills, going a good hour away from the river but then we went back to rest beside the river, beneath a raisin-tree.

An hour before dawn we saw a giraffe far off as well as some kudu. (Many giraffe, elephant and rhinoceros tracks; many kokerbooms too). Also found some crystal here with a blue, as well as a red stripe running through it. We are now half a mile past Hosabees. The place is called Gariëp eis which means Garies' nose because of the small stub of an island here. Once more the river here is all stones and divided into various branches. One stream goes behind a hill and falls away steeply. After we had been here for an hour and our bushmen had lit several fires, we heard a great shout from the Bushmen, calling out that strange people had come to shoot us. We seized our guns and sent Naugaap to speak with them. Shortly afterwards five of these Bushmen came to us. We gave them some tobacco which they smoked and again they went off but during the night we were on our guard. They called themselves the Kein eis kraal people. We did not notice anything further. We are now two and a half miles E.S.E. of Camagaqua although we have walked hard for seven hours. All stony, uneven ground. Before dark a band of 10 or 12 Bushmen who had been with us at Camagaqua arrived. They had consumed the dead hippopotamuses before coming.

#### **24<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

The same weather. The wind somewhat westerly. Hazy. A thundery sky in the evening with a few drops of summer rain. Departed easterly at dawn. Course easterly. Just here there is a high-lying island. Here too the river is like St. Peter's passage behind Schlavante at Maastricht. (Later named this island after my friend Sir John Macpherson, former Governor of the English Indies). Continuing for half an hour we came upon the above-mentioned Keinkeis or Kau Keys kraal consisting of nine little mat huts. Most of them had come out and were sitting on the stones. Their main livelihood is fishing. Once more the river forms a small waterfall close to their huts. Various streams everywhere, full of stones. There were many hippopotami here: the higher we go up the river, the more we find. There is more grass here too, therefore these animals do not live off fish. Wounded two and we were entertained by seeing the Bushmen throwing their assegais at a half-grown one. They hit it but could not do much damage in the water.

Because the noon wind came early, we departed at a quarter to eleven. After walking briskly for three hours over the same terrain beside the river and going behind a mountain and after that E. by N. I entered the thicket beside the river and waited for two hours, the pack-oxen left behind. They went on past me on another road. I went further on and after three quarters of an hour we made our camp in the wood by the river. Pinar stayed behind because of a pain in his body.

The same terrain. We passed ten abandoned huts from which the mats had been taken. Saw a dog here which was almost like a spaniel, had patches. It ran off suddenly. We are probably close to the Bushmen here. After we had rested ourselves at this place Naugaap said that his kraal, the Kau Keys (Sny Kraal) was on an island here. He went off to it and Pinar arrived.

At ten in the evening Naugaap came with some of his kraal (it consists of eleven huts). The Ghawaup was ill, his name was Na Ba Noemam Sonoop. I was already asleep. The



Hottentots came and sat so closely around me that I thought it advisable to take my gun unobtrusively in my hands during the conversation. They brought me milk and I gave them tobacco; and they stayed with us for the rest of the night.

### **25<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

The same weather. The cool westerly wind came early and blew briskly from noon onwards. Lightning last night.

Latitude one and three quarter miles east of Kau Keys, beside the river.

deg. min.

16 - 27 from the zenith.

12 - 9 southerly declination.

Gives latitude: 28 - 36

This kraal has the custom of making Tabie. However there were still three of them with us in the morning and not one of them had been cut, but in the kraal there were many of them who had. This shows that it is not compulsory or common custom in the kraal.

They have some stock but the Ogoqua (Smalwangen) have robbed them of many.

However, very often they hide their cattle when suspect people arrive. Have deferred going to their island in the middle of the river until the return journey. (N.B. We had one of the Ogoquas at our night camp. He was a well-built young fellow and said that his kraal was on an island not far from here. I sent him ahead to inform his people.)

From Hosabees the river is again all small islands. It is a good half a mile wide from one side to the other. It is full of the same trees which now, after the heavy thunderstorms, are very green and it is full of grass, thus very pleasant. Here it again runs from the north by east. The country on both sides is much flatter but it is high and beginning to slope away like the Plettenberg River region but it is bushier.

Today on a small island, through a gap in the trees, saw a fine elephant very close by. It is a finer animal than that in the drawing: its ear is larger, its trunk hangs nearly to the ground. Ten to eleven feet high, it paces forth majestically and swiftly. It stood still often and did not notice me. It strode through the trees with a great crackling noise. It has a beautiful arch behind on its back which raises the crupper. Our people gave chase to it but it got away in the trees.

Saw much rhinoceros, giraffe and elephant, some buffalo tracks as well. And, from far off, two giraffe.

There was a Great Namaqua living with them.

Departed easterly at dawn. The air had been cooled by thundery weather to the south of us. After walking for four hours we saw out the afternoon under a thorn-tree beside the river, where a stream forms a stony island. Departed in the afternoon, same course, one mile, when we got news that our people had shot a hippopotamus. Turned back a quarter of a mile to the river and passed the night under high camelthorn trees (a kind of mimosa, while our people cut up the animal. We had no more meat. The name of this place was Hautauws.

Before we turned back to the river we saw a Bushman running. Two of ours caught up with him but he ran away again.

The wind was violent in the evening. There were buffaloes here. The same terrain everywhere. Many guinea fowl.

### **26<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Very cold last night. Storms from the west. A light drizzle. Presume therefore that it rained heavily in the region of the Cape. A strong west wind still, but clear; a few clouds. Departed E. by N. keeping to the river always. It forms various high-lying stony islands in its streams. As everywhere beside the river it is here so full of trees that even from a

height one cannot see the glint of water except here and there. After walking for three hours we arrived opposite the kraal of the Ogoqua. Sent a Hottentot to them but we were not able to see their camp by the river on account of the trees. Three Bushmen, among whom was the one that ran away yesterday, came to me and hearing that a hippopotamus had been shot yesterday flew upon it like wolves. They said they lived not far from here and that they belonged to the Keinkeis.

Departed at one o'clock and after three quarters of a mile arrived opposite the Ogoqua because they had moved further up. Their Gauwaap called Naba noe, touw óab, or Touw oab naba noeb came to meet me with four of his people, bringing me two sheep and a pot of milk as a present. He was an old man who walked with a limp because of an arrow wound in his knee, which he had got from the Bushmen. The Bushmen call those who lie to the south of them Áw nameiqua. He seemed to be a good-natured man and to have more brains than the rest. He as well complained of the Geisiqua which he also called Combecoe or Qua. Thus one kraal complains about the other. They were all cut but said that they did not do it any more now because they said it made them weak. They said this probably because they saw that I did not think it a good thing. Among them, however, there are some who are not cut.

They said they had friends among the Briqua but that the children's' disease **[smallpox]** raged among this people and that for this reason they had no more dealings with them. The river called Koeroemana is a small river without a watercourse. It always contains water, and flows into this river. On consideration therefore this must be the Keinkaap or some such river because we have seen no other running river and have heard of no other from the Bushman people. (N.B. Have since learned that it is half the size of the Orange River, always contains water, and runs into the sea in the furthest part of the Namaqualand.)

The Nou ei hoe and Hoekeikoe lie to the north of the Ogoqua and are Bushmen. Asked

the Gauwaap about the Brikwas and he said that he spoke a little of their language.

Found some words that were most similar to the Caffers' language but water he called

*betsi*. Matsiboa was one of their chiefs and kept many women. Mocodoe was another

chief. Kakobaab lies to the furthest part of the Briqua.

We went to the second stream of the river which we found to be very deep and very wide and full of hippopotamus. N.B. the Gauwaap told me that while one of his people was swimming in it one of these animals had bitten off his leg; he was still alive but another had died. The forest was very wide at this place so we could see nothing, except when close to the water. Wounded some hippopotamus with my hand-pistol and while close to the Gauwaap and three of his people let off a shot at a hippopotamus, and gave them such a shock that they nearly tumbled over. They came back with me and slept at our camp. We kept strict watch. Shortly before we got there three lions had settled down: they jumped up and ran away. On our return they showed me where the Geisiqua and Koraqua kraal had stalked them and attacked them and stolen their cattle. Two or three

on each side were left dead. If possible, even while fighting, they bury their dead. Should they have to retreat they kill prisoners and the wounded, even women and children. But the Ogoqua say they do not harm the last two but keep them with them. They are well protected on these islands and in these forests and that is why they live there. Besides which, everywhere here beyond the banks of the river there is very fine grass; it is a delightful place. Many of the islands here are so high that they are seldom overrun at high water. They showed me one on which there was a high hill where they repair at that time. Some of their people had gone to the Briquas. We saw about twenty of them on the other side. There are about a hundred, men, woman and children in all. There are more than 23 huts; four on a small island and 19 on a larger one. They had a fair amount of stock: cows, sheep and goats, all of the same kind as the Namneyqua.

### **27<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. Light easterly wind which began to blow early. A little dew last night but it is uncommon here.

Departed about midday; the pack-oxen, whose hoofs are beginning to go to pieces, were sent ahead. After one and a half hours' hard tramping we arrived at the deserted kraal of the Geisiqua. Course N. Easterly always beside the river. This kraal has moved higher upstream and are living in enmity with the Ogoqua. The river with its streams and thickets remains the same. The same terrain as well but saw no giraffe tracks. We found many buffalo skulls at the former camp of the Geisiqua; as well as five of them who, having heard us shooting yesterday, had come from their present kraal. They had little tassels on their heads like the Caffers (also their bearing) and two of them appeared to be half-breeds. However their father Eikeep, a Gauwaap, was a Hottentot; therefore their mother is probably a Briqua. They were friendly and accompanied us. After half an hour's rest we left on the same course and continued to **[Text blank here]**.

We had gone an hour from the former Geisiqua camp when I saw two Bushmen, as thin as skeletons. They were setting the grass alight in order to burn and kill some locusts which, at this point, were running across the track. They eat them thus, half-roasted. Our Geisiquas also ate some. Behind a small bush sat another one of them who was even thinner and whose legs were full of sores. The kraal lay on the river among the trees and they call themselves the river people and there were not many of them. They call the Bushmen across the river Kouw ei Na.

After a further two and a half hours we made camp close to the bank of the river which was wide here and full of hippopotamus. At nightfall and at dawn they snort briskly, this being their usual noise. They give five or six snorts like a pig, hollow, clear, and the last is slightly longer like that of a cow. Shot a beautiful kingfisher. At this place the river forms a small island which is made by the two streams of this hippopotamus hole.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Fine weather. A cool easterly wind, brisk but was not colder tonight. Departed the same course and after two and a half hours' brisk walking arrived at the Geisiquas beside the river. One kraal of 25 huts lies on a stream of the river and the other kraal, half the size, lies further across the river. Here we were met by water rising in the river so that we had to walk through water up to our knees to reach the kraal, where this morning it had been dry. Some we had seen yesterday came and brought us milk.

Took latitude. deg. min.

Got: 15 - 15 from the zenith

13 - 11 southerly declination

Thus: 28 - 26

At noon the water stopped rising and subsided slowly.

This kraal had fled the rising water and I found them putting up their huts, which they completed in a few hours. We went to them again in the afternoon as well as in the evening when the cattle were in the kraal. They milk in the afternoon and also in the evening like all Namaquas; seldom however in the morning. During the day each was busy at his own work in front of his hut. These stood, almost forming a circle, with three large, live thorn-trees in the middle. They make fish-traps and milking-pails which they hollow out with a bent scraping-iron. They also dress skins by rubbing them with stones. In addition many of the women sat hammering red buchu from camelthorn bark. Saw several Caffer-like faces amongst them (these are also the Bitsiana or Briquas) and one very old man. I asked him about counting-words and many other words, some were perfect Caffer, but others did differ. They were amazed at me; most of all by my long hair and burning glass; by the taking of latitude and my speaking Briqua which, they said, I could easily get by with. They recounted to me that the Briquas had lived in these parts until now. N.B. the description of their huts is just like those of the Caffers, everything else as well. However they prepare many Hartebeest skins the way we do: all the hair off, but they let the tail hang down by the side of their neck. This is very much their dress. Previously they never carried bow and arrow, only the assegai. But because this weapon could not prevail against the arrow and bow they were soon using the poisoned arrow and bow. Their name is Bitjoana and not Birina or Briqua as they are called by the Hottentots. The Koraqua and Einiqua drove them from here but some of them now live among the Bitjoana. They dwell on the Koeroemana river which, they say, comes from the Gharie which flows off beyond and beside the Nabobequa Namaquas. But that is to say it has its source close to the Gharie since it would be impossible that such a small river as this would be flowing so strongly. This Koeroemana is half as big as the Gharie and always contains water, has no hippopotamus, some thorn trees and much reed. Across the same live the Caffers whom they call Cabeticoe but they call themselves Borroeniana or Morroena. Beyond them is a large river, bigger than the Gharie. It is called Koeang, is full of hippopotamus and runs west beyond Namaqualand, and beyond the Koeroemana. There are Bushmen between the Namaquas and the Briquas, but for how far they do not know. It is flat country, poor in water but Briqualand which lies to the north of the Wilhelmina River has mountains and many springs. In the interior are giraffe, gnu, hartebeest, zebra, kwagga, elephant, rhinoceros, buffalo, eland, etc., and the game known to us. (Brink's aurochs are the gnu, which they call ghaúwp or the master; and the white horse is a pale kwagga).

The Geisiquas are about two hundred strong and were completely friendly bringing us milk in abundance. As is usual they were not good friends with their neighbours. Hamma Gamma Toeroebeep was an old man but I found that Eiheep had more influence. Went to their kraal in the evening where they had about 200 cattle, sheep and goats. They perform their dances just like the other Hottentots.

They were astonished at my whiteness when I went bathing in the river. Many of them stood peering through the trees.

### **29<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

Easterly wind. Good weather but hot. The wind veered to the north, was brisk during the day and calm in the evening.

We lost Schoemaker who had walked ahead and past us. We looked hard for him and we were at a loss. It was two o'clock on the thirtieth before he found us.

We borrowed two pack-oxen from the Geisiquas and three of them came along with us. We left our pack-oxen, horses and one of our people to look after them at this kraal, taking nothing but our coats, tobacco and beads. We walked in an easterly direction on a stony track beside the river and after a brisk walk of five and a half hours reached the second party of Geisiquas. They live across the river which at this point forms a fine flow of water between high stony ridges. It was as wide as the Meuse as it passes the bridge at Maastricht. When Eiheep shouted at them, the people of this kraal yelled 'Tabee' from the other side but would not cross over despite the shouting of their countrymen. Two of them each took a dry willow log between their legs and in this way swam across with their assegais. In ten minutes they had crossed although a hippopotamus lay there blowing. This shows that in general these animals do not go for people in the water but this they will do when hunted.

Saw buffalo tracks and kudu but no elephant or giraffe tracks. One of our Geisiquas who had caught grasshoppers in the grass, killed a fish with his assegai. Saw many duck. Shot some of them. They were oily.

### **30<sup>th</sup> October 1779**

The same weather. Our Hottentots found 28 mature ostrich eggs which were very welcome to them since the hunting had been so bad that they were eating the gum from thorn trees.

Ate a grilled fish, half raw, so I vomited in the night. This fish was good-tasting, had a broad, flat head and the body was also most like a stone-fish. Had no scales, a long extension of the back fin up to the tail and half as long under the belly. Two breast-fins and two belly-fins. It was one and a half feet long and sometimes reaches four to five feet. Brownish in colour and has four lobes under the jaw, two long ones on both sides of the mouth and two on top. The farmers call it 'bagger', the Hottentots 'the black fish'. These Hottentots make the road to the first Bitjoana kraal a twenty day's journey. That is to the kraal of the chief Matjaroe. They keep saying something different: first saying that the Koraquas lived on the other side of the river, on the Cape side but when they saw that I had given orders to bring the baggage we had left behind to this place and that I was going to cross the river to get to the Koraquas, they said that we had not understood them correctly and that the Koraquas as well as the Briquas whom I wanted to visit, were on this side. After this dallying which held us up for a while it was already hot when we departed along the river which here runs S.E. through a stony, hilly pass. In half a mile we were through it and saw large grassy plains towards the Moetjoana, on our left hand side to the north. There were stony hills on the southern bank of the river which here has a fine, undivided flow of water with much fewer trees on the sides and it is full of hippopotamus.

Found slate and other stones such as a blue alabaster with white veins, very hard, also many slabs of red stone with many small as well as large pebbles of every sort of colour. They had hardened as porridge does, forming a single body. There is a powdery clay mixed with rocky sand along these banks, which are not steep. Inland it is stony and pebbly. It also contains much clay here but mixed with a reddish-brown or rather a loose red earth like sand. In general it is noticeable that the stones most often take the colour of the soil. The ridges generally run S.E. and N.W. and I find that the ridges on the plains generally follow the lie of the mountains; as far as one can see the advancing and

receding angles fit into one another.

After a brisk walk of five hours we went to sleep beside the river, having searched in vain for two hippopotamus which we had shot just before sunset. Because they had had nothing to eat for two days it was a great sorrow for our people and we called this place Hongerland. The current was so strong here that they could have been swept away during the night.

In the afternoon saw a band of Nawkeis Bushmen who ran away and saw some fires, either signals or for catching locusts. From time to time these creatures come in large swarms from the east. It appears that elephant and giraffe continue no further then here; however there are some of them in Briqualand. All these people make fire by twirling sticks together as I saw before at the Fish-eaters.

My dogs barked loudly last night but I did not see anything.

### **31<sup>st</sup> October 1779**

The same weather. With the sun risen for three hours, the day-wind came up briskly and was first north and then N.W. until it became more westerly in the evening, when as always it drops with the sun.

Without these day-winds which for the most part veer with the sun here, but sometimes remain easterly, one would not be able to endure these hot regions with their stones and drought and sand. Usually, however, the cool wind begins about nine o'clock, and drops about sunset, being sometimes very hot at that time. At night it is generally absolutely still and pleasant and it is cold towards morning in higher country. Very pleasant last night.

Having looked for the hippopotamus in vain we departed at dawn keeping always beside the river, going S.E. After walking for an hour we saw two herds of hippopotamus in the water; there could have been more than sixteen of them. With four shots three were killed and since one was in a shallow place we immediately dragged it out. While our people were dancing for joy we slaughtered it on the spot and grilled it. Even without salt or bread it tasted very good. Called this place Zeekoeidood. While the rest of the hippopotamus were swimming, blowing and snorting close to us, we lingered for two and a half hours at this place. Taking our meat we followed our course and after three and a half hours of brisk walking we lay down close to the river on account of the heat. It flows southwards here and forms another long island which I named Pinar's Island. We kept seeing many hippopotamus as well as some springbok, buffalo and kwagga tracks at the river. From five in the afternoon we first tramped south east for an hour across a stony ridge because at this point the river turns through the south. Thereafter, we continued south to the river which we had left half an hour before on account of the stony track. Two and a half hours' hard tramping S.E. by S. from our resting place we arrived here at dusk and lay ourselves down to rest on a sand-bank. We could still hear many hippopotamus. The same hilly terrain.

### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 1779**

Called this place De Windhoek. When the wind had dropped with the sun, it began to blow violently, a dry wind from the hazy northern horizon which continued the whole cloudless night and covered us with sand. The dogs barked loudly but we could see nothing. I believe a band of Bushmen are following us at a distance in order to feed upon the hippopotamus left over. The wind dropped with the sun but two hours after sunrise it again began to blow briskly which assisted us greatly.

Good weather. I estimate a temperature of between 80 and 90 degrees.

At daylight departed along the river south by west a little and south one mile. Here the river still runs through high, stony ridges as though through a pass. Thereafter one mile,

S.E. beyond the same. The country on the left bank is high with stony ridges and is lower on the northern side. Having thus walked briskly for four hours in all we reached an old abandoned kraal of the Koraquas who have gone further upstream. They call themselves Goeringeis. Here we took our midday rest. Postponed taking latitude on account of the wind. The river which had been falling until yesterday has begun to augment again, probably due to a thunderstorm having fallen higher up. The buffalo come to the river by night and move far into the plains by day. This is because these Einiquas and Koraquas are great and bold hunters, killing buffalo, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus etc with their assegais. (They distinguish between themselves as Einiquas and Koraquas but they are the same kind of people.) We continued our S.E. course in the afternoon and after a three hour walk lay down to rest at the river which here had a strong flow of water, though deep. There was fine green reed standing on the other side and I have never seen so many hippopotamus at the same time. Some were grazing, nearly half out of the water and others were fighting or playing, their muzzles wide open, confronting each other. One yawned and its mouth stretched as wide as a snake's.

#### *Ceteris Paribus.*

The terrain is beginning to look very much like the Plettenberg River. We also saw five rhebok, the first in these parts, consequently our great River Bushmen did not know of them. The terrain is becoming hilly and clayey, some anthills as well and many stones. Here half a mile from the river on the other side, lies a range of low mountains. Our side is hilly, more in some places and less in others. We have not seen any more Kokerbooms or the tracks of elephant, rhinoceros or giraffe. The river is also less wooded. The river did not rise further today.

There was a thundery sky to the south this afternoon and it was hot. Called this sleeping place Zeekoei Lust. We turned off, half an hour from the river today.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> November 1779**

Cool weather. Overcast, rainy sky until midday. A light wind, first from the east and N.W. Clear and warm in the afternoon.

Slept little last night because the dogs were barking loudly but we saw nothing. Departed as soon as day dawned and again arrived a little distance from the river after tramping S.E. for four hours in order to avoid a bend. We passed close by a very small Bushman kraal. While I was busy taking latitude one of them came up to us, his hand full of poisoned arrows but without a bow. Trembling somewhat, he spoke to our Bushmen for a while. I could not get away because of my work. He went off like a hare.

Got latitude of 28 deg. 45 min. The river still runs S.E. although with bends. Half an hour higher up from here it turns completely southwards, through a fairly high, uneven mountain range to where the Koraquas live beside the river. On the angle of the turn there were two or three small islands which we called De Draay Eijlande. Heard that the Bushman ran away when my young fellow Cabas took him by the hand and wanted him to come to me to say Tabeer or greetings. Our Bushmen also said the same as Cabas. Left in the afternoon to the sound of some hippopotamus bellowing like steers; first mistaking the noise for a Koraqua cattle kraal. We heard this for the first time. (It is said they do this when they are on heat, otherwise their sound is a snort). After walking for an hour we saw a band of Bushmen with arrows, bows and assegais. We sent a Bushman without a weapon to meet them. Four of them came with arrows to their bows down a hill to one side of us, their bow hands full of arrows and threatening to shoot. Pinar and I

held our course obliquely towards them; I with my double-barrelled gun at the ready. When we came opposite each other at a distance of about thirty paces, they held their bows and arrows at the ready, their bodies quivering, and I waited for the first shot. Koerikei who was walking behind me was deadly frightened and called out: 'Sir, oh Sir, they will shoot, they will shoot!' But our Bushmen kept on calling: 'Do not shoot!' and in this way we came up to the two foremost ones. They were the ugliest creatures I have ever seen. The other two didn't want to come. We gave them some tobacco and they filled their stone pipes but it was quite some time before they laid down their arrows and bows. They spoke the Namaqua dialect, said they were good friends of the Koraquas and that their Eis or tribe was called Moncoboo. Some of them live across and some on our side of the river. One of Buffon's Jokkos, the Gibbon as I remember, has the exact physiognomy of these two, with hardly a nose. They were about five feet tall; the skin on their bellies had elongated wrinkles caused, we supposed, from hunger when they bind themselves with a belt, and then from eating too much when they have shot something. They appeared to be about forty years old. They said that the other two would not approach because they were tracking steenbuck. These animals, swift as they are, at the first stage run far. After this the men follow the tracks and chase them for the second time; and so on, further. In hot weather they usually catch them at the third stage; the animal having worn its hoofs through as well. After we had left them we saw a large herd 60 or so, mostly cows with calves. We gave chase and shot a heifer. We beckoned four other Bushmen that we saw to come and get meat but they would not. Having lost time in slaughtering we would not be able to reach the first Koraqua kraal according to what the two wild people had told us. So, after walking for three hours, mostly south, we lay down to rest on the bank of the river, since it was now dark. There are large grassy plains here but all the grass that I have seen up to this point is like hay because the countryside is so arid. (Except under the trees on the islands).

### **3<sup>rd</sup> November 1779**

Fine weather last night; a cool westerly breeze and it was cool this morning, fine and clear. Not as hot again. A soft east wind in the morning, somewhat cloudy during the day with wind from the west.

Departed at daybreak alongside the river in a southerly direction. There was another beautiful island here and after an hour's going we came to the first kraal of the Koraquas which lies on our side of the trees. We called Tabé to each other for they had already been informed of our coming by the Bushmen and by a few of them who had been at the second Geisiqua kraal. There were 22 huts, all the same. Saw a few that had slight Caffer traits in their physiognomy. Several were exactly like Jews; but no high nose. Called two of them Moses and Aron and this made them well content. They smear themselves with red paint and fat in which they put shining, broken fragments of stones such as mica. They get this from the Brinas or Caffers. The river beyond the Koeroemana is called Nouw Karena. It is not as large as the Garies and behind same there is another greater one, as large as the Garies which also runs into the sea in the west. The Briquas only come through by way of the Geisiqua road and so along the river. The rest is Bushman land.

Departed southward after midday through the pass between the afore-mentioned mountains where the river flows through with a turn to the south west. Called this place Koraquas Poort. It was 600 paces wide at the entrance; we had to go close beside the water and then take an oblique course alongside large, round stones. There was a small, stony island with some thorn trees in the pass. Before we entered it a part of the second Goeringneis kraal approached us. A middle-aged man of medium stature named Tatabe Caboe was the Kaw waup or Kawkaup. After saying Tabé gave him a pipe of



tobacco and they turned back with us. The pass was an hour from the first section of these Goeringneis. After quarter of an hour in it we reached an open place where the kraal was busy moving. They will travel some distance down river tomorrow. Their huts were therefore not completely pitched. They too had 20 huts and a fair number of sheep, cattle and goats, although the first kraal had hidden many of its animals, as our Hottentots told us. We bartered milk for tobacco but they would not give us sheep or goats though they did bring us a cow they had slaughtered but we did not take it. While I was at the first, there was a quarrel between two of them. They took to their sticks and to their bows and arrows but I let them be told that I did not want them to fight, whereupon they left off. Here I traded some beads for a hartebeest skin (a Kaross) which had been dressed by the Briquas. They treat it with rotten sheep and cattle brains and scrape the hair off with them. Also saw some cattle-hide karosses exactly like those of the Caffers. There are many dogs here and larger than the other Hottentot dogs, thus having a closer resemblance to our race of dogs. Had enough trouble keeping our people in order since they were very annoyed that the Hottentots had hidden their cattle and had offered us neither sheep nor cattle.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Somewhat overcast, cool weather. A westerly breeze still. Set forth with a wide turn first to the east and then to the west through the mountains of this Koraqua Poort. At this point the river runs so close to the mountains that our pack-oxen could not continue beside it. Just after half of the journey we again came back to the river which runs south here and then takes two small turns to the S.W. We tramped beside same for a total of four and a quarter hours from our sleeping place until we came to the Hoekingeis which is the Scorpion Kraal of 20 huts. They are very sturdy, well set-up people, all like the ones before. They were more accommodating than the previous kraals and we traded some beads and tobacco for a pack-ox. Once they had done their trading they wanted us to stay on but when we had drunk some milk and rested we set forth once more across the flat stretches of this pass, south beside the river. One of our Hottentots had a sore leg and three sorcerer women snorted on it in the same way I have described in my previous journal.

After two hours' going, the river again runs close to the mountains, for that reason we sent the pack-oxen around them. There was a very large white alabaster stone here with bluish veins, but very mingled. N.B. The Hoekingeis Kraal was situated at this spot when Vicar and the two half-breeds were here but across the river, which is narrow here, and here they turned round. After we had tramped for three and a half hours and, after having left the river for the last half hour on account of a turn to the S.S.W, we lay down to rest at nightfall by the river again. We did see some hippopotamus today but not very many. The river is still subsiding. We passed some more islands again. The same terrain. But saw again the highly poisonous euphorbia: there were small yellow flowers on the seams of its six-sided thorny head. Again, many kokerbooms as well. We also saw rhebuck again and a bees-nest in the boulders which we could not get to. The mountain range still continues and towards the mouth of the river it is about 7—800 feet above the level of the river in places. The river is still subsiding quite fast.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Good weather; a westerly wind as yesterday.

Departed at dawn, south again and still alongside the river. After an hour's going we reached the Noekeis kraal. These people had never seen anything from our Colony and

were very afraid. However we had an old man from Hoekingeis with us whom we called Hansworst [**Jester**] and he said to them: "This is another child of man; look at his hair! He comes from far. Be not afraid. He is good. Bring cattle for barter!" He screamed himself hoarse. He jabbered so many good things about us that they became tamer and over a hundred men, women and children came to us.

Saw two Briqueas at this place. The one was a true Caffer, the other a half-breed. As I have long suspected their language is the same as the Xhosas, but a different dialect and without any click of the tongue. He was most astonished at the words I spoke in his language which he repeated on their own with a very slight variation. He understood but not if I spoke continuously.

Took latitude: 29 deg. — 14 min.

Went up a mountain in the afternoon, going south for two hours from one peak across to another. Saw here that the river still runs southward for two miles and thereafter at the Noekeis kraal makes its way E.S.E. At this second section of the Hoekingeis a small rivulet with reeds runs from the east into the Orange River. So far as I could see the country was the same on both sides but the mountains continue still further on the northern bank. They brought us a slaughter animal as barter for showing them how a gun shoots. (as requested). I shot it with my gun, as requested, so that it fell to the ground. But since I had hit too high it got up again and ran off. But we told them to bring it back and we slaughtered it. They were most frightened at the shot.

### **6<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Last night the wild people were up the whole night at their huts and because we lay right close to them I was kept awake all night. Their dogs troubled us greatly. Because they allow them to suffer great hunger, they carried off everything made of skin.

Generally the whole race of Koraquas are big, well set-up Hottentots, though not as burly as the Caffers with many Jewish and Chinese traits of physiognomy. They had many Briquea karosses. On many of them the hair on the front part of the head had been shaven as though they were wearing wigs. The Briqueas or Moetjoana wear a small skin, from a calf or young animal, under the large cloak which is the skin of a hartebeest, the tail hanging against the neck. The skin goes over the shoulders and is fastened at the breast like a cloak. Most of the second skin hangs behind under the large one and not lower than the thighs. The cloak hangs to the heels. They have only Caffer ornaments on their heads. They are 'cut' and call this Goesigha. Their entire genitals are held in the scrotum of a goat or calf, the hair on the outside. They fasten it round the hips and through the legs behind to the belt again. It is not loose but bound very firmly. Like the Hottentots they have shoes that cover the soles (veldschoen). There was a fellow five feet, ten inches (Rhinelands) tall with very broad shoulders, a powerful head and limbs and a face just like the Caffers. He knew nothing of the Tamboekies or of a sea to the east. They get their iron from far in the north. They have had the children's disease[**smallpox**] which they call Sequawqaan as well as Quaripane. This disease did not often come to their country but did cause great carnage among them. It came from the north. Apart from the Moetjoana he gave me these names: The Barolo, The Shounarreba Capii, The Bapouru Boucana. However it is just the same as with the Hottentots: one people but in different clans or kraals. His chief was Massepa and so he said: 'Masepa Moetjoana Incosji' which in the Caffer tongue would be called: "Masepa. Chief of the Moetjoana Kraal."

When our people had bartered beads and tobacco for some cattle, something they were not willing to do before we had made ready to return, I gave them a little mirror for the women and girls of the kraal. I gave it to the oldest woman to keep in case they should want to paint themselves. They were most astonished and happy at this. Hearing me

sing, one of them asked if we always sang without dancing. It surprised me greatly that the Moetjoana who get iron and copper from the Europeans, do not have beads. They make only iron beads for themselves as well as for trade with Hottentots. Their huts are of the same kind as the other Caffers. But they are large so that they can wander about to and fro within them. There is only one family in each hut. As soon as the children grow up they have to make another house. They have no windows however but shelves where they put their possessions. The larger door or opening is also covered with wood just like the others. They plant tobacco and smoke stone pipes which are just like the Namaqua pipes. If there is clay they also make two tubular holes in the ground and these they make the same, though opposite each other. They then put the tobacco in one and suck through the other with their mouth, there being water in the middle. The Koraquas, Geisiquas and Einiquas smoke with or through the horn of an ox and in this they differ from the Gounaquas who place a tube in the horn which contains water. On this tube is a long pipe-bowl which they light. Then with a hand or an arm they close the mouth of the horn as much as to allow them to suck with their mouth and in this way they gulp themselves drunk on smoke. When they have gulped most of it down they sit for a while afterwards as though shocked, without being able to speak or stand up. They will walk many hours on end for a pipe of tobacco, swim across the river, or fetch milk, etc. Besides beads therefore it is the best money here. One of the Koraquas had the figure of a snake burned onto his thighs; almost life-size.

### **7<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather. The western wind rose at about 10 o'clock. Our people arrived at about 8 o'clock with another band of the Hoekingeis and Noeeis kraals with cattle to barter.

Departed along the way we had come and arrived at the first Hoekingeis at noon and so got milk immediately since that is the first milking time just as with the Namaquas. These people also make Tabie (at first they did not want to admit it). They are just like the Einiquas and probably spring from the Namaquas, as do all Hottentots.

The river is still falling.

The biggest Hottentots I have yet seen are at this kraal. Many that we saw looked like Spaniards but with flatter noses (probably already cross-bred with Briquas). They were very afraid of us and probably thought we would put a spell on them. A big fellow whom I looked at several times sheltered behind the others and when I again looked at him he said, in fear mixed with anger, that I was always looking. Another was very like my brother, the Prebendary, but was more burly and just as large in stature. I wanted to stand next to him to see how tall he was but he trembled when I touched him, though I showed him all friendliness. At this place, as at all the kraals, I gave a little mirror to the women. That everything they see about us is taken for witchcraft is demonstrated by the fact that afore-mentioned Hottentot, Swarteboy, who had a spell lifted from his leg by the sorceresses when we were on our up journey said that he had bumped against one of our guns and that this had made his leg sore. The sorceresses told him that powder from the musket had entered the leg and that they had finally sucked it out, as black as charcoal, and that it had made them vomit. N.B. He gave them a necklace, the value of a cow, in return for this. The fellow firmly believed it and got better. The woman had probably asked him what was in our guns and so by bumping against same it had gone into his leg.

A cattle fair was held once more and we departed along the river sleeping for an hour before we reached the place where the second section of the Goeringneis were living. They were then busy moving. Since the water in the river was low, we avoided having to go round the mountains though we found it very stony. The water in this opening must

rise very high and make it impassable at this place as we observed from heavy trees which had been cast up. All these people have heard great evil about us from the Bushmen.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Southerly wind last night. It was cold, and at the same time clear weather, just as it is around the Sneeuwberg when there is wind as well. Clear weather this morning again. Calm. Hot in the morning with a light west wind in the afternoon.

Departed at daybreak. Halted in the afternoon at the first Goeringneis, close to where the second kraal is also now living. They were friendlier this time and especially towards me, saying that the others had come onto their land impudently and had examined their cattle. They gave us milk in abundance and we tobacco. Our people bartered for young cattle and I for a slaughter-cow.

We left in the afternoon and slept at the Draay Islands. We saw Bushmen fires but no Bushmen.

Our people now have about fifty head of cattle all together. They troubled me all night, sometimes almost walking across my body.

#### **9<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Fine weather though hot. Cool last night but was not aware of any dew. The country is very dry. A light wind from the east in the morning: came up late, whirled east and north and then west in the afternoon. These day-winds come up briskly, in intervals, often with whirlwinds although there is not a cloud in the sky.

Tramping from dawn. Had our meal half an hour from Zeekoei Lust where the water has now rapidly diminished and the hippopotamus have gone. Slept for a good half hour this side of the old Goeringneis Kraal. We saw Bushmen fires on the other side and heard them shouting but they did not trouble us. Looked in vain for hippopotamus to shoot.

#### **10<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind. Hot last night.

Had our noon meal at Pinar's Island. We shot several hippopotamus and slaughtered one that rose to the surface. The others we left for the Bushmen who are following on the other side. Clearly heard them calling: "Ham quena" i.e., "Some people!" but they did not dare to cross. They speak the so-called Chinese dialect, very much as at the Agter Sneeuwberg. Koerikei can understand them.

After we had turned away from the river across the stony ridge to the place where we had previously had our noon meal, we went to sleep. Called this place Schoonsigt because there was a beautiful view of the river from here. Schoenmaker got left behind by following the bend of the river. Some hippopotamus came onto the bank and towards our fires. In the moonlight we wounded one of them in the body but could not get it. Everywhere beside the river saw the tracks of gerbo but not one of these animals itself. Today for the first time, giraffe and rhinoceros tracks again.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind. Cloudy in places. Because Schoenmaker had not come, sent three Hottentots back. At midday we had our meal close to the red-sand country, where we had previously cut up the hippopotamus. Schoenmaker joined us again and we slept one hour short of the Geisiqua Klip Poort. We shot a hippopotamus but could not get it. A band of Nouw Eis Bushmen came to us at last. Were like the rest. Bartered a pipe of tobacco for an empty ostrich shell. Koerikei spoke their dialect but there were

Namaquas among them. On the other side, Bushmen and a band of the Second Geisiquas were busy slaughtering a hippopotamus which had fallen and died in a game-pit (or Keissi). They shouted and laughed and were very merry. The legs of the Bushmen were very badly scratched from walking through bushes. We thought we saw a lion in the red-sand dunes this afternoon. Also saw a large footprint.

### **12<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind. Warm last night, cool towards morning. Somewhat cloudy as well.

We crossed the Geisiqua's Poort and had our noon meal at the previous place. Eiheep, who this morning had swum across to the Second Geisiquas, brought me curdled milk. Heard that some of the Second Geisiquas had arrived from Briqua Land, nearly dead of thirst. The Dowsi and Curuqua kraals lie together on the Koeremana. Thereafter the Homma Cariqua and Curuquer are also together. They are all Geisiqua families and marry with Moetjoana but at present they have arguments and fights. Many people have died of the children's disease but the sickness has now ceased. For a while this disease has stopped the Geisiquas and Koraquas, as also the Briquas and Namaquas, from visiting one another.

Slept at the first Geisiquas. The river was still falling slowly but was still turbulent. Saw a secretary bird for the first time in the countryside. Arrived in time (sunset) at the First Geisiquas, who first brought me milk. Our Hottentot, who remained here, complained that in this time they had eaten nothing but milk and that they had given him but little. All our people have fallen behind and we cannot understand what is detaining them.

### **13<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Overcast sky. Sunshine now and then. Cool weather. Some raindrops in the morning. Strong west wind that turned S.W. in the afternoon and was brisk. Was not cold last night; this was fortunate since I had to sleep in the open without a coat because the party had still not arrived.

Yesterday and today heard much sorcerer snorting — there are some sick people in the kraal. It was as if they did this from time to time in the same way we take medicine. The snorting greatly resembled the sound heard when sleeping at a certain distance from a dove-cot, where the doves are continually cooing.

Our people arrived in the afternoon. They had shot a buffalo, a rhinoceros and two hippopotamus and this was the reason they had stayed behind. One does not easily get a Hottentot away from dead game. This kraal also found a hartebeest that had been killed by a lion, and they brought the meat back to the kraal with great rejoicing.

Departed about four o'clock and slept at the place where we had slept on our outward journey. Called this place Gielquin's Island after Major Gielquin. Saw a place where lion had killed an antelope and many footprints of lion. Here amongst hard flint-stone one finds lime-like patches at places in the countryside. Gave the Geisiquas who had been with us some presents and to Eiheep a Grenadier's cap. He made some objection to accepting this from fear of his own people: thus an elder or Kawkawp has little authority. It was as if his authority would be too great if he had the cap. However he did take it and wanted to come with us to the wagon.

### **14<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Fine, cool weather. Wind S. in the morning then east throughout the day, but light and warm.

Had our midday halt opposite Ogoqua Island. Fired three shots but they did not come to

us. The river was about three feet higher than on our outward journey though still falling slowly. Tramped to the back of the large stone-ridge close to Hautaws. Because our oxen had gone around the ridges, it was half past nine but moonlight before they arrived. As a signal for them we had a fire going and fired three shots. We passed five Bushman huts this afternoon which were not there on our outward journey. They came to us: the tip of their poisoned arrows can be turned in so as not to hurt themselves, as well as to preserve the poison longer. They did not have that small barb that they have at the Agter Sneeuwberg. Eiheep showed me eleven arrow-wounds and how they had been healed by cutting them open and sucking at them. Thus the strongest poison is here curable. They are cruel to their prisoners in war; they slaughter them like cattle. They cut their bellies open, put their hand in and break the main artery, leaving them to lie like that. They seldom spare women or children. The Moetjoana do the same.

### **15<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Fine weather, westerly breeze. Slightly cloudy. Hot by day.

Departed at dawn and had our midday halt opposite the Kaukeys kraal. One of the Keikeis Bushmen and his son whom we encountered offered to bring me milk from the Kaukeys.

Found some Bushmen women here who are eating dry, pounded kwagga meat. They preserve it thus and offered me a basin-full of it.

We again had six ladies in our company, the same ones as before; they have been visiting their friends.

Saw a herd of about 40 kwaggas. It surprises me that from Cabas to where we turned back there are no monkeys or parakeets. Plenty of baboons however. Few varieties of birds too.

The Bushmen and some of the Kaukeys brought me some milk. The oxen arrived in the afternoon; as soon as they had come, I made ready to go ahead to the wagon. In order to return across the river sooner, we shall have to use a raft because the water is three to four feet higher than on our outward journey.

Found that the Keinkeis Bushmen were living on this side of the Keinkeis Poort. Before we came to them we saw a Bushman sitting on a hill; beckoned to him but he would not come at first. Going a little nearer we spoke to him. (Had with me two Bushmen, my little Bushman Cabas and another three Hottentots, as well as my instruments that I wanted to take across myself). He came to us but was frightened. I gave him some tobacco and as he had his bow and arrow I asked him if he had shot anything. He said no, but that he was looking for kwaggas that had drunk from a certain small spring which he had poisoned. He had done this with several ostrich egg shells full of milk from the thorny hexagonal euphorbia when it had its yellow bloom. He also used the bruised branch of the same tree. Generally they die close to the water but if there is a lot of water then they die the following night; their stomach rots but the flesh remains good food. He went with us to his kraal which was the same we had seen previously, on the other side. I saw much zebra meat here, poisoned in this way. Gave him some tobacco and we went to sleep on the other side of the mountain, almost at the start of the pass, beside the water. These three days the road has been very stony so that our veldskoens are in pieces. I have already worn out one pair.

### **16<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The wind whirled round with the course of the sun all day. Little wind, light, blowing gently from the east. A thundery sky in the morning, hot. Not cold last night which was fortunate since I had only my Scottish cloak which was worn threadbare. A hippopotamus was blowing close to us all night and the small waterfall was very noisy.

Departed at dawn and was at Hosabees in two and a half hours. All formed of one cliff through which the river comes together in a narrow passage, except for two small streams on the south side.. Found some dark crystal here which has a blue vein. We looked for a good place and found one in the rocks: not wide nor swift but it was deep. The force of the water had been broken up by the dividing and cascading of the stream higher up, and also because the slope was not steep here. We went across with my machine to the greatest astonishment of the Hottentots and when everything was over told the people here to make a raft and went off with two of them and my little Cabas to the wagon. Crossed the two streams, much stony veld and two dry rivers, one of which is normally a tributary of the Orange River and the second was the Camagga, or Camagaqua or Zak River. Here for the first time on the whole journey I put myself on a horse, being anxious to see how it stood with the wagon and our people at the Namneyqua. Although I lost my way, I rode alone to the wagon in two and half hours and found it in good order. My people praised the Namneyqua. Found some of these people at the wagon and they showed as much joy at my return as my own three Hottentots. They said that the other people must have been dishonest since I had come back so thin. I said no; it was because I had had to walk so hard. Tamega brought out milk for me and truly it was as though I had come to friends of my own blood, so affectionately did these people conduct themselves. They asked immediately about everything and blamed each other because it took them so long to see me, not before I was right upon them. They were also astonished that I had come alone. After five hours going my little servant and my two Hottentots arrived. Today gave Cabas the name of Hector, because of his courage. He was very set upon having a Dutch name. The young fellow walked as hard as the best man, swum first through rivers, knew no fear and was always attentive and cheerful.

### **17<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Cool easterly breeze. Very hot.

Stayed waiting for my people. Went to the kraal which had moved closer to the first stream in order to be nearer the wagons. They had already visited me early with milk. Meanwhile our people had shot three hippopotamus here. Like us from our journey, they were all very thin from the drought. They were busy making a keisji or hole which they catch game in. Some of the women were digging it out with sticks. They were making use of the red and stony ground; first stamping it fine with a rock, then sifting it on a circular skin. They knead it and bake it to make their pots. They are not very hard but good for use and for cooking.

Fine clear weather but very hot, even though the wind rose early and blew very strongly, it veered once more with the progress of the sun.

Pinar arrived with some of our people. The Bushmen at the Camagaqua wounded three of our cattle with assegais, stalking same in the trees along the river. This gave us to suppose that they had stolen the last missing slaughter animal.

### **18<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind. S.E. early part of the night.

Our people arrived in the evening and we made ready to leave tomorrow. In the afternoon a large swarm of locusts, on the move, came from the east, whirling off towards the river, being very hungry. They were just like the ones last year at the Sneeuwberg. They serve as food for men, fishes, lions, springbuck and even horses eat them readily; so Pinar assured me.

These Hottentots do not eat of the hare or drink sheep's milk after they have been made 'men'.

### **19<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Departed at dawn and slept at our previous place at the waterfall. Eiheep the Geisiqua and Naugha the Kaukeys turned back. The same weather and wind.

Because of low water still nothing to see at the waterfall.

Pinar arrived all bloody: he was chasing a giraffe and wounded it but fell with his saddle from the horse.

### **20<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind but a west wind was already blowing in the morning. We made camp at Gamtei, slightly higher up than on our outward journey because we did not want to ride across the stones.

This morning saw sixteen large elephants and some calves, a thousand paces away. They were moving and grazing, and looking at the wagon. Also saw five giraffe with a young one, as well as some kwagga. When a giraffe walks it always raises both the legs on one side at the same time. Otherwise it gallops and never trots. The female was somewhat smaller but also had horns.

As before, sent the oxen to the underground water which was a good hour distant with orders to bring them back towards sunset.

Because it is a very hot day and because there is almost no shadow to be found beneath a branchless mimosa the heat was very unpleasant.

When the oxen had returned at evening we rode on for a further three and a half hours and slept where we had shot the giraffe on our outward journey. Found Pinar and some of his people half dead of thirst here. Found also to my great chagrin that wolves and other wild animals had dug up the buried bones and destroyed them. But took some of the best fragments with me.

Strong west wind in the evening and half of the night. Our Bushmen and two of my dogs are missing.

### **21<sup>st</sup> November 1779**

East wind and cool in the morning but at noon blew from the west again and was hot.

Cloudy in the afternoon.

Pinar, longing for home, rode ahead. I gave him Schoemaker for company because his wits are astray; as much from lack of liquor as from the length of the journey. Was alone now with my four Hottentots (as well as the two boys), happy to have rid myself of Schoemaker who was impatience itself. Rode straight across the veld and after travelling for five hours arrived at our previous camp, Garies. Saw a giraffe but far off. We had to dig for water and let the oxen drink, one after the other. We noticed several scorpions and it was a wonder that we were not stung since we just threw ourselves on the ground, exhausted.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind but somewhat overcast in the afternoon. A thundery sky. Hot. In the evening a brisk wind from the S.W. and a whirlwind. Lasted till midnight. Rode southwards to avoid all the rocks and then on course. Had the midday meal half an hour south of Aiaas, underground water-hole, where I sent the oxen to drink. This way we had a better and shorter road. Followed our previous road and slept this side of the bad and stony pass of Honceib. I called the prominent mountain range the Koning Hendrik de IV Berg because all the books I had taken with me to read ran out here, the last being the *Memoires de Sully*. So did this in memory of that great and good Monarch.



Matroos lost the bullet-moulds and several other things which were in a bag and he went back to look for it. Gave him a piece of meat to take with him.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind but very clear and hot.

Got through this stony pass with much difficulty. We had to work on the road everywhere and hold the wagon steady. There are only four of us now. The wheels of my wagon have become so bad that we have had to tie in the thole-pins. At noon Cabas disappeared; his kraal is at the river, close to here. We had our midday halt a little beyond Honceib, a dry and sandy river, and in the afternoon went on to just opposite Samoep. Not wanting to travel the hard road to the river, I sent the oxen on to the water.

In the evening, the sky without a cloud, there was a beautiful total eclipse of the moon. My Hottentots were most astonished as I had told them about it some time before. It was a pity I had no time-piece, for both at the start and the finish and throughout the night, it was very clear. At the finish there was a strong S.E. wind which became calmer with dawn.

I was asleep and Koerikei woke me because Cabas and an old Bushman had arrived. He made many signs of friendship and said that he had been at his kraal. I gave the Bushman some tobacco and something to eat and he went off. I said that I did not wish to keep Cabas if he did not want to accompany me of his own free will. He protested that he was going with me of his own free will and he went off to lie down and sleep.

### **24<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

S.E. wind in the morning, veering slightly to the west. Strong S.W. wind in the night. Weather fine but very hot.

At dawn rode along the small stony hills higher up, looking for a better road, with Cabas going ahead to see where the wagon could get through. Going round one of these small hills and not seeing Cabas I again came to the wagons and found that the boy had once more run away. It was probably so the day before as well and the old Bushman had forced him to go back to me, which is most unusual: coming to my fire at night in order to find me. In addition this Bushman had never seen me before because Cabas was with Pinar's Hottentots along the river on our outward journey and only came to me at Garies, attaching himself to me there of his own accord.

Had midday meal at our former outspan place De Gelukkige Val. Sent a Hottentot back to Samoep because I had left my belt with hunting-knife and pistol behind.

At sunset inspanned because there was cool moonlight. Rode on the same road to the bees-nest and then brought the wagon over the gently hilly, generally flat, countryside. Made camp at eleven o'clock in the evening opposite the Klip Plaat. In this way spared the wagon and gained three hours. Sent the oxen to water at the river at Klip Plaat.

### **25<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather and wind, but light, and very hot.

Went up a high hill to see where I was and saw the peaked mountain which I recognised last night. I walked to it in order to be certain and at once started to seek the best road for the wagon. After half an hour's going found my previous wagon track, not far from where we shot the rhinoceros. Turned back and when the oxen had come we yoked them in and travelled downhill past reddish-brown sand-dunes until we came to the

Agava or Kokerbooms rivulet which was dry and lower than before [sic]. Sent the oxen to the river at Kaboes two hours from this place and stayed here with Koerikei alone. Did not know where Model was.

There are two kinds of fly; the common one and the large drone-fly. They are a great nuisance but did not bite, otherwise it would have been unendurable here. We even had a little shade under a hook-thorn tree being nothing more than low shrubs here. We have had to use rope to tie in the thole-pins of our wagon several times. They keep on breaking.

My two Hottentots arrived in the night bringing water and milk as well as a piece of mutton. They had found Model camping at the river. Koerikei and I suffered thirst. Found 12 mature ostrich eggs today. Koerikei ate of them.

A Hottentot, Hans, whom I had sent back for my belt returned with same from Model. He had traced our tracks until close to this place and then gone down to the river to drink. Saw some ostrich this evening. Due to our earlier journey the rhinoceros appear to have gone further into the country.

### **26<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

The same weather, very hot in the afternoon. A thunder storm to the north of us. Could hear the thunder and see the rain but we had nothing. Fresh west wind in gusts in the afternoon but very hot.

Because the wagon-wheels were badly damaged I decided to go ahead in order to send help. Since all the nails and hoop irons we had brought with us were finished, and because we did not want to attempt going round the range lying in our way, I decided to go to the Commas tonight, taking two Bushmen to show me the way. In this way we could reach Sandfontein by about ten o'clock in the morning which otherwise was three day's journey off. When I had instructed my three Hottentots how far they should travel on each stage and at what time, towards eight o'clock I went off west through the flat and dry Agava or Kokerbooms River. Found not a single kokerboom but I did find low thorn-trees. After one and a half hours we came to the range; it was very hot with lightning now and then, otherwise it was very dark with the result that we often stumbled over the many stones. At half past ten, when the moon rose, we had already climbed a part of the way and, at midnight, reached an underground brack water-hole in a stone and here we quenched our thirst. This is one of the worst tracks in the whole countryside; there are stones everywhere, across and around entire mountains. At about two o'clock we crossed a large plain in the form of a basin. Heard zebras whinnying here. After this we came into a dry stony river where there was another underground water-hole, but although I was very thirsty and the Bushmen drank heartily, was unable to drink the water which was bitter and salty. After a turn to the north reached the Commas spring at sunrise where we quenched our thirst heartily, the water here being only slightly brack. Here we saw two fresh lion tracks, from tonight. We also saw vultures in flight and so were firmly convinced that the lions were still here and that they had killed something. Also found the fresh leg of a horse. After resting for an hour, went on to Soubiesjes where I heard that Barend Vry's horse and my old travelling horse, which I left behind here, had been devoured by lions.

### **27<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Northerly wind caused by the thundery weather yesterday. Somewhat cloudy as well, though warm, with west wind in the afternoon. Found Pinar and his people still at Sandfontein. Forthwith sent nails and hoop irons back to meet the wagon. Some of Pinar's Hottentots were ill from walking hard in the heat. Gave Afrikaander, our best shot, some medicines at his request. He wishes to accompany me into Namaqualand.

**28<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Easterly wind in the morning, veering round with the progress of the sun. Fresh west wind in the afternoon. Hot. Thundery weather in the east. We had a few drops of rain in the night.

Am sleeping next to my boat under a black ebony tree. Everything except my scotch cloak is at the wagon. It is a great wonder that one can sleep thus on the bare earth and still be free of snakes and scorpions.

**29<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Westerly wind. Overcast, thundery sky.

Got news that the wagon had broken down in the stones the other side of Cabas. Sent help forthwith. A fresh thunderstorm from the west in the afternoon, fresh wind and rain which cooled the air and which the parched countryside badly needed.

**30<sup>th</sup> November 1779**

Good weather: a cool west wind, still somewhat cloudy.

Pinar left for the Cape in the afternoon and I stayed behind here, alone with half a dozen Hottentot women.

Easterly wind in the morning, veering with the progress of the sun.

**December**

Waited for the wagon. Went to Soubiesjes and looked round and about but did not see the wagon. Returned about midday to Sandfontein with Toenema, the Einiqua who had stayed behind and who is now going back to his kraal.

**1<sup>st</sup> December 1779**

Fresh weather. Westerly wind. Slightly cloudy.

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 1779**

Wind still from the west and north west. It rose violently in the afternoon bringing clouds which, I believe, means that it has rained at the Cape.

The wagon arrived in the afternoon. Matroos had joined up with it again. We applied all we had to strengthening the wheels. Because they had contracted from the great dryness we placed them in water. Lions have killed a sheep belonging to the half-breeds.

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 1779**

Wind still westerly but dropping; blew violently last night but without rain. Good weather in the evening. We are making ready to depart W.N.W. in the morning.

**4<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Wind east in the morning and light northerly in the afternoon. Little wind. Hot.

After having much difficulty with young oxen we had traded from the Namaquas, we departed in the afternoon with a turn through the W.S.W. and thereafter N.W. After travelling for three hours on a stony, sand road we made camp at some stony mountains which lie beside the river. Found good rainwater in a hole in the stone for ourselves but not for the oxen. This place is called Tabikeib. Had a fever all night.

**5<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather. The wind north west in the afternoon and west in the evening. Not a

cloud in the sky.

The same terrain everywhere, many kokerbooms. After some turns and after travelling for four hours we made camp at the river. Runs E. and W. here, all stone slabs and trees. The river was low. This place is called Kararagingnas. We stayed over here because the oxen were so tired. The mountain range beside this bank becomes higher here.

### **6<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind.

After plodding a long way and with many turns through rocks we arrived at the river after travelling for four hours. Called this place Het Bos because at this place there are more trees beside the river. Made myself ready to cross the river two hours to the west of here and to go into Namaqualand with the pack-oxen. My wagons will travel to the drift and wait for me there.

### **7<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind but hotter.

Took bearings. Sandfontein: E.S.E. 4 \_ miles; Warm Bad: north; (the Leeuwen River flows in thunderstorms into this river one mile to the west of this place. One mile from there it takes a small turn to the N.W.) Compagnies Drift: W. \_ S. 6 miles; (Bed of this river 900 ft high) Heib: S.S.W.

In the morning I was astonished to see Cabas and two Bushmen approaching. It seemed that one was his father and the other was one of the Bushmen who took me through the Caboes mountains and to whom I had said that I was sorry Cabas had run away. The father told me that he was bringing Cabas back to me and that he had scolded him for running away from me especially since he had heard that Cabas had had such good treatment and that I had wanted so much to take him to my country. Cabas was quiet and fearful. I asked the Bushman, who was a small, alert fellow, if Cabas was his son. He said 'I made him'. I asked him if he was giving Cabas to me, he said: 'yes'. I told him that I would take Cabas to the Cape and would let him see everything. If he then wanted to return to his country, I would have him brought back. He asked for some beads and tobacco and said that he had not had much to eat at the kraal and that it was therefore better for Cabas to be with me than with him. Cabas said nothing and thus father and son parted. It was at least five days' walk from his kraal. The oxen ran away so we had to remain at this place today. A man called Schoemaker **[not the artist]** arrived. He is presently ten miles to the west on this river and is to take my wagon with him, since I shall have to break my journey there.

### **8<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather but less wind and somewhat cloudy in the morning. Very hot. Although it is cloudy from time to time it is almost never so much so that the sun does not shine or that it rains. Thus in this country the sun shines almost every day. Departed down the river with the two half-breed Hottentots Klaas and Piet; and the Hottentot Afrikaander, who had been up-river with me. Took five pack-oxen in the event I could obtain a giraffe skin and skeleton. After walking along the river for two hours we crossed same by way of a stony ridge where there were two streams. We did not have to off-load the pack-oxen. The water came up to my hips and the current was so strong in the second stream that I had great difficulty. This was caused by the abundance of stones and having Cabas by the one hand. I had to bear him up because the water was deeper than he was tall. In the other hand I had my paper so that I almost fell upside down, not

imagining beforehand that this drift would be so dangerous. On the other side we found four Great Namaquas of the Caminoekwas tribe. Because of the drought there are a few small kraals of them living here beside the river. I hired these to accompany us and to drive the oxen. N.B. This band is the same that was called Comeinacqua in Hop's journey, after a mountain called Comma, but they knew of no Comma Mountain and called themselves Caminoekwas saying that they did not know why their forefathers had called themselves this. Coming from the Bad, they live beside the Leeuwen River and were now divided into ten small kraals. They did have a Kauwaup but counted him for nothing. His name is Owbeep and he lives close to Warm Bad which they call Eibeese; the Leeuwen River is called the same too.

This Leeuwen River hardly ever runs and was now completely dry. It is flat without banks, full of low cypress trees as well as camelthorn, other mimosas and some black ebony trees. All poor trees however and no one from Europe would consider this a river. All these lateral rivulets are also nothing more than the discharges of rains which fall in thundery weather from time to time.

After four hours uphill going in this flat, sandy river and in great heat, the range began to get narrower and we found an underground water hole from the last thunderstorm which was good though muddy. Here our oxen could drink a little and we stayed here to sleep. Today among the mountains there was almost no cool breeze during the day.

### **9<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind. Wind from the west blew somewhat fresher in the afternoon.

We have entered the pass of this mountain range which is just like the country around Klip Plaat with land dipping both sides of the river and definitely not higher. After an hour we turned through the N.W. and after another hour reached the place where Hop's Journey entered this river, coming north-easterly from the Compagnies Drift. After a further two hours, again with some north-easterly turns we had our midday meal at an underground water hole which is called De Varsse Drift in the Journey. The water was bad and brack. This morning we passed a spring which was completely salty. We saw several lion and giraffe tracks.

We loaded up in the afternoon and because the river turns slightly to the W.N.W. at this place we turned off N.E. from the river along a stone foot-path. After walking for two hours we reached a Kleine Caminoekwa kraal in a dry rivulet, consisting of ten huts and which they called Ababeese. The rivulet comes from the east and reaches the Leeuwen River half an hour from here in the west. There was a brack spring in it. Because this region is so badly supplied with water, cattle walk into the springs to drink with the result that the water, apart from being salty and sometimes bitter as well, tastes mostly of cattle and game piss.

These Caminoekwas brought us a slaughter sheep for which I gave them something. Here the country becomes flat; it is both very sandy and very stony with hookthorn, kouw and mimosa trees. There is also reddish-brown sand in places with clumps of bushman grass, very much the same as at the Geisiquas.

### **10<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind.

Making our way half an hour north beside a mountain we once more found a small kraal of five Caminoekwa huts and after going up river for two hours we reached Vogel or Loeri Fontein, the water brack and bad. Saw fresh lion and giraffe tracks. The same stony terrain everywhere.

Stopped for our midday meal and saw two giraffe. Started hunting the giraffe but not

having good horses we put our trust in stalking them. (N.B. Sometimes this animal sticks its head into a tree and in this manner, especially in the heat, it sleeps standing. It sometimes eats from the ground and does this without having to bend its knees.) We continued our way northwards to the Bad but while we were crossing a stony ridge Afrikaander came to tell me that he had shot and broken the fore-leg of a large giraffe bull, a quarter of an hour from there. He had stalked it in the thickets of the river. Went there immediately and sent for the oxen, which had stayed behind, to come there. Found the animal still alive, and lying still though it had been struggling hard as I saw from the loose stones. There was a black scorpion moving across its body. (N.B. They are a little larger than the other yellow ones, and are considered more poisonous.) The giraffe lay there and behaved as though dead. We went close to it and it seemed to be a mild animal. We cut its throat whereupon a great deal of blood came *Ceteris Paribus*, from the large animal. Then it began to kick so violently that I believe that there can be few animals with more power in their legs. Ascertained that it was a bull and that it was two inches larger than the previous one; thus it was 15 feet, four inches high and the horns were 8 inches. It was one of the largest of these animals and fully grown. From muzzle to tail it was 13 feet, one inch long, following the curve. Its proportions differed slightly (almost not at all) from the previous one. Although there was no water here, we stayed and slept in the stones and were badly inconvenienced by the ticks from the giraffe. It had already got dark by then and we removed its bowels to prevent it from rotting.

#### **11<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind. But it is now high flat country, with stony hills as at Ein. From the heights to the south of the river the day breeze from the west blew more freshly.

Cut up the animal and salted it. Cut the meat from the legs as well. The flesh tastes strongly of the thorn-bushes that it eats. Left two Hottentots by the animal in order to ward off wild animals and in the afternoon departed N. by E. to the Warm Bad. Found it as Brink said: east of the river among stony heights. Much cold water runs into it so that the temperature was about 90 degrees. The Bath is brack without any iron particles. This afternoon a Hottentot saw a golden-yellow snake, four feet long, hidden, half-way up in a thorn-tree. He asked me to shoot it and happily I hit it right in the middle. At the same moment as the shot, a mouse fell from the tree, above it, on to the ground beside me. It was still just alive but fell thus to its death. All Hottentots assure one that a snake can charm birds and mice towards itself. Went and bathed myself which I found very agreeable.

Saw many zebras today, rather tame. Brink's 'white horse' is a grey kwagga. There are no black ones in this country. Also makes a noise like it. The aurochs is the gnu.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather.

Heard some lions roaring this morning before sunrise, but they did not come close. Found many tracks here and some game that had been devoured, which indicates that these animals frequent this place. Went N. by W. up the river which still has many dry streams coming from the east. There is one at Vogel Fontein called Cammaseep. Went up one of three high stony hills to take bearings. Did not manage to see any giraffe which otherwise are abundant here. Some Caminoekwas and their chief Owbeep came to visit me. They brought a slaughter beast with them. Gave him a grenadier's cap which he made much of and a Hottentot brought me some good honey as well. They had brought their flutes with them and did their usual dance.

**13<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather but a little hotter. Saw lightning in the east in the evening. The season being so far advanced, I resolved to return to the Cape. Found Brink's latitudes right, so I did not take my astrolabe with me into Namaqualand, only a compass. Where I struck his road I found the distances right. Concerning the high mountain ranges however, it is to be remarked that the mountains beside the river here occur as if through an erosion or subsidence of the land. Furthermore they are not as high as Table Mountain but about the height of Devil's Mountain. What is unusual are the flat slopes on both sides of the river; irregular strata and much quartz as well as copper ore, some of it in abundance.

Shot some parakeets, somewhat larger than a finch and just like those I have seen from Surinam. One, lightly wounded, did not die and was soon tame.

Left for the giraffe skin and after salting it all well, we hastened to get away because, while drying, the skin cannot be held in position on a pack-ox. Slept at the Ababees kraal.

**14<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Calm weather between the mountains and stifling hot.

Coming upon the road to Compagnies Drift by which Hops reached this river on his journey, we continued with it and at midday halted at Modderfontein or Hoisabees, the water fairly good but little of it. Went on again in the evening, taking advantage of the moonlight and going over a very stony road for four hours. We slept on the open veld without water. From a herd we shot one zebra.

**15<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather, stifling hot. In the afternoon a thunderstorm in the N.E. close to us. Fresh west wind in the afternoon.

Reached the Kleine Brak Fontein or Tambees in two hours. Continuing downhill S.W. through a pass for an hour we reached the river which we found was still low. (We came across an ostrich in the pass.) After going for three quarters of an hour west beside same, we crossed a fine sandy drift, without unloading. It was hip-deep and with little current. This was the Compagnies Drift, Garragas or Bustard in Hottentot. Here the sand on the banks was so hot that it burned through shoes. We off-loaded on the stock farm of a certain Meiburg who lives at the Cape. Found a Hottentot woman here and a black slave. Schoemaker, under whom this stock farm lies, lives at present four miles to the west.

Departed S. in the evening making a turn around the mountains and, after walking hard for four hours, again reached the river, having only made one and a half miles to the west. Found the wagons here and everything in order. My Hottentots had pitched my tent. Attended to my giraffe skin and its bones. Found Schoemaker here who had come from his lower farm. This drift is called Goedouw or Sheep-path and the one below is called Homnaries. These river farms have had abundant grass but have now been grazed down and because little rain has fallen they are now very sandy and with scant grass. The river runs too deep to water the land thus it cannot be led out for gardens or planting wheat. This is a good drift which was only two hours to our right, had we but known.

**16<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Stifling heat. Light east wind in the morning. Brisk, west wind towards sunset.

Was busy preserving the skin; that at the head and the legs... [sic]

**17<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather. Later in the evening a brisk west wind. Remained drying the skin out of the sun. Had great difficulty keeping the head from going rotten. The savage heat of the sand between the mountains makes me long now for the sun to go down; the flies are a great nuisance too so that one cannot read or write.

**18<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and still hotter. A light wind before sunrise and calm immediately after dawn.

Made a wagon-beam and got everything ready to travel to Brakfonteinfontein over the long, difficult, sandy plain tomorrow. Got latitude here: 28 deg. 45 min. Took bearings on Brakfontein as stated: 2\_ deg. West. The sun is almost 5 degrees from the zenith so I have to make my observation from the shadow. Could not get the sun's diameter with the smoked glass. Height of the river: 530 feet; thus the mountains appear to be higher than they are.

**19<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Cloudy, thundery sky. First calm and then before noon a cool, slightly swirling breeze from the west. Not as hot as yesterday. A west wind in the afternoon, overcast, thundery sky.

At eight o'clock in the evening departed S.W.\_ S. First with a turn S. to Ei Oos underground water hole (Eselsfontein in our tongue) which is two hours from the river on the uphill. Because of the great distance ahead from the drift to Brak fontein, wagons always make camp here. The oxen are also given water at the river because the drift is still four hours to the N.E. from here. The high, flat reddish-brown Karoo sand country also begins here. However, we still encountered hills here and there, up to a three hours' ride away. Then we travelled for a further six hours through the so-called plains (wide, reddish-brown sand, slightly uphill) until we came to some mountains, lying apart, one of which is called the Rondeberg. Here we let the oxen rest for a while in their yokes. Took bearings: Compagnies Drift: N.E. 2 deg. N; Goedows N.E. by N; Brakfontein: S.W.

**20<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Very hot. West wind. Thundery sky towards the river. Here in the rainy season there is water in a hole in the rock, and it is called the Platte Klip The mountain is almost a single round rock and it is called the same in Hottentot. After resting for two hours we travelled for another three hours downhill to the Groote Brak Fontein. The water very bad and almost none for the oxen. Measured the height of Platte Klip: at the foot 27 inches, 5 tenths and at the top 200 foot higher than Table Mountain. That is, above sea level.

We left on the same course in the evening, the country still uphill, and after three and a half reached Klein Brakfontein and after a further three and a half, Klip Poort . We found the countryside around here firmer and greener. It was most agreeable to see shrubs and flowers after having been a long time in an arid land.

**21<sup>st</sup> December 1779**

Very fine, cool weather again today, blowing from the S.E. all day. Because the Klip Poort was downhill and difficult to traverse and the moon having set we waited an hour and three quarters for day. Then we travelled on for two hours to Vanwyksfontein and after that another hour to Jan Beukes at the second Neigenaas. It was pleasant to see



vegetables here and stacks of freshly reaped wheat, as well as to drink good, fresh water.

Last night there was heavy thunder and rain at the river and ahead of us but we got nothing. This was good for the giraffe skin which was packed into my boat and has been well cared for. Thus we travelled to Brakke Fontein in fourteen hours and to Neigenas in ten, going S.W. all the time.

Africa must be an uninhabitable place for Europeans, except where it is high and mountainous towards the equator, in the centre.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> December 1779**

Good weather. S.E. wind in the morning, veered with the sun.

Went up a small mountain and took bearings on the course we had followed.

Kweekfontein or Sterke Gift: E. 3 deg. S; Heip: E.N.E.; Koperberg S.; Camies S. 2 deg. E.; Engelbregt: S.

My young boy Cabas, seeing that we were leaving the river and his country did everything he could to run away (although he would now have to go through an unknown and almost waterless country. Nevertheless they live off lizards, mice and other food from the countryside). But I kept a close watch on him because I wanted to let him first see the Cape. While we were at this place however, he must have recognised the mountains of the Great River; thus while I was taking bearings, seeing no other chance, he ran off down the stones with all his might and would have been lost to us but that the half-breed Klaas who was with me ran after him and got in his way. Like a klipspringer he ran up the opposite hill in order to escape across it and crept into a dassie hole. However, another Hottentot, one who lived here, coming in answer to our cries, pulled him out of it. Whereupon Klaas whipped him a few times with a leather strap and as soon as he was out of his hands, he ran to me and climbed up my body, hand and foot. Thereupon I saved him from the beating and made friends with him again and said that he must see the Cape and that I would then send him back to his country.

Departed south in the evening to the Koperbergs Kloof where the Caro River makes a turn and a little after that, turned left (with a turn to the N.E.) as I did on my previous course to Silverfontein, the farm of Jan van den Hever. (The first and second Neigenas are half a mile apart.) Arrived at Silverfontein with moonlight, after travelling for fourteen hours with the wagons; without anything breaking on the stony road.

### **23<sup>rd</sup> December 1779**

Very hot, the same wind. Stayed here.

### **24<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Rode once more S.W. up the sandy heights and through the Caro rivulet which is three quarters' of a mile from Silverfontein. Left the wagon, rode another half mile and arrived at Jan van den Hever's former camp at the Kouwsie. Reaching my previous road I then arrived at Engelbregt's Elleboogfontein. The Kouwsie or Sand River had no water, just a little in occasional pools; Nieuwkerks Fontein River was the same. Nevertheless got some bad underground water from same — from a small Hottentot kraal that is now here.

### **25<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

It was cool with an east wind last night. They were bringing in the harvest which has turned out well. Very hot. East wind in the morning, a fresh southerly wind mostly throughout the day and S.E. in the evening.

As the wagon had not come I went to meet it and came upon it at the Hottentot's kraal, unyoked.

**26<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

S.E. wind in the morning and west in the afternoon. Fine but hot weather. Repaired the wagons.

**27<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

The same weather and wind.

Ordered the wagons to travel on to Klip Valey and to await me there, and then to take the lower road to the Groene River mouth. Went east up to the Kamies Berg with Engelbregt and some Hottentots who carried the instruments. After a three hours' ride over a stony, uncomfortable track, arrived at Jasper Cloete's at the last and northernmost part of this range but one. The terrain is clay and stones. It is well-covered with grass which is mostly sour, with heath-like shrubs as well, and resembles the Sneeuwberg. However this mountain does not have horizontal strata and hollows, but irregular masses and little hills of Cos, round and smooth like a cat's head. The farms lie in the basins and there are five of them as well as the Namaqua farm, Lelifontein, north and west. (They are good horse-farms). After one and a half hours we arrived at the farm of Veldwagmeester P. van den Hever. Found the height to be 3200 feet, almost the same as at J. Cloete's. In these high hills one generally has no view of the mountain. On account of the cold and snow of the rainy monsoon season the inhabitants trek with their stock to lower country. Slept here. We heard that the Hottentots wanted to beat a sorceress to death because, so they imagined, she had killed some people with her witch-craft.

**28<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Very hot. The same weather and wind. Hazy on the horizon at dawn and thunder clouds coming up.

Passed the Namaqua Kraal where I drank wheat beer which was good. After travelling for two hours came to J. Coetsee's farm, height 3400 ft. Went to one of the highest peaks of the Camies which is half an hour from here. Although hazy, took bearings as well as the height which I found to be 5265 English feet. Saw that this range is separated by a small plain only from the Koebieskouws Berg. (Bleskops fontein berg is two thirds of the way from here) and thereafter that mountain has a high plateau running from the N.E. through to the east.

Uncorrected compass. Windhoeks berg: S. 2 deg. west; Maskamma S. 3 deg. E; P. van Zyl S. \_ W; Herenlogiment also north of Kobieskouw; large salt-pan E. by S., twenty hours; a large marsh of water further to the east, at its narrowest half a day's journey, it is oval; Engelbregt N.W.; Kouwsie River mouth N.W. by N. 4 deg N.; Groene River mouth W. by S. 4 deg. S.; Spoeg River W.N.W.; Koperberg N. by W. \_ W; Koebieskouw S.E.; Mrs. Ryk, Bokke Veld, S.S.E. 1 deg. E.; Bitter River W. 8 deg. N. On the Kamies Berg or Grasveld Berg one finds very good water.

I turned back to J. Coetsee's where we spent the night. This peak was mostly smooth Cos. Little quartz in this range. On top lay several, large loose lumps of rock. We pushed some of them down which had the effect of cannon-balls. There are many blesmols in this range, and zebras.

**29<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

Rode down the mountain in a westerly direction, passing the basin of Wilgenhout River

(flows into Groene River) and thereafter joined my previous path to Grabees and Vygmand Gebergte, which is the original source of the Groene River. It was first called Comnees, then Comnaas and finally Garies. The Swart Doorn River comes from the eastern side of Lelifontein; it is called the Hartebeest River there. The Kouwsie begins at the Hottentots on the northern side of these heights.

After a four hour ride on a very uneven road we found the wagons at the Klipvaley camping place, where the water was very brack. We saw the fresh tracks of two lions that had descended the mountain before us. They sometimes cause losses to Coetse's horses and cattle and cannot be trapped.

Chief Wiltschut's father is called Pluto and is over a hundred years old. He used to live at Grabees where there is still part of the kraal. Saw only ten straw-huts on the mountain. Overcast last night with a few drops of rain. There must have been thunder on the high parts. A thundery, overcast sky today. The wind north in the morning and west in the afternoon.

Broke camp at one o'clock and after many turns beside and across the Ouwtees Bitter rivulet we slept at the same after six hours' travel with the ox-wagons, all downhill, clay and shrub-veld. The Ouwtees rises here and flows into the sea as the Witwaters River, three miles north of the Groene River. We saw a thick puff-adder lying in the road which we killed. It was nearly as thick as an arm and three foot long. Is slow in its movement, flecked a brownish-yellow and very poisonous.

### **30<sup>th</sup> December 1779**

N.W. wind last night. Overcast sky. Some raindrops; still falling this morning.

Departed on the same course and let the wagons take the usual road south to where the Doorn River flows into the Groene River. (N.B. Close to this place there is a small but good salt-pan.) I rode S.W. to Van der Westhuisen's lower farm where I have now arrived after a four hour horse ride. This farm lies beside the Groene River, two and a quarter miles from the sea.

### **31<sup>st</sup> December 1779**

Brisk N.N.W. wind. The air passing over is cold. Ordered the wagons to come here.

### **1<sup>st</sup> January 1780**

Wind still N.N.W., brisk with occasional rainstorms.

Rode down the river to the shore. Found pools of water here and there and the mouth closed by a sandbank. Found a large gully of water at the mouth where many springers and harders are caught; also many waterfowls. The river lies east and west at Van der Westhuisen's, then turns to the S.S.W. and so into the sea. The beach at the mouth is just a small sandy bay, elsewhere it is low and rocky with heavy breakers. There are few sand dunes in places, otherwise low hills, as everywhere here. As far as I could take bearings and see to the north, the shore lies N.N.W.; to the south S.S.E. and at the mouth N. by W.

From Van der Westhuisen's house the point where bearings were taken on the Kamies Berg lies N.E.; the upper camp on the Groene River E.N.E.; the mouth S.W.; Koegel Fontein S.E.

Clearing up again in the afternoon, we rode back in two and a half hours beside the twisting river. It was a delight to see the astonishment of the little Bushman Cabas when he saw the sea. He was told that this was where we got our wine. He laid himself down on a stone to drink but he soon stopped.

The dogs caught a jackal. This river seldom flows into the sea. I saw green wheat still

standing here. It is sown in the riverbed because it retains moisture even when it is dry. Yet another cattle farm of Engelbregt lies between the mouth and the house. Bearings from Brakfontein, Engelbregt N\_ E. Kamies N.N.E. 2 deg. E. There was dew. There is heavy frost at this place due to the nearness of the Kamies berg.

### ***2<sup>nd</sup> January 1780***

Fine weather. Breeze from the S.E. From the S.W. in the afternoon. This is the prevailing afternoon wind along the entire coast. In the morning there is generally a haze over the sea while the wind comes from the S.E. or it is calm but as soon as the sun draws up the haze from the sea, a cool sea breeze begins which gathers in force and often blows till late at night. Otherwise it dies down just after sunset.

Departed S.E. over some reddish-brown sandy hills and after travelling with the ox-wagons for nine hours arrived at Brakfontein. Bad water. Mostly Karoo sand and bushy terrain.

Two hours to the south of the Groene River mouth the water runs into the Oliphants Drift when it rains.

### ***3<sup>rd</sup> January 1780***

Heavy dew and was cold last night. Cool overcast weather. Westerly wind. After travelling S.S.E. for four hours, for the most part on hard Karoo country we came to Koegel Fontein. (One hour beforehand we were on the Company's road). There are some low hills here. Water abundant but brack. Found fresh rainwater on some stones however.

### ***4<sup>th</sup> January 1780***

Light dew. The same weather and wind.

After four hours on the same course came to the Kleine Coraap or underground water-hole, a brack rivulet but we saw no water. After a further two hours we came to the Grote Coraap which comes from Meerhofs Casteel and has, towards the shore, a large salt-pan. We found enough water here but it was brack. However there was fresh rainwater once more in the stones. Found this lower road better than the upper one. It is level for the most part with almost no stones. Now and then however there is a little heavy Karoo sand. For the rest, hard Karoo soil with small shrubs and enough water if it has rained.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> January 1780***

The same weather and wind. A light dew again.

After travelling for three and a quarter hours, the same course, came to a flat rock, called De Schuijt Klip. We found rainwater in it and an hour and a quarter further on came to another rock called Krakkeel Klip. One can see the sea two miles to the west of these and a hooker was stranded here about fifty years ago from which few people survived. Took bearings from here. The Kamies berg Southern Tip: N; Koegel Fontein: N.N.W; Windhoek: S.E. 5 deg S; Van Zyl S.E. 8 deg S; Drie Gebroeders Berg opposite Herenlogiment S.S.E; Verloren Valey, the three small mountains, S.S.E. 2 deg. E. After some turns through some hills S.E. and then S.W. we arrived at a pass. After travelling for ten hours from Grote Coraap we made camp there without water or grazing, because I had been told that Kokonaap at the Oliphants River was much further. We fastened the oxen to the wagons.

### **6<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

It rained a little from the west last night. At dawn it was still blowing from the west with a few small showers of rain. Clear in the afternoon.

After travelling west for half an hour found, to my great astonishment, a beautiful stretch of water where we let our animals drink and half an hour further on we came to the Kokonaap. The Oliphants River, which here takes some large bends to the N.W., runs S.W. In Hottentot the name of this river is Kau Kaap, or Cutting River and Kokonaap is a corruption of Ko Kau Kaap or River of the Meat-Cutting, thus with them each place by a river has its particular name. Therefore this place is not called Bakoven as it is described in Hop's journal.

After an hour and a half in a south-easterly direction we arrived at Vleermuis Klip; in their journal it is Saltpeter Klip. (N.B. there are certainly bats here but no saltpeter. It was Van Zyl, one of the first inhabitants of this river, who called it this because of the bats.)

After a large sandy ridge, within another half hour we crossed the Holle Rivier, Koangaap, or Agerom River. There was nothing but a few pools of water here. This is water from the Koebieskouw and from north of the Hantam and Bokke Veld where the Dorn River runs; at this place it runs south into the Oliphants River. Because of the great steepness here we had to brake on both wheels and yet we still had to hold the wagon back. Then it was just as steep to get it out.

After half an hour we were on our previous road and after a further hour and a half we had descended Rem Hoogte. It was still an hour to Gowaas, or Vale Drift, seven hours S.E. of Kokonaap, and there we made camp.

### **7<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

Fine weather. Hot S.E. wind. At noon the S.W. sea-wind. After an hour we rode through the dry Ate River, which comes from the west, from Koebee, Troetroe and Bidouw, and after travelling for five hours we crossed the Oliphants to Van Zyl's. We found the river very low.

### **8<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

A little dew. The same weather and wind. Stayed over here.

### **9<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

Dew. The same weather and wind.

Departed in the afternoon and after travelling with the ox-wagons for seven hours around the mountain came with my first road to the Herenlogiment.

### **10<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

The same weather and wind. Hazy in the morning.

Took bearing from the Herenlogiments Mountain. Van Zyl N. 3 deg. W; Doorn River where it runs into the Oliphants River N.E. by E; Klip Fontein or Drie Gebroeders berg a half mile to the S.S.W; Koebee and Maskamma N.E. to E; Piket Berg at the Riet Valey S. 3 deg. W; Mrs. Louw S. 5 deg W.

Left by horse for Mrs. Louw in the Lange Valey and arrived there after riding for five hours (three to the Jakkals River). N.B. A small island 100 paces into the sea: full of birds.

### **11<sup>th</sup> January 1780**

The same weather and wind. Dew.

The wagon came at dawn.

Took bearings from the low stony mountain opposite the house. Herenlogiments N. 3 deg. E; Drie Gebroeders N. 3 deg S; Piketberg at Smit's, the highest point S.S.E. 4 deg S; Riet Valey is the continuation of Piketberg, where J. Coetse lives at Klipfontein S. and Capitains Kloof is between both. Rhinosterhoek S.E. \_ S; Verloren Valey W.

***12<sup>th</sup> January 1780***

The same weather and wind but hotter. Heavy dew this morning. Very hazy.

Departed by way of Swartebaas Kraal to Josias Engelbregt in the Berg Valey and arrived there in the evening.

The mountains on this side of the Oliphants River are more broken and are not as high as those that lie on the other side, five miles from here.

***13<sup>th</sup> January 1780***

**[NO ENTRY FOR THIS DAY]**