

# JAMES LYCETT JOURNAL 1854 – TRANSCRIPTION February 2024 by Kristina Guiguet

## Guiguet Comments:

Journey: August 8, 1854 – November 11, 1854

The James Lycett Journal describes a “Journey to Namaqualand from Cape Town, commenced on Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1854 in company with J. Calvert Esq., Coachman John Southgate, and Daangie, a Hottentot” (p.1) Another man named March, described as a “Hottentot boy,” also travelled with them. The Journal ends on November 11, 1854, with Lycett alone in Hondeklip Bay.

The Lycett party was part of the Namaqualand copper boom of 1854, and crossed paths with other prospectors, local farmers, and some government officials, including Charles Davidson Bell, Surveyor General,<sup>1</sup> and Dr. William Guybon Atherstone, who later reported on the geology of the region to the Government.<sup>2</sup> Atherstone kept three notebooks of his 1854 trip to Namaqualand, which describe similar struggles of travel but offer a different perspective on the people he met - including John Calvert.

The Atherstone notebooks are held in the Albany Museum in Grahamstown (Makhanda) in the Section that used to be the Settler Museum. My thanks to Dr. Elizabeth van Heyningen, Honorary Research Associate [HRA], History Department, University of Stellenbosch, for this information.

James Lycett survived this journey. Before the journey he had been an “influential Freemason, businessman, prospector, hotelier (?) and amateur actor and manager.” In 1855, he again performed with a theatre company called the “Amateurs of Cape Town.”<sup>3</sup>

## LEGEND

p1 L (left) or p1 R (right)      Transcription identifies pairs of pages in sequence but the journal does not number the pages.

xxx = illegible

[ ] = Guiguet comment

[? With words] = Guiguet guessing

Retained from the original text as follows:

Mr. C. is John Calvert

( ). The text sometimes gives (?)

(      some brackets are opened but not closed – transcription shows this

~~Strikeouts~~

Punctuation – often lacks apostrophes, commas or periods.

## Transcription begins here

P1 L

1839-1840

~~C. Kipling twice~~ – C. Stigling, 1839-1840, 1842-43.. and two names now nearly obliterated written in a smaller cover just before you enter the larger one

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Form of application

Sir/ Under Notice of 13<sup>th</sup> September 1853 I beg to apply for Leases of the centres named in the annexed List –

To the Hon the Colonial Sec.

(Diary written by James Lycett) of Stratford on Avon – [?Rugeley ] £–

[different hand] see “annals of Cape Stage” great grandfather of Mrs. P? E. Laidler]

P1 R

Journal of a Journey to Namaqualand from Cape Town, commenced on Tuesday August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1854; in company with J. Calvert Esq., C.E and Coachman John Southgate: and Daangie, a Hottentot

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> – Started from Cape Town at about 20 minutes past 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Forgot the dogs, turned back when outside the town. Met them coming with David on my house. Beautiful day. Pleasant drive. Arrived at [D'Herban? L'afterban?] at ½ past 6. Nothing but barley for horses at [Lessat? Lefsat's ?] Hotel.

Wednesday – 9 – Started at 9. Horses very hollow. Road sandy – Outspanned at 12 at Bosman's (or Bester's) place. Saw a very chatty Dutch girl. Deviated from the path. Lost at least an hour and got into a bad road. (Fenton the cause of this). I got to Malmesburg about 6 in the evening. Saw game on the way very bad not got guns charged. Put up at Mr. Hodges. – Very well entertained both man and horse. Last night, Mr. Calvert had an accident which might have delayed if not put an end to our journey. When

P3 L

going behind the cart, he unfortunately ran the sharp end of a whip stock that was sticking out behind it into his eye – Though very painful at the time, he has not since suffered any great inconvenience from it.

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> Many thanks to Mr. Hodges who has made us straps pouches &c. we have now got all of our baggage well stowed away. After partaking of a good tiffin and stowing away a cold fowl to eat on the road, we recommenced our journey at one o'clock. In about 2 ½ hours we out-spanned for an hour at a lovely spot on the road-side for xxx time ; and then proceeded on. Just at dusk, we saw two partridges at a spot [asked? rather?] [kroat?] [Fley? They?] xxx the cart stopped, [J? I? C?] shot one, and

Mr. Calvert got out of the cart to follow the other, and found water, so we decided upon making this our first out-span for the night. We were very jolly

P3 R

until about nine o'clock, when we discovered that the horses, which I had ~~xxx~~ seen not more than a quarter of an hour before grazing about 80 yards from the cart ~~by myself and Southgate~~ had strayed. Five minutes before ~~we asked~~ the discovery we asked Daangie to see whether the horses and he declared they were - a lie which delayed us at least a day and a half, and put us to £6 expence – Looked after horses until 11 o'clock.

Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> – ~~Leet Showery day~~. Looking after horses all day in the bush and got very wet.

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> – Went to a farmer and engaged him to take us to Piquet Berg, with six horses and also employed a man on horseback to look after our ~~others~~ lost ones. Started at 11. On arriving at the Pont we were overtaken by the boy with one horse. He informed us that the others were in the Pound at the [field-cornets?]. and that he would not give them up until six shillings were paid as they had been in the Land. Sent him back with the money. The

P4L

Pont is a miserable affair, dreadfully out of ~~service~~- repair. We had great difficulty in getting over Horses and cart stuck fast.. ½-past 2 started to Piquet Berg, arrived there at ½-past 7 in the evening. Got excellent accommodation at Mr. D. Russower's who speaks English well.

Thursday 13 – Horses did not arrive until 1 o'clock when we immediately ~~insp~~anned and started for Bosman's Place (Droo Ris ~~Vlie~~) (Dry Rice Valley) where we arrived early in the evening and overtook Mr. Daniells [sic] and met Mr. [Cavergen? Caveyn??] returning from Namaqualand. Found it impossible to obtain bullocks to assist us through the sand which was now about to commence in right earnest. So we purchased two horses from Mr. Bosman with harness &c. for £30 for which Mr. Calvert paid by an order on the Sec to P. ~~E. M~~ Mr. C started with I had almost forgot to mention an accident by the way between Piquet Berg and Bosman's. The cart jerked suddenly on

P4 R

one side into a deep hole ~~out~~ (which was apparently filled with bush) and threw Southgate out. The bank being perpendicular he could not get clear of the wheel, and the linch-pin caught him behind the shoulder, tearing his waistcoat, shirt, flannel, and grazing and lacerating the skin. The extent of the injury and force of the concussion may be summarized from the fact of the linch-pin being considerably bent. ~~By the~~ He was able, although in great pain, to continue driving, and shortly afterwards he lost the ~~lost the~~ lash of his whip, and also slightly injured one of the greyhound's legs. ~~Started~~

Monday 14 – Started early in the morning shortly after ~~xxx xx pony with~~ Mr. Daniells, and soon overtook him on the way, and outspanned about 10 o'clock in a beautiful valley with plenty of water

and grass. Then proceeded ~~on~~ along a bad, heavy sandy road to, I think, Berg Vley Inglebrecht's Place where we purchased oranges, lemons, bread, &c. also a flask of Cape Brandy

P5 L

from one of Mr. Daniells men. We had many times previously tried to purchase Cape Brandy at the various places on the road, but could not succeed. Started at about 4 o'clock and outspanned at dark in a miserable place, where there was scarcely any water and no grass for the horses. On the following morning we found a small well containing water. Which we dubbed "Calvert's well" – though we afterwards ascertained from a boy that was attending cattle, that the proper name of the place was 'Round Fontein.' Here we found out that the Fish Frigadells were spoiling through mould.

Tuesday 15 – As I expected this morning the horses ~~able~~ had ~~all~~ strayed away in search of grass. We found ~~them~~ 8 out of the 14 on a farmers land and had to pay a dollar each before they were restored to us. The consequence was we were not able to start

P5 R

until 10 o'clock. Outspanned at Widow Van Lyl's and purchased butter, eggs, goat mutton, very thin and tough, and forage for horses. We took all the oats she had, she said she was ~~sure~~ saving them for Mr. Hare. Started at 4. Found the road very sandy, and in some places full of large stones and outspanned in the dark at Branden Berg (Louw) and Inglebrechts and Vissers), where we got milk and a couple of fowls. A miserable place to outspan there being neither shelter nor wood, and in a low and wet situation, the ground being very wet.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> ~~Passed~~ Mr. Calvert for the first time sleeping out of the cart. Passed a miserable night, in consequence of the horses being tied to the earth, and being very ~~restive~~ restive. At length one broke away and one other struggled so hard, throwing himself on the ground and rolling on his back) that between 12 and 1 o'clock we deemed it advisable to knee-halter the whole of them and let them run. In the morning we found that they had again

P6 L

strayed and Mr. Daniells started without us. ~~Searched for the horses~~ About 11 o'clock, found four of the horses, and obtained a knowledge of the spoor of the other two. Engaged people to assist us in looking after them. Feel unwell this evening, and very much vexed and disappointed about the horses. It was here that I first saw the farmers used sledges instead of carts. In this sandy country, they appear to answer well. Threw the frigadells away they were all spoiled, except those that were covered with fat.

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Very unwell great lassitude, pain in the head, and some throat, evidently caught a severe cold through sleeping on the wet ground. No news of horses. At night ~~might~~ sickness worse. Partook of nothing the whole of the day and very little yesterday

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> – Sickness continues, not any better ~~but~~ no news of horses – Determined to move out of this horrid spot so we

P 6 R

engaged a span of oxen to take us forward and leave Southgate behind with one horse and saddle to arrange about the others (when found) – The farmer Inglebrecht took us forward just 2 hours with his oxen, and then left us on a barren spot without water for which he charged us £1. (Rather expensive travelling. Disturbed in th

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> Disturbed last night by the greyhounds running after an Antbear whose hole we found next morning near our fire. Tried to smoke him out but did not succeed. About 7 o'clock this morning Southgate came up and reported that the man had returned without the horses that he had visited Mr. [Borman? Bosman?], from whom we bought them, and had been to the place where they were bred but heard nothing of them. It being the general opinion that they must

P7 L

be somewhere near, we prepared to proceed on our way with the four horses, and left instruction for the others to be sent after us. Started at 8 and found the road very sandy. After outspanning two or three times, the horses became regularly leg-weary, so we stopped for the night about 4 o'clock – Still very sick - can eat nothing.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – The [Linnsxay?] having broke last night I feel better last night to-day. We made a comfortable encampment last night, a little distance from the cart and gave the horses forage that we had brought with us. At starting we discovered that Mr. Calverts saddle and my bridle had either been lost or stolen from behind the cart (more ill-luck) we proceeded on our way, however, as much as we could, the horses being cold and stiff refused at first to pull through the more than

P7 R

usually heavy sand – Outspanned once and arrived at Heerlogement, at about 10 – Found that Mr. Foster was not at home but were well entertained by Mrs. F – visited the cave cavern in the north – above the house, and among the first names I saw there was that of my esteemed departed friend C. Stigling, written in various places in the cavern at different dates (1839-40 – 4 [yrs?], 43 and 2 without dates. This incident, and especially as I was alone, aroused my feelings within me that I find it impossible to describe. I involuntarily took off my hat and for some time stood in silent veneration. [The rest of this page is either blank or far too faint to read even with photo editing of contrast.]

p8 L – [blank]

p8 R

Monday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – No news of lost horses – Dined off [cured?] Ostrich wing, considered it excellent. Being much improved in health, of course I had better appetite. Hired two horses from Mr. Foster, and when about to start, found that another of our remaining four horses had strayed (what luck.) This is a spot that any one would think it impossible for a horse to get away. I am now writing at 2 o'clock, and ourselves, Mr. Foster, and a Hottentot boy on a saddle horse have been engaged up to this time looking

for the horses without success – the boy has not yet returned. Mr. Bell, the Surveyor Gen. arrived about 4 o'clock on his way to the Copper Mines, a very agreeable, affable and gentlemanly man. The Hottentot arrived about 5 o'clock with our strayed horse. He stated that he had not overtaken him until he got to the Olivants's [sic] River, a distance of 4 hours on horseback. Mr. Bell had one horse dropped dead, and had to bleed another on his arrive here. I ~~met~~ here met Mr. Fielding returning from Damaqualand.

P9 L

Tuesday. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> Started between eight and nine o'clock in company with Mr. Bell ~~and arrived arrived~~ at Baclay Place about noon, where I met Messrs Jonas & Moore. ~~The room~~ and arrived at Van Lyls, on the opposite side of ~~xxx~~ Olivants River in the evening. Had a little difficulty in getting ~~the~~ over the river. We were hospitably entertained by Van Lyls, but got no forage for the horses.

Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> – Started for Ebenezer<sup>4</sup>, along the banks of the river. On arriving at Baclay Place, found the road so hilly that we were compelled to hire oxen. We here met Messrs Young and Moore, returning with oxen and sheep from Damaraland [sic]. They gave us information about the fighting ~~in D~~ among the Damaras, and also

P9 R

news of the Copper Mines. Arrived opposite Ebenezer Missionary Institution in the evening. The owner of the bullocks amused us on the way by recounting some wonderful stories about the extraordinary productiveness of the soil and immense crops raised in the neighbourhood: which ill-prepared us for the miserable sight that met our view at the Missionary Institution. From the Missionary downward there appeared to be nothing but indolence and consequently poverty. We wished to engage a servant here, but could not, in consequence of their endeavours to impose upon us, which they were constantly attempting. Neither Mr. Bell nor ourselves could succeed in getting anything from this miserable hole. One of our horses (Punch) very stiff

Thursday, 24<sup>th</sup>. Attended with Mr. Bell at Ebenezer, but no one appeared to claim centres. It appeared that the

P10 L

discovery of copper in this neighbourhood was another Cape Hoax. We were joined here by Mr. Villiers ?, and a young clergyman (not very like a parson) a regular buck, a Frenchman from the Paarl. ~~We started early.~~ We started early in the forenoon, but one of our horses (Punch) refused to pull us up the hill, so we had to send Mr. Calvert forward to Kokonap for oxen, which could not be got out of the field until the following morning. Messrs Bell and Villiers, not succeeding in getting either forage or bread at Kokonap proceeded on their own way. Mr. Calvert, however, was more successful as he fortunately met in with a lady named Lykheer ~~who was~~ living with her husband (who was very sick) on the place of Den Toit, at Kokonap. It appeared that her father was an Englishman but she spoke and understood the English language very

P10 R

indifferently. Nevertheless through her, we got all we wanted – forage, bread, &c. – even though they must have inconvenienced themselves. Mr. Den Toit was not at home, it appeared he was gone to a relatives to ~~fetch~~ purchase wheat for bread, and was expected to return on Saturday evening. We decided upon waiting until then, in order if possible to purchase horses from him. He had a grown-up son at home, but he was boerish [sic] and ill-natured in the extreme.

Friday, Aug 25 – Bullocks fetched the cart up to Kokonap this morning. Mr. Calvert purchased a horse for £6 from an old German at the Institution not however, without an attempt to cheat him. Bled Punch and tried to give him a swim in the river.

~~xxx~~ Mr. Letterstedt with wife and servants arrived here this evening in a waggon with 10 horses and a cart with 4

P11 L

Saturday, Aug 26<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Letterstedt started this morning. Two fellows from the Institution came this morning, one intending to offer himself as our guide; on questioning him however we found that he knew nothing of the way. We engaged him to go forward with as a far as Bonte Koe, ~~as he~~ for which he was to receive a dollar a day. He then asked to take forward a horse with him, on which he might ride back and stated that we might in-span the horse if we wont allow him 4s 6d per day. To this we also agreed, but when the bargain was struck, his companion interfered, and said the horse was his, and that he must be paid for it separately and told the one we had engaged still to claim the 4s 6d per day. We were compelled to break with them altogether. Yesterday, when we were about to engage an Ebenezer Hottentot to ~~loset~~ fetch up our lost horses, for which he asked us £3 and 1/6 per day; the same cove broke off the bargain by persuading him to ask for the £3 and 10s per day until he overtook the cart. Punch much better today. I think his stiffness was caused by having eaten too much [rice?]

P11 R

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – Engaged a black boy at 30 Rds per month. Mr. Den Toit not having arrived we started at ½ past 7 with four horses and Punch tied behind, but he hung back and broke his reins several times. Mr. C's fresh horse behaved well. Met Mr. Den Toit, who told us that he had horses that he would have sold if he had been at home; but that they were a long way out, and would take at least a day to collect. The road today has been exceedingly undulating, and the horses having to pull against a strong NW gale the journey has been very trying ~~for them~~. Outspanned for the night at Vley Fonteijn (or Klipdrift on sandy Kopj) in the [Gov moss?] Heavy and fine rain this evening, which appears to be much wanted, as we have not seen a drop of water since we left the river (25 to 30 miles. There is [sic] two ponds of water here ~~with~~ a little distance from the road on the right hand side. I tasted the water and found it rather salt. In a hole ~~in~~ dug in the bed

P12 L

of the river, close to some large stones, the water was good. That in the ponds, I think, might be drank, without injury, it was not brack, only a little salt and tasted sweet. A young Hottentot visited us, and told us that his father was attending cattle close by, and that we could have the milk the following morning in exchange for coffee.

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Frequent showers during the night. The Hottentot brought us a good quantity of milk at daybreak. Started at ¼ to ten ~~our road~~ The road was good, but the forenoon was occupied principally in ascending a high hill, on the top of which ~~wa~~ was one of Mr. M'Clear's beakens [sic] and we had a splendid view of the country to the N & S. Outspanned in the evening at a Salt River, but in consequence of the rain we attained a sufficiency of fresh water from the

P12 R

crevices of the rocks that in the river being perfect brine. Two days without seeing a single habitation or individual, except the Hottentot boy.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Decided upon sleeping out of the cart last night. About 12 o'clock the rain came down in torrents, consequently I had to creep into the cart. Saw a buck this morning, the first I have seen since we started. ~~Commenced our journey~~ A smart shower, in the midst of which we started, at about 9 o'clock, and about 10 came to farm place, which we supposed to be Lenis Fontein, but there was not a soul about the premises, from whom we could make enquiry. After an outspan of four hours we again pursued our weary way, which at first led us along a fine valley with abundance of grass. In a little more than an hour, we came upon a large breadth of cultivated land, belonging to the Lenis Fontein, and here

P13 L

we met Mr. G. Prince, returning from the mines, in a cart and six horses. After a lengthy chat, Mr. C. informed him that there would be no more centres granted on the usual terms after Mr. Bell's visit to Namaqualand. Upon receiving this information, Mr. P said he felt a deep interest in the prosperity of P.E. Mr. C. and gave Mr. C. information where he might find two centres. Whether there is any truth in this information remains to be seen, & could (?) After passing Mr. Prince we outspanned further in the bush. [To Man Dou. ?]

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> ~~Start~~ Felt very cold all last night, and on awakening in the morning found everything covered with a xxx frost. Arrived at about 11 at Land Kop Drift, where we found only Hottentots, from whom

P13 R

we purchased a quarter of a buck, some milk, a couple of fowls, and a few cakes mixed up with milk. Mr. C. here broke up the box and altered the front front [sic] of the cart. Cooked some of the venison for dinner, and found it excellent. Mr. C's alterations having taken some time, we did not recommence our journey until three o'clock. Saw a hare and a [prow? sow?]. The road now very good. Passed over the



beds of two dry rivers, one of ~~which~~ which we supposed to be the Groene River. Following the directions given us by the Hottentot at Land Kop Drift, when we came to ~~the~~ a spot where the road branched to the right and left, ~~not~~ we took the left leading to ~~xxx~~ the N. the other going direct E. After following it some time, we all became doubtful as to whether it was right, in consequence of the absence of spoor, and as evening approached ~~these~~ without alteration in the road, these doubts were increased. ~~The~~ The road appeared to be going west to a high mountain, and the black boy and myself caught sight of a waggon passing

p14 L

along side the mountain; but as it disappeared before we could point it out to our companions, they ~~sxx~~ seemed to doubt our assertions, or to think we ~~were~~ had deceived ourselves. (I was pos[itive?] &c.) The ground we have been passing over this afternoon is covered with salt, and as you walk along it crackles under your feet like walking on dried sheep skins.

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> – Before retiring to rest last night, I determined to set out on foot before daybreak this morning in search of a farm, and the road where I had seen the waggon. I started, accompanied by the black boy (March) a little before daylight, having myself made coffee. We directed our course to the E. and were not long before we crossed ~~the~~ a road, on

P14 R

which we could distinctly trace the spoor of the horses and cart of Mr. Prince, and more recently the spoor of Mr. Letterstedt's waggon and cart. I therefore felt convinced that it was Mr. Letterstedt's waggon that I ~~xx~~ and March had seen last night. I thought now of returning back to the cart and pursuing our way, as it was evident that we were saving many miles to the path we had taken [End dom?] ~~to~~ instead of which we pushed on, as March said he could smell sheep and Land Kop Drift he was right, for we shortly came upon the farm only Een Doorverts and learnt that Mr. Letterstedt had left there the day before, and moreover that we had taken the right path. We then made all speed steeplechase like back to the cart, ~~for~~ in a direct line over the hills, ~~found~~ saw three of the horses on the way and found that John had lost one of the other two. More delay in searching (comment about lost horses)

[next paragraph is written sideways on left margin] There was only an [sic] Hottentot to take care of the horse and bullock waggon – out-spanned, the driver of the latter offered to conduct us, as he was going our way; but through losing the horse we lost this chance, as he passed on before us.

P15 L

Having recovered the lost horse in the afternoon, through the instrumentality of a Hottentot, we started and soon came to a steep hill, called Lang Klif, on the top of which we found ploughed land and to the right saw, about a mile from the road, near a building for storing corn and a [teamt?] flour, there is a spring of excellent water. ~~We~~ I, also, through having observed the greyhounds climbing up a rock, discovered a quantity of ~~xxx~~ beautiful water on the top of a ~~high~~ rock on the ~~westward~~ eastward side of

the road. Near which was a farmer, named Dreyer living in the field with his cattle from whom we bought mutton, bread, reins, and a mare, for £7 10s on

September 1<sup>st</sup>

Friday – Mr. Mellie and Mr. Foord overtook us today, having beat us about 10 days. They decided to wait and travel north as

P15 R

The farmer offered us another horse for £18, which was not worth half the money. Of course we refused to purchase

~~Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>~~

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> – The mare had strayed away this morning which prevented our starting early. Mr. Mellie had to pay for his horses getting into the corn. He kept them tied to his cart all last night, and having untethered them this morning, he let ~~let~~ them graze for a time. Shortly afterward they were discovered with all their halters loose. Evidently a malicious act so that they might get into the corn. At length we got away with six horses inspanned. One horse flagged, and I applied the whip so unmercifully that the poor beast dropped. After a short time, we got him up and I led

P16 L

him forward until I overtook Mr. Mellie who had bought a horse on the road. ~~Mr.~~ A farmer named Land Den Toit was stopping in the field just by from whom we bought two horses for £20 5s. ~~He was a m~~ The farmer was a miserable heap of corruption bloated with fat, strongly prejudiced against the English. We had great difficulty in inducing him to take care of our tired horse for a few days (9), until we could send for him. We travelled on for about two hours more, the road being very good, and then outspanned on the top of a hill, where we found dirty water by the road-side. In other respects, except water, the spot had nothing to recommend it. Being a nice party together, we spent a jolly Saturday evening, singing

p16 R

Sunday. Sept. 3 – Particularly cautioned S. to ~~xxx~~ make the two fresh horses safe; but he did not do so, consequently this morning they cannot be found. We did not recover them although we engaged Hottentots and both we and Mr. Mellies were out on horseback until two o'clock. Our water being all expended and the day exceptionally hot, we were compelled to drink water strongly impregnated with cows droppings. Mr. Mellie's stallions broke loose. Messrs M & F can speak about them sometimes. I [unable?]

At about ½ past two we started and arrived at Spook River, where we found brack water by digging in the bed at the river. We were soon surrounded by a lot of Namaqua Hottentot women

p17 L

Monday, Sept 4. and children, apparently in the lowest state of misery, and miserable creatures they were altogether. They had nothing to sell, except a little milk. We were careful not to permit them to approach too near us for fear of company. There was better grass here than any other place we had visited, though still scarce.

Monday, Sept 4 – Our journey commenced by ascending a steep and long hill; near the top Mr. Calvert found about a gallon of rain water in on a rock, which was very acceptable, but near this spot I unfortunately lost my silver spectacles, a severe loss to me, I turned back in search of them but met with no success. Outspanned on the bend of a small dry river, and were soon joined by Hottentots who showed us where to obtain water and sold us a little goats milk

P17 R

When we were about to start two or three young farmers road [sic] up on horseback, one of which was the eldest son of Mr. Cornelius Corneilson, of Groate Berg, who accompanied us to his fathers house, and we were kindly received and well entertained. Groate Berg is a beautiful spot when compared with the surrounding country, situated in a basin surrounded by mountains and contained more grass, and the corn looked nearly as well as any we had seen, although the three last seasons had been very dry. Our road to-day has been very undulating. Farmers and others commented on Southgates driving. I and [faint] take out

Word in season to John

Had a good bathe in a pond this evening which was very refreshing.

P18 L

Tuesday Sept. 5 – Mr. Corneilson prevailed upon us to stay this day and rest our horses, as he assured us that we had a miserable country before us both for man and beast.

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Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Mr. Corneilsen yesterday killed a fat cow, and sent two of his sons to the mill with wheat-corn, in order that he might be able to replenish our commissariat, which he did most bountifully, and refused to take payment for anything. Mr. Corneilson is

P18 R

decidedly the most intelligent and hospitable man I have met with in the Colony. We started at noon in high spirits. We had to commence by ascending a high hill, but the horses being fresh, and no whip, they mounted it like bricks. In about an hour, Messrs Mellie & Foord turned off to the left, for the Reit (to Homewoods) and Hondeklip Bay, while we continued our journey first to Kook Fontein. We arrived at the Twartlinges River in the evening, in which there was no water, and outspanned under a large

mimosa tree. The horses to-day all behaved exceedingly well – except Punch pulling behind. There was pretty [much?] of grass for the horses near the river bed and plenty of firewood.

P19 L

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> We ~~xxx~~ were up before daylight this morning in fact I got up at one o'clock but of course lay down again. After coffee we started on foot to visit the house, whereof ~~xxx~~ Kook Fontein, which is situated over two small hills at a distance of about one and a half miles to the East of where we were outspanned. We found seven or eight springs of good water, but not a soul about the premises. At this we were much disappointed, as I wished to enquire about Hendrik Heilders, who ~~xxx~~ I heard, was digging for copper on this farm, on which, also, Mr. Bain has a centre. After a long ramble on the mountains in search of Heilders [sic] ~~to look for Heilders~~, from which we obtained very extensive views, we returned disappointed, to the house ~~again~~ when to our joy, we were shortly joined by three farmers on horseback who were the sons of the proprietor, and going

P19 R

to Heilders. Following their direction we shortly afterwards saw Heilders waggon a little distance to the left of the road and found him digging up something green and brown, but ~~whether that~~ it is copper I very much doubt. He told us, however, that ~~the other~~ if this should not turn out well, he knew of another good place, on private ground, that he should be able to rent for £75 per annum. ~~Having laden~~ Many (10 or 15) waggons laden with copper ore for Hondeklip crossed our path this day. Hector saw a buck to-day (the first) which he immediately dashed after like a flash of lightening, and for half a mile appeared to have the best of the chase, when he lost sight of it among high bushes. (Good dog Hector). Having lost so much time in seeking for Heilders we

p20 L

had to travel late this evening, and Punch, who had been following behind for two days (a very objectionable practice, the others having to pull him along) becoming quite knocked up we were compelled to outspan before reaching Kamaggas. Is it right to take certain horses with you? I walked at least 25 miles this day.

Friday Sept 8<sup>th</sup> – Having started early, we soon arrived at Kamaggas, Punch was tied to the side of the leader, and trotted merrily along until we arrived within 200 yards of the place, when his rein being rather long, he got entangled with the near leader. He was then knee-haltered and turned adrift, but he continued of his own accord to trot alongside the other horses. Mr. C. was for remaining there the whole day, and proceed to Bonte Koe to-morrow, but I persuaded him to set out on horseback for

P20 R

the mines to-day. We then met a person named Steytler who had been engaged for Mr. De Passe and he informed us that his Co. had broken up. When sitting at the fire this evening, with Southgate and March, I was unexpectedly joined by Mr. Farquharson, who recounted some adventures he had had the day before among the Kemps [Buckr?]. And also informed me of a fact in natural history, that the Ostrich will

not hear. He stated that he had frequently fired at an Ostrich, at a short distance & missed, that the bird did not move, ~~but~~ if he kept out of sight, but stood still until he had charged ~~again~~ and fired again.

Saturday, Sep. 9<sup>th</sup> – Waiting at Kamaggas, a miserable place. Nothing at all to be obtained, neither bread, meat or anything else. Only the church, two or three other walled buildings, all the others mat huts. Mr. Steytler being the only individual who has anything to eat. Two Malay men arrived from Cape Town this evening, with mules and horses. The mules were in wretched condition and had left some behind. The men were sent by Mr. Christian to Mr. Smith's mines. They informed us of one horse having returned to Mr. Bosman's, at Piquet Berg.

P21 L

Sunday, Sept. 10 – Four waggons came up from Hondeklip Bay this morning, one being laden with Mr. Mellie's goods. Mr. Mellie arrived here in the afternoon, but Mr. Foord had stopped ~~had~~ at the bay, intending to return to Cape Town being tired of "ruffing [sic] it". Mellie was accompanied by a person named Guinness, who had been store-keeper at the bay for Messrs De Pass. ~~xxx xxx~~ Guinness had promised to show Mellie centres ~~So they~~ We hence heard of the loss of the Rachel, in the bay, laden with copper ore &c. and I regretted much that Mr. Field's ostrich feathers (22 lb), were on board. A melancholy accident occurred at Schaaf River copper mines on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sept. A colored boy about 18 years of age, servant to Mr. James Smith, inadvertently tied the reins to his leg when about to put the saddle on a restive horse. The brute dashed forward, dragging the boy over the stones, through the bush &c. When stopped the boy was dead, a piece of wood having penetrated his abdomen more than 10 inches. Mr. Mellie brought us a few things from the bay

P21 R

but no news on letters; ~~but~~ he told me that there was [sic] goods there waiting for me

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – A cold NW wind blowing all day, with occasional slight showers of rain. Mr. [no name written] very sharp after everything. Mr. Mellie's tired horse was brought up, and he exchanged him with a farmer for another stallion, Mellie giving £4 10s to boot. The horse afterwards died.

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Last night ~~the~~ was very cold, and the rain fell rather heavy during the whole of the night; which will no doubt prove refreshing and beneficial to this arid country. Rain at intervals throughout the day. The ground about the mines covered with snow 3 inches deep. Miners indulged in snow balling. Novel sport in Namaqualand.

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> – Intend to start this morning for the mines, accompanied by Messrs Steytler, Mellie, & Guinness. Started at 11 in the forenoon and arrived at Spectacle about 2. Was well entertained

P22 L

By the manager Mr. Bright, son of the incumbent at Eccleshall Staffordshire. ~~Heard Mr. Calvert had years~~ afterward Spectacle very rich ore.. Daniel doing well there.

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Went forward to Springbock [sic], leaving Mr. Steytler behind. Springbock is about six hours ride from Spectacle over a miserable bridle path hilly and stony. Passed through farms, on one the growing crops of wheat looked much better than any we had previously seen. Found some good buildings there, and were well entertained. Hearing that Mr. C. had left at about 2 o'clock in company with Mr. Wild, and that we must have missed them on the road. Very well entertained, except by Mr. Jackson, the acting manager, who was gloomy, reserved and ill-tempered. Found that he was decidedly unpopular with every one.

P22R

Friday 15 – Waiting for Guinness returning from Concordia. Mellie [removing? Swouring?] for feathers. Lent him £3. Saw Mr. Kenedy [sic]

Saturday 16 – Started early this morning on our return to Spectacle. On arriving at Bosmans van Lyls farm, left Mellie bargaining for a centre, and rode on myself to Spectacle, where I again met Steytler and was introduced to Mr. Wild. Was much prepossessed in his favor, he being exceedingly affable and kind – Received note to be left for Mr. Calvert.

Sunday 17 – At about 9 o'clock started for

P23 L

Komaggas. On my arrival, found that Mr. C. with the rest, had gone forward to Bonte Koe. Messrs Mellie and Guinness, arrived this afternoon, and gave me the particulars about bargaining for the centre. A deal of low cunning mixed up with cursed hypocrisy [sic]. (?) Is a bargain good made on a Sunday.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> Started for Bonte Koe. and called at Christian Bass's werf on the way. Bonte Koe is about 5 hours ride from Kamaggas. It appears that the centres chosen by Mr. Bain turn out to be nothing but iron. Engaged with Steytler about centres. (C. return) and return with him & Mr. Farquharson to Bass's werf/p?

Wednesday 20 – Return again to Komaggas to enquire about the goods expected from Hondeklip Bay. A very hot day. No news or goods arrived. This Mr. Mellie about to span in

Tuesday 19 – Engage with Steytler about centres, and return with him to Bass's werf in the evening. (C. return to his)

P23 R

Quarrelled with his coachman. The man right, in my opinion. Mr. Steele, and Smith and Heybettls [Heybettle?] arrived at Kamaggas this evening. Delighted to hear news of my family, the first I had heard. Saw newspapers from the Cape. On my arrival at Komaggas, I found Mellie begging from Pondor to Pondor for bread, &c., anything he could lay hands upon

Wednesday Thursday 21 – Waiting at Komaggas with Smith and Heybettle. No arrivals. Mr. Steele went to Komagg Spectacle last night, on horse back

~~Thursday~~ Friday 22 – My companions, Smith & Heybettle started early this morning for Bonte Koe, and I followed at 11 o'clock – Met Mr. Silvebowe on the way. When at Mr. Bam's Werf, found that he and saw Steyler [sic] were who was about to start for Kamaggas. Could not prevail on Steyler to stay and proceed with me to Bonte Koe. He promised to be at Bonte Koe the next day (this day) – Beef given away blame [illegible]

P24 L

Saturday 23 – Heybettl and Smith went forward early this morning. Many thanks to them for assistance. Mr. C. spoke about sending xxx to Spectacle not sent. Created beakers. J would not go this forenoon ~~xxx~~ ~~xxx-xxx~~ Hot day abundance of bush lice.

Sunday 24 – Steyler not arrived, nor rode from Spectacle that was to show Mr. C centres (Take a walk for centres – Don't engage long job. Fact Nat. Hist. Bd. Hound not com. incest

Hot day. - First tried Hercules with saddle. Behaved well – March talked with Hottentots about centres. I [them?] with water. This morning we were seeking for a centre up the river in vain. I wanted to send Mr. Calvert [told us?]

Monday 25 – After xxx preparations, Southgate started with a note to Spectacle and a Hottentot also was sent at the same time (about 9 o'clock) with another note to Kammagas behind [John?] Mr. C. March and [Baeland?] went down the river to look for centre, and found indications of copper in micha schist. Discovered this evening that the party who is sharing Mellie centres is the same individual (William Cloete, alias Conquo) who was to be Mr. C's guide. They are consequently lost. Went out prospecting with March. On our return found that Mr. C had lighted two fires, one as a guide to Mr. J. (Nourse).

P 24 R

Tuesday 26 – At 7 o'clock this morning the messenger returned from Komaggas with a note from Steyler pertaining the bargain. We heard also that we might expect our goods at about 12 o'clock this day. I went out prospecting over the hills, on my return about 2 found that Southgate had returned about an hour before from Spectacle. He was at this time asleep behind a bush - Said he had lost his way and had been in the last straight [Bxxx?]

Planned to start to-morrow morning and not wait for the goods.

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Went with the Hottentots in the neighbourhood with us early this morning, bidding us goodbye and I settled with them for what we had purchased from them. Thanks to Southgate's larceny (a lazy Devil) we got away at ten o'clock with, of course, a scanty supply of provisions. Outspanned in about 3 hours on what seemed to be the bed of a dry river.

P25L

It appeared we should have gone about a mile further where there was some water on a flat rock. I found it through Lucy. When outspanned, Farquharson & Steytler rode up to us on horseback. Mr. C. treated them distantly. I followed them on to some distance where I found them off-saddled. Had conversation with Steytler about centres, and Fan [Farquharson?] showed me two or three places where water (brack) was to be found. When overtaken by the cart, Mr. C complained of their having lost time in looking for me. Far [quharson] showed him where the water was; but Mr. C declined to [answer?] When travelling Mr. [no name here] [forced? Pressed?] March to [flog? Flag?] [Kasuel? ] Outspanned about an hour before sundown, in a spot by the side of a hill where there was abundance of grass. The day had been cold & cloudy, and a little rain fell in the evening, and again early in the morning. Very suitable weather for the horses. Mr. Farquharson told me that the reason our things had been delayed so long on the road was on account of the man's oxen being knocked up with [slow?] sickness

P25 R

~~Thursday 28~~ Leaving the We outspanned in the evening behind a ~~hill~~ small hill where there was abundance of grass but no water. Some showers of rain fell during the night.. Fact in Nat. Hist. Blood hounds wont commit incest. Sir A. [Coopers] experience about breeding dogs. Dogs never digest their food in the day time. Sufficient for them to hear something bad of a man.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – Got away early this morning and in an hour and a half arrived at Angrabin. The water here is on the right hand side of the road amongst the white sand hills, and is difficult to find. Angrabin may be known by the white sandy [dunes? Downs?] During this day we saw the spoor of numerous wild animals such as tigers, jackals, Ostrich, bucks & John accidentally broke Mr. C's pipe when [chasing? pursuing?] a buck.

When taking the horses to the ~~field~~ water they found Steytler and Farquharson ~~only~~ off-saddled there. Outspanned two hours and then sent forward to Kama. Something about shoots and [oranges?]. Mr. C geology

We outspanned in the dark of the evening on what appeared to be barren felt, but was delighted to find that we were on the border of good grass and abundance of firewood.

P26 L

In fact we were alone upon the banks of the Kama River. Spratt was agreeable because of his [pursuit? General?] of a [horse? Wife?]. In concerning himself with burning the bushes (losing time) burnt [much?] which

Friday 29 – We agreed & got in quickly and [made the ford?] So we were tolerably [east?] on the road. Mr. Calvert and I went forward and left John next to inspan and follow. After we crossed the river the road branched to the right & left, the former going over ~~the river~~ but and the ~~follow~~ latter taking the river bed. I chose the latter because of the open spoor. As we proceeded on the way Mr. C kept looking at his compass and was doubtful. After three hours riding, he wished to turn back and Southgate to



drive. I went forward on that and was right [(kind at rivers &?)]. We missed the water in the river although Mr. Calvert said he saw the place about where the road branched – We followed the river down some time, and then turned out to the left and passed over a hill on the left of which there is a remarkable and large white rock. ~~There we saw xxx cattle and spoor, and this~~ Xxxx we saw numerous cattle spoors, and I believe it is near here where

P26 R

the water is. The road today has been very hilly and stony and we passed through a remarkably deep and lost, but we found abundance of grass, some places extremely fine with xxx for this was growing on flat plain, but no water. The horse Punch broke loose from behind the cart and it was some time before we missed him. March had a good march back and at last met him following the cart. Outspanned at night on a raised hill between two level plains where there was neither wood or water although. F (was here Hector died on our return)

Saturday 30 – Morning frosty. The horses having been ~~two nights and~~ a day and a half without water, had strayed ~~-this morning~~ in search of that necessary element. March and I had a good ~~four~~ three hours walk in search of them over mountains and through valleys, in the course of which I discovered a slate quarry. Having at length got them together (found at the xxx of xxx), we recommenced our journey and the road led us over sandy plains and hills until at last //Mr. C was // we arrived at Paul Lynx's crawl [sic]. This worthy is a ~~strict man called~~ man called old man with one eye and unprepossessing appearance ~~and~~. We found him

P 27 L

engaged in measuring a new trek tow with his hands. He did not condescend even to look at us. And none of his party were inclined to render us any assistance, not even a drink of water for love or money. One man saying? he suggest/request? to the others not to himself. We tried to induce some of them to take our horses to water but they would not. I at length ~~induced~~ prevailed upon a very good looking and well dressed Hottentot boy to take ~~them~~ the horses to the water (in a stoop about two horses width) for which I gave him 3s. We were however soon introduced to the missionary Mr. Frdk. Heryn, who gave us the best he had got and [tendered?] very many kindness. Here we met Mr. Nelson, a trader, who I afterward [discovered? Decided?] was [regimental piper?] for the [Mutual?] Com. (Homewood). He spoke highly of Homewoods mines in [Bechunaland?] From him I learnt that Lynx and his party were strongly opposed to copper seekers and had many quarrels with them. Gave an instance or two of outrages having been committed Englishmen upon the natives? (could xxx Nelson) I may here mention that when March & I were in search of the horses this morning we met a boy (17 years) attending goats. Although he

P27 R

appeared intelligent enough, yet he did not know what a day was, having never time or numbers, and advised us that there was no water, and that neither the cattle nor himself ever drank any. From this manner of talking it must almost appear that he had never seen water in his life. We also [learnt?] a

much xxx xxx looking for bullocks. He refused to xxx us water and said we should not get any for two days. Mr. Nelson said we must put up with these things. We have learnt that the person we have followed for the last two days was Mr. Daniels [very faint text] who had engaged a Hottentot to shew him centres near Fannings mines. After a deal of trouble we got and ate a goat for which we paid 1s. They at first wanted a £1.. Great dogging got us on the blind side of Paul Lynx and he we at length got him to give us a guide named [Yangie?] Kock an old man, with a lame hand, having burnt it when he was a boy, and then from inflammation lost the fingers. He had formerly been a slave. We here learnt beyond all doubt that the oxen and goats here never drank water: but quench their thirst by eating several watery kinds of bushes & plants from the abundance

P28 L

of which in every direction, and from their being so well known, I am inclined to doubt the stories about the natives dying from thirst. In fact I saw the children eating a large kind of plant they call "Tont Sley". They also use the same kind of plant to wash their hands and face (when they perpetrate that act, which however is very seldom) and it serves the purpose will both of water and soap.

Sunday October 1<sup>st</sup> – Stopping at Jackall's Pits trying to get information. In the afternoon I went with the horses – the water, distance of about nine miles from the werfs, & took the opportunity of having a good wash myself

P28 R

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – we got away about 10 o'clock this forenoon, the morning having been very foggy and cold, showing strong indications of rain. The road was good, hard and level. In about three hours we outspanned in the bed of the river, where we found the Ebony tree growing also numerous beautiful stones. Mr. C. also found some good specimens of copper imbedded in a large lump of ngotabised quartz. The water is a little way by 500 yards down the river near a large stone in the centre. Many doves and other birds were about it, some of which we shot. After stopping two hours, we went on for two hours, and then outspanned at Annis, where there is a splendid fountain of water, and a small running stream, and the remains of several Hottentot gardens. In other respects it was a miserable place, being without bush to shelter us from the miserable [croted wound? Round?], and having but little to eat, and less to drink, we reckon this as the worst outspan we have yet had. We were annoyed to

P29 L

by Nelson sticking to us at every outspan. He wished to be speaking to our guide, but the old man avoided him

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> – A never to-be-forgotten day. This morning, for the first time in my life I washed my own shirt and flannel. Bought half a kid from Nelson for 1s. and started at 9 or 10 o'clock without breakfast. The road very heavy sandy and hilly. Outspanned in two hours at Obrib, where there were Hottentots lying, but the water was very bitter and no good. Stopped an hour & a half and stopped the road being

xxx having ~~xxx~~ got until to we approached Kodas. ~~xxx~~ wind belonging to ~~—~~ &c where we had a long descent. Arrived about 4. Nels The wretched-looking & most barren place we have yet seen. Puts Nelson passed us ~~us~~ on the way. ~~The~~ Seeing the greyhounds looking mysteriously into a bush and then

P29 R

drawing back as if affraid [sic], we went to see what was the matter, and found a large snake, which Mr. Calvert shot. Outspanned about a mile from the mines at Kodas. Went up after partaking of refreshment. The manager, Mr. Warren very civil and intelligent. The store is ~~xxx~~ superintend [sic] by a person named Young; late news of the late "Messr Smith" wrecked in Alexander Bay. It appeared that he was nearly drowned at the time of the wreck; and since then has suffered much in general health and has quite lost his hearing. We were promised all kind of stores (except spirits). Visited the mine surprised to see the great variety of the ore. The mine is sunk down, an oblong shaft, which is now about 10 fathoms deep. Mr. C. descended. After taking tea with Mr. Warren and Mr. Young I returned to the cart in the evening. The xx Mr. C. [staked? ] is close to the Kodas mine. One of the men working at Kodas mine promised to show the indication &c. Sunday next.

P30 L

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> – Found an indication of copper about 5 miles in a southerly direction from Mr. Smiths mine. Having sent up to the mines this evening for bread, received notes from Mr. Young and Mr. Morrison. The former saying that he could not spare any; and the latter regretting that he could not help us, but that he would if it were possible.

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> – Revisited indication before daylight. Calvert at first thought it exceedingly rich, but afterwards discovered that the greatest appearance was iron. Returned to breakfast at 10. No bread. Little water. ½ cup coffee. Made breakfast of a little broiled goat mutton. Hard nails. Here am I not a shoe or stocking to my foot (clothes dirty and ragged. Body dirty and

Again sent up to the mines for bread and pills for Southgate, who

P30 R

has been sick (? drunk) for two or three days. Got the pills but not bread. Mr. Warren said, in his note, that he had to take pills from the medicine chest without Young knowing of it (?). Is this English hospitality? A little after one o'clock I started down the road to the N towards the Orange River on horseback. I met with the tents of Mr. Letterstedts's party standing by the side of the road, at about four miles distance from our cart. Mr. Lindsay was very kind. He had the most comfortable tent I have seen and many little comforts in the shape of eating and drinking, all of which were immediately handed out for me to partake of. They had not yet obtained one at the place where they were then working but Lindsay told me that they had several very rich places in the neighbourhood. After stopping with Lindsay an hour, I proceeded forward to the river. I met a Damare that had just come over with fine goats. The river was very low. At this place Missionary Drift it is certainly not more than 200 yards wide, and the road[le? Of?] course at this time was not more than xxx. I had a good wash and bathe, and the

P31 L

only pair of substitutes for stockings, I have with me having now because fit representations of the Kishman definition of nothing (a footless stocking without a leg) I threw them away, and I am now entirely without stockings or socks. I returned from the river much refreshed by the bathe, called on Mr. Lindsay by the way, who returned with me to the cart, my horse being laden with a quantity of biscuit, a piece of cheese and a bottle of Cape brandy. On our arrival at the cart we found that Mr. Youngs refusal to give me anything had caused quite a sensation, and some of the men from the mines did come down with biscuits fearing we were in want which they vowed they would not permit at all [costs? Risks?]. Mr. Calvert had visited the mine and learnt that the reason Young had refused us food was because J. O. Smith was bad friends with Mr. Ware, of P.E. and the latter was a shareholder in Mr. Calvert's Co. therefore &c. A message was sent to Mr. Fletcher and he sent [Sunday?] and offered us more assistance. Mr. C. this afternoon erected a beakon on his centre.

P31 R

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Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Went out prospecting in the mountains round about and began our centre, and erected a beaken as a guide, on the top of a mountain. Returned in the afternoon exceedingly thirsty and somewhat tired. Mr. Letterstedt arrived at Kodas this afternoon in a horse-waggon. He came to our waggon and had conversation with Mr. C. Mr. C for the first time visited Mr. Fletcher at this tent in the evening.


Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Hot day. Prospecting but no luck. One of the miners also went out for us.

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Mr. McDougal arrived at the mines and countermanded Mr. Young's order. We are now to have what we chose.

P32 L

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Mr. McDougal sent us a sheep first thing this morning and we afterwards obtained other necessaries for prospecting. Mr. Hammond, his Surveyor Generall [sic], Smith, & Heybettle arrived at Kodas this afternoon.

Tuesday 10 – Mr. Bell arrived at Kodas at about half past 10 in the forenoon, being half an hour before his appointment. Scarcely any one expected him to arrive in time. He came a bridle road over the mountain. Held meeting at 11 and adjourned til afternoon. Planned out his method of proceeding. Arranged to visit our centre either on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, and to commence proceedings at Fannings' mine at noon to-morrow. Sent letter to Mrs. L.

Wednesday 11 – Wet morning and short night. In consequence of the rain Mr. Bell did not start until 2 o'clock, to commence visiting centres at Fannings' Mine. Paid our bill at Smith's 

P32 R

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Very cold & frosty morning. Started away from Kodas at ½ ten in the forenoon. Parted with Lindsay and gave him a bag of specimens to take to Mrs. L. Put a flag to direct Mr. Pillans to our centre, he having undertaken to shew it to Mr. Bell. On arriving at Annis on our return, we saw a remarkable hole in the ground (not among rocks but **debris**). It is about the size of a cookpot. On throwing in stones we could not hear them strike the bottom but I think it is on account of the soft sand at the bottom, and not through its very great depth. We went forward to the river Orib and outspanned for the evening our horses being somewhat tired.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Prospecting during the forenoon in consequence of having found a specimen of copper in quartz on our former visit. C did nothing – recommenced our journey at 12, arrived at Jackals Putz in the evening - talked of starting &c.

P33 L

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Started for Stinkfontein at 10. C. restive and sulky – J. **very** slow. Hot day. Saw ~~many~~ bucks, hares, an Ostrich & snakes, especially a large black ~~one~~ snake **as** among rushes in a fountain of water. Saw trap made by natives, with stone for killing jackals. Round holes in the ground dug by bushmen to get ants eggs. Splendid spring at Stinkfontein, and excellent grass. Very ill at night, through drinking brack water on the road. Had a remarkable dream. Road hilly and stony: much water in the river. Met Mr. Canvin [sic] with a guide on the road returning to Jackals Pitz.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> – Started early to look at the places our guide had promised to point out to us. Found them on the side of a precipitous mountain, a great deal of indications. Created beaken. Guide apparently offended. Saw Mr. Jenckin's waggon as we passed. Called on our return. Had dinner with him and Baron Ludwig, who was surveying. Jenckin told he had taken the places we had been to see, in fact that he had taken the range of mountains for 15 miles in 3.4 mile [wide? Wits?] – Jenckin

P33 R

suggested P.E. Co. purchasing centres from J. O. Smith. Letters exchanged between Mr. C. and him. Horses had got into land. Hottentots wanted to charge us £3. Appealed to Jenckins who is a magistrate. Had to pay £1. Started at noon. Stopped half way where we had seen the black snake. Splendid grass. Horses did well. C. selfish

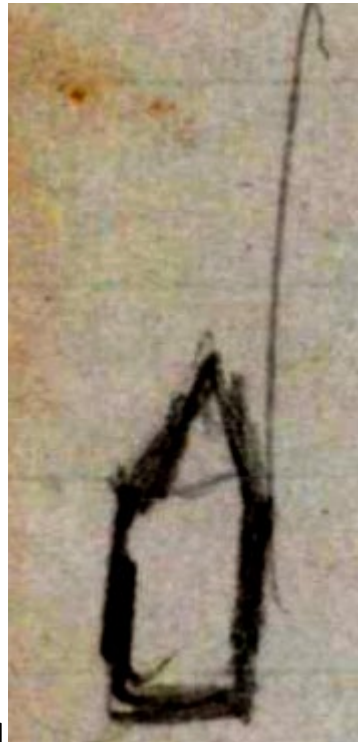
Monday 16 – Started at sunrise – Saw Ostriches turned a little out of way to water horses. C. grumbled.) Got to J. Putts [sic] at 10. - Guide dissatisfied [sic]. Wanted 100 rd for bullock. Saw Mr. C. with suspicion. Provisions low (introduced man to ~~add~~ and make machinery. Intro. Judge to [shew?] [sarli?] away.) Ten or 12 Hottentots (men and women) arrived on bullocks. J. didn't go for water. Bought two times for 1s

Thursday 17 – Bought a goat £2 – first brought to goat. Paid guide £1.10s. ~~Messrs.~~ Missionary, [Young?] Lynx and two others started on horseback to meet Mr. Bell, taking a letter from Mr. C. – Messrs Cameron &

P34 L

Leachwell passed us this afternoon, with a waggon 10 mules and a saddle-horse. The latter brought a letter for Mr. C. Engaged bullocks for 60 dollars to Bonte Koe<sup>5</sup> and Robbe Bay. They afterwards refused to let us have them. 3 back in night – rescued boy & mule. Ship struck by lightning. No water or anything to drink this day. Yesterday John gave 1s for two tins [beacker? Benorter?]. No prospecting after an early start

Wednesday 18 – Something [took? Task?] John at starting. C. grumbled at J being so long. We got off at 2 o'clock – When about two hours on the road through heavy sand and sand over several sand hills. Hector died. A very promising young greyhound, with the intelligence of a poodle & the niceness of a terrier. Attribute his death to killing lizards (perhaps). He was ill about 8 days, refused food and breath hard.



[Image in margin by text on Hector's death – a cairn?]

As we proceeded our road got very heavy, having taken a road leading to the (as recommended by the Missionary) being different from the one we had taken

Hector was taken ill at Kodas two or three days before we started from there he eat nothing

P34 R

more. Early in the evening we arrived at Kowras, and outspanned in the river bank where there is water. Of course the horses were a little tired through pulling along the heavy sand, and of course we had to wait for bullocks from the people who live here Kirk Cloets. The horses this morning were six hours in harness, without an outspan. ~~Left large tin and small drinking tin at the last watering places.~~

Thursday 19 – Master Sutherland for the Cape of Good Hope (& J. O. Smith) outspanned on the opposite bank of the river last night on his way to the Orange River mouth. He was travelling with a Scotch cart, mules, and a saddle horse. We bought a sheep for £2 – Started with 10 oxen (for the hire of which we gave £2) at one o'clock, and did not outspan for the night until 9 in the at night which –

Thousands of [milmins?] of buffalo

Thousands of times [went? Wished?] for tins than [trains?]

Bought Dulse of [Inss? Luss?] [cigar?/ again?] xxx

Beat every thing in England in archery. [Perrin? Terrance?] An shot an arrow 450 ... he only 320

P35 L

Friday 20 – At Kama, throughout the spot where we had formerly visited.. Started at daybreak. We have had no biscuit for some time. Fortunately we have a little flour with which we make dampers. Two wagons passed just as we were starting. And John Bottman, a trader, with horses going across to the O.R. [Orange River?] outspanned close to us --. Arrived at [Ongrabin? Angrabin?] just at sundown. Found the water very bad; being quite green with vegetable matter, and full of insects and their eggs. After the man and boy had had some refreshment, the bullocks started back home the same evening.

Saturday 21 – At sunrise this morning Mr. Daniels arrived at Ongrabin with a cart and oxen. He showed us some beautiful specimens from the centres that he had discovered at Kodas. At starting from Ongrabin we unfortunately took the left right hand road out of the flag instead of the right left which brought us through heavy

P35 R

sand. We saw several ostriches, and numerous Namaqua partridges, quails, &c. ~~We xxx~~ The grass was very abundant, but water, of course, scarce. Lucy found some in a small fley, but it would not do for our consumption. We were compelled to drink what we brought with us from Ongrabin, which was wretched stuff. We boiled a sheeps head last night, but as it was not quite done we brought it in the broth here where we eat it broth and all; although it was as green as grass and full of sand. Under different circumstances ~~of~~ we would not have touched it, as the taste was wretched and rose on my stomach stomach [sic] after eating it. About half-past four in the evening, we came to fresh rain water full of an [amalenlor?] in a rock close to a large salt-pond, which we had previously tasted and thought there was no better near. Gave the horses water out of a tin; and Mr. C. showed a piece of civil engineering in filtering the bugs. We xxx inspanned and tried to reach Bonte Koe, but one of our leaders being tired, we outspanned for

P36 L

the night near where we outspanned on our journey up. Near the water place we saw hundreds of broken ostrich egg shells and I may here mention that there are a race of miserable beings here called

the sea Hottentots; who are quite naked, have no property of any kind, and live almost entirely from cray fish and ostrich eggs. Mr. Daniels repassed us at nine o'clock in evening, and we saw no more of him

Thursday 22 – Started at about seven o'clock, and again made a mistake in following Mr. Daniel's spoor by taking the left hand road instead of the right, which took us considerably out of our way. Arrived at Bonte Koe at half past eleven. ~~Found Mr.~~ Having walked nearly all the way, and had no breakfast, I was rather tired. Found that 2 boxes had arrived the day we left containing frigidels, ham, [onions?], gardinet, bacon, biscuits, Rusks, brandy

P 36 R

Southgate killed a large cobra xxx 5 ft. 3 inc. long. Opened the boxes. Very gratified with contents. C. almost fainted when he heard [one? An?] xxx had come. [Warren?] Sir A Cooper accompanied him to the side at the [shed? Ship? Shop?]. [Barmin/Warren] (what is his name) demand to because the purchase of xxx of [Young? ]. Left large tin and small drinking tin at last watering place.

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> – ~~Moved on~~ Went to Spectacle to enquire after flour Biscuits & bread and letters. Saw Mr. Nicholson &c. there. Could get but few stones. I shaved myself this morning. Mr. C. seemed to object to my going to Spectacle. Heard of my letters being at Komaggas.

Tuesday 24 – Went up to the Shaaf River mines, where I saw Mr. J. Smith & Steytler. Returned Spectacle at noon.

Wednesday 25 – Rode to Kommagas in company with Mr. Daniels who was going to the Bay in the morning after letters. Got 4 for myself and one for

P37 L

Calvert. Met Mr. Benson at of P.E. travelling in a bullock waggon. Returned to Bonte Koe the same evening. Mr. Homewood here. C told Homewood that he had ~~gone~~ travelled 5 miles yesterday and 10 to-day when he had not gone more than a few hundred yards each day.

Calvert did throw frigidelles away Eat 5 ½ for his breakfast. ~~A few would~~ Conceit and [mustood?] –

Thursday 26 – Calvert, Southgate, and March went out on horseback and remained about 5 hours, heard that they had engaged bullocks

Friday 27 – Calvert and Southgate went away with the cart and 10 bullocks to Robbe Bay leaving March and I behind, with nothing for us to eat –

Saturday 28 – March and I went to Spectacle taking my two horses. Heard about lost letters

P37 R

Sunday 29 – Heard of centres. Started into the field with a [gherssy?] with ½ a biscuit a day. Did not reach the place that evening. Slept in the field – Saw Zebras and bushmen's graves



Monday 30<sup>th</sup> – Found three Copper Centres first rate. Lucky day. Returned the same evening to Nababid, Mr. Townsends farm belonging to Philips & Kind

Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> – Returned to Spectacle. Met Mr. Guid from the Paarl, Mr. ~~Lev~~ Levi from [G Low?], a farmer. Mr. Bright and Dr. Adams (?) overtook us (Steytler) &c. on the road.

### Wednesday Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>

I started from Spectacle mines for Hondeklip Bay, in company with Capt. Vero?]. Saw Mr. Mellie at Kamaggas – arrived at the Bay the same evening.

P38 L

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov – Brig Barbara arrived at the bay; and in the afternoon to M.B. Frolic, 28 hours from Table Bay, for the purpose of surveying &c.

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Waiting for horse to rest.

Saturday 4 – Started for town all alone

Sunday 5 – This morning lost horse. Walked to Brak Fontein, suffered greatly on the way. Recovered horse in the evening.

Monday 6      Recovered saddle bags, saddle &c

Tuesday 6 [sic] Recommenced journey. Arrived at Lewis Fontein in the evening. Met Philip, a Frenchman and Dr. Atherstone. Saw two tramping taylors. Dr. A. brought two horses that he had picked up on the road. Owner supposed to be mad.

P38 R

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov Started from Lewis Fontein early at Kokonap next morning. A night of trouble.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Stoped [sic] at Kokonap to rest horse. C. Becker & Reeve passed to the mines. & Mr. Levi to Cape Town.

Friday 9 Went through Ebenezer to [Hiswater? Hiskwater?]. Hospitably entertained by Mr. Richd Fryer.

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – To Donkins and Lambert's Bays. Saw numbers of Baboons. Very heavy sand

Sunday 11 [blank]

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<sup>1</sup> C. Plug, "Bell, Mr. Charles Davidson," [S2A3 Biographical Database of Southern African Science](#), viewed 2024-01-19

<sup>2</sup> C. Plug, "Atherstone, Dr. William Guybon," [S2A3 Biographical Database of Southern African Science](#), viewed 2024-01-19

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<sup>3</sup> University of Stellenbosch Centre for Theatre and Performance Studies, [James Lycett - ESAT \(sun.ac.za\)](#), viewed 2024-01-26

<sup>4</sup> Ebenezer mission, Limpopo, [Ebenezer, Limpopo | South African History Online \(sahistory.org.za\)](#), viewed 2024-01-26

<sup>5</sup> May be near Springbok. Bonte-Koe Cloete Mining company headquartered there 2022. [BONTE-KOE CLOETE GROUP - K2012114163 - South Africa \(b2bhint.com\)](#), viewed 2024-01-30