

that hunger must naturally have the effect of now and then inspiring so strong and nimble an animal with uncommon intrepidity and courage. Moreover, being accustomed always itself to kill its own food, and that with the greatest ease, as meeting with no resistance, and even frequently to devour it waltering in its blood, it cannot but be easily provoked, and acquire a greater turn for cruelty than for generosity; but, on the other hand, not being accustomed to meet with any resistance, it is no wonder that when it does, it should sometimes be faint-hearted and crest fallen; and, as I have already said, suffer itself to be scared away with a cudgel. Here follows another instance of this fact.

A yeoman, a man of veracity (Jacob Kok, of Zeekoe-rivier), related to me an adventure he had, in these words. One day walking over his lands with a loaded gun, he unexpectedly met with a lion.—Being an excellent shot, he thought himself pretty certain, in the position he was in, of killing it, and therefore fired his piece. Unfortunately he did not recollect that the charge had been in it for some time, and consequently was damp; so that his piece hung fire, and the ball falling short, entered the ground close to the lion. In consequence of this he was seized with a panic, and took directly to his feet; but being soon out of breath, and closely pursued by the lion, he jumped up on a little heap of stones, and there made a stand, presenting the butt-end of his gun to his adversary, fully resolved to defend his life as well as he could to the utmost. My friend did not take upon him to determine, whether this position and manner of his intimidated the lion or not: it had, however, such an effect upon the creature, that it likewise made a stand; and what was still more singular, laid itself down at the distance of a few paces from the heap of stones, seemingly quite unconcerned. The sportsman, in the mean while, did not dare to stir a step from the spot: besides, in his flight he had the misfortune to lose his powder horn. At length, after waiting a good half hour, the lion rose up, and at first went very slowly and step by step, as if it had a mind to steal off; but as soon as it got to a greater distance, it began to bound away at a great rate. It is very probable, that the lion, like the hyena, does not easily venture upon any creature that makes a stand against it, and puts itself in a posture of defence. It is well known, that it does not like the hound, and out its prey by the scent, neither does it openly hunt other animals. At least the only instance ever known of this, is that which I have mentioned be-

fore, in vol. i. p. 307, in which it is spoken of as having hunted an elk-antelope, though it might possibly be, that this wild beast was reduced by extreme hunger to such an extraordinary expedient. The lion, nevertheless is swift of foot. Two hunters informed me, that an imprudent and fool-hardy companion of theirs, was closely pursued by a lion in their flight, and very nearly overtaken by it, though he was mounted on an excellent hunter.

The lion's strength is considerable. This animal was once seen at the Cape to take an heifer in his mouth, and though the legs of this latter dragged on the ground, yet seemed to carry her off with the same ease as a cat does a rat. It likewise leaped over a broad dike with her, without the least difficulty. A buffalo perhaps would be too cumbersome for this beast of prey, notwithstanding his strength, to seize and carry off with him in the manner above mentioned. Two yeomen, upon whose veracity I can place some confidence, gave me the following account relative to this matter:

'Being a hunting near Bosbies-man-rivier with several Hottentots, they perceived a lion dragging a buffalo from the plain to a neighbouring woody hill. They, however, soon forced it to quit its prey, in order to make a prize of it themselves; and found that this wild beast had had the sagacity to take out the buffalo's large and unwieldy entrails, in order to be able the easier to make off with the fleshy and more eatable part of the carcase. The wild beast however, as soon as he saw from the skirts of the wood, that the Hottentots had begun to carry off the flesh to the waggon, frequently peeped out upon them, and probably with no little mortification.' The lion's strength however, is said not to be sufficient alone to get the better of so large and strong an animal as the buffalo; but in order to make it his prey, this fierce creature is obliged to have recourse both to agility and stratagem: inasmuch, that stealing on the buffalo, it fastens with both its paws upon the nostrils and mouth of the beast; and keeps squeezing them close together, till at length the creature is strangled, wearied out, and dies. A certain colonist, according to report, had had an opportunity of seeing an attack of this kind;—and others had reason to conclude, that something of this nature had passed; from seeing buffaloes, which had escaped from the clutches of lions, and bore the marks of the claws of these animals about their mouth and nose. They asserted, however, that the lion itself risked its life in such attempts, especially if any other