

surf-rollers crashing and breaking a short distance to our left, while the spent waves curled up to our very feet, and the spray drifted across us like showers of fine rain.

For some distance we found nothing more extraordinary than the crushed and broken fragments of sea-shells, shreds of coarse *algæ*, and some six or seven specimens of a pretty little *Coccinella* with yellow spots; and then came another branch of the Salt River slightly deeper and a good deal broader than the last: however, we forded it without difficulty, and, leaving the beach, took the river-bank as a guide to further progress. Thereabouts the land on either side of the stream was very flat, though it rose gradually on the left hand, in low, sandy undulations, and at last, swelled up to a ridge along the sea-shore fourteen or fifteen feet, in some places, above the water level.

The Zout, or Salt River rises near Riebeck's Castle, a mountain in the District of Malmesburg, 3109 feet high, and, after a course of about forty miles, falls into Table Bay a short distance below where we crossed it. At the time of our visit, the water was very low, and much of the flat sandy bed was uncovered, affording great attraction to the sandpipers and small plovers that were feeding merrily upon its surface. Of these we recognized *Charadrius tricollaris*, *Kittlitz et marginatus*, the turnstone (*Linclus interpres*), the red shank (*Totanus calidris*), the green sandpiper (*Totanus ochropus*), the greenshank (*Totanus glottis*), the pigmy curlew (*Tringa Subarquata*), the sanderling (*Calidris arenaria*), and the little stint (*Tringa minuta*), the last three in largish flocks, the others far less abundant, and the turnstones keeping, as L.—remarked, apart from the rest in a little band of six or seven. No curlews were in sight, nor any other birds besides those I have mentioned, excepting a few swifts, and two or three swallows, which were careering through the pure air with their usual grace and rapidity: the former appeared to be all representatives of *Cypselus opus*, and the latter of *Hirundo rustica*.

There was an alluvial deposit of mud on either bank of the river, and this, on the side next the sea, where we were, was covered with wild chamomile, (*Matricaria hirta*), whose white-rayed blossoms perfumed the air with their fragrance. There were also quantities of samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*), quite crimson in some places, apparently where it had been covered at high water by the Salt Stream. Outside of this border of alluvial