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A FEW HOURS AT CAPE-TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

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It was on the 3rd December, 1864, at the beginning of the South African Summer, that, with two companions, I left Cape Town by the 7.14 a.m. train for Salt River, where we had hopes of obtaining a few curlews, as well as some of the various kinds of *Tringæ* and *Charadriadæ*, which, with other wild fowl, frequent the banks of the stream, and the adjacent shores and inlets of Table Bay, in considerable numbers. Our expedition was decidedly more ornithological than sporting, for success with the curlews could only be regarded as a possible contingency, while we looked upon good specimens of the smaller birds as almost certain trophies.

Ten minutes travelling brought us to Salt River Station, where, quitting the railway, we struck down towards the beach, on foot; and speedily arrived at one of the branches of the stream, six or seven yards across, by about the same number of inches in depth, which intersected the sands, and cut us off from the part we wished to explore. The water was beautifully clear but brackish and quite cold, as we soon learnt by walking through it, no other means of crossing having presented itself. After this, as it was low tide, we kept along the shore of the Bay, where the sand was hard and firm, and where we could enjoy the cool, fresh and delicious breeze that came sweeping in steadily from seaward, the heavy