



## WILD BEASTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

To gratify a very natural and proper curiosity, of which few of our young readers are altogether unconscious, we here present a few sentences from a long and interesting journal, by the Rev Mr. Niven, giving an account of his visit to Natal. The extract refers exclusively to some of the wild beasts known in that part of the world.—“I was not a passive listener to the accounts Mr. N. gave me of the habits and depredations of the African tiger and alligator, both very troublesome neighbors, and, scarcely less so, the unwieldy elephant. An instance was related of the ferocity and daring of the first named animal. A person close by had gone out with some Zulu servants to hunt a tiger that had been infesting his premises. They fell in with the intruder. He opened the conflict by springing on one of the blacks, seized him by the head, and sending his teeth through the skull killed him in an instant, another was in his deadly grasp before Potgiater could get a shot at him that unfortunately missed, and the infuriated animal, dropping the other, pounced upon the unsuccessful marksman, and clutched his head likewise, through a felt hat, which had been cautiously fortified within by transverse sticks, and saved the victim's cranium. The others now closed on the assailant, and dispatched him with their assegays. A wound he had inflicted on the hand of Potgiater was six months in healing. Mr. Shroeder, I remember, mentioned

to me an instance of considerable daring in another of the same species. It had entered their encampment during the night when Brother Thomason and himself were lying between the Umhlahi and Umtongati rivers; and from the inner circle formed around the fire, seized and made off with a dog, whose yells aroused the half slumbering party, under the apprehension that the victim was one of themselves. Besides elephants and lions, no other large wild animals disturb the security of travel. Lions are rarely seen now, except in the tract lying between the above named rivers, where there is an uninhabited and well wooded space, which is the resort of game, on which the king of beasts, as well as his meaner subjects, make habitual assaults.

Alligators are still numerous in all the rivers which abound in deep and capacious pools, or marshy beds. Mr. Shroeder told me he had shot three lately in the Umtongati, below his own house, and I was called out to see one basking in the sun on the surface of a pool, nearly half a mile off, but on nearer inspection, it was found to be the shadow of a tree on the opposite bank. One which a Dutch neighbor had shot in the pool from which his family were supplied with water, disappeared, as they always do when wounded. A few days ago, its carcass rose to the surface, and the farmer got it hauled to the bank. The natives, when they heard of the indignity done