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DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

[From White's Journal to New South Wales.]

ON the 4th of September 1787, the fleet left Rio de Janeiro, and on the 13th, arrived at the Cape of Good Hope. On landing, mutual civilities passed between the Commodore and the Governor. Some difficulties, however, attended the procuring of supplies for the fleet; but they were granted at last, and then the Governor invited the Commodore, and many of his officers, to a dinner at his own residence. The house at which we were entertained, says Mr. White is delightfully situated, nearly in the centre of an extensive garden, the property of the Dutch East India Company, usefully planted, and at the same time elegantly laid out. The Governor's family make what use they please of the produce of the garden, which is various and abundant; but the original intention of the Company in appropriating so extensive a piece of land to this purpose was, that their hospital, which is generally pretty full when their ships arrive after long voyages, may be well supplied with fruits and vegetables, and likewise that their ships may receive a similar supply.

The garden is as public as St. James's park; and, for its handsome, pleasant, and well-shaded walks, is much frequented by persons of every description, but particularly by the fashionable and gay. There are many other agreeable walks about Cape Town, but none to be compared with these. At the upper end of the principal of them is a small space walled in, for the purpose of confining some large ostriches, and a few deer. A little to the right of this is a small menagerie, in which the Company have half a dozen wild animals, and about the same number of curious birds.

As you approach the Cape of Good Hope, a very remarkable mountain may, in clear weather, be discovered at a considerable distance; it is called the Table Land, from its flat surface, which resembles that piece of furniture. Mr. Dawes, lieutenant of marines on board the Sirius, an ingenious and accurate observer, who has undertaken during the voyage the astronomical observations; accompanied by Messrs. Fowell and Waterhouse, midshipmen of the Sirius; lieutenant De Witt, of the Dutch navy; and myself, went to the top of this mountain; an undertaking which we found to be of a far more serious nature than we at first were aware of. For my own part, I suffered so much from heat and thirst, that had not the fear of shame urged me on, my companions being determined to accomplish it at all events, I should most certainly have given it up, before I reached the top. During this sultry and fatiguing expedition, I found great benefit, toward alleviating my thirst, by keeping a small pebble in my mouth; and sometimes by chewing rushes, which we met with in our way. But, when we had reached the summit, the delightful and extensive prospect we there enjoyed, the weather being uncommonly fine, fully atoned for the trouble, fatigue, and every suffering, we had undergone. From this elevation we could overlook all the country about the Cape.

As soon as we got to the top, our first business was to look out for water; but all we could find was some stagnant rain, which lay in the hollow of the stones. Our thirst, however, was so intolerable, that the discovery even of this gave us inexpressible pleasure; and, notwithstanding we all perspired most violently, and were  
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