

abundance ; but capital is wanting to work those rich mines, and the means of transport to utilize them. When I was coming back from Pilgrims rest, my horse got knocked up, and as I was alone I was compelled to sell him, and to get a vehicle. On the first night, our wretched equipage was overturned, and my luggage was dragged through the water and mud in the ravine. Thanks to my guardian angel, I escaped without a scratch. What a frightful night I passed on that cold, wet, and desolate mountain ! But the next morning, what a lovely day ! Before us, an immense plain extended, covered with thousands of antelopes. The animals stared at us, and took to flight when we came near. We had lost in the previous night's catastrophe our little store of provisions and were hungry. We stopped at a boër's residence and asked him to give us dinner. To my great astonishment, I saw the man take up a plane and plane down what I thought to be a bit of hard wood :— ' What are you doing there ? ' said I,— ' I am preparing your dinner ', he replied. He was planing down for me a piece of *betlong*, (dried meat) which he set on a piece of bread. It appeared to me to be a delicious dinner. Here we took a Bushman for a driver. The Bushmen do not belong to the Caffir race : they seem to be a tribe of the hottentot race, and from the west

THE CAFFIRS ARE A FINE RACE OF MEN,

much superior to the negroes. The Bushmen, on the contrary, are the most degraded race I know. They are, moreover, few in number in the vicariate, where they are strangers. The Bushman is dwarfish ; his parchment face is horribly ugly, his spread out fingers resemble big toes more than anything else. He is a drunkard, a robber, a liar, and has all imaginable faults. He has however, one good quality ; no one can drive a carriage or manage horses like a Bushman. Our Bushman had six mules to drive, and his whip could not reach the leaders. Accordingly he alighted, and supplied himself with pebbles ; and by means of those projectiles, he made the obstinate beasts move on. « At last I am back safe and sound in Pretoria, the capital