

The first diamonds found at Du Toit's Pan and Bultfontein were picked out from the mud plaster covering the walls of an outbuilding at Bultfontein in 1869. Shortly afterwards several Kafirs were employed to look over the land for them. They succeeded in finding a great many small ones on the surface of the sandy soil. After searching on the surface, digging and sifting the surface soil was undertaken; next, the lime tufa was bored into, and now large "paddocks" are sunk to a depth of over twenty feet in the decomposed igneous rock.

There is a tradition among the Bushmen that in former times their forefathers made journeys to the banks of the Vaal River to procure a small white substance with which they bored holes in the perforated stones used by them to add weight to their digging sticks. Possibly this white substance was diamond, as the material out of which the digging implements were formed was often intensely hard. These perforated stones were afterwards handed down from father to son as heirlooms.

After completing stores, and having refitted ship, we steamed round the famous Cape of Storms for Table Bay. The forty miles run was soon accomplished, and the anchors let go about a couple of miles from the shore. It was intended we should have gone in the dock basin, so as to have given the inhabitants of the town free run on board, but the dock master was afraid of our size, and the damage