

and is not, as I used to think, the southernmost point of Africa. Cape Agulhas to the eastward is far south of it.

The mountains are entirely composed of a hard metamorphic sandstone, passing in many places into a white quartzite which is disposed in perfectly horizontal strata. This perfect and remarkably uniform horizontality of the rock-beds is the cause of the peculiar form of the Cape land surface, and forms the chief feature in the landscape.

Everywhere the mountains rise by a series of steps with flat intervening surfaces. Table Mountain itself derives its name from its horizontal flat top, bounded by perpendicular cliffs rising straight up from the flats; and the same formation being continued for hundreds of miles inland, the country continually rises in steps forming successive table-lands, known as the Karroo Plains, about 2,000 feet above sea level, and beyond these the Roggefeld, 3,500 feet in elevation.

We steamed into False Bay, past the Cape Point lighthouse up to Simons Bay, where is the dockyard. The long range of mountains extending from Hangklip along the eastern shore of False Bay, in the district known as Hottentots' Holland, seen in the distance was strikingly beautiful, with soft and delicate outlines, and lighted up with beautiful pink and violet tints as in an Italian landscape. I was astonished at the beauty of the scenery, as I had been led from the accounts of Simons Bay to expect nothing but a desert of sand.

Simons Bay lies on the east side of the Cape promontory, and about half way up the west side of False Bay. There is a dockyard, houses for the dockyard officials and workmen, a small barrack, a naval hospital, a small town of one street stretching along the shore, and a few houses scattered on either side of the road which leads in one direction towards Cape Town, in the other towards Cape Point. The town stands on a narrow tract of land composed of talus from the hills which rise in steep slopes behind it, buried more or less in different places in glistening white sand.

The hills about the Cape district have all an exactly similar appearance as far as their clothing with vegetation is concerned. They look not unlike Scotch moorland, being covered everywhere with low bushes without trees. The vegetation has a general brownish or greyish tint; there are no bright greens in the landscape. This arises from the fact that the plants are nearly all evergreen, and have, as a rule, either narrow needle-like leaves, like the pines, or leaves covered with grey downy hairs; in fact, all sorts of contrivances for resisting their great enemy, the drought.

The most characteristic feature, however, in the landscape