

In my excursions to White Sands I often stopped at the cottage of an old-fashioned "boer." He was a boer in a very small way: an old man who, at the age of nearly sixty, had married a young wife. He was partly of French parentage, many French having come to the Cape at the time of the Revolution. These people were wonderfully hospitable, and gave me milk, coffee, and Cape brandy, and were delighted to hear about the "Challenger's" voyage.

The old man had a huge old Dutch Bible, 150 years old, with pictures, maps and commentary. He prided himself very much on his knowledge of it, and got it down, put on his spectacles, and showed me the map of the Garden of Eden, with Adam and Eve and the rivers. He knew it by heart, and evidently considered it of perfect geographical accuracy. But the commentary was his delight. It was the true old gospel that he loved. He terribly disliked modern innovations.

I was led to cultivate his acquaintance, because he let slip at our first interview the information that he knew where, close by, there was the skeleton of a Hottentot lying under a rock. Directly he had said so I saw that he repented, and at first he would not hear of showing me the place. He said he was afraid that the ghost of the skeleton would haunt him.

It was a long time before his wife could laugh him out of this notion. Eventually he showed me the place, but unfortunately the bones were rotten and the skull was battered in, the man having apparently been murdered, whether Hottentot or no, and half covered up in a hurry with a few stones.

I had naturally a desire to see wild antelopes at the Cape. I did not, however, in the least expect to see one without going into the interior, and was surprised to find that antelopes still exist in the Cape peninsula, and I had a shot at three of them on the very Cape of Good Hope itself. I had an erroneous notion concerning antelopes, that they all lived in much the same way, forming vast herds that roamed over flat plains, and performed migrations in bodies from one place to another as scarcity of food necessitated.

Now, however, I found that the various species are mostly totally different in their habits. Some are nocturnal, some diurnal; some live on the mountains, some on the plains, some amongst the bushes, some in forests; some are gregarious, others solitary.

The antelopes are all called "Bok" (goat), pronounced in the country "Buck" by the Cape people. The two antelopes about Simons Town are what the Dutch named, from its resemblance to that animal, the roebuck, "Rheebök" (*Pelea sapreola*) and the "Grysbök" (grey goat) (*Calotragus melanotis*).