

A kick from an ostrich is well known to be very dangerous. The only thing to do when attacked without means of defence, Mr. McKellar said, is to lie flat down and let the bird walk on you till he is tired. I was astonished at the brightness of the red colouring developed on the front of the legs of the cock bird during the breeding season. The ornamental appearance of the bird is greatly enhanced by it.

A narrow but strong and high pen was provided for plucking the birds in. They are driven into it and held fast. It is found better to pluck the feathers out than to cut them off. The stumps, if left in, are apt to cause trouble.

Young ostriches, on first emerging from the egg, have curious horny plates at the tips of their feathers, like those in the feathers of one of the Indian jungle fowls, and some other birds not in the least related to one another.

The Cape Peninsula becomes very narrow towards its termination, and ends in two capes, Cape Point, on which is the lighthouse, and the Cape of Good Hope. The Cape of Good Hope itself is a mass of rock terminating in perpendicular cliffs towards the sea, but with ledges here and there on which numbers of cormorants (*Phalacrocorax capensis*) nest.

Behind the terminal rocky mass is a waste of white sand, horribly dazzling to the eyes in bright sunshine. Similar sand, loose and deep, so that one's foot sinks into it at every step, lies all around the farm-house, but is more or less covered with bushes. This sand is terribly tiring to walk on, but after a little rain the various animals can be tracked on it as easily as on fresh snow, and it is thus that they are best hunted.

The boys thus find numbers of small tortoises (*Testudo geometrica*), which are here in great numbers, extremely pretty ones with embossed shells. These shells are often made to do duty as ornamental paper weights, being filled with lead. Besides these there are the tracks of the various snakes. A broad groove with a much narrower groove in its centre, marked by the tip of the tail, is made by the terrible Puff-adder (*Crotalaria arietans*), on which one always stands a chance of treading when walking about. Then there are Cobra tracks, and tracks of numerous other snakes. Both Cobras (*Naja haje*?) and Puff-adders are sufficiently abundant about Simons Town. I had four or five adders and two Cobras brought me to preserve. One Cobra was caught swimming in the sea, just off the dock-yard.

Again, there are tracks of the Ichneumon (*Herpestes*), called by some name sounding like "moose haunt," and those of the Musk-Cat (*Genetta felina*), both extremely destructive, and trapped and hunted with all energy by the farmers. There are