

Heard

the same sound. I went to my bedroom & got a candle; hanging it over the verandah I saw a large snake coiled up. I called young Mr. Blyth who came with a lantern & struck it a blow making it leap half across the path. With a second stroke he killed it & there lay a horrid looking puff-adder one of the most deadly snakes. I put it into brandy & took it with me next day.

Duffbank

Next morning
22nd Jan I left Capt. Blyth after breakfast & rode over the heights by a footpath to Iheka. On the way I met several natives who gave the usual salutation "molo inkos" in a polite way. At the hotel I got the horse fed & some refreshment. Near this place some of the first engagements were fought during the last war 1848. About 11 a.m. we started for Idutywa. The country is mostly flat with bare hills. A more

uninteresting place I scarcely passed over.

Saturday ^{23rd} I was very tired & rested most of the day. Letters had to be prepared for the mail which I wrote in the evening. A hot wind blew all day making the fatigue all the greater. On Sabbath 24th we were up early & started for two outstations. Mr. M. drove in his buggy & the interpreter I was to have & a boy rode behind.

At Mr. Bell's the Magistrate we rested a short time. then I took one station 7 miles further on & Mr. M. the other.

On the way I passed a small kraal & asked the people to come to the service. A woman began to tell me that she believed there was a God. but they had no time to go to a meeting at present. She said she knew that the missionaries prayed for them & she was glad of it.

We at last got to the place kept track much by the slowness of the interpreter's horse. The headman came forward & asked who I was.

Several men lay beside the cattle trail. When I asked a boy to take charge of my horse, one said "how much will you give him" I asked how much will you give me for coming to preach. They said "it is your business, you are sent by the government". It seems they have no conception of a church at home sending a missionary. Everything is looked at very much as coming from their rulers.

The meeting was held & few Christians were present, but a large turn out of heathens in their blankets. I spoke on the message which gave us to preach. Salvation for lost sinners.

After it was over I rode back a part of the way & met Mr. M. again.

It being too far to go to Blythwood that evening we made for a trader's at Hornaha. When Miss Holmes the trader's sister came in from a ride she looked so like "George Elliot".

Mr. Wigley gave us some account

of the difficulty of getting good water. All they get is made into ginger beer or lemonade before it is safe. He said - "it was as difficult to raise a tree there as a child". Before I left next morning Miss H. showed me her collection of Kafir curiosities some of which were valuable. Our bed was a sofa & the floor but being tired anything did the purpose.

Next morning Monday 25th Mr. Macdonald & I started after breakfast for Pylthwood. For two or three miles the drive was chilly through a bare part of country. There I stayed until Wednesday, during which time I visited the bushmen's caves in the vicinity. They are not caves properly, but shelving rocks. On the face of the rocks the bushmen have painted in various colours sketches of several animals deer, cows, elephants, horses, etc. The date is unknown but must at least be 150 years. The durability of the works shows that they had knowledge of pigments.