

**A descriptive catalogue of hunting trophies, native arms, & costumes, from the far interior of South Africa / the property of, and collected by Roualeyn Gordon Cumming.**

**Contributors**

Gordon-Cumming, Roualeyn, 1820-1866.  
Royal College of Surgeons of England

**Publication/Creation**

[London] : Rawlins, printer, [1850?]

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/g7duvcep>

**Provider**

Royal College of Surgeons

**License and attribution**

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by The Royal College of Surgeons of England. The original may be consulted at The Royal College of Surgeons of England. where the originals may be consulted. This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

A

4

Descriptive Catalogue  
OF  
HUNTING TROPHIES,  
NATIVE ARMS, & COSTUMES,  
FROM THE  
FAR INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA.



THE PROPERTY OF, AND COLLECTED BY

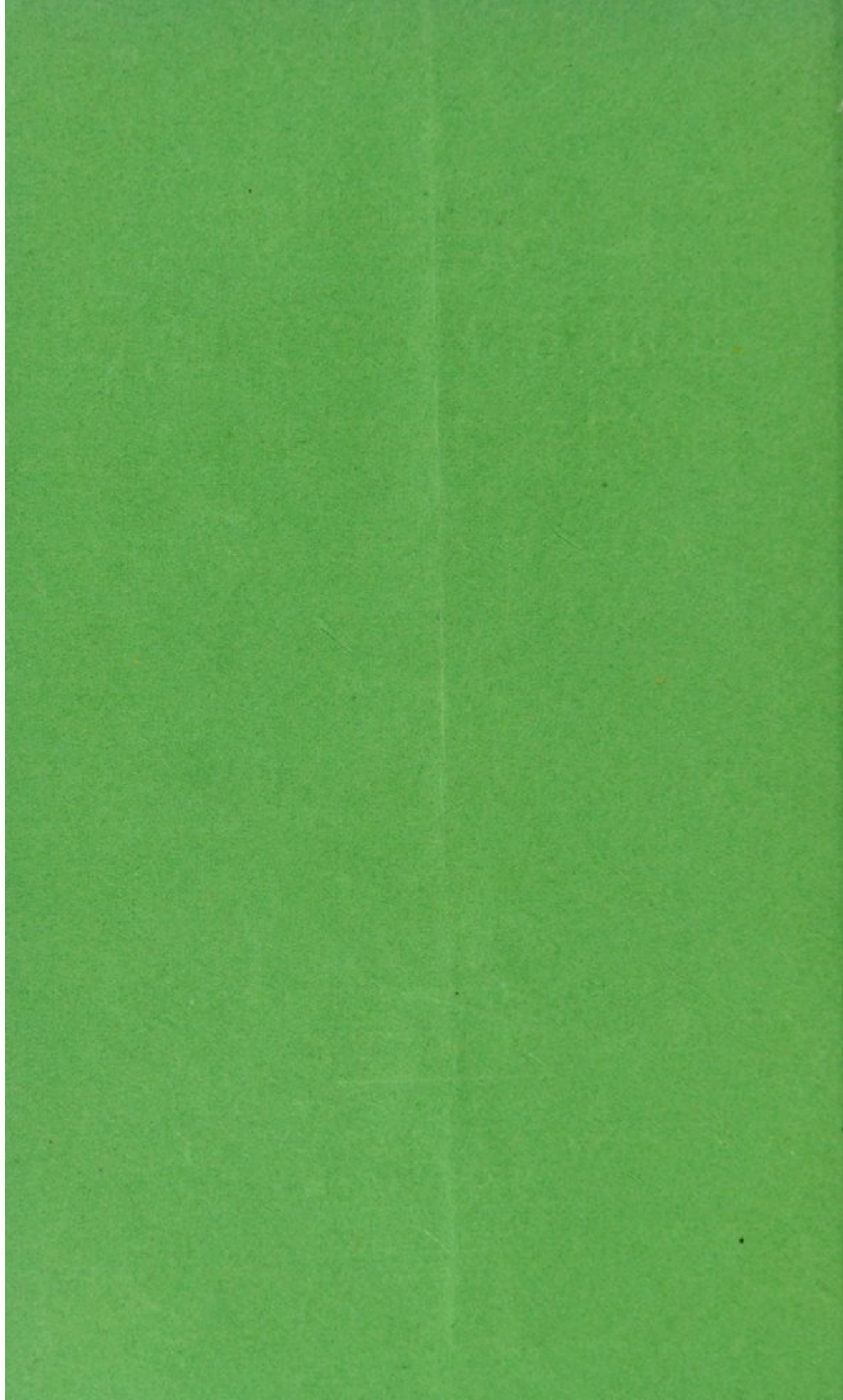
**ROUALEYN GORDON CUMMING, ESQ.**

NOW ON VIEW, AT  
232, PICCADILLY,  
FROM 11 A. M. TILL 6 P. M.

Price Three Pence.

RAWLINS, PRINTER, 27, JUDD ST.





# DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE

# HUNTING TROPHIES,

NATIVE ARMS, & COSTUMES,

FAR INTERIOR OF SOUTH AFRICA,

ETC. ETC. ETC.



## PREFATORY REMARKS.

---

THE visitor will observe that there is an immense number and variety of each of the objects enumerated in the Catalogue. All these specimens have been carefully selected, either on account of their unusual size, their uncommon beauty, or from some peculiar interest attached to them. The Bechuana arms and beautiful fur robes are the manufacture of tribes inhabiting those parts of Southern Africa which are as yet comparatively unknown to the white man ; but to which a peculiar interest now attaches, as, in consequence of late geographical discoveries, they may soon open a fresh field to British industry.

The immense variety of trophies of the chase,—tusks, antlers, horns, bones, skulls, teeth, &c., &c.,—are interesting to the sportsman, to the naturalist, and to the every day observer ; from their extraordinary size, from the variety, or from their graceful forms. Each of these represent a select specimen of some fierce and formidable, or shy and wary animal, and most of them were obtained by undergoing perils, hardships, and fatigues, of which the gentlemen of England, who live at home at ease, can form but a faint idea.\*

The elephant's tusks alone, which may appear to the passing observer but coarse uninteresting objects, are the finest of ivory, selected from the unbroken herds that from the earliest ages have roamed undisturbed the desert solitudes of Africa. Coarse as they may appear, their value in the ivory market varies from £40 to £80 *each* ! This collection has been entirely made by the almost unassisted efforts of one individual ; the greater part are spoils won with his own rifle, and he ventures to submit to those who may honour him with their presence, that, in its own peculiar way, it is without a rival.

The visitor is referred to the catalogue for information regarding any particular object that may strike his eye. Those specimens to which no number is attached may be compared with those of the same kind which are numbered ; and the attendants in the room are instructed to assist in pointing out what is most worthy of attention.

\* See MR. CUMMING'S Narrative of his "FIVE YEARS' ADVENTURES in the Far Interior of SOUTH AFRICA." With numerous Illustrations, 2 vols., post 8vo. Murray.



Catalogue  
OF  
MR. GORDON CUMMING'S COLLECTION  
OF  
HUNTING TROPHIES,  
NATIVE ARMS & COSTUMES,

232, PICCADILLY.

- 1 Cape Ox Waggon. The Hunter's Home during Five Years' Wanderings in the unexplored regions of the far Interior of South Africa. It was drawn by 12 or 14 oxen
- 2 The Hunter's Powder Magazine
- 3 Iron Pots in which the tit-bits of many a tough old bull, elephant, rhinoceros, and hippopotamus were rendered palatable to an African Hunter's appetite
- 4 Trek-tow and yokes, the gear by which the oxen drew the waggons. The Trek-tow is made of twisted buffalo hide
- 5 The Hunter's Water Cask
- 6 Feldt-schoen, or African Shoes, made and worn by the Hunter in the far interior
- 7 Skull of Sassabye (female), a beautifully marked antelope of South Africa; its prevailing colours shades of purple and brown
- 8 Skull of Sassaybye (male)
- 9 Skull of Sassaybye (male)
- 10 Tail of Elephant; one of six Elephants shot in one day near the Fountain of Massoney, in the Bamangwato country, territory of Sicomy
- 11 Tail of Elephant, shot in the far Bamangwato; took 40 bullets before he fell
- 12 Kaross of Jackall's skins, worn by the Chief Sichely
- 13 Leopard kaross, the robe of a Chief of the far interior, named Pocoolwey



- 14 Antlers of the white-tailed Deer, North America
- 15 Skin of Chetah, or hunting-leopard
- 16 Skin of a first-class Lion; he was one of two large male lions, shot right and left
- 17 Skull and horns of one of the oxen that drew the hunter's waggon
- 18 Antlers of white-tailed Deer, North America
- 19 Skin of Chetah, or hunting-leopard
- 20 Kaross, or native robe of skins of leopard
- 21 Kaross, or native robe of skins of leopard
- 22 Kaross, or native robe of skins of leopard
- 23 Skull of Pallah; a very graceful forest antelope of the far interior; it is of a delicate rufous colour, and remarkable for the elegance of its horns
- 24 Skull of Pallah; a very graceful forest antelope of the far interior; it is of a delicate rufous colour, and remarkable for the elegance of its horns
- 25 Skull of Sable Antelope (female); a denizen of wooded rocky mountains; the species is very rare
- 26 Horns of Sable Antelope (male)
- 27 Horns of Sable Antelope (male)
- 28 Skull of Sable Antelope (male)
- 29 Skull of Roan Antelope (female)
- 30 Skull of Roan Antelope (male)
- 31 Skull of Roan Antelope (male)
- 32 Skull of Roan Antelope (male)
- 33 Foot of Moose Deer
- 34 Bechuana Shield, made of the hide of Buffalo
- 35 Bechuana Battle Axe
- 36 Assagai, or Javelin of the Bechuana used in war; they throw them with extraordinary force
- 37 Head of Waterbuck; a majestic Antelope, which never leaves the vicinity of tropical rivers
- 38 Bechuana Shield, made of Buffalo hide. Belonged to the brother of the chief Bamangwato
- 39 Battle-axe of the Bechuanas
- 40 Head and horns of Brindled Gnoo or Blue Wildebeest
- 41 Bechuana Shield
- 42 Bechuana Battle-axe
- 43 Assagai or Javelin of Bechuanas
- 44 Head of Scotch Stag, forest of Lochiel
- 45 Skull and Horns of African Ox, one of those that drew the hunter's waggon



- 46 Head and Antlers of Scotch Stag, shot in Glen Nevis
- 47 Skin of the Metsapallah, a species of African serpent,  
killed with a bullet in the neck, near the junction  
of the river Lepalala with the Limpopo
- 48 Head of Scotch Red Deer, shot in the Monleath
- 49 Skin of Leopard, shot on the banks of the Mariqua
- 50 Skin of Leopard that cruelly mangled Mr. Orpen, a  
young man who accompanied Mr. Cumming on his  
last hunting expedition
- 51 Skull and Horns of Cape Ox
- 52 Head and Antlers of Scotch Stag, shot in Rosshire,  
near Balnagowan
- 53 Skin of an old Metsapallah, a species of rock serpent,  
killed in the territory of the chief Sichely, after a  
personal encounter, in which the hunter's weapon  
was a bough of a tree. The serpent measured 14  
feet
- 54 Head and Horns of a Scotch Red Deer, shot in Braemar  
Forest
- 55 Skin of a Leopard that nearly killed a native of the  
Bakatla tribe
- 56 Skull and Horns of Cape Ox
- 57 Head of Scotch Red Deer, shot in Atholl
- 58 Bechuana Battle-axe
- 59 Leg bones of Giraffe
- 60 Head of Scotch Roe, shot by the hunter when a boy
- 61 Horns of the true mountain Ibex, from the Caucasus
- 63 Horns of Cape Ox
- 64 Head of the Scotch Roe, the first of many hundreds  
shot by the hunter when a boy
- 65 Head of Scotch Roe. Darnaway
- 66 Skin of Leopard, shot in the act of charging. A close  
shave for the hunter's life
- 67 Skull of Eland, female. The largest Antelope and the  
best venison in South Africa
- 68 Skull of Eland, male
- 69 Skull of Waterbuck
- 70 Skull of Waterbuck
- 71 Skull of Eland, female
- 72 Skin of Lion, shot in the act of charging; the bullet  
split his skull, when he pitched a somersault and  
fell lifeless at the hunter's feet



- 73 Skull of Carpathian Red Deer
- 74 Tail of Giraffe
- 75 Tail of Giraffe
- 76 Tail of Elephant, the 40th elephant shot by Mr. Cumming in Africa
- 77 Tail of Elephant (female)
- 78 Tail of Elephant (female)
- 79 Skull of female Hippopotamus, killed after a personal conflict in the waters of the Limpopo
- 80 Skull of Red Deer, pulled down in the Carpathian Mountains, killed by Wild Dogs
- 81 Leopard Kaross
- 82 Skin of a Lion, shot in the territory of the chief Mahura, while the Hottentots were preparing the hunter's breakfast
- 83 Lion Skin, shot at midnight, while dragging away a Gnoo, shot by Mr. Cumming an hour before
- 84 Carpathian Stag
- 85 Skin of a Lion that carried off Mr. Cumming's head servant one evening from the fire side
- 86 Antlers of Carpathian Stag, shot at early dawn of day in an open glade in the forest
- 87 Antlers of Carpathian Stag, bowled over in full career at 150 yards
- 88 Assagai, or javelin of the Bechuana used in war; they throw them with great force
- 89 Leopard Kaross
- 90 Skin of Lion, shot first with one bullet in the eye, and second shot in the neck while swimming across the river Limpopo
- 91 Tail of Lion, one of two first-class lions shot right and left
- 92 Rope used by Mr. Cumming for the purpose of descending precipices in quest of the eggs of sea birds and birds of prey
- 93 Jaws of Sharks, caught by the hunter with a large hook, baited with 3 lbs. of salt beef
- 94 Tackle for catching Sharks
- 95 Tusks of male Elephant, which the hunter by judicious riding held in check without gun or dogs for several hours, until Mr. Cumming's after rider appeared with a rifle. He received 8 balls
- 96 Skull, female Hippopotamus
- 97 Skull of Elephant (male)



- 98 Assagais, or Bechuana javelins used in war
- 99 Head of Oryx
- 100 Head of doe Eland
- 101 Head of Sassabye
- 102 Horns of Rhinoceros, the white variety: they eat  
grass, their flesh is very good
- 103 Head of Hartebeest, male
- 104 Head of Roan Antelope (male). This buck killed  
three of Mr. Cumming's dogs when brought to  
bay
- 105 Head of Reit Buck. This antelope lives among the  
reeds
- 106 Head of Black Wildebeest. This animal has the head  
of a buffalo, the mane and tail of a horse, and the  
legs of an antelope
- 107 Head of Blesbok. The swiftest antelope in Africa
- 108 Head of Serolomootlooke. An antelope discovered  
by Mr. Cumming on the banks of the Limpopo
- 109 Head of Zebra, of Plains
- 110 Head of Giraffe. The only representative of about  
fifty fine specimens shot by Mr. Cumming in  
Africa
- 111 Skull of male Hippopotamus. One of seven fine speci-  
mens bagged in one day
- 112 Head of Pallah. A forest antelope
- 113 Skull of Hippopotamus
- 114 Head of male Springbok
- 115 Skull of Hippopotamus
- 116 Head of doe Springbok
- 117 Head of Sable Antelope (male). This is the rarest  
antelope in Africa
- 119 Assagais, the javelin of the Bechuana used in war
- 120 One of the two Saddles from which Mr. Cumming shot  
most of his wild animals. It often supplied him with  
a pillow when sleeping on the open plains and in the  
forests
- 121 Skull and tusks of a first-class old male Elephant, sup-  
posed to be the finest specimen in Europe
- 122 Head of Oryx,—a noble antelope of the Kurroo.  
Mode of hunting this antelope is to ride him  
down
- 123 Head of doe Sable Antelope
- 124 Horns of the Koodoo, a forest antelope



- 125 Point of Tusk of cow Elephant found in the ribs of an old male Elephant
- 126 Head of Hartebeest
- 127 Head of Waterbuck
- 128 Head of Lechee
- 129 Horn of Ibex
- 130 Head of Koodoo
- 131 Horns of Bison
- 132 Horns and Skull, Black Rhinoceros,—the most violent animal in Africa
- 133 Skull of Tiger, male
- 134 Skull of Tiger, female
- 135 Skull of Black Bear
- 136 Skull of Polar Bear
- 137 Skull of Tiger
- 138 Skull of Tigress
- 139 Skull of Lioness
- 140 Skull of Leopard
- 141 Skull of Lioness
- 142 Skull of Lioness
- 143 Skull of African Buffalo (male). A very old bull, upwards of 20 years old
- 144 Tusks of bull Hippopotamus, used for the manufacture of artificial teeth
- 145 Tusks of Wild Boar of the Plains
- 146 Tusks of cow Hippopotamus
- 147 Dice used by the Bechuānas, to ascertain their probable success when starting on an enterprize
- 148 Bechuana Needles, used in sewing their karosses or robes
- 149 Gourd Snuff Boxes
- 150 Foot, bull Elephant
- 151 Head of Crocodile, shot on the Mariqua river
- 152 Ornaments worn by natives (brass wire)
- 153 Skull of Wild Boar
- 155 Skull of cow Buffalo
- 156 Skull of bull Buffalo, shot in the act of charging
- 157 Skull of White Rhinoceros
- 158 Skull of the Lion that killed Mr. Cumming's head Waggoner
- 159 Skull of Lion, shot at midnight in the act of dragging away a brindled Gnoo, shot by Mr. Cumming an hour before



- 160 Skull of a Lion. A famous man-eater, well known and greatly dreaded among the tribes beyond Bamangwato
- 161 Skull of Lion, shot at Meritsane at early dawn of day. He was discovered feasting on the carcass of a buffalo, one of six shot by Mr. Cumming on the preceding day
- 162 Skull of a Lion, shot in the act of attacking the hunter's cattle
- 163 Skull of a Lion, shot in a wild ravine in the Kurri-chane mountain range. Mr. Cumming was following up the bloody track of a wounded Black Rhinoceros, when he came unexpectedly upon this Lion in company with another, who escaped
- 164 Skull of Koodoo
- 165 Skull of Koodoo
- 166 Skull of Koodoo
- 167 Skin of Sable Antelope
- 168 The Axes with which Mr. Cumming often cut a passage for his waggons in the thorny jungles of the far interior
- 169 Horn of Rhinoceros. Fell after a very long contest, pierced with 24 balls
- 170 Horn of Rhinoceros
- 171 Shooting Belt, used at the death of all the beasts Mr. Cumming bagged in Africa
- 172 Bows and Arrows of the Bushmen
- 173 Horns of the Moose Deer, North America
- 174 Horns of the Moose Deer (Europe)
- 175 Skull of Cape Ox
- 176 Skin of Lioness
- 177 Skin of Lioness, shot in the breast in the act of charging
- 178 Hide of Hippopotamus
- 179 Skin of Lion: he received the first shot in the haunch, and the second in the heart
- 180 Skull of Cape Ox
- 181 Skin of Lioness
- 182 Skull of Cape Ox
- 183 Skull of Lioness shot in the open plain after mangling the hunter's favorite horse, Colesberg
- 184 Skin of Lioness (one out of six shot at Midnight)



- 185 Horns of the American Wapiti
- 186 Horns of the American Wapiti
- 187 Skull of Indian Bison (Madras)
- 188 Skin of Wild Boar, shot in the Carpathians
- 189 Skull of Blue Wildebeest (male)
- 190 Skull of Blue Wildebeest (female)
- 191 Skull of Black Wildebeest
- 192 Skull of Black Wildebeest
- 193 Skull of Bull Hartebeest
- 194 Skull of cow Hartebeest
- 195 Skin and Skull of Blue Buck
- 196 Cheetah Kaross
- 197 Cheetah Kaross
- 198 Skin of Lion, shot from the Saddle, a famous man-eater
- 199 Cat Kaross
- 200 Skull of Arnee
- 201 Cat Kaross, worn by Bechuana ladies of distinction
- 202 Tail of Blue Wildebeest
- 203 Tail of Giraffe
- 204 Tail of Sable Antelope
- 205 Tail of Oryx
- 206 Tail of Giraffe
- 207 Tail of Black Wildebeest
- 208 Hide of Giraffe
- 209 Skull of cow Buffalo
- 210 Horns of Saisin
- 211 Skin of Cheetah
- 212 Baboon
- 213 Pallah Kaross, worn by the Chief of the Baseleka
- 214 Skull of American Bison
- 215 Skin of Blesbok, the swiftest Buck in Africa
- 216 Skull of Goat, of Scotland
- 217 Skull of Koodoo
- 218 Silver Jackall Kaross, the winter robe of the Bechu-  
anas.



## ARMS AND COSTUMES.

THE Bechuanas are a lively and intelligent race of people, and remarkable for their good humour. They are well formed, if not starved in infancy. They possess pleasing features, and very fine eyes and teeth. Their hair is short and woolly; the colour of their complexion is of a light copper. The various tribes live in kraals or villages of various sizes, along with their respective chiefs. Their wigwams are built in a circular form, and thatched with long grass; the floor and wall, inside and out, are plastered with a compound of clay and cow-dung. The entrances are about three feet high and two feet broad. Each wigwam is surrounded with a hedge of wicker-work, while one grand hedge of wait-a-bit thorns surrounds the entire kraal protecting the inmates from lions and other animals.

The dress of the men consists of a kaross, or skin cloak, which hangs gracefully from their shoulders; and another garment, termed tsecha, which encircles their loins, and is likewise made of skin. On their feet they wear a simple sandal formed of the skin of the buffalo or camelopard. On their legs and arms they carry ornaments of brass and copper of different patterns, which are manufactured by themselves. The men also wear a few ornaments of beads round their necks and on their arms. Around their necks, besides beads, they carry a variety of other appendages, the majority of which are believed to possess a powerful charm to preserve them from evil. One of these is a small hollow bone, through which they blow when in peril. Another is a set of dice formed of ivory, which they rattle on their hands and cast on the ground to ascertain if they are to be lucky in any enterprise in which they may be about to engage; also a host of bits of root and bark which are medicinal. From their necks also depend gourd snuff-boxes made of an extremely diminutive species of pumkin, trained to grow in a bottle-like shape. They never move without their arms, which consist of a shield, a bundle of assagais, a battle-axe, and a knobkerry. The shields are formed of the hide of the buffalo or camelopard; their shape among some tribes is oval, among others round. The assagai is a sort of light spear or javelin, having a wooden shaft about six



feet in length attached to it. Some of these are formed solely for throwing, and a skilful warrior will send one through a man's body at one hundred yards. Another variety of assagai is formed solely for stabbing. The blades of these are stouter, and the shafts shorter and thicker, than the other variety. They are found mostly among the tribes very far in the interior. Their battle-axes are elegantly formed, consisting of a triangular-shaped blade, fastened in a handle formed of the horn of the rhinoceros. The men employ their time in war and hunting, and in dressing the skins of wild animals. The dress of the women consists of a kaross depending from the shoulders, and a short kilt formed of the skin of the pallah, or some other antelope. Around their necks, arms, waists, and ankles, they wear large and cumbrous coils of beads of a variety of colours, tastefully arranged in different patterns. The women chiefly employ their time in cultivating their fields and gardens, in which they rear corn, pumpkins, and water-melons; and likewise in harvesting their crops and grinding their corn. Both men and women go bareheaded; they anoint their heads with "sibelo," a shining composition, being a mixture of fat and a grey sparkling ore, having the appearance of mica. Some of the tribes besmear their bodies with a mixture of fat and red clay, imparting to them the appearance of Red Indians. Most of the tribes possess cattle. These are attended to and milked solely by the men, a woman never being allowed to set foot within the cattle-kraal. Polygamy is allowed, and any man may keep as many wives as he pleases; the wife, however, has in the first instance to be purchased. Among tribes possessed of cattle the price of a wife is ten head of cattle; but among the poorer tribes, a wife may be obtained for a few spades, with which they cultivate their fields. These spades, which are manufactured by themselves, are fastened in the end of a long shaft, and are used as our labourers use the hoe. Rows of women may be seen digging together in the field, singing songs, to which they keep time with their spades.—(*Cumming's Adventures.*)

THE END.

