

The estates of Constantia lie east of the Table Mountain, on False Bay, and from their peculiar situation are adequately watered by the mists condensed by that lofty mountain. The soil of these estates is far from being rich, but is rather a light and in some places a gravelly soil. The graperies lie for the most part on the slope to the southeast, while some are situated on the low lands, which are carefully ditched to preserve them dry. They are divided into fields of some four or five acres each; the grape-vines are planted in rows four feet apart, they are never permitted to grow higher than three feet, and the whole is kept free from grass and weeds. In the spring, the vines are pruned; the grapes come to maturity in April; while they are growing, all unnecessary leaves and sprouts are removed, to give free access to the sun and air, and full advantage of the growth of the parent stock.

The grapes are allowed to remain on the vines until almost converted into raisins: they are then carefully examined, and all the decayed and bruised ones removed, before being gathered. The same process is used for expressing the grape here as at Madeira; but they have in some places advanced a step, and use the screw-press. The buildings for the storage of the wines are of one story, and arranged into three apartments; two of these are appropriated to the manufacture of the wine, and the third to that which is kept ripening for sale. The wines are of four kinds, Pontac, Frontignac, and the white and red Constantia. These are named in the order of their celebrity and price, which is usually a fixed one: the wine here is sold by the aam and half aam, equivalent to a barrel and half barrel; the cost for the last quantity is one hundred dollars for the first kind, eighty-five for the second, seventy-five for the third, and sixty for the fourth. To L. V. Renen, Esq., the proprietor of the High Constantia, we are indebted for many attentions. The grounds of Constantia were ornamented with some plaster statues of Hottentots and Caffres, which were said to represent the true type of these natives, but we had no opportunity of judging.*

I paid a visit to the Cape observatory, famous from the labours of Sir John Herschell, on the southern constellations. It is now in charge of T. Maclear, Esq., who was at the time of our visit absent, being engaged in the measurement of an arc of the meridian. His assistant Mr. Smyth, and Lieutenant Wilmot, of the magnetic observatory, showed us the instruments. Lieutenant Wilmot has four non-commissioned artillery officers for his assistants. The day of our visit

* Just previous to our departure, we were informed that some true Hottentots were in the town jail; the last place one would have thought of looking for them. The intelligence came too late to make use of it.