

The Dark Continent



The
Grandeur
of Life

Although the flora and fauna of northern Africa, and of the southern Cape region, were known to early naturalists, the animals of the interior were not collected, identified, and studied until the nineteenth century, by such explorers as Sir Andrew Smith. Charles Darwin knew Smith, and was quite interested in the fact that so many large animals continued to survive on the savannas of Africa, while in South America, most of the large animals became extinct.



Top: Secretary Bird, drawn by A. Schouman, from Arnout Vosmaer, Description d'un recueil exquis d'animaux rares, 1804.

Upper Left: Wildebeest, drawn by G. H. Ford, from Andrew Smith, Illustrations of the zoology of South Africa, 1838-49.

Lower Left: Madagascar fossa, drawn by Edward Lear, from Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, vol. 1, 1835.

Above: Sable antelope, drawn by Capt. W. C. Harris, from Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, vol. 2, 1841.



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