11- South Africa 1882-83

"All the continents of the world had some sort of representation in my gallery except Africa, and I resolved to begin painting there without loss of time. In August 1882 I left Dartmouth in the Grantully Castle, a ship historically famed for having once been lent by its owner, Sir Donald Currie, to Mr. Gladstone, for a trip which restored the Prime Minister to health. It took me to the Cape in rather more than eighteen days one of the shortest voyages ever made."
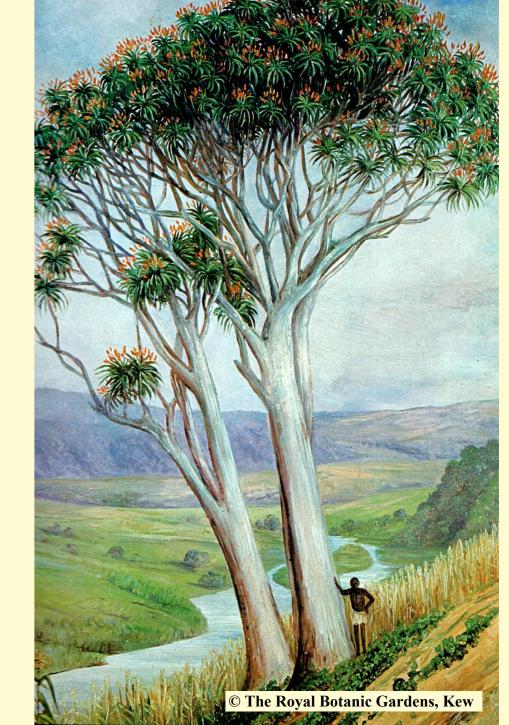

Beauties of the swamps at Tulbagh and Red-hot Poker

Ostrich farming at Groote Park *"The older ones were very amusing to watch, particularly when they first came out in the morning with mincing steps and much waltzing. They had a curious power of flattening themselves out on the ground, with necks and legs stretched out, so that they were quite invisible at a distance among the shrubby plants and dry grass."*

A Gifbol and a pink orchid to the left. The brown flowers behind are on a Toad Cactus

A Giant Protea and a Lory or Touraco bird painted at Cadles

Old Aloes at Verulam, Natal South Africa

The Strelitzia painted at St Johns Kaffraria

A Cape Weaver bird on a Tecoma mackensii tree painted at Port Alfred

"I found there was no way of getting either to Zanzibar or Mauritius for six weeks, when a ship was going to the latter place, touching at Madagascar ; but I was ill and home-sick, and decided to go home and take a rest, so left in the Melrose on the 22d of May; had another talk with my botanical friend at Port Elizabeth, two days with the Gambles in their new house among the silver -trees at Wynberg, and reached home on the 17th of June 1883. The ship which I had once thought of waiting for in Natal was never allowed to land its passengers at Tamatave, and was crowded with refugees from there, so that it was fortunate I did not go by her. The three months at home were delightful, and gave me fresh strength and courage for the task I had still set myself to do."