

## CHAPTER VIII.

**Konfersasie en  
Uitdrukkings.****Conversation and  
Expressions.**

Jan loop na di deur.	<i>John goes to the door.</i>
Hy het imand gëhoor klop.	<i>He has heard a knock.</i>
Hy steek zyn regtërhand uit.	<i>He puts out his right hand.</i>
Hy fat di knop an.	<i>He takes hold of the knob.</i>
Hy trek di deur oop.	<i>He pulls the door open.</i>
Hy siin syn oom daar.	<i>He sees his uncle there.</i>
Hy sê, Dag oom, èk is bly om fër oom te siin.	<i>He says, Good day, uncle, I am glad to see you (uncle).</i>
Hoe gaan dit nog, oom?	<i>How do you do, uncle?</i>
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Né, dit gaan nog goed, neef, danki.	<i>I am fairly well, cousin, thank you.</i>
En hoe gaan dit nog met jou?	<i>And how do you do?</i>
Is pappa en mamma fris?	<i>Are father and mother well?</i>
Hèt Frans fan di hoes afgë- kom?	<i>Has Francis got rid of his cough?</i>
Hèt dit somar o'ërgëgaan of hèt hy di doktër gehad?	<i>Did it leave him of its own accord, or did he see the doctor?</i>
Ek hèt gëhoor nig Sanni lê nèt slèg.	<i>I heard that cousin Sanni is very ill.</i>
Hoe lyk di wèrëld hiir, neef?	<i>How are things about here, cousin.</i>
Het jullë al ordentlyk ré'ënt gëhad?	<i>Have you had a good deal of rain?</i>
In watter kondisi is jul skapë?	<i>In what condition are your sheep?</i>
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Di feld is droog, en di skapë is misërabel.	<i>The veldt is dry, and the sheep are miserable.</i>

Di groot fé lyk 'n weinig bétër nou.	<i>The cattle look a little better now.</i>
Party fan ons pèrdë is banjë má'er.	<i>Some of our horses are very thin.</i>
Ons hèt maar min korëng gëwin di jaar.	<i>We had only a small crop of grain this year.</i>
Di ré'ënt het tē laat uitgëbly om tē ploë.	<i>The rain kept off too late to plough.</i>
Di sprinkhanë het ook banjë gëpla.	<i>The locusts have been very troublesome, too.</i>
Hullë het di miliis skoon op-gëfreet.	<i>They destroyed the mealies completely.</i>
Ons léwë nou maar op flys en pampoen.	<i>We are now simply living on meat and pumpkin.</i>
Di kos is min, maar hy's daarom goed.	<i>Food is scarce, but what we have is good.</i>
Ons moet maar tēfrédë wees.	<i>We shall have to be content.</i>
In party plekkë is dit nog èrgër as hiir.	<i>In some places things are even worse than here.</i>

Ons hèt met di tryn Beaufort toe gëry.	<i>We went to Beaufort by train.</i>
Party fan ons was di eerstë maal op di tryn.	<i>Some of us were in the train for the first time.</i>
Ons hèt banjë plësiir gëhad.	<i>We had a great deal of fun.</i>
Een mysi hèt siik gëword, maar ni erg ni.	<i>One girl felt ill, but not badly.</i>
Ons hèt fër haar stil op 'n bank neergëlë.	<i>We put her quietly down on a seat.</i>
Toen het sy somar weer rëg gëword.	<i>Then she got right again very soon.</i>
Di lekkërstë was nog in di nag.	<i>The nicest part was the night.</i>
Ons hèt van Colesberg gëkom.	<i>We came from Colesberg.</i>
Di dag was dit 'n bitji warm en stoffërig.	<i>During the day it was rather warm and dusty.</i>
Maar di nag was heerlik koel gëwees en tog ni koud ni.	<i>But the night was delightfully cool and yet not cold.</i>
Di Karroo lyk regtë fraai.	<i>The Karroo looks very nice.</i>
Dit moet kort kort daar gë-ré'ënd het.	<i>It must have rained there recently.</i>

Ampër al di riviër hèt watër gëhad.	<i>Almost all the rivers were running.</i>
Nou wil ons feertiin da'ë op Beaufort bly.	<i>Now we shall stay a fortnight at Beaufort.</i>
En dan gaan dit Wellington toe.	<i>And then we go to Wellington.</i>
Twé van ons kindërs gaan daar skool.	<i>Two of our party are at school there.</i>
Hullë het di hollidees by di huis deurgëbrenge.	<i>They spent their holidays at home.</i>
Een jongë man is op di Collits fër Sendëlings.	<i>One young man attends the Missionary College.</i>
Hy is 'n al tē slim jongë man.	<i>He is a very bright young man.</i>
Hy hèt al syn matrikulasi gëdoen.	<i>He has passed his matriculation.</i>
Syn mensë wil toen hê hy moet ophou leer.	<i>His people at that time wanted him to stop learning.</i>
Maar hy wil ni daar fan hoor ni.	<i>But he won't hear of it.</i>
Hy is al tē leergiirig, nès syn broer.	<i>He is very ambitious, just like his brother.</i>
Syn broer hèt predikant gëword.	<i>His brother has become a minister.</i>
Hy is nou Europa toe om tē kuiër.	<i>He has now gone to Europe to travel.</i>
Hy hèt al van twé plekkë 'n bëroep gëkry.	<i>He has already received two calls.</i>
Ons was gistër uit gëwees op 'n pikkënik.	<i>Yesterday we had a picnic.</i>
Daar's 'n mooi plek agtër in di kloof.	<i>There is a nice spot deep in the gorge.</i>
Daar was ons gëwees, en dit was nèt forëntoe.	<i>There we went, and it was very delightful.</i>
Ons hèt 'n aangename dag deurgëbrenge.	<i>We spent a pleasant day.</i>
Daar was banjë juffrous by di gëselskap.	<i>There were many ladies with the party.</i>
Ons hèt koffi gëmaak en karbënaatjiis gëbraai.	<i>We made coffee and fried chops.</i>
Ferdër hèt ons spullëtjiis gëdoen ondër di boomë.	<i>Then also we had games under the trees.</i>
Maar di lekkërstë was nog di gësëls.	<i>But the nicest part was the conversation.</i>

ONS was by mēkaar uit fēr-  
skillēndē plekkē van onse  
land.

Al gou hēt ons uitgēfind dat  
banjē van ons mensē  
mēkaar ken.

Party hēt sofēr gēkom, dat hul  
di a'ēnd gēskey hēt as na'ē  
famili.

Ek kan ni sē ni, hoe aangē-  
naam dit was.

Di tērugtog hēt ons by di  
maanlig gēmaak.

En di heelē pad o'ēr hēt ons  
hims gēsing.

Om half ellēf was ons weer by  
di huis gēwees.

*We were together from differ-  
ent parts of the country.*

*Very soon we found out that  
many of our people knew  
each other.*

*Some came so far even as to  
separate that evening as  
near relations.*

*I cannot tell how pleasant it  
was.*

*The journey back we made by  
moonlight.*

*And all the way we sang  
hymns.*

*We reached home at half-past  
ten.*

Het jy van a'ēnd nog iits nuuts  
fan di oorlog gēhoor?

Ja, hullē hēt weer 'n slag  
gēhaad.

Wat, al weer 'n slag?

Ja, daar in di buurt van Ermelo,  
sē hullē.

En hoe hēt dit gēgaan?

Ek denk ordēntlik goed fēr di  
troepē.

Is daar banjē dood?

Ek hoór daar was o'ēr di twē  
honderd buitē gēfēg gēstēl.

Jy meen fan di Boerē?

Ik meen fan al di twē kantē  
saam.

Het di Boerē somar ryfēls  
gēhad?

Né, hullē had ook kanonnē,  
ses glo èk.

Wi het hullē angēfoer?

*Did you hear anything fresh  
about the war this evening?*

*Yes, there has been another  
battle.*

*What, another one again?*

*Yes, in the neighbourhood of  
Ermelo, it is said.*

*And how did things go?*

*Pretty well for the troops, I  
think.*

*Were there many killed?*

*I hear there have been over two  
hundred casualties.*

*You mean among the Boers?*

*I mean on both sides together.*

*Had the Boers rifles only?*

*No, they had cannon too—six, I  
believe.*

*Who was their commander?*

- Daar was twé gēnēraals gēwees,  
maar ik fērgeet hul namē.  
Denk jy hullē sal nou nog lang  
anhou ?  
Dit mag wees, maar wi sal dit  
sē ?  
Ik wens hul hou nou op.  
Ja, dit wens ons almal, maar  
hul feg daarom dag na  
dag.  
Denk jy ni, onsē land word  
banjē fērniil ?  
Sékērlik, dis nog di slegstē fan  
di heel ding.  
Was jy al by'n gēfēg gēwees ?  
Gēlukking ni, èk glo ni èk sal  
dit lyk ni.  
Ek sē fēr jou, dis freeslik.  
Di bommē wat hul skiit, is  
yslikē dingē.  
Maar di meestē word daarom  
met di roerē gēwond.  
Ek was nou al tiinmaal in di  
slag.  
Partykeer fal di mensē somar  
links en regs.  
Dis tē feul fēr 'n mens om dit  
an tē siin.  
Di een skré, di ander floek, di  
derdē lê kerm.  
Di doktērs kom en dra di armē  
goed weg.  
Hullē stuur fēr hullē na di  
hospitalē.  
Daar word hullē fērpleeg.  
Maar di ellendē wat word  
uitgēstaan, is ni om tē  
bēskrywē ni.
- There were two generals, but I  
forget their names.  
Do you think they will still keep  
on long ?  
Perhaps so, but who can tell ?  
I wish they would stop now.  
Yes, we all wish so, but they  
keep on fighting day after  
day all the same.  
Don't you think our country is  
getting devastated ?  
No doubt, and that is the worst  
part of the business.  
Have you ever been in a fight ?  
Fortunately not. I don't think I  
should like it.  
I tell you, it is terrible.  
The bombs they shoot are fear-  
ful things.  
Still, most are wounded by rifle  
shooting.  
I have now been in ten engage-  
ments.  
Sometimes men just drop down  
right and left.  
It is too much for any man to  
witness.  
One screams, another swears, a  
third one lies moaning.  
The doctors come and carry the  
poor fellows away.  
They send them to the hospitals.  
There they are nursed.  
But the misery that is endured  
is indescribable.*