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OR A

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OF

VOYAGES and TRAVELS,

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CONJECTURES and INTERPOLATIONS

OF

Several vain *Editors* and *Translators* are expunged,

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AND

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VOL. VII.

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Commodore *Anson*'s Voyage round World.

by

COMMODORE ANSON'S*

VOYAGE

ROUND THE

WORLD.

CHAP. I.

Of the Equipment of the Squadron. Its passage from St. Helen's *to the Island of* Madeira, *with a short Account of that Island. The passage from thence to* St. Catherine's. *That Island described.*

IN the year 1736, a war with *Spain* appearing inevitable, it was proposed to cut off all the principal resources of the *Spaniards*, and to deprive them of the returns of that treasure, which alone could enable them to carry on a war against *Great Britain*. For this purpose several projects were examined, and

* *Now the Right Hon.* Lord Anson, *Admiral of the white, and first Lord of the Admiralty.*

resolutions taken by the council, and it was at length determined that Mr. *Anson* should be sent with a squadron to the *South Seas*, but the execution of this project was delayed, and, indeed, such measures were taken as had a natural tendency to render it ineffectual; for though a considerable number of land-forces were at first allowed, it was at length, from some strange infatuation, agreed, that only 98 marines should go on board, and that instead of land-forces, their place should be supplied with 500 invalids, collected from the out-pensioners of *Chelsea* college. Of these the most crazy and infirm were chosen for this laborious and hazardous undertaking, and those who had the free use of their limbs deserting, none were left for this important enterprise, but the most decrepid and miserable objects that could be collected out of the whole body. The voyage was also retarded by the Commodore's being obliged to take on board two agent victuallers, with merchandize to the value of 15,000 *l.* which they were to exchange on the coasts of the *South Sea* for provisions. By these, and many other delays, the voyage was deferred till the season of the year when the westerly winds are generally constant and very violent, and the difficulties and danger of the passage the greatest; and, in short, till the *Spaniards* were fully acquainted with the Admiral's destination.

On the 18th of *September*, 1740, the Admiral, for fear of ruining the enterprize, weighed from *St. Helen*'s with a contrary wind, and

and cleared the channel in four days. The squadron consisted of the *Centurion* of 60 guns and 400 men, commanded by *George Anson*, Esq; the *Gloucester* of 50 guns and 300 men; the *Severn* of 50 guns and 300 men; the *Pearl* of 40 guns and 250 men; the *Wager* of 28 guns and 160 men; the *Tryal* sloop of eight guns and 100 men, and two victuallers, which were pinks, the largest of about 400, and the other of about 200 tons burthen. But the winds continuing contrary, they had the mortification to be forty days in their passage from *St. Helen*'s to *Madeira*, though it is often performed in ten or twelve.

Madeira is situated in a fine and healthful climate *, and is composed of one continued hill of a considerable height, which extends from east to west. On the south side, the declivity is cultivated, and interspersed with vineyards and country seats belonging to the merchants. The only considerable town in the island is *Fonchiale*, which is situated on the south, at the bottom of a large bay; it is defended by a high wall with a battery of cannon, and a fortified castle, which stands on the *Loo*, a rock that rises above the water at a small distance from the shore. This town is the only place of trade, and the only place where it is possible for a boat to land, and even there a violent surfe continually beats upon the beach. The

* *This island is in the latitude of* 32°. 27'. *and longitude from* London 18° $\frac{1}{4}$ to 19°. $\frac{1}{2}$ *west, though laid down in the charts at* 17°.

island is justly famous for its excellent wines, which seem designed by providence for the refreshment of the inhabitants of the torrid zone.

Here Mr. *Anson* learnt from the Governor, that a few days before his arrival, seven or eight ships, supposed to belong to the *Spaniards*, had appeared to the westward of the island, on which Mr. *Anson* dispatched an officer in a clean light sloop to discover who they were, but the officer returned without being able to get sight of them. Mr. *Anson* had great reason to suspect that these ships were apprised of his designs, and were dispatched to prepare the *Spanish* settlements for his reception, and the justice of these suspicions afterwards appeared from his discovering that the court of *Spain* had actually fitted out a squadron to attend his motions, and traverse his projects *.

The Commodore having at this island supplied the ships with as much wine, water, and other refreshments as they could take in, weighed anchor on the 3d of *November*, and the day after, gave orders to the Captains, that in case the squadron should be separated, to rendezvous at the island of *St. Catherine's*, and on the 19th the *Industry* pink having fulfilled her charter party, and her cargo being divided amongst the other vessels, she parted company,

* *The history of the dreadful distresses of this squadron, which was commanded by* Don Joseph Pizarro, *is given in* chap. IV.

being

being bound for *Barbadoes*, to take in a freight for *England*, but in her return from that island was unhappily taken by the *Spaniards*.

In this long run, the men grew remarkably sickly, so that many died, and great numbers were confined to their hammocks, on which account the Commodore ordered six air scuttles to be cut in each ship, to let in more air between the decks. They were afflicted with calentures, a kind of fevers that are not only terrible while they last, but even the remains of the disease often proved fatal to those who thought themselves recovered, and always left them weak and helpless. This disorder daily increasing while they continued at sea, they were filled with extraordinary joy at the discovery of the coast of *Brasil*, on the 16th of *December* in the morning, and on the evening of the 18th, they cast anchor at the north-west point of the island of *St. Catherine's*.

They perceived at a distance two fortifications which seemed intended to guard the passage between the island and the main, and seeing two forts hoist their colours and fire several guns, probably as signals for assembling the inhabitants, the Commodore concluded that his squadron had alarmed the coast, and therefore, to prevent confusion, sent a boat with an officer on shore to compliment the Governor, and desire a pilot to carry the vessels into the road. The Governor returned an obliging answer, and having sent them a pilot, they anchored in a large commodious bay on the

continent, called by the *French Bon-Port*, and the next day moored at *St. Catherine's*.

As it was neceſſary that the care of the ſick ſhould firſt employ their thoughts, the Commodore gave orders, that each ſhip ſhould erect two tents, one for the diſeaſed, and the other for the ſurgeon and his aſſiſtants; after which about 80 ſick perſons were landed from the *Centurion*, and nearly as many from the other ſhips, in proportion to their number of hands. This neceſſary duty being performed, the ſhips were next cleanſed, ſmoaked, and every part well waſhed with vinegar. After which every method was taken to ſecure the veſſels againſt the tempeſtuous weather, the people had reaſon to expect in their paſſage round *Cape Horn*.

St. Catherine's * though about nine leagues in length, is no where above two in breadth, and though it is of a conſiderable height, it can hardly be perceived at ten leagues diſtance, it being obſcured by the prodigious mountains behind it on the continent of *Braſil*.

This iſland is covered with a foreſt of trees, that retain their verdure in all ſeaſons. But it is ſo entangled with underwood, thorns, and briars, as to form an impenetrable thicket, except in ſome narrow paths made by the inhabitants for their own convenience, and theſe, with a few ſpots along the ſhore facing the

* *This iſland lies in* 40°. 45′. *weſt longitude from* London, *and extends from the ſouth latitude of* 27°. 35′. *to that of* 28°.

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continent, that are cleared for plantations, are the only uncovered parts of the island. The many aromatic trees and shrubs with which the woods abound, render them extremely fragrant. These woods also spontaneously produce many kinds of fruit; and the productions of all climates thrive almost without culture, so that here are plenty of pine-apples, citrons, lemons, oranges, melons, apricots, peaches, grapes, and plantains. There are here also great plenty of pheasants, but they are far from tasting so well as those in *England*. They have likewise small wild cattle resembling buffaloes; these, however, are but indifferent food, their flesh being loose, and of a disagreeable flavour. The other provisions of the island are parrots, monkies, and particularly fish of various kinds, which last are exceeding good, and easily caught. The water also is excellent, and is as fit for the sea as that of the *Thames*.

These advantages are counterballanced by many inconveniencies. The woods and hills that surround the harbour prevent a free circulation of the air; and there is such a quantity of vapour produced by the vigorous vegetation of the place, that the whole country is all the night covered with a thick fog. In the day-time the men were pestered with muscatos, resembling the gnats in *England*, but more venomous in their stings; and when these retired at sun-set they were succeeded by an infinite number of sand-flies, which make a mighty buzzing, though they are scarcely

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to be perceived with the naked eye. Their bite raiſes a ſmall pimple in the fleſh, which is ſoon attended with a painful itching, like that ariſing from the harveſt bug in *England*. In ſhort the ſailors had a melancholy proof of the unhealthfulneſs of the climate; for the *Centurion* alone buried no leſs than 28 men after her arrival, and yet the number of her ſick was in the ſame interval increaſed from 80 to 96.

The ſquadron alſo ſuffered many inconveniences from the form of government, and new regulations lately eſtabliſhed in the iſland. It was formerly only a retreat for vagabonds and out-laws who fled thither from all parts of *Braſil*, and who having plenty of proviſions, but no money, ſupported themſelves without the aſſiſtance of any neighbouring ſettlements. While in this ſituation they were extremely hoſpitable and friendly to ſuch foreign ſhips as came amongſt them; for as thoſe ſhips wanted only proviſions, and the natives wanted only cloaths, the ſhips furniſhed them with the latter in exchange for the former, and both ſides were highly pleaſed with this traffick. But of late, ſince the diſcovery of the gold and diamonds on the oppoſite coaſt, they had been obliged to ſubmit to new laws, and a new form of government. They had at this time, inſtead of their former ragged, bare-footed Captain, a governor named Don *Joſe Sylva de Paz*, who had a garriſon of ſoldiers, lived ſplendidly, and had a better knowledge of the importance of money, than his more honeſt predeceſſors,

ceſſors, and therefore took ſeveral methods of procuring it, which they were entirely unacquainted with. One of theſe was placing centinels at all the avenues to prevent the people ſelling refreſhments to the ſhips, except at ſuch extravagant prices as they could not afford to give, pretending he was obliged to preſerve proviſions for above one hundred families, with which he daily expected to have the colony reinforced. But this was not the worſt part of his conduct; he was deeply engaged in a ſmuggling traffick, in exchanging gold for ſilver, by which the kings of *Spain* and *Portugal* were defrauded of their fifth; and in order to ingratiate himſelf with his *Spaniſh* correſpondents, had the treachery to diſpatch an expreſs to *Pizarro*, the commander of the *Spaniſh* ſquadron, fitted out to traverſe Mr. *Anſon*'s projects, and who then lay at *Buenos-Ayres*, in the river of *Plate*, with a particular account of every circumſtance he could ſuppoſe the enemy deſirous of being acquainted with.

While they were at this iſland they diſcovered a ſail to the offing, and the Commodore ſuſpecting that ſhe might be a *Spaniard*, gave orders for manning his eighteen oared boat, which he ſent to examine her, under the command of his ſecond Lieutenant, before ſhe arrived within the protection of the forts. But ſhe proving a *Portugueſe* brigantine from *Rio Grande*, the lieutenant behaved with the utmoſt civility, and even refuſed to accept a calf which the maſter would have forced upon him as a preſent. Notwithſtanding this the Gover-

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nor was greatly offended at Mr. *Anſon*'s ſending the boat, and repreſented it as a violation of the peace, ſubſiſting between the crowns of *Great Britain* and *Portugal*. This ridiculous bluſtering was at firſt imputed to no deeper cauſe than Don *Joſe*'s inſolence; but as he proceeded to charge the Lieutenant, with behaving rudely, opening letters, and attempting to take by violence the very calf he had refuſed to receive as a preſent, there was reaſon to ſuſpect, that he raiſed this groundleſs clamour only to prevent their viſiting the brigantine, when ſhe ſhould put to ſea again, and diſcover the ſecret of his ſmuggling correſpondence with the neighbouring governors *.

CHAP. II.

The Commodore proceeds from St. Catherine's *to Port* St. Julian's. *That Port and the Country to the ſouth of the River of* Plate *deſcribed. His paſſage from thence to Streights* le Maire. *The diſtreſſes of the Squadron in doubling* Cape Horn. *Its arrival at the Iſland of* Juan Fernandes.

THE ſquadron being refitted, and a ſupply of freſh proviſions taken in, it ſet ſail from *St. Catharine*'s, on the 18th of *Janu-*

* *The reader may ſee a deſcription of the adjacent continent of* Braſil *in* Vol. III. Chap. VII. VIII. *and* IX.

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ary 1741, in order to proceed to a desart and inhospitable coast, and a more boisterous climate than any they had yet experienced; and three days after they had a most violent storm, attended with so thick a fog, that it was impossible to see at the distance of two ships length, so that the ships could not distinguish one another; however, the next day at noon, when the fog dispersed, Mr. *Anson* discovered all the ships of the squadron except the *Pearl*, which did not join him till near a month afterwards. However, in this storm the *Tryal* sloop was a great way to leeward; for she had lost her main-mast, and for fear of bilging, had been obliged to cut away the raft, the Commodore therefore bore down with the squadron to her relief, and a great swell still continuing, the *Gloucester* was ordered to take her in tow, and again stand to the southward.

On the 18th of *February* they discovered a sail, when the *Severn* and *Gloucester* were ordered to give chace; but Mr. *Anson* perceiving it to be the *Pearl*, which had been separated from the squadron in the storm, a signal was made for the *Severn* to rejoin the squadron, and to leave the *Glouoester* alone in the pursuit; but to the surprize of the squadron it was observed, that on the *Gloucester*'s approach, the people on board the *Pearl* increased their sails, and stood from her. The *Gloucester* notwithstanding this came up with them, when she found their hammocks in their nettings, and every thing ready for an engagement. The *Pearl* having joined the Commodore

dore, Lieutenant *Salt* informed him, that on the 10th inſtant he had ſeen five *Spaniſh* men of war, which for ſome time he imagined to belong to the *Britiſh* ſquadron, and that he had ſuffered the commanding ſhip, which wore a red broad pendant, exactly reſembling the Commodore's, to come within gun-ſhot of him before he diſcovered his miſtake; but finding that it was not the *Centurion*, he crouded from them with all his ſail, and happily eſcaped, though the whole ſquadron continued the chace all that day.

On the 18th of *February* the ſquadron came to an anchor in the bay of *St. Julian* on the coaſt of *Patagonia*, when the *Tryal* was immediately put in repair; and as this port is a convenient rendezvous in caſe of ſeparation, for all cruiſers bound to the ſouthward, a deſcription of it, and of the coaſt of *Patagonia*, cannot be unacceptable to the curious.

The country ſtiled *Patagonia* extends from the *Spaniſh* ſettlements in *South-America*, to the ſtreights of *Magellan*. It is very remarkable, that, though the whole country north of the river *Plate* is ſtored with immenſe quantities of large timber, yet no trees of any kind are to be met with ſouth of that river, except a few fruit trees planted by the *Spaniards* near *Buenos-Ayres*: thus the whole eaſtern coaſt of *Patagonia*, extending 1200 miles in length, and as far back as any diſcoveries have been yet made, has no other wood than a few inſignificant ſhrubs.

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The land however appears to be composed of downs, of a dry gravelly soil, covered with tufts of long coarse grass, interspersed with barren spots, where nothing is to be seen but gravel. In many places this grass feeds immense herds of black cattle, a few of which were brought over by the *Spaniards*, after their first settling at *Buenos-Ayres*, and these have multiplied to such a surprising degree, that they have spread so far into the different parts of the country, that they are not considered as private property; many thousands of them being annually slaughtered by the hunters merely for their hides and tallow. These hunters are mounted on horseback, and armed with a kind of spear, which, instead of having a blade at the end, fixed in the same line with the wood, is fixed a-cross. With this instrument they pursue the beast, and the hunter who comes behind hamstrings him, after which the beast soon falls, without being able to rise again, when the hunters cruelly leave him and pursue others, who are served in the same manner. Sometimes indeed a second party attends the hunters to skin the cattle as they fall; but it is said that at other times, they chuse inhumanly to suffer the poor creatures to languish in torment till the next day, from an opinion that the anguish endured by the animal facilitates the separation of the skin from the carcase; a barbarous practice, which though the priests have loudly condemned, they have not been able entirely to put a stop to it. The flesh of the cattle killed in

this maner is left to putrify, or to be devoured by the birds and wild beasts, and particularly wild dogs, of which there are immense numbers; these are supposed to have been originally produced by *Spanish* dogs from *Buenos-Ayres*; but being allured by the plenty of carrion, left their masters, and ran wild amongst the cattle.

Besides the black cattle annually slaughtered for their hides and tallow, many of them are frequently taken alive, without wounding them, for the use of agriculture and other purposes. This is performed with almost incredible dexterity. The hunters, who are mounted on horseback, take a very strong thong of several fathoms in length, at one end of which is a running noose; they hold it in the right hand, and it being properly coiled up, and the opposite end fastened to the saddle, they ride at a herd of cattle, and when they come within a certain distance of the beast they intend to catch, throw the thong with such exactness, that they never fail to fix the noose about his horns. The beast generally runs, as soon as he finds himself entangled; but the horse having greater swiftness, attends him till a second hunter throws another noose about one of its hind legs, and then both horses instantly turn different ways, by which means the beast is presently overthrown, and while the horses still keep the thongs upon the stretch, the hunters alight, and secure him in such a manner, as easily to convey him where-ever they please. They also, in the same manner,

noose

nooſe horſes; and there are not wanting perſons of credit who aſſert, that by the ſame method they catch even tigers.

The horſes, which were originally from *Spain*, are not only prodigiouſly encreaſed, but have run wild even to a greater diſtance than the black cattle, and though many of theſe are fine ones, yet their numbers render them of ſuch little value, that the beſt of them are often ſold in the neighbouring ſettlements, where money alſo is plentiful, for a dollar a piece.

Throughout this whole country there are alſo conſiderable numbers of vicunnas, or *Peruvian* ſheep; but theſe being remarkably ſhy, and extremely ſwift, cannot be killed without difficulty. On this coaſt too there are vaſt numbers of ſeals, and a prodigious variety of ſea fowls; the moſt remarkable of theſe are the penguins, which in ſhape and ſize reſemble a gooſe; but inſtead of wings have ſhort ſtumps like fins, that are of no uſe to them except in the water. Their bills are narrow, and as they ſtand and walk in an erect poſture Sir *John Narborough* has whimſically compared them to little children ſtanding up with white aprons before them. A principal diſadvantage in this country is the ſcarcity of freſh water, which however has been ſometimes found in ſmall quantities; but the ponds and ſtreams are generally brackiſh.

On this part of the coaſt, which at port *St. Julian* is not above 300 miles over, there ſeems to be but few inhabitants; but in the neigh-

bourhood of *Buenos-Ayres*, where the continent is near four times as broad, and the climate much milder, they are ſufficiently numerous, and excel the more ſouthern *Indians* in activity and ſpirit. In their bravery they nearly reſemble the gallant *Indians* of *Chili*, who have frequently ſet the power of *Spain* at defiance, have often ravaged their country, and ſtill remain independent. They are generally excellent horſemen, and extremely expert in the uſe of all military weapons except fire-arms, which the *Spaniards* are very ſollicitous to conceal from them; and indeed the beſt way of ſubverting the *Spaniſh* power in *America*, ſeems to be that of giving due encouragement to theſe *Indians*, and to thoſe of *Chili*.

It has been obſerved by Sir *John Narborough*, that port *St. Julian* produces excellent ſalt; and that in *February*, the ſalt found there was ſufficient to fill 1000 ſhips; but on Mr. *Anſon*'s ſending an officer to the ſalt pond, to get a quantity of ſalt for the uſe of the ſquadron, he found that it was ſcarce and bad, which might probably be occaſioned by the wetneſs of the ſeaſon.

The *Tryal* being refitted, which was one of their principal employments at the bay of *St. Julian*, and the only occaſion of their ſtay, the Commodore held a council of the principal officers on board the *Centurion*, and informed them, that he was ordered to endeavour to ſecure ſome port in the *South-Seas*, where the ſhips of the ſquadron might be careened and refitted, and propoſed to attack *Baldivia*, the prin-

principal frontier of *Chili*; to which the council unanimouſly agreeing, new inſtructions were given to the captains of the ſquadron, importing, that in caſe of a ſeparation, they were to make the beſt of their way to the iſland of *Nueſtro Senoro del Socoro*, where they were to cruize only ten days; when, if they were not joined by the Commodore, they were to proceed and cruize fourteen days off the harbour of *Baldivia*; and if not joined by the reſt of the ſquadron, to direct their courſe to the iſland of *Juan Fernandes*. It was alſo ordered that no ſhip ſhould keep at a greater diſtance from the *Centurion* than two miles, without an unavoidable neceſſity.

Theſe regulations being eſtabliſhed, the ſquadron weighed anchor on *Friday* the 27th of *February* in the morning; but the *Glouceſter* not being able to purchaſe her anchor, was left a conſiderable way a-ſtern, and obliged to cut her cable, and leave her beſt bower behind. On the 4th of *March*, when they were in ſight of cape *Virgin Mary*, the afternoon being very bright and clear, moſt of the captains took that opportunity to pay a viſit to the Commodore; but while they were in company, they were all greatly alarmed by a ſudden flame burſting from the *Glouceſter*, ſucceeded by a cloud of ſmoke; but their apprehenſions were ſoon removed, by the information that the blaſt was occaſioned by a ſpark from the forge lighting on a quantity of gunpowder, and other combuſtibles, which an officer on board was preparing for uſe, in caſe it ſhould happen

that they ſhould engage the *Spaniſh* fleet; and that it had been extinguiſhed before the ſhip had received the leaſt damage.

The ſquadron found that in theſe high latitudes, fair weather was of a very ſhort duration, and that when it was remarkably fine it was a certain preſage of a ſucceeding ſtorm. The fine afternoon juſt mentioned ended in a moſt turbulent night, ſucceeded by a dreadful ſtorm the next morning, which continued all day; but at midnight the wind abated, and the ſucceeding morning they diſcovered the land called *Terra del Fuego*, which afforded a very uncomfortable proſpect, it being of a ſtupendous height, and every where covered with ſnow.

On the 7th of *March*, they began to open the ſtreights, and had a proſpect of *Statenland*, an iſland, which in the wildneſs and horror of its appearance, far ſurpaſſed *Terra del Fuego*. It ſeemed entirely compoſed of inacceſſible rocks, which without the leaſt mixture of earth, terminated in a great number of ragged points, that aroſe to an amazing height; all of them were covered with ſnow, and on every ſide ſurrounded with frightful precipices, while the hills which bear them are generally ſeparated from each other by clefts through the main ſubſtance of the rocks, almoſt to their very bottoms; nothing can be imagined more dreadful and gloomy; theſe ſtupendous chaſms appearing as if produced by frequent earthquakes. The ſquadron was hurried through theſe ſtreights by the rapidity of the tide in about

two

two hours, though they are between ſeven and eight leagues in length. As theſe are uſually reckoned the boundaries of the *Pacific* and *Atlantic* oceans, the men began to hope that their dangers were now almoſt at an end, and flattering themſelves that they had now nothing but an open ſea till they arrived at thoſe wealthy coaſts, where all their wiſhes were centered, they imagined that they were on the point of realizing the golden dreams on which they had feaſted ſo long in imagination. Theſe pleaſing ideas were greatly heightened by the brightneſs of the ſky, and ſerenity of the weather; for though the winter was advancing, yet the morning of that day was as mild and delightful as any they had ſeen ſince their departure from *England*; but they had ſcarcely reached the ſouthern extremity of the ſtreights *le Maire*, when all theſe pleaſing hopes were inſtantly loſt in the proſpect of immediate deſtruction; for before the ſternmoſt ſhips of the ſquadron were clear of the ſtreights, the ſky became ſuddenly obſcured, and the wind ſhifting to the ſouthward, blew in the moſt violent ſqualls, while the tide, which had hitherto favoured them, turned furiouſly and drove them to the eaſtward with prodigious rapidity, ſo that they were in the greateſt anxiety for the two ſternmoſt veſſels the *Wager* and the *Anna* Pink, fearing leſt they ſhould be daſhed to pieces on the ſhore of *Statenland*, which indeed they with the utmoſt difficulty eſcaped.

From this day, for about three months, they ſtruggled with ſuch dangers and diſtreſſes as

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are ſcarcely to be parallelled, and had a continual ſucceſſion of ſuch tempeſtuous weather, as ſurpriſed the oldeſt and moſt experienced mariners, who confeſſed, that what they had hitherto called ſtorms, were inconſiderable gales compared with the violence of theſe winds, which raiſed ſuch ſhort and ſuch mountainous waves that juſtly filled them with continual terror; for had but one of theſe waves broke over them, it would probably have ſent them to the bottom. The ſhips rolled inceſſantly, and the men were in continual danger of being daſhed to pieces againſt the decks and ſides of the ſhips; for though they took all poſſible care to ſecure themſelves from theſe ſhocks, by graſping ſome fixed body, yet many uſeful people were forced from their hold, and either killed or diſabled. Theſe tempeſts were rendered ſtill more miſchievous, from the manner of their approach; for if the men, after being frequently reduced to lie at the mercy of the waves under their bare poles, ſometimes ventured to make ſail, with their courſes double reefed, and the weather proving more tolerable, would encourage them to ſet their top-ſails, the wind would ſuddenly return with redoubled force, and in an inſtant tear the ſails from the yards; and to encreaſe the diſtreſs, theſe blaſts commonly brought with them a great quantity of ſnow and ſleet, which froze the ſails, and rendered both them and the cordage ſo brittle as to ſnap upon the ſlighteſt ſtrain, while at the ſame time it benumbed the limbs of the people, and even dis-

disabled many of them, by mortifying their fingers and toes. The *Centurion*, by labouring in this lofty sea, in which she frequently shipped great quantities of water, grew so loose in her upper-works, that she let in the water in every seam, and scarcely any of the officers ever lay in dry beds.

On the 23d of *March* a violent storm of wind, hail, and rain, sprung the main-yard of the *Centurion*, and the foot rope of the main-sail breaking, the main-sail itself split instantly to rags, and in spite of all their endeavours to save it, much the greater part of it was blown over-board. This obliged the Commodore to make a signal for the squadron to bring to, and the storm flatning to a calm, endeavours were instantly used to repair the damage. They again got under sail; but in 24 hours were attacked by another storm, in which the *Centurion* had her main-shrouds and mizen-shrouds broke. After this the weather for two or three days grew less tempestuous than usual; but there was so thick a fog that the *Centurion* was obliged to fire a gun almost every half hour to keep the squadron together.

On the 31st the people were alarmed by a gun fired from the *Gloucester*, and a signal made to speak with the Commodore, on which the *Centurion* bearing down to her, it was found that the main-yard was broke in the slings. This was considered as a great misfortune, since it would detain them the longer in that inhospitable climate; therefore, to shorten this de-

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lay as much as poſſible, the Commodore ordered ſeveral carpenters to be put on board the *Glouceſter* from the other ſhips, that the damage might be repaired with the utmoſt expedition. And the Captain of the *Tryal* at the ſame time complaining that his pumps were bad, and that the ſloop made ſo much water that he was ſcarcely able to keep her free, the Commodore ordered him a pump ready fitted from his own ſhip. The next day the ſky looked dark and gloomy, and the wind beginning to freſhen and blow in ſqualls indicated the approach of a ſevere tempeſt; and accordingly, on the 3d of *April*, there aroſe a ſtorm, which from its violence and continuation, exceeded all they had hitherto encountered. The *Centurion* ſoon received a furious ſhock from a ſea, which breaking over the larboard quarter, ſtove in her quarter gallery, and ruſhed into the ſhip like a deluge; at the ſame time the maſts and rigging were much damaged. This dreadful ſtorm laſted three days. On the 8th ſeveral guns were fired, as ſignals of diſtreſs, when the Commodore making a ſignal for the ſquadron to bring to, it was ſoon perceived that the *Wager* had loſt her mizen-maſt, and main-top-ſail-yard, and the next day the *Anna* Pink had her fore-ſtay, and the gammon of her bow-ſprit broke, and was in danger of having all her maſts come by the board.

They now began to flatter themſelves with hopes that their fatigues were drawing to a period, and that they ſhould ſoon arrive at a more hoſpi-

hospitable climate; for towards the latter end of *March*, they were, according to their reckoning, near ten degrees to the west of the westermost point of *Terra del Fuego*, and ever since had been standing to the northward, with as much expedition as the turbulence of the weather would permit; but these delusions only served to render their disappointment more terrible; for on the 14th of *April* the weather, which till then had been hazy, clearing up, the *Anna* Pink, between one and two in the morning, made a signal for seeing land right a-head, which being but two miles distant, they were all in the greatest danger of running a-shore; and had the wind blown with violence from its usual quarter, or if the moon had not suddenly shone out, every ship must have perished. This land, to their great amazement, appeared to be *Cape Noir*, though they imagined they were ten degrees more westerly. For the currents had driven them so strongly to the eastward, that when they imagined they ran down nineteen degrees west, they had not really advanced half that distance. By this discovery they found themselves obliged to steer once more to the southward, and instead of approaching a warmer climate, were again to combat those terrible blasts that had so often filled them with consternation. To increase their apprehensions, they were dreadfully enfeebled by the men falling sick and dying apace. Three days before, they lost sight of the *Severn* and *Pearl*; and though the ships were spread out in search of them, never saw them

them more; whence it was concluded that they had run upon this land in the night, and had perished. Filled with these desponding thoughts, they stood away to the south-west, till the 22d of *April*, when they were in upwards of 60 degrees of south latitude, and six to the west of *Cape Noir*, in which run they had as favourable weather as could be expected: but on the 24th in the evening the wind increased to a prodigious storm, and the weather being extremely thick, the four other ships of the squadron separated, nor did they meet again till they reached *Juan Fernandes*, and the *Centurion*, during this tempest, had her sails rent to pieces, and much of her rigging broke.

The scurvy had now for a considerable time made its appearance, and had spread to such an astonishing degree, that this dreadful disease carried off 43 men from on board the *Centurion* only in the month of *April*, and double that number in *May*, after which it was still increasing. The many forms wherein this destructive disease attacks the human body, are as astonishing as they are unaccountable. Its symptoms are inconstant and innumerable, and scarcely did the complaints of any two persons exactly resemble each other; yet there are some symptoms more common than the rest, such as large discoloured spots spread over the whole body, swelled legs, putrid gums, extraordinary lassitude, surprising dejection of spirits, shiverings and tremblings, with a disposition to be seized with unaccountable terrors on the slightest accidents, and

and whatever damped the hopes of the men, added new vigour to the diſtemper, killed thoſe who were in the laſt ſtages of it, and confined thoſe to their hammocks who were before capable of ſome kind of duty. It often produced the jaundice, pleuriſies, rheumatic pains and putrid fevers; but what is moſt extraordinary, it forced open the ſcars of wounds which had been many years healed, and diſſolved the callous of a broken bone, which had been compleatly formed for a long time, ſo that the fracture ſeemed as if it had never been conſolidated. Many of the people; though confined to their hammocks, were chearful, talked in a loud, ſtrong tone of voice, and eat and drank heartily; but on being only moved in their hammocks from one part of the ſhip to another, immediately expired. Others truſting to their ſeeming ſtrength, reſolved to get out of their hammocks, but died before they could reach the deck, and it was common to ſee the men drop down dead, upon a violent effort of duty.

On the 8th of May the *Centurion* arrived off the iſland of *Socoro*, which was the firſt rendezvous appointed for the ſquadron; ſhe waited there ſeveral days to no purpoſe, in which ſhe was often in danger of being driven upon the rocks; for there were ſtill ſuch prodigious ſqualls that with the greateſt difficulty they kept clear of the ſhore. In one of theſe ſqualls, which was attended with violent claps of thunder, a ſudden flaſh darted along the decks with an exploſion like that of ſeveral piſtols, and as it

paſſed wounded ſeveral of the officers and men.

There would be no end in minutely deſcribing the diſaſters and terrors, the people encountered on this coaſt, all which encreaſed till 22d of *May*, when the fury of all the ſtorms they had hitherto endured ſeemed to be united, and to have conſpired their deſtruction. Almoſt all the ſails of the *Centurion* were ſplit, and great part of her ſtanding rigging broke, and a mountainous ſea taking her upon her ſtarboard quarter, gave her ſo prodigious a ſhock, that ſeveral of the ſhrouds broke with the jerk, and the ballaſt and ſtores were ſo ſtrangely ſhifted, that the ſhip afterwards lay on her larboard ſide. By this tremendous blow, the people were thrown into the utmoſt conſternation, from the dread of immediately foundering; but the wind abating, they endeavoured all they could to mend their ſails and repair the damage, during which they were driven aſhore on the iſland of *Chiloe*; but the wind happily ſhifting to the ſouthward, they ſteered off land with only the main-ſail, the maſter, and the reverend Mr. *Walter*, the Commodor's chaplain, undertaking the management of the helm, while the reſt were employed in ſecuring the maſts and bending the ſails.

This was the laſt ſtormy weather they met with in that climate; for after a fornight's cruize, without ſeeing any of the other ſhips, the *Centurion* that day got clear of the land, and the weather being pretty moderate, bore away

away for *Juan Fernandes*, which was thought to afford the only chance the men had left to avoid perishing at sea; for though the harbour of *Baldivia* was the next appointed rendezvous, it was no longer thought on, the sole hope now left being that of saving the ship, and the few remaining lives on board. Time being now extremely precious, as four, five, and six of the *Centurion*'s men died in a day, they stood directly for that island; but not finding it in the position the charts had taught them to expect it in, they began to apprehend their being too far to the westward; and tho' the Commodore himself was firmly persuaded that he saw it on the morning of the 28th, his officers, supposing it to be only a cloud, a supposition which the haziness of the weather made probable, it was, on a consultation, resolved to stand to the eastward in the parallel of the island; but on the 30th of *May*, having a view of the continent of *Chili*, they had the mortification to find they had needlesly altered their course, when they were, in all probability, just upon the point of making the island. Those who remained alive were entirely dispirited by this new disappointment, and this general dejection prevailing, added to the virulence of the disease, and the mortality increased to a most dreadful degree.

To these calamities were added the painful circumstance, that, on their standing to the westward in quest of the island, they were so delayed by calms and contrary winds, that it

coſt them nine days to regain the weſting which they had run down in two, when they ſtood to the eaſtward. In this deſponding condition, with great ſcarcity of water, and the crew ſo diſeaſed that there was not above ten foremaſt men in a watch capable of doing duty, and even ſome of theſe lame, they ſaw the long-wiſhed for iſland of *Juan Fernandes*, on the 9th of *June*, loſing, by this laſt miſtake, between 70 and 80 men, who would doubtleſs have been ſaved had they made the iſland when the Commodore diſcovered it on the 28th of *May*; but notwithſtanding this, it will hereafter appear, that this miſtake was providentially the means of the preſervation of all who ſurvived this ſeeming misfortune.

CHAP. III.

A Deſcription of the Iſland of Juan Fernandes, *with the Meaſures purſued by Mr.* Anſon *in that Iſland. The arrival of the* Glouceſter *and* Anna *Pink; and a Narrative of the diſtreſſes the former had endured, and what happened to the latter while at anchor near the Iſland of* Inchin.

THough the *Centurion* again diſcovered the iſland of *Juan Fernandes* on the ninth of *June* at day-break, yet her people were all that day and the next night in getting in with the land, and in the middle watch the debility of the people was ſo great, that the Lieu-

Lieutenant could only muſter two quarter maſters and ſix foremaſt men, ſo that had it not been for the aſſiſtance of the officers, ſervants, and boys, it might have been impoſſible to have reached the iſland after they had got ſight of it: to this wretched condition was the *Centurion*, a ſixty gun ſhip, reduced, which three months before had paſſed the ſtreights *le Maire* with between 4 and 500 men, almoſt all of whom were in health and full vigour*.

On the tenth in the afternoon they got under the lee of the iſland: they ranged along it at about two miles diſtance, and being now near the ſhore, obſerved that the country, which at a diſtance ſeemed to be extremely mountainous, ragged, and irregular, aſſumed a very different appearance. The broken craggy precipices were in moſt places covered with woods, and between them appeared the fineſt vallies, cloathed with the moſt beautiful verdure, and watered with many ſtreams and caſcades. Such a ſcene, ſo beautifully diverſified, muſt have been delightful to an indifferent ſpectator; but in the diſtreſſed condition of the *Centurion*'s men, who were in a manner languiſhing for the land,

* *To avoid the dreadful diſtreſſes endured by the ſquadron in this long and dangerous paſſage, Mr.* Walter *adviſes, all ſhips who ſail to the* South Sea *not to paſs ſtreights* le Maire *but to run to the ſouth as far as the latitude of ſixty-one or ſixty-two degrees, and never to attempt this paſſage, but in the height of ſummer, that is in the months of* December *and* January.

and its vegetable productions, a ſituation of mind which always attends the ſcurvy, it is not to be conceived with what tranſport and eagerneſs they viewed the ſhore, and how impatiently they longed for the greens, the freſh water, and the other refreſhments then in ſight; and Mr. *Walter* obſerves, "That thoſe only who "have endured a long ſeries of thirſt, and can "readily recal the deſire and agitation which "the ideas alone of ſprings and brooks have "at that time raiſed in them, can judge of the "emotion with which they eyed a large caſ-"cade of the moſt tranſparent water, which "poured itſelf from a rock near one hundred "feet high into the ſea at a ſmall diſtance from "the ſhip." Thoſe who had been long confined to their hammocks now exerted all the ſtrength they had left in crawling up to the deck to feaſt their eyes with the reviving proſpect. They thus coaſted along the ſhore contemplating the inchanting landſkip, which improved as they advanced; but the night cloſed upon them, before they had diſcovered a proper bay. At four the next morning the third Lieutenant was diſpatched with the cutter to diſcover the bay they ſought for, and at noon he returned with the boat laden with ſeals and graſs; for the boat's crew did not ſtay to ſearch for better vegetables, as they well knew that even graſs would prove a dainty, and indeed it was ſoon eagerly devoured. As for the ſeals they were at this inſtant rendered leſs valuable by the people on board having taken, during the

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boat's abſence, a great quantity of excellent fiſh.

The cutter had diſcovered the bay where they intended to anchor, and the weather proving favourable, the next morning they endeavoured to weigh, which with great difficulty they performed, by obliging even the ſick who were ſcarce able to ſtand, to lend their aſſiſtance, and at length, by making uſe of their utmoſt efforts, they got into the bay in fifty-ſix fathom water.

The *Centurion* had not long got her new birth, when a ſail was diſcovered, which on its nearer approach, was found to be the *Tryal* ſloop. The Commodore immediately ſent ſome of his hands on board her, by whoſe aſſiſtance ſhe was brought to an anchor in the bay, when Capt. *Saunders* the Commander waiting on Mr. *Anſon*, informed him that he had buried 34 of his men out of his ſmall compliment, and thoſe that remained were ſo afflicted with the ſcurvy, that only himſelf, his Lieutenant, and three of his men were able to ſtand by the ſails, and that on the 9th of *May* he had fallen in with the *Anna* pink, with whom he had kept company four days, when they were parted in a hard gale of wind.

The Commodore's principal attention was now employed in ſending materials on ſhore to raiſe tents for the reception of the ſick, who died faſt on board, the diſtemper being doubtleſs conſiderably augmented by the ſtench and filthineſs in which they lay, for few could be ſpared to look after them, which rendered the ſhip extremely

tremely loathſome between decks. But notwithſtanding the eager deſire of all to be on ſhore, they had not hands enough to prepare the tents before the 16th, but on that and the two following days, they were all landed, amounting to 167 perſons, beſides 12 or 14 who died in the boats, on being expoſed to the freſh air. The greateſt part of the ſick were obliged to be carried out of the ſhip in their hammocks, and afterwards to be conveyed in the ſame manner from the water ſide over a ſtony beach to their tents. This being a work of conſiderable fatigue to the few who were healthy, the Commodore had the humanity, not only to aſſiſt with his own labour; but obliged all his officers without diſtinction to give a helping hand.

It was near twenty days after their landing, before the mortality was tolerably ceaſed, and for the firſt 10 or 12 days they ſeldom buried leſs than ſix each day, and many who ſurvived recovered by ſlow degrees. However, thoſe who on their firſt getting aſhore were well enough to creep out of their tents and crawl about, ſoon recovered their health and ſtrength.

Mr. *Anſon* was particularly induſtrious in directing the roads and coaſts to be ſurveyed, and ſuch obſervations to be made as might be of uſe to any *Britiſh* veſſels, that ſhould hereafter be ſent into thoſe ſeas. The iſland of *Juan Fernandes* *, is ſaid to have received its name from

* *This Iſland, according to Mr.* Anſon'*s accurate obſervations, lies in* 33° 40′ *ſouth latitude,*

A View of the Commodores Tent, in the Island of Juan Fernandes.

from a *Spaniard*, who formerly procured a grant of it; but after residing there some time abandoned it. Its greatest length is between 12 and 15 miles, and its greatest breadth less than six. The northern part of the island is composed of high craggy rocks, many of which are inaccessible, though they are generally covered with trees; but the soil is so loose and shallow, that the largest trees are easily overturned, which occasioned the death of one of the sailors, who being upon the hills in search of goats, caught hold of a tree upon a declivity to assist him in his ascent, but it giving way he immediately rolled down, and though in his fall he fastened on another tree of considerable size, yet that too unfortunately giving way, he fell among the rocks, and was dashed to pieces.

The trees which compose the woods on this side of the island are mostly aromatics of different sorts, none of which are large enough to afford any considerable timber, except the myrtle, whose top is circular, and appears as regular and uniform as if clipt by art, and on its bark grows an excrescence resembling moss, which has the taste and smell of garlick, instead of which it was used by the people of the *Centurion*; but even this tree will not cut to a greater length than 40 feet. The pimento and cabbage tree also grow here, but in no great plenty. There were besides a great variety

tude, and is 110 *leagues distant from the continent of* Chili.

riety of different plants, amongſt which were almoſt all the vegetables, that are eſteemed peculiarly adapted to the cure of the ſcurvy; for they found great quantities of excellent wild ſorrel, purſlain, water creſſes, turnips, and *Sicilian* radiſhes. Mr. *Anſon*, for the better accommodation of his countrymen, who ſhould afterward touch there, ſowed lettices, carrots, and other garden plants, and ſet in the woods a great variety of plumb, apricot and peach-ſtones, which have ſince thriven to a remarkable degree.

It is obſervable, that the hills in ſome part of this iſland reſemble the mountains of *Chili* where gold is found, and in ſome places there are ſeveral hills of a peculiar kind of red earth more beautiful than vermillion, which upon examination might perhaps prove a very uſeful and valuable commodity.

The woods which cover moſt of the ſteepeſt hills, are ſo free from buſhes and underwood, as to afford an eaſy paſſage through every part of them; and in the northern part of the iſland the irregularities of the hills and precipices traced out a variety of the moſt romantic valleys, moſt of which have a ſtream of the cleareſt water, that runs through them, after its having fallen in caſcades from rock to rock, and in ſome particular ſpots in theſe valleys the loftineſs of the overhanging rocks, the frequent falls of the neighbouring ſtreams, with the ſhade and fragrance of the contiguous woods, preſented ſcenes of the utmoſt elegance and dignity. And here the ſimple productions of un-

unaſſiſted nature, may be ſaid to excel all the fictitious deſcriptions of the warmeſt imagination.

To conclude this deſcription of the face of this beautiful iſland, we ſhall give a view of the ſpot where the Commodore pitched his tent, and reſided during his ſtay. The place he choſe was a ſmall lawn that had an eaſy aſcent, and lay at the diſtance of about half a mile from the ſea. His tent fronted a large avenue, cut through the woods, which ſloping with a gentle deſcent to the water, afforded a proſpect of the bay and the ſhips at anchor. The lawn was ſcreened behind by a wood of tall myrtles, ſweeping round it in a ſemicircular form; the ſlope on which the wood ſtood, roſe with a ſteeper aſcent than the lawn; while the hills and precipices within land towered up conſiderably above the tops of the trees, and heightened the grandeur of the view; beſides two ſtreams of chryſtal water ran on the right and left of the tent within the diſtance of 100 yards, and completed the ſymmetry of the whole, by their being ſhaded with the trees which on either ſide ſkirted the lawn.

The prodigious number of goats former writers mention to have been found upon this iſland, have been greatly diminiſhed by the dogs ſet aſhore by the *Spaniards* to deprive the buccaneers and privateers of the advantages they reaped from their numbers, which ſupplied them with plenty of proviſions; but it is remarkable, that the *Centurion*'s men found ſeveral of theſe of a moſt venerable aſ-

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pect, which, from having their ears slit, they naturally suppose had belonged to Mr. *Selkirk* a *Scotchman*, who had been left upon this island, about 32 years before their arrival, and who often catching more goats than he wanted, sometimes marked their ears and let them go*. The large dogs, already mentioned, have destroyed all the goats in the accessible parts of the country, while the few that remain live among the craggs and precipices, are divided into separate herds, inhabit distinct fastnesses, and never mingle with each other. Mr. *Walter* and others were witnesses of a singular dispute betwixt a herd of these animals, and a number of dogs. They were going in a boat into the eastern bay, when perceiving some dogs running, they were willing to discover their game, upon which, lying upon their oars to watch them, they saw them take to a hill, upon the ridge of which they observed a herd of goats that seemed drawn up for their reception, The master of the herd had posted himself fronting the enemy, in a very narrow pass, skirted on each side with precipices, while the rest of the goats were all behind him, where the ground was more open. As this spot was inaccessible by any other pass, the dogs ran up the hill with great alacrity; but on their coming within 20 yards of him, became sensible of their danger; for the same gentleman observes, that he would infallibly have driven them down the precipices. The dogs therefore quietly laid themselves

* *See* Woodes Rogers's *Voyage*, Vol. VI.

A Sea Lion and Lioness.

Vol. VII. p. 37

ſelves down and gave over the chace. Theſe dogs are extremely numerous, and being able to catch but few of the goats, they principally live upon young ſeals.

As the ſailors were ſeldom able to kill above one goat in a day, and grew tired of fiſh, they at laſt condeſcended to eat ſeals, which, by degrees, they became fond of, and gave their fleſh the name of lamb.

There is another amphibious animal to be met with in the iſland, which, as well as the ſeals, are very numerous; that is the ſea-lion, which reſembles the ſeal, though it is much larger, and was eat by the whole ſhip's company under the denomination of beef. When arrived at their full growth they are from twelve to twenty feet in length, and from eight to fifteen in circumference, and are ſo extremely fat, that on cutting through the ſkin, which is about an inch in thickneſs at leaſt, a foot of fat is found before either the lean or the bones can be ſeen, ſo that the fat of the largeſt of them frequently yielded a butt of oil. Their ſkins are covered with ſhort hair of a light dun colour; but their tails and feet, which at ſea ſerve them for fins, are almoſt black. Their feet are divided at the end like fingers, and are joined together by a web. Theſe animals in ſome degree reſemble an over-grown ſeal; but the males have a large trunk or ſnout that hangs down five or ſix inches below the end of the upper jaw, which the females have not, and this renders them eaſily diſtinguiſhed, beſides the males are of a much larger ſize.

The largeſt ſea lion was the maſter of the flock, and from the number of females he kept to himſelf, and his driving off the males, was ſtiled by the ſeamen the baſhaw. Theſe amphibious animals continue at ſea all the ſummer, and come on ſhore in the beginning of winter, where they reſide during that whole ſeaſon, feeding on the graſs and verdure that grows near the banks of the freſh water ſtreams; and when they are not employed in feeding, ſleep in herds in the moſt miery places. In this interval they engender and bring forth their young, and have generally two at a birth, of about the ſize of a full grown ſeal, which they ſuckle with their milk. As they are of a very lethargic diſpoſition, and are not eaſily awakened, it is obſerved that each herd places ſome of their males at a diſtance in the manner of ſentinels, who always give the alarm, whenever an attempt is made either to moleſt or approach them, by making a loud grunting noiſe like a hog, or ſnorting like a horſe in full vigour. The males had often furious battles with each other, chiefly about the females, and the baſhaw, juſt mentioned, who was commonly ſurrounded by his females, to which no other male dared to approach, had acquired that diſtinguiſhed pre-eminence by many bloody conteſts, as was evident from the numerous ſcars viſible in all parts of his body. The ſailors killed many of them for food, particularly for their tongues and hearts, which were much admired, and thought preferable to thoſe

of

of bullocks. There was no difficulty in killing them, ſince they were incapable of either reſiſting or eſcaping, their motion being more unwieldy than can be conceived, their blubber, all the time they are moving, is agitated in large waves under the ſkin; and it is remarkable that they are ſo full of blood, that on their being deeply wounded in a dozen places, there will inſtantly guſh out as many fountains of blood, ſpouting to a conſiderable diſtance. To try what quantity of blood they contained, the men ſhot one firſt, and then cutting its throat, and meaſuring the blood that came from it, found that beſides what remained in the veſſels, which was no doubt conſiderable, they got at leaſt two hogſheads. But though theſe unwieldy creatures are ſo eaſily killed, they are capable of doing much miſchief; for a ſailor being careleſsly employed in ſkinning a young ſea-lion, the female from whom he had taken it, approached him unperceived, and getting his head in her mouth ſcored his ſkull in notches with her teeth, by which he was ſo deſperately wounded, that though all poſſible care was taken to preſerve his life, he died a few days after.

The above are the principal animals that were found in this iſland. They ſaw but few birds, which were chiefly hawks, owls, humming-birds; and black-birds; and but few of the other animals mentioned by former writers, and therefore ſuppoſed them deſtroyed

by the dogs; however, the rats are still very numerous and troublesome.

The most delicious repasts they found in this island were afforded by the fish, with which the bay was plentifully stored. There they found cod of a prodigious size, cavaliers, gropers, large breams, maids, congers of a peculiar kind; and what was most esteemed, a black fish that in shape resembled a carp, and which some called a chimney-sweeper; these fish were so plentiful that a boat with two or three hooks and lines, sometimes returned loaded with fish in two or three hours time. They, however, were frequently interrupted by great numbers of dog-fish and large sharks, which attended the boats, and prevented their sport. There were here also the sea-crayfish, which commonly weighed eight or nine pounds; these were of a most excellent taste, and were in prodigious numbers near the water's edge.

After their being some time in the island, and seeing no other ships appear, the Commodore began to be under apprehensions, that they were lost, and to despair of ever seeing them again; but on the 21st of *June*, some of the men, from an eminence on shore, discerned a ship to the leeward that had no sail abroad except her courses and main-top-sail; but soon after the weather growing thick and hazy, she disappeared for some days, when it was feared she had lost sight of the island, and that her crew were so weakened by sickness as to be unable

to

to ply to windward. However, on the 26th a ſail was again ſeen, which was thought to be the ſame ſhip, and ſoon after approached ſo near that they could diſtinguiſh her to be the *Glouceſter*. The Commodore not doubting her being in diſtreſs, ordered his boat to her aſſiſtance, laden with freſh water, fiſh, and vegetables. The Commodore's apprehenſions were but too well founded; never was a crew in a more diſtreſſed ſituation; already had they thrown over-board two thirds of their complement, and ſcarce any were left alive capable of doing duty, except the officers and their ſervants; their allowance for a conſiderable time had been only a pint of freſh water to each man for 24 hours, and yet they had ſo little left, that had it not been for this ſupply, they muſt ſoon have died of thirſt. Though the ſhip was within three miles of the bay, the winds and currents being contrary, ſhe found it impoſſible to reach it. She however the next day continued in the offing; but having no chance of coming to an anchor, unleſs the wind and current ſhifted, the Commodore ſent the *Tryal*'s boat, with a farther ſupply of water and other refreſhments. Mr. *Mitchel*, the Captain of the *Glouceſter*, was under the neceſſity of detaining both this boat and that ſent the preceeding day; for he had no longer ſtrength ſufficient to navigate the ſhip without the help of their crews. In this dreadful tantalizing ſituation, the *Glouceſter* continued for near a fortnight, without being able to fetch the road, though frequently attempting it, and

ſometimes ſeeming as if ſhe would gain it. But on the 9th of *July* ſhe was obſerved ſtretching away at a conſiderable diſtance to the eaſtward, which it was ſuppoſed was with a deſign to get to the ſouthward of the iſland; but as they ſoon loſt ſight of her, and ſhe did not appear for near a week, they were deeply concerned, being ſenſible that ſhe muſt be again in dreadful diſtreſs for want of water. However, after watching for her with great impatience, ſhe was again diſcovered on the 16th, endeavouring to come round the eaſtern point of the iſland; but the wind ſtill blowing directly from the bay hindered her from getting nearer than within four leagues of the land, when Captain *Mitchel* making ſignals of diſtreſs, the long-boat was ſent to him with plenty of water and other refreſhments; and that boat being not to be ſpared, the Commodore gave the Cockſwain poſitive orders to return immediately; but the next day the weather being ſtormy, and the boat not appearing, it was apprehended that ſhe was loſt, which would have been an irretrievable misfortune to all on ſhore; but from this anxiety they were the third day after relieved by the joyful ſight of the long-boat, on which the cutter was immediately ſent to her aſſiſtance, who in a few hours towed her into the harbour. It was now found that the crew of the long-boat had taken in ſix of the *Glouceſter*'s ſick men, to bring them on ſhore; but two of them had died in the boat. The Commodore was informed that the *Glouceſter* had ſcarce-

ſcarcely a man in health on board, except thoſe he had ſent her; that numbers of the ſick died daily, and that had it not been for the refreſhments he had ſent, both the healthy and the diſeaſed muſt have periſhed. Theſe calamities were the more terrifying, as they ſeemed without remedy, for this diſtreſſed veſſel had already ſpent a month in endeavouring to fetch the bay, and was now no farther advanced than at the firſt moment ſhe made the iſland, and the people on board had loſt all their hopes of ever ſucceeding in it, from the many experiments they had made of its difficulty. But alas! the ſame day her ſituation became more deſperate than ever; for after ſhe had received the laſt ſupply of refreſhments, thoſe on ſhore once more loſt ſight of her, and all in general deſpaired of her ever coming to an anchor. Thus were the unhappy people in this veſſel bandied about within a few leagues of the deſired harbour, while the neighbourhood of the place, and the view of every thing that could put an end to the calamities they laboured under, aggravated their diſtreſs; but they were at laſt delivered from this moſt dreadful ſituation, when it was leaſt expected by thoſe on ſhore, who, after loſing ſight of her ſeveral days, were agreeably ſurprized on the 23d of *July* in the morning to ſee her with a flowing ſail open the north-weſt point of the bay, when the Commodore diſpatching all his boats to her aſſiſtance, ſhe within an hour's time after her being

ing first perceived, was safe at anchor with the *Centurion*.

On their coming to an anchor the Commodore first ordered her to be assisted in mooring, and then had her sick sent on shore. She had buried above three fourths of her crew, and the sick were reduced by their dying to less than fourscore, the greatest part of whom it was feared would be lost; but whether those that were far advanced were all dead, or that the greens, the fresh provisions and water sent on board, had prepared those that remained for a speedy recovery, very few of them died on shore, and the sick in general were restored to health in a much shorter time than those of the *Centurion* had been on their first landing in the island.

We shall now return to the transactions on shore; during the *Gloucester*'s many ineffectual attempts to reach the island. Their first employment, after landing the sick from the *Centurion*, and cleansing the ship, was filling the water, which appeared essentially necessary to their security, as they had reason to apprehend that such accidents might intervene as would oblige them to leave the island at a very short warning; for on their first landing they discovered some appearances on shore, that gave them room to believe that some *Spanish* cruisers had but just left the island at their arrival, and might probably return again, either for a recruit of water, or in search of the squadron; for the Commodore could not doubt but

but their ſole buſineſs at ſea was to intercept him, and knew that in their opinion this iſland was the moſt probable place to find him in. The ſailors had ſeen on ſhore ſeveral pieces of the earthen jars uſed in thoſe ſeas for water and other liquids, and theſe ſeemed freſh broken. There were many heaps of aſhes, and near them fiſh-bones, pieces of fiſh, and even whole fiſhes ſcattered about, which as they were but juſt beginning to decay, was a proof that they had not been long out of the water, and that ſhips had been there but a ſhort time before their arrival. As the *Spaniſh* merchant-men are inſtructed to avoid the iſland, it was concluded that thoſe who had touched here were ſhips of force, and being ignorant what ſtrength might have been fitted out at *Callao*, they could not fail of being under ſome concern for their own ſafety, while they were in ſo wretched and enfeebled a condition.

While theſe works were carrying on, the Commodore ordered a large copper oven to be ſet upon ſhore, near the tents of the ſick, in which bread was baked every day for the ſhip's company, it being thought that new bread, added to greens and freſh fiſh, would greatly contribute to the ſpeedy recovery of the ſick.

In the beginning of *July*, ſome of the men being pretty well recovered, the ſtrongeſt of them were ordered to cut down trees and ſplit them into billets, while others, who were not

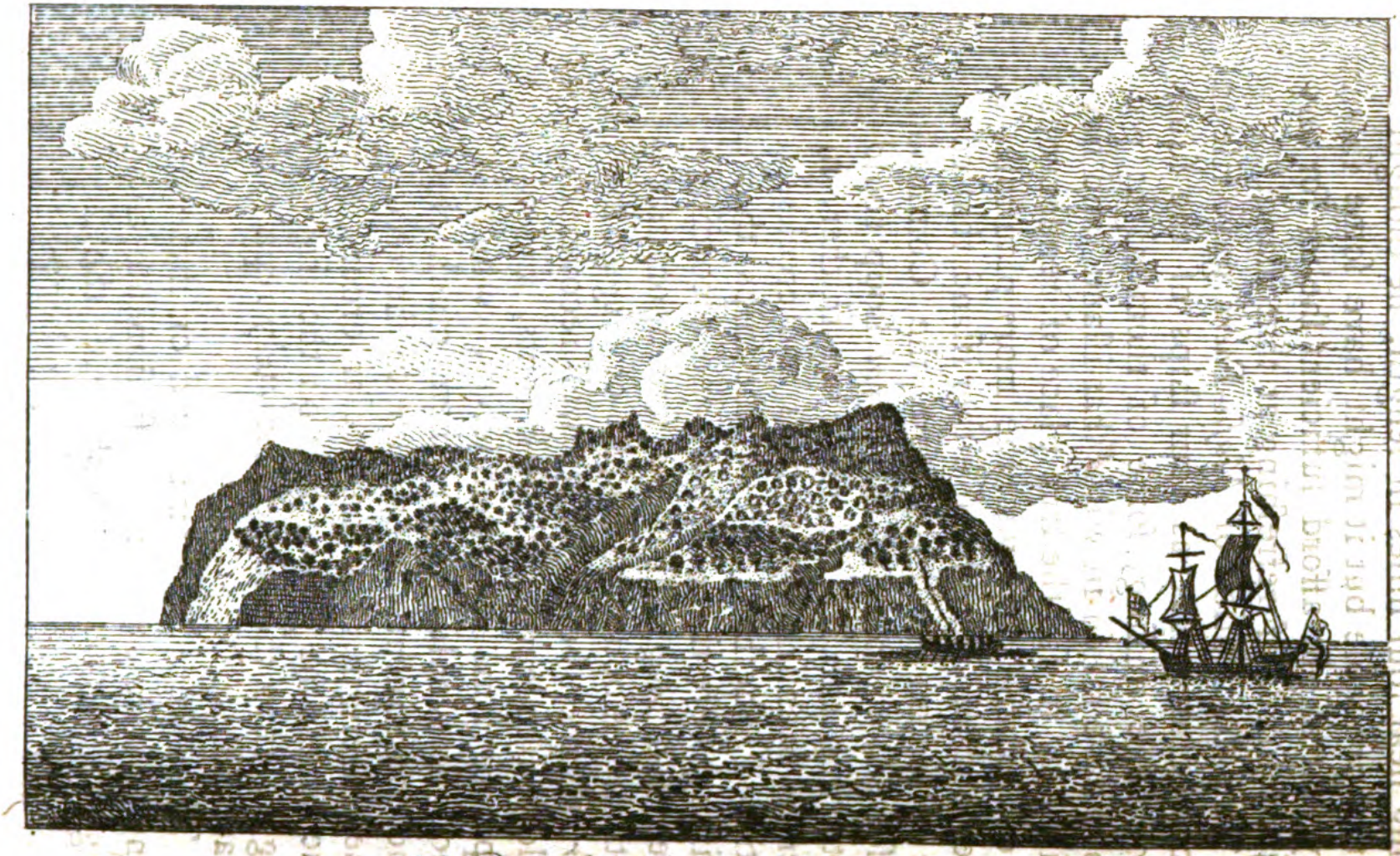
ſtrong

ſtrong enough for this employment, undertook to carry the billets, by one at a time to the water ſide. This ſome of them performed with the help of crutches, while others ſupported themſelves with a ſingle ſtick.

The Commodore then ordered the forge on ſhore, and employed the ſmiths, who were but juſt able to work, in mending the chain-plates, and all the other broken and decayed iron work. They alſo began to repair the rigging; but as they had not junk enough to make ſpun-yarn, they waited for the arrival of the *Glouceſter*, who had a great quantity of junk on board. But that the ſhips might be refitted as ſoon as poſſible, a large tent was erected on the beach for the ſail-makers, in which they were employed in repairing the old ſails and making new ones. Theſe, with their attendance upon the ſick, were their principal employments till the *Glouceſter*'s arrival.

Captain *Mitchel* on his landing waited on the Commodore, and told him, that in his laſt abſence, he had been forced by the winds as far as *Maſa Fuero*, a ſmall iſland, about 22 leagues to the weſt of *Juan Fernandes*, and obſerving ſeveral ſtreams he had endeavoured to ſend his boat aſhore for water, but the wind blew ſo ſtrong on the ſhore, and occaſioned ſuch a ſurf, that it was impoſſible to land; but that his people, however, returned with a boat loaded with fiſh. Though the iſland had been repreſented by former navigators as a barren rock, Captain *Mitchel* aſſured the Commodore, that it was almoſt every

where



A View of Masa-Fuero Island.

where covered with trees and verdure; and it being near four miles in length, he thought it not improbable but it might have some small bay that might afford sufficient shelter for any ship desirous of refreshing at that island.

This description of *Masa-Fuero* gave rise to a conjecture, that as four ships of the squadron were missing, some of them might possibly have fallen in with that island, and have mistaken it for the true place of rendezvous; a conjecture that was the more plausible, as they had no draught of either island that could be relied on; and therefore the Commodore resolved, as soon as the *Tryal* sloop could be fitted for the sea, to send her thither, in order to examine all her bays and creeks, to be satisfied whether any of the ships that were missing were there or not, and accordingly on the 5th of *August* she was sent upon that expedition. About the middle of *August* the *Centurion*'s men being pretty well recovered, were allowed to leave their sick tents, and to erect separate huts for themselves, which it was thought would render them much cleanlier, and consequently contribute to the recovery of their strength, but particular orders were at the same time given, that on the ship's firing a gun, they should immediately repair to the water side.

They were now employed on shore in cutting wood, procuring refreshments and making oil from the blubber of the sea-lions, which was used for burning in lamps, or when mixed with pitch, to pay the ship's sides: it

was alſo worked up with wood-aſhes to ſupply the uſe of tallow, and there being two *Newfoundland* fiſhermen in the *Centurion*, the Commodore ordered them to lay in a large quantity of ſalted cod for ſea ſtore.

It has been already mentioned, that a copper oven was ſet up to bake bread for the ſick; but the greateſt part of the flour was on board the victualler the *Anna* Pink, and as that veſſel had fallen in with the *Tryal* ſloop on the 9th of *May*, her arrival at the iſland was daily expected; but hearing no news of her, ſhe was given over for loſt, and the Commodore ordered all the ſhips to a ſhort allowance of bread; but on the 16th of *Auguſt* a ſail was obſerved to the north, upon which the *Centurion* immediately fired a gun to call off the people from ſhore, who readily obeyed the ſummons, by repairing to the beach. Being now prepared for the reception of this ſhip, whether friend or enemy, they had ſeveral opinions about her, ſome imagining her to be the *Tryal* ſloop on her return from her cruize, but it was ſoon obſerved that ſhe had three maſts, when ſome conjectured her to be the *Severn*, others the *Pearl*, and ſeveral thought ſhe did not belong to the ſquadron; but in the afternoon ſhe was diſcovered to be the victualler, the *Anna* Pink, and had the good fortune to come to an anchor in the bay at five in the afternoon. Her arrival filled the people with extraordinary joy, and each ſhip's company was immediately reſtored to their full allowance of bread.

Every

Every body on ſhore were ſurprized at ſeeing that the crew of the *Anna* pink work'd that veſſel with little appearance of debility or diſtreſs; but on her coming to anchor, they were inform'd that ſhe had been in harbour ſince the middle of *May*, which was near a month before the *Centurion* arrived at *Juan Fernandes*; ſo that the ſufferings of her men fell greatly ſhort of thoſe endured by the reſt of the ſquadron. This veſſel, on the 16th of *May*, fell in with the land in 45° 15′ ſouth latitude, at the diſtance of four leagues. On the firſt ſight of which, the Captain ſtood to the ſouthward, but the fore-top-ſail ſplitting, and the wind driving the veſſel towards the ſhore, the Captain was at laſt either unable to clear the land, or as others ſaid, reſolved to keep the ſea no longer, and therefore ſteered for the coaſt, in order to diſcover ſome ſhelter among the many iſlands then in ſight; and about four hours after dropped anchor off the iſland of *Inchin*, but neither being near enough to the ſhore, nor having a ſufficient number of hands to veer away the cable briſkly, they ſtill continued driving for two days, till they came within a mile of the land, and expected every moment to be forced on ſhore, at a place where the coaſt was ſo very high and ſteep, that they had not the leaſt proſpect of ſaving either the ſhip or cargo, and as their boats were leaky, and there was no appearance of a landing place, the whole crew, which conſiſted of ſixteen men and boys, gave themſelves over for loſt, imagining, that if by any extraordinary accident, any of them

ſhould get on ſhore, they would probably be maſſacred by the ſavages. Under theſe terrifying apprehenſions they drove nearer and nearer to the rocks which formed the ſhore; but when the crew expected every moment the *Pink* would ſtrike, they obſerved a ſmall opening in the land, and inſtantly cutting away their two anchors, ſteered for it, and found it to be a ſmall channel betwixt an iſland and the continent, that led them into a moſt excellent harbour, which ſecured them againſt all weathers. The horrors of ſhipwreck, and immediate death, inſtantly vaniſhed, and gave place to the joyous ideas of ſecurity, repoſe, and refreſhment.

In this harbour, thus providentially diſcovered, the *Pink* came to an anchor, in 25 fathom water, with only a hawſe, and a ſmall anchor of 300 weight. Here her people, many of whom were ill of the ſcurvy, were happily ſoon reſtored to perfect health, by the freſh proviſions, and the excellent water with which the adjacent ſhore abounded. The principal refreſhments they met with were greens, as nettle-tops and cellery, which they devoured with greedineſs; great plenty of geeſe, ſhags, and penguins, with cockles and muſſels of an extraordinary ſize, and delicious flavour. Though it was the depth of winter, the climate was not remarkably rigorous, nor were the trees, or the face of the country deſtitute of verdure. Notwithſtanding the tales of the *Spaniſh* hiſtorians, in relation to the barbarity of the inhabitants on that coaſt, their numbers

bers were not ſufficient to give the leaſt jealouſy to a ſhip of ordinary force, and they appeared to be neither of a miſchievous nor mercileſs diſpoſition. The excurſions of the crew, were however generally confined to a tract of land that ſurrounded the port, where they were never out of view of the ſhip; indeed the country in the neighbourhood, was ſo covered with wood, and traverſed with mountains, that it appeared impracticable to penetrate it.

All the time they continued there, they ſaw but one *Indian* family, which entered the harbour in a periagua, about a month after their arrival. This family conſiſted of an *Indian* of near 40 years of age, his wife, and two children, one three years old, and the other ſtill at the breaſt. They ſeemed to have all their property with them, which was a dog and cat, a cradle, a fiſhing-net, a hatchet, a knife, ſome bark of trees intended for the covering a hut, a reel and ſome worſted, a flint and ſteel, and a few roots of a yellow colour, and very diſagreeable taſte, which ſerved them for bread. As ſoon as the maſter of the *Pink* perceived them, he ſent his yawl, who brought them on board, and being apprehenſive of their diſcovering him, if they were ſuffered to go away, he took, as he imagined, proper precautions for ſecuring them, but without any mixture of violence or ill uſage, for in the day-time, they were allowed to go where they pleaſed about the ſhip, though at night they were locked up in the fore-caſtle. As they had the ſame proviſions as the reſt of the crew,

and were often indulged with brandy, of which they ſeemed extremely fond, they did not at firſt ſeem diſſatisfied with their ſituation; for the maſter, when he went a ſhooting, took the *Indian* on ſhore, who always ſeemed greatly delighted when the maſter killed his game, and indeed all the crew treated them with great humanity. It was however ſoon perceived, that though the woman continued chearful and eaſy, the man grew penſive and reſtleſs at his confinement. He appeared to be a perſon of good natural parts, and though unable to converſe with the people of the *Pink*, otherwiſe than by ſigns, was very curious and inquiſitive, and ſhewed great dexterity in making himſelf underſtood. But the moſt remarkable proof of his ſagacity was the manner of his eſcape; for after being eight days on board the *Pink*, the ſcuttle of the forecaſtle, where he and his family were every night locked up, happened to be unnailed; and the following night being very dark and ſtormy, he conveyed his wife and children through the unnailed ſcuttle, and then over the ſhip's ſide into the yawl, and to prevent being purſued, cut away the long-boat, and his own periagua, which were towing aſtern, and immediately rowed a-ſhore. All this he conducted with ſuch ſecrecy and diligence, that though there was a watch on the quarter-deck with loaded arms, he was not diſcovered till the noiſe of his oars in the water, after he had put off from the ſhip, gave them notice of his eſcape, and then it was too late, either

either to prevent or purſue him. The *Indian*, beſides the recovery of his liberty, was in ſome degree revenged on thoſe who had confined him, both by the perplexity they were involved in about getting their boats, which were all a-drift, and by the terror into which he threw them at his departure; for on the firſt alarm of the watch, who cried, "The *Indians*," the whole ſhip's crew were in the utmoſt confuſion, and imagined they were boarded by a fleet of armed periaguas. The ſagacity and reſolution ſhewn by the *Indian* upon this occaſion were much admired by his late maſters, who did ſo much juſtice to his merit, as to own that it was a moſt gallant enterprize; and as it was ſuppoſed by ſome that he was concealed in the woods in the neighbourhood of the port, where it was feared that he might ſuffer for want of proviſions, they eaſily prevailed upon the maſter, to leave a quantity of ſuch food as they thought he moſt liked, in a particular place, where they imagined he would moſt probably find it. A piece of humanity which ſeemed to have anſwered the purpoſe, for on going to the place ſome time after, they found their proviſion gone, and in a manner that made them conclude he had taken it.

The crew of the *Pink* being now refreſhed, and recovered of the ſcurvy, after having taken in a ſufficient quantity of wood and water, put to ſea a few days after the *Indian*'s eſcape, and had an agreeable paſſage to the rendezvous at *Juan Fernandes*.

CHAP. IV.

A ſhort Narrative of the loſs of the Wager, *the mutiny of her Crew, and the diſtreſſes it produced. The concluſion of the proceedings at* Juan Fernandes; *and the Hiſtory of the* Spaniſh *Squadron under the command of Don* Joſeph Pizarro.

AS the *Anna* Pink had joined the Commodore at *Juan Fernandes*, there were now only three ſhips miſſing, the *Severn*, the *Pearl*, and the *Wager* ſtore-ſhip. The two firſt of which parted company off *Cape Noir*, and put back to the *Braſils*; therefore the only ſhip miſſing that went into the *South-Seas* was the *Wager*. This ſtore-ſhip had on board ſome cohorn mortars, a few field-pieces mounted for land ſervice, pioneer's tools for the operations on ſhore, with ſeveral kinds of artillery ſtores; and as the enterprize againſt *Baldivia* had been reſolved on for the firſt undertaking of the ſquadron, Captain *Cheap*, the Commander of the *Wager*, was very deſirous that theſe materials might be ready before *Baldivia*, that if the ſquadron ſhould rendezvous there, he might not be charged with any delay or diſappointment. This was his determined reſolution when he made land on the 14th of *May*, in about 47 degrees of ſouth latitude, when exerting himſelf to get clear, he had the misfortune

tune to fall down the after-ladder, and dislocated his shoulder. This unhappy accident rendered him incapable of acting, when the crew not taking proper care, the *Wager* struck on a sunken rock, and having soon after bilged, grounded between two small islands. The confusion produced by this accident was inconceivably heightened by the rebellious disposition of the crew, who imagining that the loss of the ship destroyed the captain's superiority, and put them all on an equal footing, fell to pillaging the ship, arming themselves with the first weapons that came to hand, and threatning to murder all who should oppose them. This frenzy was heightened by the liquors they had found on board, with which some of them got so extremely drunk, that falling down between decks, they were drowned in the water which flowed into the wreck. The Captain, after having used his utmost endeavours to get the whole crew on shore, was, at last, obliged to leave the mutineers, and to follow his officers, with such as submitted to his authority; after which he sent back the boats to persuade those who had staid behind, to have some regard to their own preservation; but this was without success. However, the next day proving very stormy, and the ship being in danger of parting, they were seized with the fear of perishing, and wanted to get on land; but the boats not appearing to fetch them off so soon as they expected, they were filled with so unaccount-

able

able a frenzy as to point a four pounder against the hut where they knew the Captain dwelt, and fired two shot which did but just pass over it, and so mutinous was their disposition when they landed, that notwithstanding their being on a desolate coast, where scarcely any other provisions could be obtained, there was no possibility of making them husband such as were saved out of the wreck; for there was nothing but frauds, concealments, and thefts, which animated each man against his fellow, and produced infinite feuds and contests.

The Captain differing in opinion from almost all his people on the measures to be pursued in the present exigency, was another source of heart-burnings and disputes: for Mr. *Cheap* was resolved, if possible, to fit up the boats in the best manner he could, and to proceed with them to the northward, since having above one hundred men in health, and some fire-arms and ammunition, which had been taken from the wreck, he did not doubt his being able to master any *Spanish* vessel he should find in those seas, and hoping to meet with one in the neighbourhood of *Chiloe* or *Baldivia*, he resolved when he had taken her, to proceed to the rendezvous at *Juan Fernandes*; and he further insisted, that should they even light on no prize, yet the boats alone would easily carry them thither. But this scheme was not at all relished by the generality of his people, who could not think of prosecuting an enterprize that had hitherto proved so disastrous. It was therefore the

the common resolution to lengthen the long-boat, and with that and the other boats to steer to the southward, and passing the streights of *Magellan* to endeavour to gain the coast of *Brasil*, where they did not doubt their being well received, and procuring a passage to *Great Britain*. Though this project must at first sight appear infinitely more hazardous and tedious than that proposed by the Captain, yet as it had the air of returning home, that circumstance alone rendered them inattentive to all its inconveniences, and made them adhere to it with unconquerable obstinacy; so that the Captain himself, notwithstanding he could never change his opinion, was obliged to give way to the torrent, and to seem to acquiesce in this resolution, while he secretly endeavoured to oppose it, and in particular he contrived that the long-boat should be lengthened to such a size as might serve to carry them to *Juan Fernandes*, and yet appear incapable of so long a voyage as that to the coast of *Brasil*. The Captain had at first much imbittered the people against him, by a steady opposition to this favourite scheme, and greatly increased their resentment against him by the following unhappy accident. One *Cousins* a Midship-man who had appeared the foremost in all the refractory proceedings of the crew, had quarrelled with most of the officers, who had adhered to the Captain's authority, and had even treated the Captain himself with abuse and insolence, and at length his turbulence and brutality growing daily more intollerable, it was not doubted, but that

that ſome violent meaſures were in agitation, in which he was to be the ringleader, and therefore the Captain and thoſe about him conſtantly kept on their guard. One day the Purſer, by the Captain's order, ſtopping the allowance of a fellow who would not work, *Couſins* intermeddled in the affair, and groſsly inſulted the Purſer, who was delivering out the proviſions juſt by the Captain's tent, and was himſelf ſufficiently violent. The Purſer being enraged at his ſcurrility, and perhaps piqued by former quarrels, cried out, "A mutiny, adding the dog "has piſtols," and then raſhly fired a piſtol at *Couſins*. The Captain on this outcry and the report of the piſtol inſtantly ruſhed out of his tent, and having no doubt but that it was fired by *Couſins*, immediately ſhot him in the head, and though he did not kill him on the ſpot, the wound proving mortal, he died about fourteen days after.

Though this accident exaſperated the people, yet it ſtruck them with awe, and rendered them more ſubmiſſive to the Captain's authority; but when they had nearly completed the long-boat, and were preparing to put to ſea, his privately traverſing their project of proceeding through the ſtreights of *Magellan*, and the fear of his at length engaging a party ſufficent to ruin their favourite ſcheme, made them reſolve to make uſe of the death of *Couſins* as a reaſon for depriving him of his command, under the pretence of carrying him to *England* to be tried for murder. They accordingly confined him under a guard, but when they

they were just ready to put to sea, they left him, and the few who chose to follow his fortune, with no other vessel but the yawl, to which the barge was afterwards added, by the people on board her being prevailed on to return back.

When the *Wager* was wrecked, there were near 130 persons on board, about 30 of whom died during their stay, and 10 went off in the long-boat and cutter to the southward, so that after their departure, there remained with the Captain only 19 persons; which were however as many as the barge and yawl could well carry.

It was five months after this shipwreck that the long-boat weighed and stood to the southward, giving the Captain, who with Lieutenant *Hamilton* of the land-forces, and the surgeon, were then on the beach, three cheers at their departure. They had soon reason to repent their having engaged in this rash and desperate enterprise; for the vessel was scarcely able to contain the number that first put to sea, and their stock of provisions being only what they had saved out of the ship, was extremely slender, the cutter, the only boat they had with them, soon broke away from the stern, and was staved to pieces, so that when their provisions and water failed, they had frequently no means of reaching the shore to obtain a fresh supply. The miseries they endured were as great as can be imagined, they left about 20 of their people on shore at the different places they touched at; but a greater number perished by hunger during the course of this tedious voyage, so that only 30 out of the 80 who engaged

engaged in the enterprise, were so happy as to accomplish it, and these arrived at *Rio Grande*, on the coast of *Brasil*, on the 29th of *January* following.

The Captain, and those who were left with him, on their being thus abandoned, proposed to pass in the barge and yawl to the northward, but unhappily the weather was so bad, that it was two months after the departure of the long-boat before he was able to put to sea. The place where the *Wager* was cast away was not, as it was at first imagined, a part of the continent, but an island at some distance from the main, which afforded no other kind of provisions but shell-fish, and a few herbs, and as the largest part of what they had taken from the ship was carried off in the long-boat, the Captain and his people were frequently in want of food, for their resolving to preserve what little sea provisions remained for their voyage.

It is to be lamented, that the *Wager's* people had no idea that the *Anna* pink, was for a considerable time, while they were on shore, so near them, for she was at most not above 30 leagues distant, and came into their neighbourhood about the very time in which the *Wager* was lost; and being a fine roomy ship, might easily have taken them all on board, and have carried them to *Juan Fernandes*. Indeed Mr. *Walter* suspects that she was much nearer than what is here estimated; for several persons belonging to the *Wager*, at different times, heard the report of a cannon, which he imagines could be

be no other than the evening gun fired by the *Anna* Pink, especially as that heard at *Wager*'s island was about the same time of the day.

The Captain and his people embarked on board the barge and yawl, in order to proceed to the northward; but they had scarcely been an hour at sea, when the winds began to blow so hard, and the sea ran so high, that they were obliged to throw overboard most of the provisions they had saved from the wreck, to avoid immediate destruction. However, they persisted in their design, and put on shore as often as they could in search of subsistence. But unhappily, about a fortnight after, the yawl sunk as she lay at anchor, with one of the men on board, who was drowned, when the barge, not having room sufficient for the whole company, they were obliged to leave four mariners behind them on a desolate shore. Notwithstanding these disasters, they still continued to push to the northward, though delayed by the winds and their search after provisions, till having made three unsuccessful attempts to double a head-land, which they supposed to be cape *Tres Montes*; they thought the difficulties of the passage insurmountable, and unanimously resolved to return to *Wager*'s island, where they arrived about the middle of *February*, almost perished with fatigue and hunger. However, on their return to the island, they unexpectedly met with a seasonable relief, by finding several pieces of beef, which had been washed out of the wreck, and still swam upon the water; and soon after two canoes of *Indians*

dians landed; on board one of them was a native of *Chiloe*, who ſpoke a little *Spaniſh*, and was induced by Mr. *Elliot*, the ſurgeon, who underſtood that language, to carry Captain *Cheap*, and his people to *Chiloe*, in conſideration of which he was to have the barge, and all that belonged to her.

Accordingly on the 6th of *March*, eleven perſons, to which the company were now reduced, embarked on board the barge, but after a few days voyage, ſix of them, together with an *Indian*, went off in this little veſſel, while the Captain was on ſhore with Mr. *Hamilton*, Lieutenant of the marines, Mr. *Elliot*, the ſurgeon, and the Hon. Mr. *Byron*, and Mr. *Campbell*, Midſhipmen. Theſe were thus left on a deſolate coaſt, without proviſions, or the means of procuring any, for their arms, ammunition, and every little convenience, of which they were maſters, were carried off in the barge.

They were now in dreadful diſtreſs, and in their own opinion, in a more miſerable ſituation, than any they had yet known; but when they had revolved in their minds, the various circumſtances of this unexpected calamity, and were perſuaded that they had not the leaſt proſpect of relief, they perceived a canoe at a diſtance, which proved to be that of the *Indian*, who had undertaken to carry them to *Chiloe*, he and his family being on board. This honeſt *Indian* had a little before left Captain *Cheap* and his people, to go a fiſhing, and had committed them to the care of the other *Indian*, whom the ſailors had carried to ſea in the

the barge. When he first missed the barge and his companion, he was with difficulty persuaded that the other *Indian* was not murdered, but being at last satisfied with the account that was given him, he undertook to carry them to the *Spanish* settlements, and to supply them with provisions all the way, for which purpose, he got together many of his neighbours in other canoes, with whom the Captain embarked, with his four companions, in the middle of *March*, and at last arrived in the beginning of *June* at the island of *Chiloe*; but Mr. *Elliot* died in the passage, and the rest were in such an ill state of health from their distresses and fatigues, that they were with difficulty recovered by the *Spaniards*, who treated them with great humanity. After some stay at *Chiloe*, they were sent to *Valparaiso*, and thence to *St. Jago*, where having continued above a year, Captain *Cheap*, and Lieutenant *Hamilton* were, upon the news of a cartel being settled with *Spain*, permitted to return to *Europe* on board a *French* ship; but Mr. *Campbell*, who had changed his religion, while at *St. Jago*, chose to go to *Buen s Ayres* with *Pizarro*, and his officers, with whom he afterwards went to *Spain*, and from thence returned to *England*.

To return from this digression. The *Tryal* sloop that had been sent to the island of *Masa-Fuero*, returned to *Juan Fernandes*, about a week after the arrival of the *Anna* pink, having sailed round the island, without seeing any of the ships that were missing. This island, which the *Spaniards* stile the lesser *Juan Fernandes*, is a

much larger and better ſpot than has been generally repreſented, former writers having deſcribed it as a ſmall barren rock deſtitute of wood and water, and entirely inacceſſible; but it was found covered with trees, and with ſeveral fine falls of water pouring down its ſides into the ſea. It had alſo on the north ſide a place where a ſhip might come to anchor, but it would have been expoſed to all the winds, except the ſouth. It abounds with ſea-lions and ſeals, and particularly with goats, who not being uſed to be diſturbed, were unapprehenſive of danger, till they had been frequently fired at; and as the *Spaniards* have not thought the iſland conſiderable enough to be frequented by their enemies, they have not deſtroyed the proviſions upon it by ſetting dogs on the ſhore.

Upon unloading the *Anna* pink, which took up the latter part of the month of *Auguſt*, the Commodore had the mortification to find that great part of the proviſions were ſpoiled by the ſea water, and that veſſel being ſurveyed by the carpenters, was judged unfit for ſervice; therefore, upon a petition from Mr. *Gerard* her Maſter, to Mr. *Anſon*, in behalf of her owners, he purchaſed her with all her furniture for 300 *l.* and her crew, together with the Maſter, were ſent on board the *Glouceſter*. When all the remaining crews, now to be diſtributed among the three ſhips, amounted to no more than 335 men and boys, which was far from being ſufficient for manning the *Centurion* alone.

As

As the ſeaſon for navigating theſe ſeas, drew near, they exerted themſelves in getting the ſhips ready. On the 8th of *September* about 11 in the morning, they diſcovered a ſail, which approached towards the iſland, and gave the Commodore hopes that ſhe was one of his ſquadron; but upon her ſteering afterwards to the eaſtward, it was concluded that ſhe muſt be a *Spaniard*, when the *Centurion* being in the greateſt forwardneſs made after her, as faſt as poſſible; but the night coming on, they loſt ſight of her, and the next morning, though it was extremely clear, had the mortification to find, that ſhe could not be diſcovered from the maſt head. However, they reſolved not to give over the ſearch, but having continued cruizing all that day and the next, they reſolved to return to *Juan Fernandes*. But, on the 12th, about three in the morning, a briſk gale ſpringing up at ſouth-weſt, obliged them to lie upon a north-weſt tack, which brought them, at break of day within ſight of a ſail, at about five leagues diſtance, but not the ſame they had ſeen before. The crew of the *Centurion* immediately crouded all their ſails. She at firſt bore down upon them, ſhewing *Spaniſh* colours, and made a ſignal as to her conſort, but obſerving that her ſignal was not anſwered, inſtantly ſtood to the ſouthward. As ſhe appeared to be a large ſhip, that had miſtaken the *Centurion* for her conſort, ſhe was ſuppoſed to be a man of war of *Pizarro*'s ſquadron, which induced the Commodore to order all the officer's cabins to be

knocked down and thrown overboard, with several casks of water, and provisions that stood between the guns, but upon a nearer approach she appeared to be a merchant-man without a single tire of guns, and surrendered at the fire of only four shot. Mr. *Saumerez* the Commodore's first Lieutenant, was ordered to take possession of the prize, and to send the officers and passengers, and afterwards all the other prisoners on board the *Centurion*. This ship was called *Nuestra Senora del Monte Carmelo*, and her cargo consisted chiefly of sugar, great quantities of cloth, some cotton and tobacco; but what was more valuable than all the rest, was some trunks of wrought plate, and 23 serons of dollars, each weighing upwards of 200 pounds averdupois; she was 450 ton burden, and was bound to the port of *Valparaiso*, in the kingdom of *Chili*.

From the information of the prisoners on board, and the letters and papers which fell into the Commodore's hands, on the taking of this ship, they learned with certainty the force and destination of Admiral *Pizarro's* squadron, which cruized off the *Madeiras* at their arrival there, and afterwards chaced the *Pearl* in her passage to *St. Julian*, with the fate of that squadron, the particulars of which were very remarkable, and are as follows:

The squadron under the command of Don *Joseph Pizarro* was composed of the *Asia* of 66 guns, and 700 men, which was the Admiral's ship, the *Guipuscoa* of 74 guns and 700 men, the *Hermione* of 54 guns and 500 men, the

the *Esperanza* of 50 guns and 350 men, the *St. Estevan* of 40 guns and 350 men, and the *Patache* of 20 guns. Besides their full compliment of sailors and marines they had on board an old *Spanish* regiment of foot to reinforce the garrisons in the *South-Seas*. This fleet sailed from *Spain* with only four months provisions on board, having cruized for some days to the leeward of the *Madeiras*, steered for the *River of Plate*, where they arrived in *January*, and cast anchor in the bay of *Maldonado*, at the mouth of that river. *Pizarro* immediately sent to *Buenos-Ayres* for a supply of provisions; but receiving intelligence from the *Portuguese* Governor of *St. Catherine's* of Mr. *Anson*'s arrival at that island on the 21st of *December* preceding, and of his preparing to put to sea again, *Pizarro* resolved to get round *Cape Horn*; he weighed anchor with the whole fleet except the *Patache*, and got under sail without staying for his provisions, which however arrived at *Maldonado* a day or two after his departure. To encourage the men, many advantages were offered them to enable them to support the difficulties and fatigues of that hazardous undertaking. But notwithstanding this precipitate departure, the *English* fleet put to sea four days before him, and in this run the *Pearl* being separated from the rest, fell in with *Pizarro*'s fleet, and narrowly escaped being taken.

At the latter end of *February*, *Pizarro* with his squadron had run the length of *Cape Horn*, and stood to the westward, in order to double it;

it; but in the night of the laſt day of that month, old ſtile, the *Guipuſcoa*, the *Hermione*, and the *Eſperanza*, were ſeparated from the Admiral; ſix days after the *Guipuſcoa* was ſeparated from the other two, and on the 7th a furious ſtorm drove the whole ſquadron to the eaſtward. The calamities they now ſuffered are almoſt incredible, for beſides their fatigues, and the diſtreſſes owing to the leakineſs of their ſhips, the famine was ſo great that a ſingle rat on board the *Aſia* ſold for four dollars, and a ſailor who died on board, had his death concealed for ſome days by his brother who lay in the ſame hammock with the corps, only to receive the dead man's allowance of proviſions: While a conſpiracy was ſet on foot by the marines, to murder all the officers, and the whole crew, from no other motive, than the deſire of relieving their hunger by appropriating the ſhip's proviſions to themſelves: But the bloody deſign was prevented, when juſt upon the point of execution, by means of their confeſſors, and three of the ringleaders were put to death. But though the conſpiracy was ſurpreſſed, their calamities grew more and more deſtructive, ſo that by fatigue, ſickneſs and hunger, the *Aſia* arrived at *Monte Vedis* in the river *Plate*, with only half her crew. The *St. Eſtevan* had alſo loſt half her hands when ſhe anchored in the bay of *Barragon*, and the *Eſperanza*, a 50 gun ſhip, who brought 450 hands from *Spain*, had only 58 alive, and the whole regiment of foot periſhed except 60 men. In ſhort, the *Hermione* was

was ſuppoſed to founder at ſea, for ſhe was never heard of more; and the *Guipuſcoa* was run aſhore and ſunk on the coaſt of *Braſil*. This laſt ſhip had on the 4th of *April* loſt 250 men by hunger and fatigue, and though the veſſel was extremely ſhattered, and let in great quantities of water, thoſe who were capable of working at the pumps, at which every officer without exception took his turn, were allowed only an ounce and a half of biſcuit a day, and thoſe who were too ſick to perform this neceſſary labour, had no more than an ounce of wheat, ſo that the men frequently fell down dead at the pumps. The ſhip having loſt her maſts, the but end of her planks being ſtarted, her bolts drawn, her ſeams all open, and only kept together by ſix turns of cable rope, was drove like a wreck till the 24th of *April*, when they made the coaſt of *Braſil*, and caſt anchor 10 leagues to the ſouthward of the iſland of *St. Catherine's*. The Captain being deſirous of proceeding to that iſland in order to ſave the hull of the ſhip with the ſtores on board. But the crew being enraged at the hardſhips they had ſuffered, and the numbers they had loſt, there being at that time no leſs than 30 dead bodies lying on the deck, they all unanimouſly cried *on ſhore*, *on ſhore*, and obliged the Captain to run the ſhip in directly for the land, where the fifth day after ſhe ſunk with all her ſtores on board, but the remainder of the crew to the number of 400, who had ſurvived their hunger and fatigue, got ſafe on ſhore.

Pizarro

Pizarro being in great want of all kinds of naval ſtores to fit up the three diſabled ſhips, the poor remains of his ſquadron, and not being able to procure a ſupply from any of the neighbouring ſettlements, diſpatched an advice-boat with a letter of credit to purchaſe what was wanting from the *Portugueſe* at *Rio Janeiro*, and ſent an expreſs acroſs the continent to *St. Jago* in *Chili*, to be thence forwarded to the Viceroy of *Peru*, informing him of the diſaſters his ſquadron had ſuffered, and deſiring a remittance of 200,000 dollars from the royal cheſt at *Lima*, to put him in a condition to attempt the paſſage to the *South Sea* a ſecond time, and it is very remarkable that the *Indian* who undertook to carry this expreſs in the depth of winter, when the *Cordelleras* are eſteemed impaſſable, was only 13 days on his journey from *Buenos Ayres* to *St. Jago* in *Chili*, though theſe places are 300 *Spaniſh* leagues diſtant, near 40 of which are among the precipices and ſnows of the *Cordelleras*. The Viceroy however, would only remit him 100,000, and the advice-boat, ſent to *Rio Janeiro*, though it brought back pitch, tar, and cordage, could procure him neither maſts nor yards. To add to *Pizarro's* misfortune, a carpenter whom he had entruſted with a large ſum of money, and ſent to cut maſts in the north part of *Paraguay*, married in the country and refuſed to return.

Notwithſtanding theſe diſappointments, *Pizarro* found means to refit the *Aſia*, and the *St. Eſtevan*, and with theſe two ſhips was preparing to put to ſea the *October* following, in order

order to attempt the passage round *Cape Horn* a second time. But the *St. Estevan* in sailing down the river *Plate* ran on a shole, beat off her rudder, and received such damage, that she was condemned and broke up, and the Admiral who had a few months before so fine a squadron, proceeded to sea in the *Asia* alone. But when he was off *Cape Horn*, he had again the mortification of being obliged to return by his ship's losing her masts.

As the *Asia* had greatly suffered by this second expedition, the *Esperanza* was ordered to be refitted, and the command of that ship was given to *Mindinuetta*, who had been Captain of the *Guipuscoa* at the time of her being lost. In *November* 1742, he sailed from the river *Plate*, and arrived safe on the coast of *Chili*, where he was met by *Pizarro*, who passed over land from *Buenos Ayres*, but on his arrival there, *Midinuetta* refused to deliver the ship up to him, insisting that as he entered the *South Seas* alone, and under no superior, it was not in *Pizarro*'s power to resume the authority he had once resigned, but the President of *Chili* declaring for *Pizarro*, *Mindinuetta*, after an obstinate struggle, was obliged to submit.

It must here be observed, that *Pizarro* in the express he dispatched to the Viceroy of *Peru* to obtain the 200,000 dollars, had intimated it was possible, that at least a part of the *English* squadron might get into the *South Seas*, but that as he was certain from his own experience that it must be in a very weak and defenceless condition, he advised his excel-

lency

lency to ſend what ſhips of war he could get together to the ſouthward, where they would probably intercept the *Engliſh* ſhips ſingly, before they could reach any port to obtain refreſhment, in which caſe, he did not doubt, but his ſhips of war would obtain an eaſy conqueſt. This advice was readily approved by the Viceroy of *Peru*, who having already fitted out four ſhips of force from *Callao*, one of 50 guns, two of 40 guns, and one of 24 guns, which were intended to join *Pizarro* at his arrival on the coaſt of *Chili*, now ſtationed three of them off the port of *Conception*, and one of them at the iſland of *Juan Fernandes*, where they continued cruiſing for Mr. *Anſon*'s ſquadron, till the 6th of *June*, when not ſeeing any thing of them, and thinking it impoſſible for them to keep the ſea ſo long, they quitted their cruize, and returned to *Callao*; a very remarkable circumſtance, whence it appears that what the Commodore and the whole crew of the *Centurion*, conſidered as the moſt dreadful misfortune, and which actually coſt the lives of a great number of men, was the means of their preſervation; for had the *Engliſh* made the iſland when Mr. *Anſon* was perſuaded that he ſaw it on the 28th of *May*, and when they were in reality very near it, they would doubtleſs have fallen into the hands of the enemy, for in the diſtreſſed condition they were then in, it would have been impoſſible for them to have made any conſiderable effort in their own defence; and both the *Tryal*, the *Gloucester* and *Anna* pink, who ſeparately reached the iſland

might

might have ſhared the ſame fate, and the Admiral with all the ſurviving men, have been carried priſoners to *Callao*. At this intelligence the people on board the *Centurion* were no longer at a loſs, as to the broken jars, aſhes, and fiſh bones, which they had obſerved at their firſt landing at *Juan Fernandes*, ſince theſe were doubtleſs left by the cruiſer ſtationed off that port.

But to return to *Pizarro*, who had not yet compleated the ſeries of his misfortunes. In 1745, * he and *Mindinuetta* returned back by land from *Chili* to *Buenos Ayres*, when they found the *Aſia* at *Monte Vedis*, which they had left there near three years before, and reſolved, if poſſible, to return with her to *Europe*. They refitted her in the beſt manner they were able, and all their remaining ſailors to be met with in the neighbourhood of *Buenos Ayres*, not amounting to 100 men, they ſupplied the defect, by preſſing many of the inhabitants of that city, putting on board all the *Engliſh* priſoners then in their cuſtody, together with a number of *Portugueſe* ſmugglers, which had been taken at different times, and ſome *Indians* of the country, among whom was *Orellana* an *Indian*

* *The relation of the inſurrection of* Orellana *and his followers was taken from the mouth of an* Engliſh *gentleman then on board* Pizarro, *who often converſed with* Orellana, *and its principal circumſtances were confirmed by others who were in the ſhip at the ſame time, ſo that the truth of this extraordinary fact cannot be doubted.*

chief, who belonged to a very powerful tribe which had committed great ravages in the neighbourhood of *Buenos Ayres*, and ten of his followers. With this motley crew, all whom, except the *European Spaniards*, were extremely averse to the voyage, *Pizarro* set sail about the beginning of *November* 1745, and the native *Spaniards* being sensible of the dissatisfaction of the men they had forced on board, treated both those, the *English* prisoners, and the *Indians* with great insolence and barbarity; but more particularly the *Indians*, for the meanest officers in the ship frequently beat them most cruelly on the slightest pretences, and for no other reason than to shew their superiority, while *Orellana*, though to appearance patient under his sufferings, together with his people, meditated a severe revenge upon his oppressors. He strove to cultivate an intimacy with such of the *English* as spoke *Spanish*, a language in which he was well versed, and as he knew that they were as much enemies to the *Spaniards* as himself, he doubtless intended to draw them into his scheme of revenge, to procure their liberty, but sounding them at a distance, and finding them not so ready and vindictive as he expected, he resolved to trust alone to the resolution of his ten faithful followers, and having agreed with them on the measures necessary to be taken, they furnished themselves with *Dutch* knives, sharp at the point, which being those commonly used in the ship, they procured without the least difficulty. Besides at their leisure hours, they secretly cut out thongs from raw hides, many of

of which were on board, and alſo employed themſelves in fixing to each of theſe thongs the double headed ſhot of the ſmall quarter-deck guns. This when ſwung round their heads, according to the practice of their country, was a moſt miſchievous weapon, in the uſe of which, the *Indians* about *Buenos Ayres* are very expert, as they are trained up to this way of fighting from their infancy. While theſe works were carrying on, the execution of their revenge was doubtleſs precipitated by a cruel outrage committed on *Orellana* himſelf; for a very brutal fellow who was one of the officers, ordering *Orellana* a-loft, which was what he was incapable of performing, the officer, under the pretence of diſobedience, beat him ſo violently that he left him bleeding on the deck, where he lay for ſome time, ſtunned with his wounds and bruiſes. This doubtleſs made him eager and impatient till the means of executing his revenge were in his power, and a day or two after, he and his followers attempted to put their ſcheme in execution.

Many of the principal officers were on the quarter-deck, at about nine in the evening, enjoying the freſhneſs of the night air. The waſte of the ſhip was filled with live cattle, and the forecaſtle was manned with its uſual watch, when *Orellana* and his companions having prepared this weapon, and thrown off the more cumbrous part of their dreſs, came all together towards the door of the great cabbin: Upon this they were reprimanded by the boat-

ſwain, who ordered them to be gone. *Orellana* then ſpoke to his followers in their native language, when four of them drew off, two to each gang-way, and *Orellana* and the ſix remaining *Indians* ſeemed to be ſlowly quitting the quarter-deck, inſtead of which *Orellana* no ſooner ſaw the gang ways, poſſeſſed by his detached parties than he ſet up the war cry, a ſound perhaps the moſt terrifying that ever was heard. Upon which they all drew their knives and brandiſhed their double-headed ſhot, ſo ſucceſsfully, that they laid near 40 of the *Spaniards* at their feet, above 20 of whom were killed on the ſpot, and the reſt diſabled. This confuſion which this unexpected attack ſpread amongſt the ſhip's crew is not to be deſcribed, many of the officers in the beginning of the tumult, ruſhed into the great cabbin, where they put out the light and barricaded the door, while ſome of the others who had avoided the fury of the reſolute *Indians*, endeavoured to make their eſcape along the gang-ways into the forecaſtle; but the *Indians* placed on purpoſe ſtabbed the greateſt part of them, as they attempted to paſs by, or forced them off the gang-ways into the waſte. Some threw themſelves over the barricadoes into the waſte, and thought themſelves happy in lying concealed amongſt the cattle, but the greateſt part ran up the main-ſhrouds, and ſecured themſelves either in the tops or rigging. Thus with an intrepidity, perhaps without example, did theſe eleven *Indians*, almoſt in an inſtant, poſſeſs themſelves of the quarter-deck of a ſhip

mounting

mounting 66 guns, and manned with near 500 hands. The watch in the forecaſtle finding their communication cut off, had run up into the rigging of the foremaſt and bowſprit. The officers in the great cabbin, amongſt whom were *Pizarro* and *Mindinuetta*, the crew between decks, and all who had fled, were only anxious for their own ſafety, and were long incapable of forming any project for recovering the poſſeſſion of the ſhip. The yells of the *Indians*, the groans of the wounded, and the confuſed clamours of the crew, all heightened by the obſcurity of the night, filled them with the imaginary terrors which darkneſs, diſorder, and an utter ignorance of the real ſtrength of an enemy, conſtantly produce. And being ſenſible of the diſaffection of their preſſed hands, and conſcious of their own barbarity to their priſoners, they imagined the conſpiracy general, and conſidered their deſtruction as infallible; even ſome of them were ſo terrified as to take the reſolution of leaping into the ſea; but were prevented by their companions.

The *Indians* having cleared the quarter deck, the tumult in a great meaſure ſubſided, for thoſe who had been ſo happy as to eſcape were kept ſilent by their fears, and the *Indians* were incapable of renewing the diſorder by purſuing them. *Orellana* now broke open the cheſt of arms, which a few days before had been removed to the quarter-deck, on a ſlight ſuſpicion of mutiny, as to a place of the greateſt ſecurity, but to his great diſappointment, found nothing but fire-arms; though had he removed

theſe he would have come at the cutlaſſes, of which he was in ſearch, and in the uſe of which both he and his companions were extremely ſkilful.

At length *Pizarro* and his companions in the great cabbin began to converſe through the cabbin windows and port-holes, with thoſe in the gun-room and between decks, whence they learned that the *Engliſh*, whom they chiefly ſuſpected, were all ſafe below, and at laſt diſcovered, that none were concerned in the mutiny but *Orellana* and his people. Upon this *Pizarro* and the other officers reſolved to attack the *Indians*, before any of the diſcontented on board ſhould recover their ſurprize and join them. *Pizarro* therefore got together the arms that were in the cabbin, which were only piſtols, and diſtributed them among thoſe who were with him, and as they had neither powder nor ball, they lowered down a bucket out of the cabbin window, into which the gunner handed out of one of the gun-room ports a quantity of piſtol cartridges. Having thus procured ammunition, they loaded their piſtols, and ſetting the door a little open, fired ſeveral ſhot amongſt the *Indians* on the quarter-deck, but without effect, till at laſt *Mindinuetta* had the good fortune to ſhoot *Orellana* dead on the ſpot, when his faithful companions abandoning all thoughts of farther reſiſtance, inſtantly leaped into the ſea, and every one of them periſhed. Thus was this remarkable inſurrection quelled, and the quarter-deck regained, after it had been full two hours in the poſſeſſion of this great and in-

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trepid chief, and his brave, but unhappy countrymen.

Pizarro now continuing his voyage, arrived on the coast of *Galicia*, in the beginning of the year 1746, after his being absent from *Europe* between four and five years, and having by his assiduity in endeavouring to defeat Mr. *Anson*'s measures, diminished the naval power of *Spain*, by the destruction of four considerable ships of war, a patache, and above 3000 of the flower of the *Spanish* sailors.

Besides the above intelligence, all of which except that relating to *Orellana*, the Commodore learnt from the people and papers on board the *Carmelo*, he was informed, that tho' the Viceroy of *Peru*, had laid an embargo on all the shipping in those seas, in the month of *May* preceeding, it was now taken off, which made them flatter themselves with the hopes of obtaining other valuable captures, that might indemnify them for the incapacity they were under of attempting any considerable *Spanish* settlements on shore, and the Commodore having thus satisfied himself about the material articles of his inquiry, and taken on board the *Centurion* most of the prisoners and all the silver, he set sail for *Juan Fernandes*, where both he and the prize came to an anchor the following day.

Upon a farther examination of the prisoners and papers, it appearing that several other merchantmen were bound from *Callao* to *Valparaiso*, the Commodore dispatched the *Tryal* sloop the very next morning to cruise off the last

mentioned

mentioned port, and alſo reſolved to ſeparate the ſhips under his command, and employ them in diſtinct cruiſes, by which means he would increaſe the chance of obtaining prizes, and run leſs hazard of alarming the coaſt. The ſailors now forgot all their paſt diſtreſſes, and reſuming their wonted alacrity, laboured indefatigably in preparing to take their laſt leave of the iſland; but as theſe preparations, notwithſtanding all their induſtry, took up four or five days, Mr. *Anſon* in that interval gave orders, that the guns belonging to the *Anna* pink, which were four ſix pounders, four four pounders, and two ſwivels, ſhould be mounted on board the prize *Carmelo*, and having ſent ſix paſſengers and 23 ſeamen on board the *Glouceſter* to aſſiſt in navigating that ſhip, he directed Captain *Mitchel* to leave *Fernandes* and cruize off the iſland of *Payta*, at ſuch a diſtance from ſhore as ſhould prevent his being diſcovered, and on this ſtation he was to continue till he ſhould be joined by the Commodore. Theſe orders being delivered, the Commodore weighed anchor on the 19th of *September*, in company with the prize, and getting out of the bay, took his laſt leave of the iſland of *Juan Fernandes*, ſteering to the eaſtward in order to join the *Tryal* ſloop in her ſtation off *Valparaiſo*.

CHAP.

CHAP. V.

The taking of the Tryal's *Prize the* Arranzazu. *The* Tryal *condemned and ſunk as unfit for Service. The taking of the* Santa Tereſa de Jeſus, *and the* Nueſtra Senora del Carmin.

THE *Centurion* upon her leaving *Juan Fernandes*, was detained three days by the irregularity and fluctuation of the winds within ſight of that iſland, but on the 25th of *September*, juſt before ſun-ſet, ſaw two ſail to the eaſtward, on which the prize ſtood directly from the *Centurion* to avoid giving any ſuſpicion of their being cruiſers, while the Commodore made ready for an engagement, and ſteered with all his canvas, towards the ſhips he had diſcovered. It was ſoon perceived that one of theſe, which appeared to be a very ſtout ſhip, made directly towards him, while the other kept at a diſtance. By ſeven o'clock the *Centurion* was within piſtol ſhot of the neareſt, and had a broad-ſide ready to pour into her, the gunners with their matches in their hands waiting only for orders to fire; but as Mr. *Anſon* knew it impoſſible for her to eſcape, he, before he ſuffered them to fire, ordered the maſter to hale them in *Spaniſh*, when the commanding officer on board, who proved to be Mr. *Hughes*, Lieutenant of the *Tryal*, anſwered in *Engliſh*, and let them know that ſhe was a prize taken by the *Tryal* a few days before, and that the other ſhip

ſhip at a diſtance was the *Tryal* herſelf, who was diſabled in her maſts. The *Tryal* ſoon after joined the *Centurion*, and Captain *Saunders* her commander, coming on board, informed the Commodore that his prize was a prime ſailor, and had coſt him 36 hours chaſe; that for ſome time he began to deſpair of taking her, and the *Spaniards*, though alarmed at firſt with ſeeing nothing but a cloud of ſail in purſuit of them; (for the *Tryal*'s hull was ſo low in the water, that no part of it appeared) yet finding how little the *Tryal* gained upon them, they at length laid aſide their fears, and altering their courſe in the night, ſhut up their windows to prevent any of their lights being ſeen; but a ſmall crevice in one of the ſhutters, rendered all their precautions ineffectual; for the *Tryal*'s people perceiving a light thro' it, chaſed it till they arrived within gun ſhot, when Captain *Saunders* unexpectedly alarmed them with a broadſide; and before he could fire another, they lowered their ſails, and ſubmitted without oppoſition. She was called the *Arranzazu*, and was one of the largeſt merchant-men employed in thoſe ſeas, being about 600 tons burden. Her cargo was much the ſame as that of the *Carmelo*, but her ſilver amounted only to about 5000 *l. ſterling*.

This ſucceſs was, however, ballanced by the *Tryal*'s having had the misfortune to ſpring her main-maſt; her main-top-maſt had alſo come by the board; and the next morning, as they were all ſtanding to the eaſtward, ſhe ſprung her fore-maſt. Theſe incidents were rendered more

more unhappy by the impoſſibility of aſſiſting her; for the wind then blew ſo hard, that the Commodore could not venture to hoiſt out his boat; ſo that as he could not think of leaving her in this unhappy ſituation, he was obliged to lay to, in order to attend her for the greateſt part of forty-eight hours; and as they were all the while driving from their ſtation, there was reaſon to fear that this deprived them of ſeveral conſiderable captures.

However, on the 27th, the weather proving more moderate, Mr. *Anſon* ſent his boat for the Capt. of the *Tryal*, who, on his coming on board, produced an inſtrument ſigned by himſelf and all the officers, repreſenting that the ſloop, beſides being diſmaſted, was ſo very leaky in her hull, that it was neceſſary to ply the pumps even in moderate weather; and that if the weather ſhould prove bad, they muſt all inevitably periſh; when the Commodore conſidering that he had not the neceſſary ſtores proper for repairing her, gave orders for her being deſtroyed; but conceiving it expedient to keep up the appearance of the ſame force, appointed the *Tryal*'s prize, which the viceroy of *Peru* had often employed as a man of war, to be a frigate in his Majeſty's ſervice, and to be manned by the *Tryal*'s crew, under the ſame Captain and officers. When in the *Spaniſh* ſervice ſhe had mounted 32 guns, but was now to have only 20, which were the 12 on board the *Tryal*, and eight that had belonged to the *Anna* pink. This being determined, Captain *Saunders* was directed to take out of the ſloop the

the arms, ammunition, ſtores, and every thing that could be of uſe to the other ſhips, and then to ſcuttle and ſink her; after which he was to proceed with his new frigate, which was to be called the *Tryal's Prize*, and to cruize off the iſland of *Valparaiſo*, where he was to continue 24 days; and if not joined by the Commodore in that time, he was to proceed down the coaſt to *Piſco*, or *Naſca*, where he would be certain of meeting with Mr. *Anſon*. Theſe orders being given, the *Centurion* left the other veſſels on the 27th of *September*, in order to cruize for ſome days off *Valparaiſo*.

Notwithſtanding this diſpoſition was the moſt prudent that could be imagined, conſidering the ſmallneſs of the Commodore's force, yet he had not the happineſs to ſee any ſhips at any of theſe ſtations, and being joined by the *Tryal*'s and *Centurion*'s prizes, the latter of which had aſſiſted in clearing and ſcuttling the *Tryal*, it was reſolved to join Captain *Mitchel*, who was ſtationed off *Payta*, that if a *Spaniſh* ſquadron ſhould be fitted out at *Callao*, they might, by uniting their ſtrength, be prepared to give it a warm reception. With this view they ſtood to the northward, and on the 5th of *November* came in ſight of the high land of *Barranca*, and an hour afterwards, had the ſatisfaction they had ſo long wiſhed for of ſeeing a ſail, upon which they immediately gave chace; but the *Centurion* out-ſailing the two prizes, run them out of ſight, and gained conſiderably on the chace. However, as the night came on, ſhe, about ſeven o'clock, loſt ſight of her, and the officers

officers were in ſome perplexity what courſe to ſteer; but at laſt the Commodore reſolved, as they were then before the wind, not to change his courſe. The chace was thus continued about an hour and a half in the dark, ſome or other conſtantly imagining they diſcerned her ſails right a-head; but, at length, Mr. *Brett*, the ſecond Lieutenant, really diſcovered her, about four points to the larboard, ſteering off to the ſeaward, and immediately ſtanding for her, they, in leſs than an hour, came up with her, and having fired 14 ſhot at her, ſhe ſtruck. Mr. *Dennis*, the *Centurion*'s third Lieutenant, was ſent in the boat with 16 men, to take poſſeſſion of the prize, when he found that ſhe was about 300 ton burden, was named the *Santa Tereſa de Jeſus*; was bound from *Guaiaquil* to *Callao*, and that her lading conſiſted of hides, timber, tobacco, cocoa, cocoa nuts, *Quito* thread, which is very ſtrong, and made of a ſpecies of graſs, wax, *Quito* cloth, *&c.* But the ſpecie on board amounted to no more than 170*l.* Though the cargo was of great value to the *Spaniards*, yet as they had ſtrict orders never to ranſom their ſhips, all the goods taken in theſe ſeas, except what the *Engliſh* themſelves had occaſion for, were of no other advantage, than as it was a loſs to the enemy.

Beſides the crew, which amounted to 45 hands, there were ten paſſengers on board, four men and three women, who were natives of the country, but born of *Spaniſh* parents, together with three black ſlaves that attended

them; the women were, the mother, and her two daughters, the eldeſt of whom was about 21, and the youngeſt about 14. Theſe women were extremely terrified, and in the greateſt diſtreſs, at their falling into the hands of an enemy, whom, from the former outrages of the Buccaniers; and the artful inſinuations of their prieſts, they had been taught to conſider as the moſt brutal and terrible of all mankind. Theſe dreadful apprehenſions were greatly heightened by the remarkable beauty of the youngeſt of the women, and the riotous diſpoſition, they might reaſonably expect to find in a ſet of ſailors, who had not ſeen a woman for near a twelve month. Filled with theſe terrors, the women hid themſelves as ſoon as the officer came on board; and when they were diſcovered, he found much difficulty in perſuading them to approach the light. However, he ſoon convinced them, by his humane behaviour, and his aſſurances of their future ſafety and honourable treatment, that all their apprehenſions were groundleſs. The Commodore being informed of the terror they had diſcovered, immediately ſent word that they ſhould be continued on board their own ſhip: have the uſe of the ſame apartments, and all the other conveniencies they had before enjoyed; he gave ſtrict orders that they ſhould receive no moleſtation or diſturbance whatſoever. To give them the greater certainty that theſe orders would be complied with, as well as to afford them the means of complaining if they were not, he allowed the pilot, who is gene-

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rally the ſecond perſon on board the *Spaniſh* ſhips, to ſtay with them, as their guardian and protector, an office to which this pilot was choſen by Mr. *Anſon*, from his ſeeming extremely intereſted in every thing relating to the women; and his at firſt declaring he was married to the youngeſt of them, though it afterwards appeared, that he had aſſerted this, with no other view but to ſecure them the better from the treatment they expected to find on their falling into the hands of the *Engliſh*. By this compaſſionate and indulgent behaviour their conſternation entirely ſubſided, and they continued eaſy and chearful during the whole time they remained priſoners.

The next morning the *Centurion* was joined by her two conſorts, when they proceeded together to the northward, they being now four ſail in company. They here found the ſea for many miles round them, of a beautiful red colour, which, upon examination, was imputed to an immenſe quantity of ſpawn ſwimming upon its ſurface; for ſome of the water being taken up in a wine glaſs, it had there a dirty appearance, but ſoon changed to a clear cryſtal, with only ſome red globules of a ſlimy nature floating on the top. As they had a ſupply of timber on board their new prize, the Commodore gave orders for repairing their boats, and for fixing a ſwivel gun-ſtock in the bow both of the barge and pinnace, in order to increaſe their force, in caſe he ſhould be obliged to make uſe of them in boarding ſhips, or for any attempts on ſhore.

Though they continued ſtanding to the northward, nothing remarkable occurred for two or three days, notwithſtanding the ſhips were ſpread in ſuch a manner, that it was hardly poſſible for any of the enemy's veſſels to eſcape them. In their run along this coaſt it was obſerved that there was a current which ſet them to the northward at the rate of ten or twelve miles a day. Being now in about eight degrees of ſouth latitude they began to be attended with vaſt numbers of flying-fiſh and bonitos, which were the firſt they ſaw after their departure from the coaſt of *Braſil*. But it is obſervable, that on the eaſt-ſide of *South-America*, they extended to a much higher latitude than they did on the weſt-ſide; for the ſailors did not loſe ſight of them on the coaſt of *Braſil* till they approached the ſouthern tropic. The reaſon of which is doubtleſs the different degrees of heat obtaining in the ſame latitude on different ſides of the continent. For it is evident that the temperature of a place depends much more upon other circumſtances than its diſtance from the pole, or its proximity to the equinoctial. Thus it was found by this ſquadron, that though the coaſt of *Braſil* is extremely ſultry, yet the coaſt of the *South-Seas*, in the ſame latitude, is, perhaps, as temperate, as any part of the globe, ſince in ranging along it, they did not once meet with ſuch warm weather as is frequent in a ſummer's day in *England*, which was the more extraordinary, as there never falls any rains to refreſh and cool the air. On the coaſt of

of *Peru*, and even under the equinoctial itself, every circumstance concurred to make the open air and day-light desirable, for in other countries the scorching heat of the sun in summer, renders the greater part of the day unapt either for labour or amusement, and the frequent rains are not less troublesome in the more temperate parts of the year. But in this delightful climate the sun rarely appears, for there is constantly a chearful grey sky, just sufficient to screen the sun and to mitigate the violence of its perpendicular rays, without obscuring the air, or tinging the day-light with an unpleasant or melancholly appearance. Thus all parts of the day are proper for labour or exercise abroad, while the refreshing and agreeable coolness of the air in other climates produced by rains, is here brought about by fresh breezes, from the cooler regions to the southward.

It is not to be doubted, that this happy complexion of the heavens is chiefly owing to the neighbourhood of those vast mountains called the *Andes*, which running nearly parallel the shore, from which they are but a small distance, and extending themselves immensely higher than any other mountains upon the globe, form upon their sides and declivities a prodigious tract of country, where according to the different approaches to their summit, all kinds of climates may at all seasons be found. These mountains intercept great part of the eastern winds which generally blow upon the continent of *South America*, cool that part of the air which forces its way over the tops, and

keep a large part of the atmosphere perpetually cool, from its contiguity to the snows, with which they are constantly covered. Thus these mountains by spreading the influence of their frozen crests to the neighbouring coasts and seas of *Peru*, are doubtless the cause of the temperature and equability which constantly prevail there. But when this squadron had advanced beyond the equinoctial, and left these mountains, the people had nothing to screen them to the eastward, but the highlands on the isthmus of *Panama*, which are but molehills to the *Andes*, they then experienced in a short time, an entire change of climate, and in two or three days passed from the temperate air of *Peru* to the sultry burning atmosphere of the *West-Indies*.

On the 10th of *November*, the Commodore was within three leagues of the Southermost island of *Lobos*, lying in six degrees 27 minutes south latitude, and now drawing near the station appointed for the *Gloucester*, made an easy sail all night; but the next morning, at day break, saw a ship in shore, and to windward, which had passed the squadron by favour of the night, and was plying up the coast. As she was soon perceived not to be the *Gloucester*, they got their tacks on board, and gave her chace; but there being very little wind, which prevented any of the ships making much way, the Commodore ordered the barge, his pinnace, and the *Tryal*'s pinnace, to be manned and armed, to pursue the chace, and board her. Lieutenant *Brett*, who commanded the barge,

came

came up with her about 9 o'clock, and running a long-ſide of her, fired a volley of ſmall ſhot between the maſts, over the heads of the people on board, and then inſtantly entered with moſt of his men, the enemy making no reſiſtance, they being ſufficiently frightened by the volley they had juſt received, and the dazzling of the cutlaſſes. Lieutenant *Brett* immediately ordered the ſails to be trimmed, and bore down to the Commodore, taking up in his way the two pinnaces, but when he came within four miles of the *Centurion*, he put off in in the barge with a number of priſoners, from whom he had learned ſome material intelligence, which he was deſirous of communicating to the Commodore, as ſoon as poſſible. The prize was named *Nueſtra Senora del Carmin*; it was of about 270 tons burden, and had on board 43 mariners, and was deeply laden with ſteel, iron, plank, cedar, pepper, cinnamon, powder blue, *European* bale goods, ſnuff, roſaries, *Romiſh* ingulgencies, and other ſpecies of merchandiſe. Though this cargo, in their preſent circumſtances was but of little value, yet it was a greater loſs to the *Spaniards* than any capture they had made in that part of the world; for it amounted to above 400,000 dollars prime coſt at *Panama*. This ſhip was bound to *Callao*, and had ſtopt at *Payta* in her paſſage, to take in a freſh ſupply of water and proviſions, having left that place but about 24 hours, before ſhe fell into the hands of the *Engliſh*; and from the paſſengers on board this ſhip, Lieutenant *Brett*, had been informed, that

a few days before, a veſſel had entered *Payta*, the Maſter of which had told the Governor that he had been chaced by a very large ſhip, which from her ſize, and the colour of her ſails, he imagined to be one of the *Engliſh* ſquadron, and that the Governor being fully ſatiſfied with this relation, had immediately ſent an expreſs to *Lima* to carry the news to the Viceroy, while the royal officer reſiding at *Payta* being apprehenſive of a viſit from the *Engliſh*, had from his firſt learning this intelligence, been buſily employed in removing both the King's treaſure and his own to *Piura*, a town within land at about 14 leagues diſtance, but that there was a conſiderable ſum of money belonging to ſome merchants of *Lima*, lodged in the cuſtom-houſe of *Payta*, which was intended to be ſent on board a veſſel then in the port, and that was preparing to ſail with the utmoſt expedition; it being bound for the bay of *Sonſonnate* on the coaſt of *Mexico*, to purchaſe a part of the cargo of the *Manila* ſhip.

It was immediately conjectured, that the large ſhip which had chaced the veſſel into *Payta* was the *Glouceſter*, as indeed it was, and it being found that the veſſel in which the money was to be ſhipped, was eſteemed a prime ſailor, and had juſt received a new coat of tallow on her bottom, it was concluded that they had no chance of coming up with her, if they ſuffered her to eſcape out of the port. Therefore as they were now diſcovered, and the coaſt would be ſoon alarmed, ſo as to prevent their cruiſing being of any advantage, the Commodore

dore, after minutely inquiring into the ſtrength and condition of the place, reſolved to endeavour to ſurpriſe it that very night.

CHAP. VI.

The taking and burning of the Town of Payta. *The ſetting the Priſoners on ſhore; and an Account of the generous Treatment they received from the Commodore.*

PAYTA is ſituated in a barren ſoil, only compoſed of ſand and ſlate; it is in 5°. 12′, ſouth latitude, and does not furniſh a drop of freſh water, or any kind of greens or proviſions, except fiſh and a few goats; but about two or three leagues diſtant, there is a town called *Colan*, whence water, maize, greens, fowls, &c. are conveyed to *Payta* on floats, for the convenience of the ſhips that touch there; and cattle are brought from *Piura*, a town which lies almoſt 14 degrees up in the country. The water fetched from *Colan* is whitiſh, and has a diſagreeable look; but is ſaid to be very wholeſome, the inhabitants pretending that it runs through large woods of *Sarſaparilla*, and that it is ſenſibly impregnated with it. The port of *Payta*, though in reality little more than a bay, is eſteemed the beſt in that part of the coaſt; and indeed, it affords a very ſecure and commodious anchorage, it is therefore much frequented by all veſſels coming

coming from the *North*, ſince there is no other place for the ſhips from *Acapulco*, *Sonſonnate*, *Realejo* and *Panama* to take in refreſhments in the paſſage to *Callao*, and the wind being for the greateſt part of the year full againſt them, renders it impoſſible for them to perform theſe long voyages, without ſtopping upon the coaſt for a recruit of freſh water. The town was but of ſmall extent, as it contained leſs than 200 families. The houſes were only ground floors, the walls of which were built of ſplit cane and mud, and the roofs were thatched with leaves; but though theſe edifices were extremely ſlight, they were ſufficient for a climate, where rain is conſidered as a prodigy, and is not ſeen in many years.

Mr. *Anſon*, on inquiring into the ſtrength of the place, was told, that it had no other protection than the fort, in which was mounted eight pieces of cannon: but that it had neither ditch nor out-work, it being ſurrounded by a plain brick wall, and that the garriſon conſiſted of only one weak company, though the town might poſſibly arm 300 men more.

The Commodore, conſidering that the ſtrength of the place did not require his whole force, and that his ſhips might be eaſily ſeen at a diſtance, even in the night, which would alarm the inhabitants, and give them an opportunity of removing their valuable effects, reſolved to attempt it with the boats only, and ordered the 18 oared barges with his own, and the *Tryal* pinnaces on that ſervice. Having picked out 58 men, well furniſhed with arms and am-

ammunition, and intrusted the command of the expedition to Lieut. *Brett*, to prevent the confusion which possibly might arise from their ignorance of the streets, and the darkness of the night, he ordered two of the *Spanish* pilots to conduct the Lieutenant to the most convenient landing-place, and to be his guides on shore; to secure their fidelity, the prisoners were informed that they should all of them be released, and landed at this place, provided the Pilots acted faithfully. At the same time he threatned the Pilots, that if they were guilty of treachery, or misconduct, they should be instantly shot, and he would carry the rest of the *Spaniards* on board, prisoners to *England*.

About 10 o'clock at night, at which time the ships were within five leagues of the place, Lieutenant *Brett*, with the boats, under his command, put off, and arrived without being discovered, at the mouth of the bay; but he had no sooner entered it, than he was perceived by some of the people on board a vessel riding at anchor, who immediately getting into their boat, rowed towards the shore, shouting and crying, *The English, the English dogs*, &c. by which the whole town was instantly alarmed, and the men in the boats soon perceived several lights hurrying backwards and forwards in the fort, and other marks of the inhabitants being in motion. Upon this Lieutenant *Brett* encouraged his men to pull up briskly, that they might allow the enemy as little time as possible to prepare for their defence. But before the boats could reach the shore, the soldiers

diers in the fort had got ſome of the cannon ready, which they pointed towards the landing-place, and the firſt ſhot paſſed very near one of the boats, whiſtling juſt over the heads of the crew. Upon this the men redoubled their efforts, ſo that they had reached the ſhore, and part of them were landed by the time the ſecond gun was fired. The men were no ſooner on ſhore, than one of the *Spaniſh* pilots conducted them to the entrance of a narrow ſtreet, where they were covered from the fire of the fort, and being formed in the beſt manner the ſhortneſs of the time would permit, they inſtantly marched to the parade, a large ſquare at the end of this ſtreet, the fort being on one ſide, and the Governor's houſe on the other. In this march, which was performed with tolerable regularity, the ſhouts and clamours of threeſcore ſailors, who had been ſo long confined on ſhip-board, and were now for the firſt time on ſhore, in an enemy's country, joyous as they always are, when they land, and beſides, animated with the hopes of immenſe plunder; the huzzas, I ſay, of this ſpirited detachment, added to the noiſe of their drums, had ſo augmented their numbers in the opinion of the enemy, that their fear made them more ſollicitous about the means of flight, than of reſiſtance. However, the merchants who owned the treaſure then in the town, had, with a few others, ranged themſelves in a gallery that ran round the Governor's houſe, and thence diſcharged a volley upon the *Engliſh* ſailors; but upon their re-

turning

turning the fire, they abandoned the poſt, and left the *Engliſh* in poſſeſſion of the parade.

Lieutenant *Brett*, upon this ſucceſs, divided his men into two parties, one of which he ordered to ſurround the Governor's houſe, and if poſſible to ſecure the Governor, while he himſelf, at the head of the other, marched to the fort, with a deſign to force it, but to his great ſurpriſe, he entered it without oppoſition; for the enemy abandoned it on his approach, and made their eſcape over the walls. Thus the whole place was taken in leſs than a quarter of an hour's time from their firſt landing, with no other loſs, than one man killed on the ſpot, and two wounded.

Lieutenant *Brett* now placed a guard at the fort, and another at the Governor's houſe, and then appointed ſentinels at all the avenues of the town, both to prevent being ſurpriſed by the enemy, and to ſecure the effects from being embezzled. This being done, his next care was to ſeize upon the cuſtom-houſe, where the treaſure was depoſited, and to examine whether any of the inhabitants remained in the town, in order to know what farther precautions it was neceſſary for him to take; but he ſoon found that he was in no danger from the numbers left behind; for moſt of the people being in bed when the place was ſurpriſed, had fled with ſuch precipitation, that they had not allowed themſelves time to put on their cloaths, and the Governor himſelf, was not the laſt in providing for his own ſafety; for he fled before moſt of the reſt half

naked, leaving his wife, a young lady of about 17 years of age, to whom he had been married but three or four days; but ſhe too was afterwards carried off in her ſhift, by a couple of ſentinels, juſt as the detachment arrived before the houſe. The few inhabitants who remained were confined under a guard in one of the churches, except ſome ſtout negroes, who were employed the remaining part of the night, to aſſiſt in carrying the treaſure from the cuſtom-houſe and other places to the fort; but theſe were always attended by a file of muſqueteers.

The conveyance of the treaſure from the cuſtom-houſe, was the principal employment of Mr. *Brett*'s people; but while the ſailors were thus buſied they could not be prevented from entering the houſes in their way, in ſearch of private pillage, where the firſt things they obſerved being the cloaths left by the *Spaniards* in their flight, which, according to the cuſtom of the country, were moſt of them either embroidered or laced, they eagerly ſeized theſe glittering habits, and ſlipt them on over their own dirty trowſers and jackets, at the ſame time not forgetting the tye or bag-wig, and laced hat, which were generally found with the cloaths, and this practice being once begun, there was no preventing its being imitated by the whole detachment. But thoſe, who came lateſt into the faſhion, not finding men's cloaths ſufficient to equip themſelves, took up with women's gowns and petticoats, which, provided they were rich enough, they made no

ſcruple

ſcruple of putting on, and blending with their own greaſy dreſs, ſo that Mr. *Brett* was extremely ſurpriſed at their groteſque figure, when a party thus ridiculouſly metamorphoſed firſt came before him, and could ſcarcely know them.

Mean while the *Centurion* and the other ſhips made an eaſy ſail towards *Payta*, and about ſeven in the morning began to open the bay. Though thoſe on board had no reaſon to doubt of the ſucceſs of the enterpriſe, yet it was with great joy they diſcovered, by means of their perſpectives, an *Engliſh* flag hoiſted on the flag-ſtaff of the fort. They then plied into the bay with as much expedition as poſſible, and at eleven the *Tryal*'s boat came on board the *Centurion* laden with dollars and church plate, when the officers who commanded it, informed the Commodore of the tranſactions of the preceeding night.

Mr. *Brett* hitherto went on collecting and removing the treaſure without interruption, while the enemy aſſembled from all parts of the country, on a hill at the back of the town, where they made a conſiderable appearance, having amongſt the reſt of their force 200 horſe that ſeemed well armed, mounted, and furniſhed with trumpets, drums, and ſtandards. They paraded about the hill with great oſtentation, ſounding their military muſic, and practiſing every art to intimidate the few who were on ſhore, whoſe numbers were now known, to induce them to abandon the place before the pillage was completed. Mr. *Brett* however,

proceeded in ſending off the treaſure, and in employing the boats to carry on board refreſhments, ſuch as hogs, fowls, *&c.* as long as it was light. To prevent any ſurpriſe in the night, the Commodore ſent a reinforcement on ſhore, which was poſted in all the paſſages leading to the parade, and for their farther ſecurity, the ſtreets were fortified with barricadoes ſix feet high. But as the enemy remained quiet all the night, they reſumed at day-break, the employment of loading the boats, and ſending them off.

It now appeared of what importance it would have been, had it been poſſible to have ſecured the Governor; for had he been in their power, he would probably have been induced to treat for the ranſom of many ſtore-houſes full of valuable effects, for which the Commodore had no room on board, but which would have been of extraordinary advantage to him. Having collected all the force of the country for many leagues round, he was ſo elated with his numbers, and ſo fond of his new military command, that he ſeemed to have loſt all concern for the fate of his government, and though the Commodore ſent ſeveral meſſages to him by ſome who had been taken priſoners, offering to ranſom the town upon eaſy terms, he was ſo arrogant and impudent, that he would not even return an anſwer.

On the ſecond day of the *Engliſh* being in poſſeſſion of the place, the *Spaniards* were in ſuch want of water, that many of their ſlaves crept into the town by ſtealth, and carried

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away ſeveral jars of water to their maſters on the hill, and Mr. *Brett* was informed both by the deſerters and ſome priſoners he took, as they were carrying away the water, that the *Spaniards* on the hill being encreaſed to a formidable number, had reſolved to ſtorm the town and fort the ſucceeding night, when that one *Gordon*, a *Scotch* papiſt, was to have the command of that enterpriſe. He however, continued ſending off the boats, without the leaſt hurry or precipitation till the evening, when a reinforcement was again ordered on ſhore by Mr. *Anſon*, and Mr. *Brett* doubled his guards at each of the barricadoes. The different poſts were connected by means of ſentinels placed within call of each other, and the whole viſited by frequent rounds attended with a drum. Theſe marks of the vigilance and readineſs of the *Engliſh* to receive them, damped their reſolution; ſo that they paſſed that night with as little moleſtation as they had done the former.

As Mr. *Brett* had the evening before ſent all the treaſure on board the *Centurion*, the boats were employed on the third morning, which was the 15th of *November*, in carrying off the moſt valuable part of the effects that remained in the town, and the Commodore intending to ſail in the afternoon, he about ten o'clock ſent all his priſoners, amounting to 88 on ſhore, giving orders to Lieutenant *Brett*, to ſecure them in one of the churches, till the men were ready to embark. Mr. *Brett* was at the ſame time ordered, to burn the whole

town, except the two churches, which ſtood at ſome diſtance from the houſes, after which he was to abandon the place, and return on board. That gentleman punctually complied with theſe orders, for ſetting his men to work, he diſtributed pitch, tar, and other combuſtibles, of which there were great quantities in the town, into houſes ſituated in different ſtreets; that the place being fired in many quarters at the ſame time, the deſtruction might be the more violent and ſudden, and the enemy after his departure might not be able to extinguiſh it. This being done, he cauſed the cannon in the fort to be nailed up, and then ſetting fire to ſuch houſes as were to the windward, he collected his men and marched towards the beach, where the boats waited to carry them off. That part of the beach, whence he intended to embark being an open place without the town, the *Spaniards* on the hill perceived he was retreating, and reſolved, in order to lay ſome foundation for future boaſting, to try if they could precipitate their departure; for this purpoſe a ſmall ſquadron of about 60 horſe marched down the hill with much ſeeming reſolution; but notwithſtanding the pomp and parade with which they at firſt came on, Mr. *Brett* had no ſooner ordered his men to halt and face about, than they put a ſtop to their career, and did not dare to advance a ſtep farther while he continued on the beach.

On their arrival at the boats in order to go on board, the men were ſome time retarded by miſſing one of their number, and being unable

unable by their inquiries amongſt each other to learn where he was left, or by what accident he was detained, they after a conſiderable delay, got into the boats, in order to depart without him, but when the laſt man was actually embarked, and the boats were putting off, they heard him calling to them to take him in. The town was by this time ſo completely on fire, and the ſmoke covered the beach with ſuch a cloud, that they could ſcarcely diſcern him though they heard his voice; the Lieutenant, however, immediately ordered one of the boats to his relief, who found him up to the chin in water, for he had waded as far as he durſt, being extremely terrified at the apprehenſions of falling into the hands of an enemy, who were doubtleſs enraged at the plunder and deſtruction of their town. Inquiry being made into the cauſe of his ſtaying behind the reſt, it was found that he had that morning taken too large a doſe of brandy, which had thrown him into ſo ſound a ſleep, that he did not awake till the fire came near enough to ſcorch him. At firſt opening his eyes, he was ſtrangely amazed at ſeeing on the one hand all the houſes in a blaze, and on the other ſeveral *Spaniards* and *Indians* near him. The great and ſuddenneſs of his fright inſtantly reduced him to a ſtate of ſobriety, and gave him the preſence of mind to puſh through the thickeſt of the ſmoke, the likelieſt means of eſcaping the enemy, and then making the beſt of his way to the beach, he, though he could not ſwim, ran

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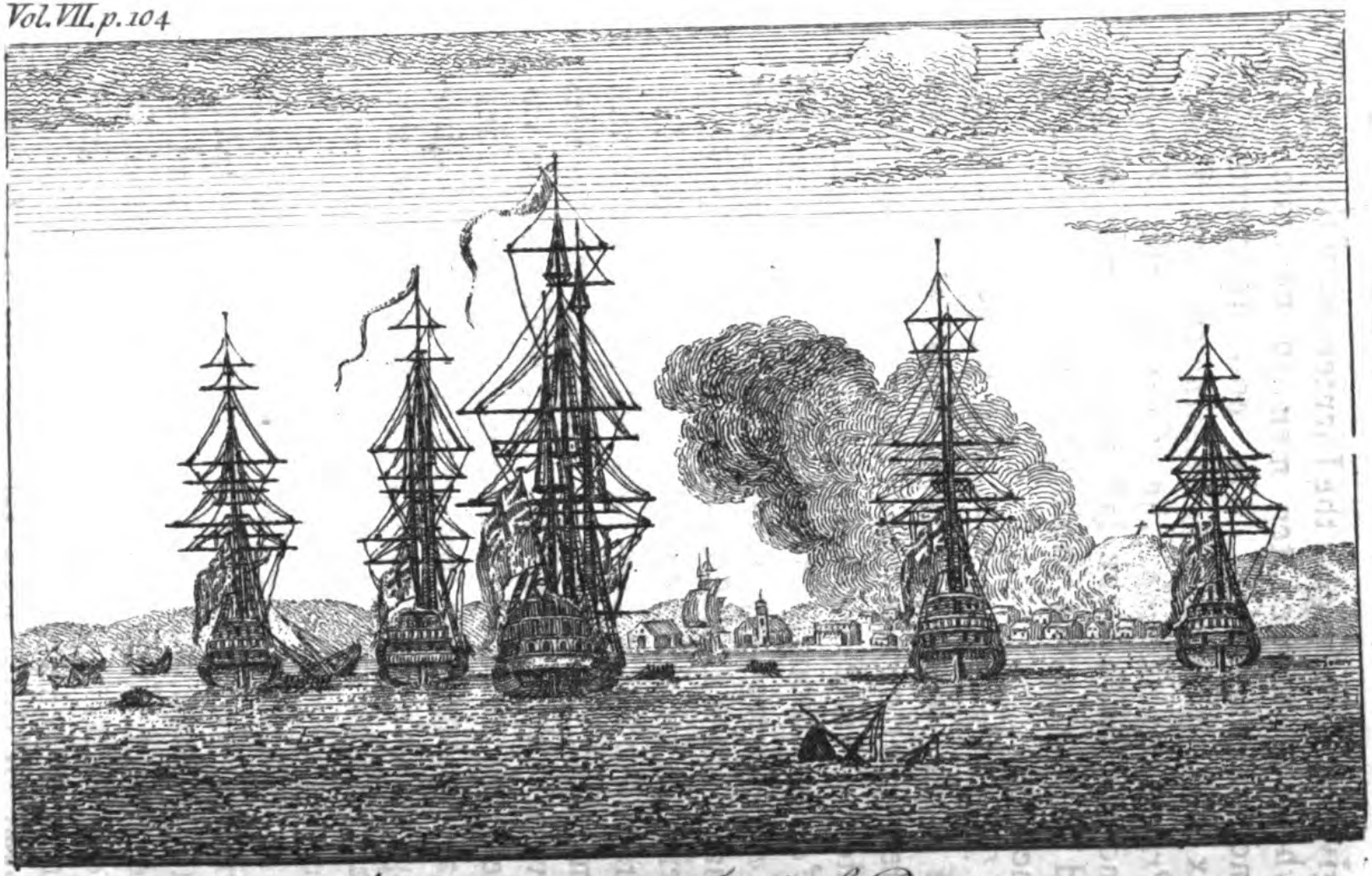
as far into the water as he durſt, before he ventured to look back; but to the honour of all the other brave fellows who were on ſhore, though there were great quantities of wine and ſpirituous liquors, ready at their hands, at almoſt every warehouſe, this was the only man who was known to have ſo far neglected his duty as to get drunk.

By the time the ſailors had helped their comrade out of the water and were rowing to the ſquadron, the flames had ſeized every part of the town, and by means of the combuſtibles, the ſlightneſs of the materials of which the houſes were built, and their aptneſs to take fire, had taken ſuch hold, that it was viſible no endeavours of the enemy, though they flocked down in great numbers, could poſſibly prevent the entire deſtruction of the town and all the merchandize contained in it.

Lieutenant *Brett*'s detachment having joined the ſquadron, the Commodore prepared to ſail that evening. At his firſt coming into the bay he found ſix of the enemy's veſſels at anchor, one of which was the ſhip that was to have conveyed the treaſure to the coaſt of *Mexico*, and being informed ſhe was a good ſailor, he reſolved to take her with him. There were alſo two ſnows, a bark, and two row galleys of 36 oars each, which the Commodore having no occaſion for, had ordered the maſts of all five to be cut away at his firſt arrival, and on his leaving the place, they were towed out of the harbour, ſcuttled and ſunk, the command of the other ſhip was given



The burning the Town of Payta.

given to Mr. *Hughes* the Lieutenant of the *Tryal*, who was allowed ten men to navigate her; and the ſquadron, was now augmented to ſix ſail, that is, the *Centurion*, the *Tryal's Prize*, the *Camelo*, the *Carmin*, the *Tereſa*, and the *Solidad*, the laſt acquired veſſel weighed anchor about midnight, and ſailed out of the bay.

The loſs of the *Spaniards* by the deſtruction of *Payta* was very conſiderable, ſince a very great part of the goods that were burnt, conſiſted of velvets, cambricks, ſilks, broad-cloths, *&c.* and though the acquiſition made by the *Engliſh* were very inconſiderable in compariſon with what was deſtroyed, yet it was far from being deſpicable, for the wrought plate, dollars and other coin which fell into their hands, amounted to above 30,000 *l.* ſterling, beſides ſeveral rings, bracelets, and jewels, whoſe value could not then be determined; the plunder, that became the property of the immediate captors was alſo very conſiderable, ſo that this was the moſt important booty they had hitherto met with.

It has been already obſerved, that all the priſoners taken in the preceeding prizes, were ſet on ſhore and diſcharged at *Payta*, and as the honour done to our national character in thoſe parts, was very great, from the humanity and generoſity with which Mr. *Anſon* behaved to thoſe who fell into his hands, this circumſtance deſerves to be more particularly related. Amongſt theſe priſoners were ſome perſons of conſiderable diſtinction, and in particular

icular a youth of about ſeventeen years of age, the ſon of the Vice-preſident of the council of *Chili*. As the natives of thoſe countries had the moſt terrible ideas of the cruelty of the *Engliſh*, all the priſoners at their being firſt taken on board the *Engliſh* ſquadron were under great horror and anxiety of mind, but the young gentleman juſt mentioned, who had never been from home before, lamented his captivity in the moſt moving expreſſions, regretting in very plaintive terms, the loſs of his parents, his brothers, his ſiſters, and his native country, being fully perſuaded, that he had taken his laſt farewel of them, and that he was devoted for the remainder of his life to an abject and cruel ſervitude; indeed, all the *Spaniſh* priſoners had the ſame deſponding opinion of their ſituation; but Mr. *Anſon* conſtantly exerted all his endeavours to efface theſe terrifying impreſſions, by taking care, that as many of the principal perſons amongſt them as there was room for, ſhould by turns dine at his table, and by giving the ſtricteſt orders, that they ſhould at all times be treated with the utmoſt humanity and decency; but notwithſtanding this, it was obſerved, that for the firſt two or three days, they retained their fears, and ſuſpected that the gentleneſs of their uſage was preparatory to ſome unknown calamity: but at length being convinced of the Commodore's ſincerity, they grew remarkably chearful, and the youth above-mentioned not only conquered his fears, but entertained a great affection for Mr. *Anſon*, and ſeemed ſo delighted

delighted with a manner of life different from every thing he had known before, that it was doubted whether he would not have preferred a voyage to *England* in the *Centurion*, to his being immediately set on shore at *Payta*.

As the Commodore's humanity was constant and uniform, it gave the prisoners favourable sentiments of the whole *English* nation; and their good opinion was greatly increased by the Commodore's leaving the ladies taken in the *Teresa* the possession of their apartments, in preventing all his people on board from approaching them, and allowing the pilot to stay with them as their guardian: At which the *Spaniards* on board were the more surprised, as it was done without his ever seeing the women, though the two daughters were both esteemed handsome, and the youngest was a celebrated beauty. The women themselves were so sensible of the obligations they owed him on this account; that they absolutely refused to go on shore at *Payta*, till they were allowed to wait on the Commodore, on board the *Centurion*, to return him thanks in person; and, indeed, all the prisoners left the *English* with the strongest assurances of their grateful remembrance of the generous treatment they had met with. In particular a jesuit who had been taken by the Commodore, and who was an ecclesiastic of some distinction, returned his thanks for the civilities he and his countrymen had found on board, declaring that he should always consider it as his duty to do Mr. *Anson* justice, and added that his treatment

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of the men prisoners was such as could never be forgot, but that his behaviour to the women was so extraordinary, that he doubted whether the regard due to his own ecclesiastical character would be sufficient to render it credible. Mr. *Walter* observes, "That he was afterwards informed that both he and the rest of the prisoners had not been silent on this head; but had both at *Lima*, and other places given the greatest encomiums on the Commodore, the jesuit, in particular, having on his account interpreted in a lax and hypothetical sense, that article of his church which asserts the impossibility of heretics being saved."

CHAP. VII.

Disputes about the Plunder happily adjusted. Two Prizes taken by the Gloucester. *They steer for* Quibo. *The* Teresa *and* Solidad *burned. The proceedings of the Squadron at* Quibo. *A Description of that Island; an Account of the Pearl Fishery, and of the various Kinds of Turtle.*

THE squadron having set sail from *Payta* on the 16th of *November* at about midnight, the Commodore in the morning gave orders for the ships to disperse, in order to look out for the *Gloucester*. A jealousy now arose between those who had been commanded

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on ſhore, and thoſe who had continued on board, occaſioned by the private plunder got at *Payta*, which the former conſidered as a reward for the riſks they had run, and the reſolution they had ſhewn, while thoſe who remained on board, urged, that had it been left to their choice, they ſhould have preferred acting on ſhore to continuing on board, and that while their comrades were on land, their duty was extremely fatiguing, ſince they were conſtantly under arms to ſecure the priſoners, whoſe numbers exceeded their own, to prevent any attempts that might be formed at that critical juncture, and that a ſufficient force on board was as neceſſary to the ſucceſs of the enterpriſe, as the action of the others on ſhore, and this diſpute aroſe to ſuch an height, that the Commodore thought it neceſſary to interpoſe his authority, before it was attended with any miſchievous conſequences. Accordingly on the morning after their leaving *Payta*, he ordered all hands upon the quarter-deck, and addreſſing himſelf to thoſe who had been detached on ſhore, highly commenced their behaviour, and thanked them for their ſervices on that occaſion. He then repreſented the reaſons urged by thoſe who had continued on board for an equal diviſion of the plunder, obſerved, that he thought their reaſons very concluſive, and the expectations of their comrades extremely juſt; he therefore inſiſted, that not only the private men, but all the officers who had aſſiſted in taking the place, ſhould produce the whole of their plunder immediately upon the quarter-

deck, in order to be impartially divided amongst the whole crew in proportion to their rank; but to prevent those who had it in their possession from murmuring at this diminution of their share, the Commodore added, that as an encouragement to others who might hereafter be employed in the like services, he would give his intire share to be distributed amongst those who had been detached for the attack of the place.

Thus was this troublesome affair determined to the general satisfaction of the ship's company, except of a few, who were incapable of discerning the force of equity, or were too avaricious to be willing to part with any share of what they had once got into their possession. The next morning they observed the *Gloucester* with a small vessel in tow, and learned from Captain *Mitchel*, that in the whole time of his cruize, he had taken only two prizes, one of which was a small snow, whose cargo consisted of wine, brandy, and olives in jars, with about 7000 *l.* in specie, and the other a launch or large boat, which the *Gloucester's* barge came up with near shore, the prisoners on board of which had alledged, that they were very poor, and that their lading only consisted of cotton; but the circumstance in which the barge surprised them seemed to prove their being more wealthy than they pretended; for the *Gloucester's* people found them at dinner upon pidgeon-pye, served up in silver dishes. However, the officer who commanded the barge, on his opening several of the jars on board and find-

finding nothing in them but cotton, was ready to believe the account given him by the prisoners, but the cargo being taken on board the *Gloucester*, all were agreeably surprised to find, that the whole was a very extraordinary piece of package, and that in every jar there was concealed amongst the cotton, a considerable quantity of double doubloons and dollars, to the amount in the whole of near 12, 000 *l.* This treasure was going to *Payta*, and belonged to the merchants, who were the proprietors of the greatest part of the money taken at that town. Captain *Mitchel* had also been in sight of two or three other of the enemy's ships which had escaped him. One of which, there was reason to believe, was of immense value.

The squadron being now joined by the *Gloucester*, and her prize, it was resolved to steer as soon as possible to the southern parts of *California*, or to the adjacent coast of *Mexico*, in order to cruize for the *Manila* galleon, which was known to be at sea, bound to the port of *Acapulco*, and as they were now in the middle of *November*, and that ship did not usually arrive till the middle of *January*, they did not doubt of getting on that station, time enough to intercept her, notwithstanding they found it necessary to take in a fresh supply of water at the island of *Quibo*, situated at the mouth of the bay of *Panama*, and being now eight sail in company continued sailing to the northward; but on their arriving at *Cape Blanco* in four degrees 15 minutes south latitude, it was found

that the *Solidad* was far from anſwering the character giving her of being a prime ſailor, and ſhe and the *Santa Tereſa* delaying the ſquadron, the Commodore ordered them both to be cleared of every thing that might be of uſe to the reſt of the ſhips, and then to be burnt, and having given proper inſtructions to the *Glouceſter*, and the other prizes, the *Centurion* proceeded in her courſe for *Quibo*.

On the 22d in the morning they came in ſight of the iſland of *Plata*; at three in the afternoon they were within three miles of point *Manta*, and there being a town of the ſame name in the neighbourhood, Captain *Mitchel* took that opportunity of ſending away ſeveral of his priſoners, from the *Glouceſter* in the *Spaniſh* launch. The boats were now daily employed in diſtributing proviſions on board the prizes, to compleat their ſtock for ſix months. One of the *Manila* ſhips being ſaid to be of an immenſe ſize, the carpenters were ordered to fix eight ſtocks in the main and foretops of the *Centurion*, which were properly fitted for the mounting of ſwivel guns, in order that ſhe might be the better prepared to give her a warm reception.

On the 22d they paſſed the equinoctial, when ſtanding towards the iſthmus, they had not only an extraordinary alteration of the climate, but frequent calms and heavy rains, which ſoon made it neceſſary to caulk the decks and ſides of the *Centurion*, to prevent the rain from running into her.

On the 3d of *December* in the evening they caſt anchor at the iſland of *Quibo*, which they found to be extremely convenient for wooding and watering, ſince the trees grow cloſe to the high-water mark, and a large rapid ſtream of freſh water runs over the ſandy-beach into the ſea, ſo that they were little more than two days in laying in all the wood and water they wanted.

The whole iſland, excepting one part of it, is of a very moderate height, and its ſurface is covered with a continual wood, that preſerves its verdure all the year. Among the other trees they found abundance of caſſia, but notwithſtanding the climate and ſhelter afforded for birds, they ſaw no other but mackaws, parrots and paroquets, but of the former there were prodigious flights. The animals of which there were moſt plenty, were monkeys and guanoes, which they frequently killed for food, but though they diſcovered many herds of deer, yet the difficulty of penetrating the woods, prevented their coming near them, ſo that they killed but two during their ſtay. Their priſoners informed them that the iſland abounded with tygers, but they never ſaw any of them, and alſo that there was frequently found in the woods a moſt miſchievous ſerpent, called the flying ſnake, which darted itſelf from the boughs of trees on either man or beaſt that came within its reach, and its ſting was believed to produce inevitable death. The ſea about the iſland is infeſted with a great number of alligators of an extraordinary ſize, and the

people often obſerved a large kind of flat fiſh, jumping a conſiderable height out of the water, which they ſuppoſed to be the fiſh that is ſaid frequently to deſtroy the pearl divers by claſping them in its fins, as they ariſe from the bottom, and they were told that the divers now always armed themſelves with a ſharp knife, with which, when they are entangled, they diſengage themſelves from the fiſh's embraces by ſticking it into its belly.

While the ſhip lay at anchor, the Commodore went in a boat, attended by ſome of his officers to examine a bay which lay to the northward, and afterwards ranged along the eaſtern ſide of the iſland. Wherever they landed in the courſe of this expedition, they generally found great plenty of excellent water, and a very rich ſoil. On the north-eaſt point of the iſland they diſcovered a natural caſcade, which ſeemed to ſurpaſs every thing of this kind that had ever been produced by human art or induſtry. It was a river of tranſparent water about 40 yards wide, which rolled down a declivity of near 150 in length, the channel down which it flowed was entirely compoſed of rock, both its ſides and bottom being made up of large detatched blocks, by which the courſe of the water was frequently interrupted; for in ſome parts it run ſloping with a rapid but uniform motion, while in others it rolled over the ledges of rocks and fell with a perpendicular deſcent. All the neighbourhood of this ſtream was a fine wood, and even the huge maſſes of rock which over-hung the water, and

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by their various projections formed the inequalities of the channel, was covered with lofty forest trees. Whilst the Commodore with those who accompanied him were attentively remarking the different blendings of the water, the rocks and the woods, there appeared, as if to heighten the beauty of the prospect, a prodigious flight of mackaws, which hovering over this spot, and often wheeling and playing on the wing about it, afforded a most brilliant appearance by the glittering of the sun on their variegated plumage.

In this expedition they discovered no inhabitants, but saw many huts upon the shore, and great heaps of shells of fine mother of pearl in different places, that were left by the pearl fishers from *Panama*, who often frequent this place in the summer season; for the pearl oysters, which are every way to be found in the bay of *Panama*, are so numerous at *Quibo*, that by advancing a very little way into the sea a person may stoop down and reach them from the bottom. They are usually very large, and some of the officers opened them out of curiosity in order to taste them, but found them very tough and unpalatable. Those oysters that produce the most and the largest pearls are found at a considerable depth, for though what are taken by wading near the shore are of the same species, yet the pearls contained in them are few in number and very small. It is also said that the pearl partakes in some degree of the quality of the bottom on which the oyster is lodged, so that if there

be a muddy bottom, it renders the pearl dark and discoloured.

The business of taking up oysters from great depths for the sake of their pearls, is performed by negroe slaves, of which the inhabitants of *Panama* and the neighbouring coast formerly kept great numbers. These are said not to be esteemed compleat divers till they have learned to protract their stay so long under water, that the blood gushes out at their mouth, nose and ears; but when this has once happened it is said they dive for the future, with much greater ease than before. They have no apprehension that any ill consequence can attend this violence offered to nature, since the bleeding generally stops of itself, and there is no danger of their ever being subject to it a second time.

Though the pearl oyster was unfit for food, yet that disappointment was sufficiently recompensed by the turtle, which the sea furnishes at this island in the greatest plenty and perfection. There are usually reckoned four species of turtle, the loggerhead, the trunk turtle, the hauksbill, and the green turtle. The two first are rank and unwholesome; the hauksbill, which produces the tortoiseshell, is better than the other two, though but indifferent food; but the green turtle was generally esteemed by the officers and sailors, as affording the most delicious repast, and they had the most convincing proof of its being wholesome, from their feeding upon it near four months, without feeling any ill effects from this new food.

food. At this island they caught as many as they pleased, without the least difficulty, for as they are an amphibious animal, they go on shore to lay their eggs, which they usually deposit in a large hole in the sand, just above high water mark, and after having covered them, leave them to be hatched by the heat of the sun, they therefore ordered several men to go upon the beach, who had nothing more to do than to turn them upon their backs, which prevented the turtle from getting away, after which they brought them off at leisure; by this means they were plentifully supplied while they staid on the island, and carried a number of them to sea, which was almost a constant supply for the whole crew of fresh and palatable provisions; for they generally weighing about 200 lb. weight each, those they took with them lasted till they had a fresh supply on the coast of *Mexico*, where they often saw great numbers of them in the heat of the day fast asleep, and floating on the surface of the water. Upon discovering them they generally sent out a boat, in which was an expert diver, who, when the boat came within a few yards of the turtle, plunged into the water, and arising close by the tail, seized the shell, and pressing down the hinder parts awakened the turtle, who striking with its feet, supported by that motion both itself and the diver, till the boat came and took them both in. By which management they never wanted turtle for the succeeding four months in which they continued at sea, yet in seven months from their leaving

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Juan Fernandes to their anchoring in the harbour of *Chequetan*, they buried no more in the whole ſquadron than two men, which is an undoubted proof, that the turtle on which they fed for the laſt four months of that time, is at leaſt an innocent, if not a ſalutary food.

It is very remarkable that notwithſtanding the ſcarcity of other proviſions, on ſome part of the coaſt of the *South Seas*, a kind of food ſo very palatable, ſalubrious and plentiful as turtle, ſhould be eſteemed by the *Spaniards* as very unwholeſome, and to be little leſs than poiſonous. They had ſome *Indian* and negro ſlaves on board, whom they kept to aſſiſt in navigating the ſhips, and theſe being poſſeſſed with the prejudices of the country they came from, were aſtoniſhed at ſeeing them feed on turtle, being fully perſuaded that it would prove mortal; but finding that none of them died, nor were in the leaſt diſordered by continuing this diet, they ventured to taſte it, and at laſt with great reluctance eat it, though very ſparingly, but the reliſh improving upon them by degrees, they at laſt grew ſo fond of it, as to prefer it to every other kind of food, and often congratulated each other on the luxurious and plentiful repaſts it would always be in their power to procure, when they ſhould return back to their country.

CHAP.

CHAP. VIII.

They sail from Quibo *to the Coast of* Mexico; *cruize off the Port of* Acapulco *for the* Manila *Ship, and then sail to the Harbour of* Chequetan.

HAving left the island on the 9th of *December* in the morning, after having staid there only three days, they again put to sea in order to look for the *Gloucester*, who had separated from them on their first arrival, and the next day discovered a small sail, to which they gave chace, and coming up with her took her. She was a bark from *Panama*, named the *Jesu Nazareno*, and had nothing on board but a ton of rock salt, same oakum, and between 30 and 40 pounds in specie. On the 12th of *December* they came up with the *Gloucester*, who had sprung her fore-top mast, and having scuttled and sunk the *Jesu Nazareno*, the Commodore delivered fresh instructions to the Captains of the men of war and commanders of the prizes, appointing the rendezvouses they were to make, and the courses they were to steer in case of a separation, in which they were directed to use all possible dispatch in getting to the northward of the harbour of *Acapulco*. These orders being distributed to the ships, they had little doubt of soon arriving at their intended station, as they expected to fall in with the

the regular trade wind; but to their great vexation, they were baffled for near a month by tempeſtuous weather, dead calms, and heavy rains, and at length began to deſpair of ſucceeding in the great purpoſe they had in view, that of intercepting the *Manila* galleon, which produced a general dejection; but at length their deſpondency was ſomewhat alleviated by a favourable change of the wind, upon which the *Centurion* took the *Carmelo* in tow, as the *Glouceſter* did the *Carmin*, and this wind which blew from the north-eaſt, the next day continued ſo briſk and ſteady, that they had no doubt of its being the true trade wind. This revived their hopes, for though the uſual time of the galleon's arrival at *Acapulco* was already elapſed, they were ſo unreaſonable as to flatter themſelves, that ſome accidental delay might have lengthened her paſſage.

On the 26th of *January*, being to the northward of *Acapulco*, they tacked and ſtood to the eaſtward, with a view of making the land, which they expected to fall in with on the 28th; but though the weather was then perfectly clear, they could not diſcern it. About ten at night the *Centurion* diſcovered a light on the larboard bow, and the *Tryal's Prize*, who was about a mile a-head, made a ſignal for ſeeing a ſail. As nobody on board, doubted but what they ſaw was a ſhip's light, they were all animated with a firm perſuaſion, that it was the *Manila* galleon; and what added to their alacrity, was their expectation of meeting with two of them inſtead of one;

one; for they took it for granted, that the light in view was carried on the top of one ship, for a direction to her consort. The *Centurion* therefore cast off the *Carmelo*, and pressed forward with all her canvas, making a signal for the *Gloucester* to do the same, and thus they chaced the light, under the expectation of engaging within half an hour. Sometimes imagining the chace to be about a mile distant, and at others, within reach of their guns; for some on board positively asserted, that they could plainly discern her sails. The Commodore himself was so fully persuaded, that he should soon come up with her, that he sent for his first Lieutenant, who commanded between decks, and ordered him to see all the great guns loaded with two round shot for the first broadside, and after that with one round shot and one grape, and strictly charged him not to suffer a gun to be fired till he should give orders, which he told the Lieutenant would not be till they arrived within pistol shot of the enemy. In this constant and eager expectation, they continued all night, constantly presuming that another quarter of an hour would bring them up with the *Manila* ship, whose wealth and that of her supposed consort, they now estimated by round millions; but alas! at day-break they discovered, to their great disappointment, that all this bustle and expectation was occasioned by a fire upon a mountain, which continued burning for several days afterwards and was probably no more than a

tract of ſtubble or heath ſet on fire for the purpoſe of agriculture.

On the 12th of *February* the Commodore diſpatched the barge in ſearch of the harbour of *Acapulco*, and to diſcover whether the galleon was arrived, which returned on the 19th, when the officers informed the Commodore, that they had diſcovered the harbour, and that having got within the iſland that lies at the mouth of it, they were in great ſuſpence what to do; but while they were ignorant of their being in the very place they ſought for, they diſcerned a ſmall light near the ſurface of the water, on which plying their paddles and moving towards it as ſilently as poſſible, they found it to be a fiſhing canoe, which they ſurpriſed with 3 negroes who belonged to it, and who, at firſt, attempted to jump over-board, but they were prevented by preſenting a piece at them, on which they ſubmitted, and were taken into the barge; the canoe was turned a-drift againſt the face of a rock, where it would inevitably be daſh'd to pieces by the fury of the ſea, which was done to deceive thoſe who might perhaps be ſent in ſearch of the canoe, who on ſeeing only its remains, would immediately conclude that the people on board were drowned.

The Commodore having now theſe three negroes in his poſſeſſion, was ſoon ſatisfied about the moſt material points on which he had been long in ſuſpence. They told him that the galleon arrived at *Acapulco* on the 9th of *January* old ſtile, but revived his hopes by adding, that ſhe had delivered her cargo, and

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was taking in water and provisions in order to return, and that the viceroy of *Mexico* had by proclamation fixed her departure from *Acapulco* on the 14th of *March* new stile. This last news gave great joy to the officers and sailors, who had no doubt of her falling into their hands, and it would be of much greater advantage to seize her on her return, than it would have been to have taken her before her arrival, as the specie for which she had sold her cargo, and which she would now have on board, would be much more valuable than the cargo itself, great part of which would be of no use to the *English*.

Being now satisfied that the day was fixed for the departure of the galleon from *Acapulco*, they waited with the utmost impatience for that important moment. As they received this intelligence by the return of the barge on the 19th of *February*, and as the galleon was not to sail till the 3d of *March*, the Commodore, in order to prevent his being seen from the shore, resolved to continue the greatest part of the intermediate time, on his present station to the westward of *Acapulco*, and during this interval the sailors were employed in scrubbing and cleansing the ships bottoms, and in bringing then into the most advantageous trim.

On the first of *March*, the time for the departure of the galleon drawing nigh, the Commodore had all the ships ranged in a circular line, each ship being three leagues distant from the next, so that the *Carmelo* and the *Carmin*,

which were the two extremes, were 12 leagues removed from each other, and as the galleon might doubtleſs be diſcerned at ſix leagues diſtance from either extremity, the whole ſweep of the ſquadron, within which nothing could paſs undiſcovered, was 24 leagues in extent, and yet they were ſo connected by ſignals, as to be eaſily and ſpeedily informed of what was ſeen in any part of the line. To prevent even the poſſibility of the galleon's eſcaping in the night, the two cutters belonging to the *Centurion* and *Glouceſter* were both manned and ſent in ſhore, and commanded to lie at four or five leagues diſtance from the entrance of the port, where, upon account of their ſmallneſs, it would be impoſſible to diſcover them; but in the night, they were to ſtand nearer to the harbour's mouth, and as the morning approached, to return back to their ſtation for the day. When the cutters ſhould diſcern the *Manila* ſhip, one of them was to return to the ſquadron to make a ſignal whether the galleon ſtood to the eaſtward or the weſtward, while the other was to follow the galleon at a diſtance; and if it grew dark to direct the ſquadron in their chace by ſhewing falſe fires.

In ſhort, having taken all poſſible methods to prevent the *Manila* ſhip from eſcaping, they waited with the utmoſt impatience for the 3d of *March*; and that day no ſooner began to dawn, than every perſon on board had his eyes fixed towards *Acapulco*, and neither the duties of the men on board, nor the calls of hunger could

could easily divert them from it; but to their extreme vexation both that day and the succeeding night passed over without any news of the galleon They, however, flattered themselves, that some unforeseen accident had occasioned her departure to be deferred for a few days; which was not improbable, as it was usual for the Viceroy to defer the time of her sailing on the petition of the merchants of *Mexico*. Thus they kept up their hopes and vigilance, and as the 7th of *March* was the beginning of passion-week, which is so strictly observed by the *Spaniards* that no ship is permitted to stir out of port, they deferred their expectations till the week following, when their hopes became as sanguine as ever; but in a week's time their eagerness greatly abated, a general dejection and despondency took place in its room, and the people began to be persuaded, that the enemy had discovered their being on the coast. Indeed this opinion was but too just, for they afterwards learnt, that the barge had been seen from the shore, when she had been sent upon the discovery of the port of *Acapulco*; and as no embarkations but canoes ever frequented that coast, the *Spaniards* considered it as a sufficient proof that the *English* squadron was not far distant, and therefore stopt the galleons till the succeeding year.

The Commodore now formed a plan for the taking of *Acapulco*; but the town was too well defended, to be carried by an open attack, and therefore he proposed to set sail in the

evening, time enough to arrive at the port in the night; and having boldly entered the harbour's mouth, he intended to have put 200 men on ſhore in his boats, who were immediately to attempt the fort, while he with his ſhips were employed in firing upon the town and the other batteries. But when he began to enquire into ſuch circumſtances as were neceſſary to be conſidered, in order to conduct the execution of this plan, he found it was attended with an inſuperable difficulty, for nearer in-ſhore there was always a dead calm for the greateſt part of the night, and towards morning, when the gales ſprung up, it conſtantly blew off the land, which rendered his arrival at *Acapulco* before day-light abſolutely impoſſible.

However, as there was yet no certain intelligence of their departure being deferred till the next year, the Commodore thought it prudent to continue cruizing on his preſent ſtation as long as the neceſſary attention to his ſtores of wood and water, and to the proper ſeaſon for his paſſage to *China* would give him leave. However, the cutters returning on the 24th of *March*, and all the ſhips being joined, the Commodore made a ſignal to ſpeak with their commanders, when enquiry being made into the ſtock of freſh water remaining on board the ſquadron, it was found neceſſary to quit the ſtation in order to procure a freſh ſupply, and the harbour of *Seguataneio* or *Chequetan*, being the neareſt, it was reſolved to ſail thither, but leſt the galleon on having certain intelligence

telligence of their being at *Chequetan*, ſhould ſlip out to ſea, the *Centurion*'s cutter, under the command of Mr. *Hughes*, the Lieutenant of the *Tryal's Prize*, was ordered to cruize 24 days off the port of *Acapulco*, that if the galleon ſhould ſail in that interval they might be ſpeedily informed of it.

The ſquadron now plied to the weſt to gain their intended port, but being often interrupted by ſtorms and adverſe currents, the men were employed in theſe intervals in taking the moſt valuable part of the cargoes out of the *Carmelo* and *Carmin* prizes, which the Commodore reſolved to deſtroy as ſoon as they were cleared. On the firſt of *April* they were advanced ſo far towards *Seguataneio*, that the Commodore thought proper to ſend out two boats to diſcover the watering place, when they being gone ſome days, their water was ſo ſhort, that had they not met with a daily ſupply of turtle, which prevented their being confined to ſalt proviſions, they muſt have ſuffered extremely in ſo warm a climate; but their uneaſineſs was happily ended by the boats returning on the 5th of *April*, when they had not ten days water on board; the whole ſquadron, having about ſeven miles to the weſt of the rocks of *Seguataneio*, met with a place fit for their purpoſe, which appeared to be the port of *Chequetan*, and theſe boats being ſent out again the next day to ſound the harbour and its entrance, returned with the report that it was free from danger, on which the ſquadron immediately ſtood for it, and the

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Centurion and *Gloucester* caſt anchor there the ſame evening.

CHAP. IX.

A Deſcription of the Harbour of Chequetan, *and the adjacent Country. The Torpedo Fiſh, and other Animals and Vegetables of the Country deſcribed. The* Tryal's Prize *the* Carmelo *and* Carmin *ſcuttled and burnt.*

THE port of *Chequetan* is a place of conſiderable conſequence, ſince it is the only ſecure harbour except *Acapulco* in a vaſt extent of coaſt. It lies in 17° 36′ north latitude, and is about 30 leagues to the weſtward of *Acapulco*, from which laſt town there is a bank of ſand, which extends 18 leagues to the weſtward, againſt which the ſea breaks ſo violently, that it is impoſſible to land in any part of it with boats, yet the ground is ſo clean, that in the fair ſeaſon, ſhips may anchor at the diſtance of a mile or two from the ſhore. The land which joins to this beach is generally low, planted with a great number of trees, and full of villages, and on the tops of ſeveral ſmall eminences there are ſeveral watch-towers. The part which is cultivated extends ſome leagues back into the country, where it ſeems to be bounded by a chain of mountains, which on either ſide of *Acapulco* ſtretch to a conſiderable diſtance, and, indeed, the whole face of the

the country affords a very agreeable prospect; but it is remarkable that in all this extent, which appears the most populous and best planted of the whole coast, there are to be seen neither boats nor canoes either for coasting, fishing, or for pleasure; which is probably occasioned by all kinds of small craft being prohibited by the government to prevent smuggling. There is no other method of finding this harbour at a considerable distance from the coast, than that of making it by the latitude, for there are so many ranges of mountains within land, rising one upon the back of the other, that no drawings of the appearance of the coast can be in the least depended upon when off at sea, for every trifling change of distance, or variation of position, brings new mountains in view, and produces different prospects.

As the country appeared to be so well peopled and cultivated, the Commodore was in hopes of easily procuring some fresh provisions and other refreshments, and therefore the morning after he came to an anchor, ordered a party of 40 men well armed, to march into the country to discover some town or village, and to settle a correspondence with the inhabitants; for it was not doubted, that if this intercourse was but once begun, he should allure them to bring whatever fruits or fresh provisions were in their power. These men were directed to behave with the greatest circumspection, and to shew as little appearance of any thing like hostility as possible.

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But this attempt to open an amicable traffick with the inhabitants, proved ineffectual; for towards the evening, this party returned greatly fatigued, by their unusual exercise, and some of them so far spent, that they had fainted on the road, and were obliged to be brought back, upon the shoulders of their companions. When they had proceeded near five miles from the harbour, the road divided between the mountains into two branches, one of which turned to the east, and the other to the west, when agreeing to continue their march along the eastern road, it led them into a large plain, on one side of which they discovered a centinel on horseback, with a pistol in his hand. When they first saw him, they supposed he was asleep, for his horse started at the glittering of their arms, and suddenly turning round, run off with his master, who though he was very near being unhorsed, recovered his seat, and escaped with only the loss of his hat and his pistol, which he dropped on the ground. The party pursued him in hopes of discovering the village, or habitation to which he should retreat; but after fatiguing themselves in vain, soon lost sight of him.

Being unwilling to return without making some discovery, they followed the track they were in, till the heat of the day increasing, and finding no water to quench their thirst, they resolved to return back: however, that no means might be left untried of procuring some intercourse with the people, the officers stuck up several poles in the road, to which

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were affixed declarations, written in *Spanish*, in order to encourage the inhabitants to come to the harbour to traffick with the ſquadron, and filled with the ſtrongeſt aſſurances of a kind reception, and faithful payment for all the proviſions they brought. But this meaſure, however prudent, was ineffectual, for none of the people came down to the ſhips during their continuance at the port of *Chequetan*.

Upon this occaſion, it is proper to obſerve, in order to give ſome idea of the timidity of the inhabitants of this country; that ſome time after the Commodore's arrival at *Chequetan*, he ſent Lieutenant *Brett*, with two boats under his command, to examine the coaſt to the eaſtward, and particularly to make obſervations on the bay and watering-place of *Petaplan*. Mr. *Brett* was preparing to land with one of the boats towards the hill of *Petaplan*, when accidentally caſting his eyes acroſs the bay, he obſerved on the oppoſite ſtrand, three ſmall ſquadrons of horſe, which ſeemed to advance towards the place where he propoſed to land. Upon which, though he had but ſixteen men with him, he boldly put off the boat, and ſtood over the bay, in order to face them, and was ſoon near enough to perceive that they were mounted on good horſes, and armed with carbines and lances. On ſeeing him thus advance, they formed upon the beach, fired ſeveral diſtant ſhot at him as he drew near, and ſeemed determined to diſpute his landing till at laſt the boat coming within a reaſonable diſtance from the moſt advanced ſquadron; Mr. *Brett* ordered his

his men to fire, when this resolute cavalry immediately fled with great confusion, through a small opening into the wood. In this hasty flight, one of their horses falling down, threw his rider, but both the man and horse were soon up again, and followed the rest. The two other squadrons were in the mean time calm spectators of the rout of their comrades, for having halted on Mr *Brett*'s first approach, they continued drawn up at a great distance behind out of the reach of the shot. Had these men concealed themselves till the boat's crew were landed, it is scarcely possible but they must all have fallen into their hands, as the *Spaniards* amounted to near 200, and the whole number with Mr. *Brett* was only sixteen.

The Commodore finding his attempt to prevail on the people to furnish the squadron with necessaries unsuccessful, desisted from any other endeavours of that kind, and the people were contented with what they could procure for themselves in the neighbourhood of the port where they caught breams, cavallies, soals, mullets, fiddle fish, sea eggs, and lobsters, and in this place alone, they met with that remarkable fish called the torpedo, which is a flat fish, like a thornback, and so nearly resembles the fiddle-fish, that it can be only distinguished from it by a brown circular spot, of the size of a crown piece near the center of its back. The torpedo produces very surprising effects on the human frame. For whoever handles or even sets his foot upon it, is immediately seized with a numbness over his whole body, but

but more particularly in that limb, which was in immediate contact with it. Mr. *Walter* obſerves, that he himſelf had a conſiderable degree of numbneſs conveyed to his right arm, by touching it for a ſhort time with a walking cane, and he makes no doubt but that he ſhould have been much more ſenſibly affected, had not the fiſh been almoſt at the point of death, when he made the experiment; ſince it is obſervable, that this influence acts with moſt vigour upon the fiſh's being firſt taken out of the water, and entirely ceaſes as ſoon as it is dead, when it may be handled, or even eaten without the leaſt inconvenience. The numbneſs of Mr. *Walter*'s arm, upon this occaſion, diminiſhed gradually, ſo that he had ſome remains of it till the next day.

The principal animals they met with on ſhore were guanoes, with which the country abounds, and by ſome are reckoned delicious food. They ſaw no other beaſts of prey but alligators, none of which were very large. They were however convinced that there were many tygers in the woods, though none of them came in ſight, for every morning the prints of their feet were very viſible on the beach near the watering-place, but they apprehended no danger from them, ſince they are not near ſo fierce as the *African* or *Aſiatic* tygers, and are ſeldom if ever known to attack mankind. They had plenty of birds, and particularly pheaſants of various kinds, ſome of which were remarkably large, but they were all dry and taſteleſs food. They frequently

killed parrots for food, and saw a great variety of small birds.

They found great scarcity of fruits and vegetable refreshments, and these were not of the best kinds. 'Tis true, there were a few bushes scattered about the woods, which supplied the squadron with limes, but the men could scarcely procure enough for their present use. There was also a small plumb of an agreeable acid, which in *Jamaica* is called the hog-plumb, and another fruit called a papah, and these were the only fruits to be found in the woods; nor was there any other vegetable worth notice, except brook-lime, which grows near the fresh water banks in great quantities, though it was extremely bitter, and unpalatable, yet as it was esteemed an antiscorbutic, they frequently fed upon it.

During their stay at this place, an incident happened, which proved the means of convincing their friends in *England* of their safety. From the harbour of *Chequetan*, there was but one narrow path, which led through the woods into the country, and was the only avenue by which the *Spaniards* could approach them, and therefore to prevent their being disturbed by any sudden attack of the enemy's horse, and to hinder the people from straggling singly into the country, where they might be surprized by the *Spaniards*, the Commodore caused several large trees to be felled, and laid one upon another a-cross the path, at some distance beyond the spring-head; and at this barricadoe, they constantly kept a guard, which had orders to let

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no perſou whatſoever paſs beyond their poſt. But notwithſtanding the precaution, *Lewis Leger*, the Commodore's, cook was miſſing, and he being a *Frenchman*, and under the ſuſpicion of being a papiſt, it was at firſt concluded that he had deſerted, with a view of betraying all he knew to the enemy, though by the event, this was found to be an ill-grounded ſurmiſe; for he had been taken by ſome *Indians*, who had carried him priſoner to *Acapulco*, whence he was ſent to *Mexico*, and thence to *Vera Cruz*, where he was put on board a veſſel bound to *Old Spain*. But this veſſel being by ſome accident obliged to put into *Liſbon*, *Leger* eſcaped on ſhore, and was ſent from hence by the *Britiſh* Conſul to *England*, where he brought the firſt authentic account of the Commodore's ſafety, and of his principal tranſactions in the *South Seas*.

The account he gave of his ſeizure was, that he had rambled into the woods at ſome diſtance from the barricadoe, where he had at firſt attempted to paſs, but had been ſtopt, and threatned to be puniſhed. That his principal view was to gather a quantity of limes for his maſter's ſtore; but while he was thus employed, he was ſuddenly ſurpriſed by four *Indians* who ſtripped him naked, and in that condition conducted him to *Acapulco*, where he was expoſed to the ſcorching heat of the ſun, which then ſhone with its greateſt violence: That his treatment in priſon at *Mexico* was very ſevere, and that all the time of his captivity, the *Spaniards* give him a continual proof of the ha-

tred they bear to all who endeavour to disturb them on the coasts of the *South Seas*.

It must here be observed, that though the enemy never appeared in view, while the squadron lay at anchor in the harbour, yet those on board could easily perceive, that large parties of them were encamped in the woods; for they could see their smokes; and just before they left the place, they seemed by the increase of their fires, to have had a large reinforcement.

They here compleated the unloading of the *Carmelo* and *Carmin*, out of which they only took the indico, cocoa, and cochineal, with some iron for ballast, though they did not amount to a tenth of their cargoes, and the unloading of these prizes, together with the wooding and watering being compleated, the *Tryal's Prize*, with the *Carmelo* and *Carmin* were towed on shore, and scuttled on the 27th of *April*, and a quantity of combustible materials were distributed in their upper works; the next morning the *Centurion* and *Gloucester* weighed anchor, when having reached the offing, one of the boats was dispatched back to set fire to the prizes, which was acccordingly executed.

This being done a canoe was left fixed to a grapnel in the midst of the harbour, in which was a bottle well corked, containing a letter to Mr. *Hughes*, who commanded the cutter, which had been ordered to cruize before the port of *Acapulco*, when the squadron quitted that station. This letter directed Mr. *Hughes* to return

turn to his former ſtation, where he would find Mr. *Anſon*, who reſolved to cruize for him there a certain number of days, after which it was added, that the Commodore would return to the ſouthward to join the reſt of the ſquadron. Theſe laſt words were inſerted to deceive the *Spaniards* in caſe they got the canoe in their poſſeſſion, as they afterwards learned that they did, but could not impoſe on Mr. *Hughes*, who was ſenſible that the Commodore had no other ſquadron to join, nor the leaſt intention of ſteering back to *Peru*.

As they had now no farther views in the *American* ſeas, it was no ſmall mortification to them to be detained by the abſence of the cutter, the time of whoſe return was now conſiderably elapſed, and this made it neceſſary for them to ſail towards *Acapulco* in ſearch of her, and, indeed, it was ſuſpected that ſhe had been diſcovered from the ſhore, and that the governor of *Acapulco* had ſent out a ſufficient force to ſeize her, which was no very difficult enterpriſe as ſhe carried but ſix hands. This however being only conjecture, the Commodore ſtood along the coaſt to the eaſtward in ſearch of her, and to prevent her paſſing by in the dark brought to every night. The *Glouceſter*, who was ſtationed a league nearer the ſhore than the *Centurion*, carried a light, which if the cutter kept along ſhore, ſhe would not fail of perceiving it, and as a further ſecurity, both the *Centurion* and *Glouceſter* alternately ſhewed two falſe fires every half hour.

Being at length advanced within three leagues of *Acapulco*, without ſeeing the cutter, they gave her over for loſt, which beſides their compaſſion for their ſhip-mates on account of what they might have ſuffered, was a misfortune which greatly concerned them on account of their ſcarcity of hands, ſince the cutter's crew conſiſted of ſix men and the Lieutenant, who were picked out for the ſervice, and were ſkilful ſeamen, and every one of them of tried reſolution. However as it was generally believed that they were taken and carried into *Acapulco*, the Commodore as he had many *Spaniſh* and *Indian* priſoners and ſick negroes in his poſſeſſion, wrote a letter the ſame day to the Governor of that town to inform him, that he would releaſe them all, provided the Governor would only return the cutter's crew. This letter was carried by a *Spaniſh* officer, who was furniſhed with a launch belonging to one of the prizes, and a crew of ſix other priſoners, who gave their parole for their return. The *Spaniſh* officer alſo carried with him a petition ſigned by all the other priſoners, beſeeching the Governor to comply with the terms propoſed for their liberty.

From the number of the priſoners, and the quality of ſome of them, it was not doubted that the Governor would readily agree to Mr. *Anſon*'s propoſal; and, therefore, they kept near the land in order to receive an anſwer at the limited time, but both on that day and the day following, they were driven ſo far out to ſea that they could not expect any anſwer to

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reach them, and the fourth day after the proposal was sent, they were fourteen leagues from the harbour of *Acapulco*, but the wind being favourable they pressed forwards with all their sail, and hoped to get within the land that afternoon.

While they were thus standing, the sentinel from the mast-head called out that he saw a boat under sail at a considerable distance to the south-east. This they did not doubt contained the Governor's answer to the Commodore's message, and instantly edged towards her; but on their nearer approach, they found to their unspeakable joy, that it was their own cutter. While at a distance, they imagined that she had been discharged by the Governor out of the port of *Acapulco*; but when she drew nearer, the pale and meagre countenances of the crew, the length of their beards, and the feeble tone of their voices convinced every one that they had endured much greater hardships than they could have suffered, even from the severities of a *Spanish* prison. They were obliged to be helped into the ship, and to be instantly put to bed, but by rest and the nourishing diet with which they were plentifully supplied from the Commodore's table, they recovered their health and vigour.

These poor men had kept the sea the whole time of their absence, which was above six weeks. When they had finished their cruize before *Acapulco*, they begun to ply to the westward in order to join the squadron, but a strong adverse current forced them down the coast to

the eastward, and at length their water being all expended, they were obliged to search the coast farther to the eastward in quest of a convenient landing-place, in order to get a fresh supply. But in this distress they ran upwards of * 80 leagues to the leeward, but every where found so large a surf, that there was not the least possibility of their landing. Some days they passed in this dreadful situation, during which they had no other means of allaying their thirst, than catching turtle and sucking their blood, till at last the heat of the climate rendering their sufferings insupportable, they abandoned themselves to despair, from the firm belief, that they should perish by the most terrible of all deaths; but in this dreadful exigence, Providence sent them a most unexpected relief, for there fell so heavy a rain, that on spreading their sails horizontally, and putting bullets in the centres of them to draw them to a point, they caught as much water as filled all their casks, and immediately upon this happy supply, being favoured by a strong current, they stood to the westward in quest of the Commodore, and joined the *Centurion* in less than 50 hours, after an absence of 43 days.

Mr. *Anson* now resolved not to disappoint the hopes of the prisoners; but to restore them to the liberty he had promised them, and there-

* *The* Buccaneer *writers have had the assurance to pretend that there are harbours and convenient watering-places within these limits.*

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fore, they were all immediately embarked in two launches which had belonged to the prizes, and left the wind ſhould prove unfavourable, they were allowed a ſtock of water and proviſions. Thoſe releaſed were 57 in number, the greateſt part of them being *Spaniards*, and the reſt *Indians* and ſick negroes; but as the crews were very weak, Mr. *Anſon* kept the ſtouteſt of the negroes, a few *Indians* and the *Mulattoes*. They afterwards learned that the two launches arrived ſafe at *Acapulco*, where all the priſoners extolled the humanity with which they had been treated. But before their arrival, the Governor it ſeems had returned an obliging anſwer to the Commodore's letter, and at the ſame time ſent out two boats laden with the choiceſt refreſhments, and proviſions, that could be procured at *Acapulco*: But the boats not finding the *Engliſh* ſhips, were at length obliged to return, after meeting with a ſtorm, in which they were forced to throw all their proviſions overboard.

CHAP.

CHAP. X.

The Centurion *and* Gloucester *depart for* China, *and again lose many Hands by the Scurvy. The* Gloucester *disabled by a Storm and burnt. Their arrival at* Tinian. *A Description of that Island. The* Centurion *drove out to Sea.*

THEIR sending away the prisoners was the last transaction on the *American* coast, for immediately on their parting with them, the *Centurion* and *Gloucester* made sail to the south-west with a view of meeting with a north-east trade wind, which the accounts of former writers had taught them to expect at the distance of 70 or 80 leagues from the land, and on the 6th of *May*, they for the last time lost sight of the mountains of *Mexico*, with the hopes of reaching the eastermost isles of *Asia* in two months. Notwithstanding all their endeavours to come in with the trade winds by getting into the latitude of 13 or 14 degrees north, where the *Pacific Ocean* is most usually crossed, all their efforts proved unsuccessful, so that it was seven weeks from their leaving the coast till they got into the true trade wind. By this time both ships became extremely crazy, and soon after a spring was discovered in the fore-mast of the *Centurion*, and no sooner was it secured by the carpenter's fishing it, than the

the *Glouceſter* made a ſignal of diſtreſs, and informed the Commodore that ſhe had ſo dangerous a ſpring in the main-maſt, that ſhe could not carry any ſail upon it, and that being exceſſively rotten, it was found neceſſary to cut part of it away. Theſe accidents occaſioning delay, and the ſcurvy beginning to make freſh havock amongſt the people, they began to be in the greateſt anxiety about their future ſafety, and to preſent before their eyes the melancholy proſpect either of dying with the ſcurvy, or of periſhing with the ſhip for want of hands to navigate her. They had indeed been willing to believe that in this warm climate, ſo different from that they had felt in paſſing round *Cape Horn*, the violence of this diſeaſe and its fatality might in ſome degree be mitigated. It had been generally preſumed that ſupplies of water and freſh proviſions effectually prevented this diſtemper, and that keeping the ſhips clean and airy between decks, were even alone ſufficient to prevent the ſcurvy, or to mitigate its virulence. But though they had a conſiderable ſtock of freſh proviſions aboard, which were the hogs and fowls taken at *Payta*, though they almoſt daily caught abundance of dolphins, albicores, and bonitos, and the unſettled ſeaſon that deprived them of the benefit of the trade wind proved ſo rainy, that they were enabled to fill their water caſks as faſt as they were emptied, and each man had five pints of water conſtantly allowed him every day; tho' freſh proviſions were diſtributed amongſt the ſick, and the whole crew often fed upon

fiſh,

fish, and though during the latter part of the run they kept all their ports open, and took uncommon pains in sweetening the ships, yet nothing could stop the progress or abate the malignity of the disease.

At length upon their reaching the trade wind, which settled between the north and east, it seldom blew with such strength, but that the *Centurion* might have carried all her small sails abroad without the least danger, so that she might have run down the longitude apace, but the *Gloucester* by losing the best part of her main-mast, sailed so very heavily, that the *Centurion* lost little less than a month by attending upon her, and at length being entirely disabled by a storm, the Commodore, after having her examined, sent an order to Captain *Mitchel* to put his people on board the *Centurion*, as expeditiously as possible, which was immediately performed, and it was with the greatest difficulty, that the prize money, which the *Gloucester* had taken in the *South Seas*, was secured and sent on board the *Centurion*; but the prize goods in the *Gloucester*, which amounted to several thousand pounds value, were entirely lost, nor could any more provisions be got out, than five casks of flour, three of which were spoilt by the salt water. When this was performed, her crew were so greatly reduced by the scurvy, that she had only 77 men, 18 boys, and two prisoners alive, out of which number there were no more than 16 men and 11 boys able to keep the deck, and several of these were very ill. The *Gloucester* was cleared

cleared of every thing that was propoſed to be removed on the 15th of *Auguſt*, and then ſet on fire; but ſhe continued burning the whole night, ſo that though her guns fired ſucceſſively as the flames reached them, yet ſhe did not blow up till ſix in the morning, when the *Centurion* was about four leagues diſtant. The report ſhe made was but ſmall, though the blaſt produced a very black pillar of ſmoke, which ſhot up to a very conſiderable height in the air.

The *Centurion* being now freed from the delays occaſioned by the frequent diſaſters which happened to the *Glouceſter*, might have been expected to have proceeded much briſker than ſhe had hitherto done; but the people on board that ſhip had ſtill great diſtreſſes to ſtruggle with; for the ſtorm, which had proved ſo fatal to that veſſel, had driven them to the northward of their intended courſe, and the current ſetting the ſame way after the weather had abated, had forced them a degree or two farther, ſo that they were near four degrees to the north of the parallel they had propoſed to keep, in order to reach the iſland of *Guam*, and as they were ignorant how near they were to the meridian of the *Ladrones*, they apprehended that they might be driven to the leeward of them by the current without perceiving them. In which caſe, the only land they could make, would be ſome of the eaſtern parts of *Aſia*, where the weſtern monſoon, being in its full force, it would be impoſſible for them to get in, and indeed, they

were in ſuch a languiſhing condition, that they could expect nothing but their being deſtroyed by the ſcurvy, long before they could compleat ſo extenſive a navigation. For now no day paſſed in which they did not bury eight or ten, and ſometimes 12 of their men, and thoſe who had ſtill continued healthy began to ſicken apace. To add to their diſtreſs, they had a very conſiderable leak, which, however, was at laſt diſcovered, and though it was found impoſſible to ſtop it, it was at length reduced.

They had condered the calm during which the currents had driven them to the north, as a dreadful misfortune; but a gale ſpringing up from the ſouth-weſt, rendered their condition ſtill worſe, as it was directly oppoſite to the courſe they deſired to ſteer. However, on the 22d of *Auguſt*, they had the ſatisfaction to find that the current was ſhifted and ſet them to the ſouthward, and the next morning at day-break, they were cheared with the ſight of two iſlands to the weſt. As they had till then been ſeized with an univerſal dejection, from their almoſt deſpairing of ever again ſeeing land, this diſcovery raiſed their drooping ſpirits, and gave them inexpreſſible joy. The neareſt of theſe iſlands was *Anatacan*, which appeared to be full 15 leagues diſtance, and ſeemed to be high land, the other was the iſland of *Serigan*, which had the appearance of a rock. They were very impatient to get in with the neareſt iſland, where they hoped to find anchoring ground, and refreſhment for their ſick; but

but the wind proving variable they advanced but ſlowly. However, the next day at noon, they were within four miles of *Anatacan*, when the boat was ſent out to examine the anchoring ground, and the produce of the place, but in the evening when the boat returned, they were informed, that there was no road for a ſhip to anchor in; that ſome of the crew had with difficulty landed, and found that the ground was every where covered with a kind of wild cane or ruſh; that they had ſeen groves of cocoa-nut trees; but had met with no water. This account occaſioned a general melancholy, and their deſpondency was increaſed, when as they were plying under their topſails, in order to get nearer to the iſland with an intention of ſending the boat on ſhore to get cocoa-nuts for the refreſhment of the ſick, the wind blew ſo ſtrong off ſhore, that they were driven too far to the ſouthward to venture to ſend off their boat, and now the only means of preſerving them from periſhing were their falling in with ſome other of the *Ladrone* iſlands. But as their knowledge of them was extremely imperfect, they were to truſt intirely to chance for their guidance.

On the 26th of *Auguſt* in the morning they loſt ſight of the iſland of *Anatacan*, dreading that it was the laſt land they ſhould ever ſee; but the next morning they diſcovered to the eaſtward three other iſlands, at between 10 and 14 leagues diſtance, which were the iſlands of *Saypan*, *Tinian*, and *Aguigan*, upon which they immediately ſteered towards *Tinian*, the middle-

moſt of the three; but had ſuch a calm, that though they were aſſiſted by the currents, they were the next morning advanced no nearer than within five leagues of it. They however kept on their courſe, and about ten o'clock perceived a proa under ſail between *Tinian* and *Aguigan*. As this gave them reaſon to believe that theſe iſlands were inhabited, and they well knew that the *Spaniards* had always an armed force at *Guam*, they muſtered all their hands that were capable of ſtanding to their arms, in order to diſguiſe their wretched circumſtances, and the more eaſily to procure intelligence, ſhewed *Spaniſh* colours, and hoiſted a red flag at the fore-top-maſt-head, hoping by this means to make the *Centurion* paſs for the *Manila* galleon, and to decoy ſome of the inhabitants on board. At three in the afternoon the Commodore ſent the cutter to find out a proper birth for the ſhip, and it was ſoon perceived that a proa taking the *Centurion* for the *Manila* ſhip, put off from the iſland to meet the cutter, and the cutter returning with the proa in tow, the pinnace was inſtantly ſent to bring the priſoners on board. Thoſe taken were a *Spaniard* and four *Indians*, and the *Spaniard* being immediately examined, his account of the iſland ſurpaſſed their moſt ſanguine hopes. He informed them that it was uninhabited, which, conſidering their defenceleſs condition, was of great conſequence to them, and yet that there were wanting but few of the accommodations that might be procured in the moſt cultivated country. That there was plenty

plenty of good water, and an incredible numbe of cattie, hogs, and poultry, running wild, and all of them excellent in their kind; that the woods afforded great plenty of lemons, limes, ſweet and ſour oranges, and cocoa-nuts, beſides a fruit peculiar to theſe iſlands, which ſerved inſtead of bread, and that the *Spaniards* at *Guam* made uſe of the iſland as a ſtore for ſupplying the garriſon, on which account he was ſent thither with two *Indians* to jerk beef, which he was to carry to *Guam* in a ſmall bark that lay at anchor near the ſhore.

This account was received with inexpreſſible joy, and they were now near enough to perceive large herds of cattle feeding in different parts of the iſland, and the appearance of the ſhore would not ſuffer them to doubt of the reſt of his narration. The proſpect of the country, inſtead of reſembling a place uninhabited and without cultivation, ſeemed to be laid out with great ſkill in ſpacious lawns, and ſtately woods, and the whole ſo artfully combined, and ſo judiciouſly adapted to the ſlopes of the hills and the inequalities of the ground, as to produce a moſt ſtriking effect, and to do honour to the invention of the contriver. Thus were they providentially brought to this delightful iſland, by means, which they at firſt ſight had conſidered as the greateſt of misfortunes; for had they not been driven by thoſe contrary winds and currents which had filled them with the moſt terrible apprehenſions, to the northward of their courſe, they would in all probability have miſſed this ſpot, where alone, all

their wants could be fully relieved, the sick recovered, and their enfeebled crew once more refreshed, and enabled to pursue their voyage.

The Commodore being now sollicitous to hinder the governor of *Guam* from obtaining intelligence of his arrival, resolved to endeavour, if possible, to prevent the escape of the *Indians*, and therefore dispatched the pinnace to secure the bark, which he was told was the only vessel at the island, and at about eight in the evening, they cast anchor in 22 fathom; but though the weather was almost calm, and all the vigour and spirit possessed by the crew were exerted on their going to take possession of this little terrestrial paradise, they were so weakened by the crews of the cutter and pinnace being sent on shore, that they were full five hours in furling the sails, and even including those who were absent with the boats, and some *Indians* and negroes, all the hands they could muster, capable of standing at a gun, were only 71, most of whom were incapable of duty, except on extraordinary occasions, and these were all that could be collected from the united crews of the *Centurion*, the *Gloucester*, the *Tryal* and *Anna* Pink, which consisted of about 1000 hands on their departure from *England*.

As the Commodore was not certain what opposition might be made by the *Indians* on the island, he sent a party well-armed on shore the next morning to secure the landing place, which was done without the least difficulty. For the *Indians* having the night before perceived

ceived by the ſeizure of the bark, that they were enemies, immediately fled into the woods. This party found on ſhore many huts, which ſaved the ſailors the trouble of erecting tents, and one of theſe which was uſed for a ſtore-houſe, being 20 yards long and 15 broad, was inſtantly cleared of ſome jerked beef, converted into an hoſpital, and as ſoon as it was ready, the ſick who amounted to 128, were brought on ſhore. Numbers of theſe were ſo helpleſs, that the men were obliged to carry them from the boats to the hoſpital upon their ſhoulders, in which humane employment, the Commodore again, and every one of his officers without diſtinction, were engaged; but notwithſtanding the extreme debility of the greateſt part of the ſick, they in a ſurpriſing manner ſoon felt the ſalutary influence of the land; for though 21 men were buried on that, and the following day, yet during the whole two months in which they ſtaid there, they did not loſe above ten more. For the ſick reaped ſuch benefit from the fruits of the Iſland, and in particular thoſe of the acid kind, that within a week moſt of them were ſo recovered, as to be able to move without aſſiſtance.

The iſland of *Tinian* lies in the latitude of 15°. 8′. north, and 114°. 50′. weſt longitude from *Acapulco*. It is about 12 miles in length, and half as much in breadth. The land riſes in gentle ſlopes from the beach to the middle of the iſland; but its aſcent is frequently interrupted by valleys of an eaſy deſcent, many of which wind irregularly through the country.

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Theſe vallies, and the gradual ſwellings of the ground to which their different combinations gave riſe, are beautifully diverſified, by the mutal approach of woods and lawns, which border upon each other, and in large tracts traverſe the iſland. The woods are compoſed of tall and ſpeading trees, moſt of which are worthy of being admired, either for their fruit or for their beauty. While the lawns are generally of a conſiderable breadth, and covered with a clean and uniform turf, compoſed of a very fine trefoil, intermixed with a variety of flowers. In many places the woods are open, and free from all buſhes and underwood. So that on the borders of the lawns, neither ſhrubs nor weeds are to be ſeen, and the neatneſs of the adjacent turf is frequently extended to a conſiderable diſtance under the hollow ſhade formed by the trees. Hence aroſe a great variety of the moſt elegant and entertaining proſpects, according to the different blendings of theſe woods and lawns, as they ſpread themſelves through the valleys and along the ſlopes and declivities with which the place abounds. The animals that enliven the landſkips in ſome meaſure partake of the romantic caſt of the iſland, and are a great addition to the beauty of the proſpects, for the cattle are all of them milk-white, except their ears, which are generally black or brown, and it is not uncommon to ſee ſome hundreds of theſe feeding together in a large meadow, and though there are no inhabitants, yet the noiſe and frequent appearance of domeſtic poultry, which

which in great numbers range the woods, greatly contribute to the chearfulness and beauty of the place, by perpetually exciting the idea of the neighbourhood of farms and villages.

The cattle at *Tinian* were computed to amount to at least 10,000, and they were not at all shy, the crew of the *Centurion* found no difficulty in getting near them. They at first brought them down by shooting them; but afterwards, when by accidents that will be hereafter mentioned, they were obliged to husband their ammunition, the sailors easily ran them down. Their flesh was extremely well tasted, and was thought to be more easily digested than any they had yet met with. The fowls too, which were extremely good, were also run down with little trouble; as they could scarce fly above an hundred yards at a flight, and were then so fatigued, that they could not readily rise again, so that being assisted by the openness of the woods, they were always able to take what number they pleased. And that no delicacies might be wanting, they were furnished with great plenty of wild fowl, for near the centre of the island, there were two considerable pieces of fresh water, which abounded with duck, teal, and curlews, and the whistling plover, was also found there in prodigious plenty. They here likewise found abundance of wild hogs, which were most excellent food, but being extremely fierce, the sailors were obliged either to shoot them, or to hunt them with some large dogs they found upon

upon the iſland, and which belonged to the detachment ſent to provide proviſions for the garriſon of *Guam*; and as theſe dogs had been trained to the killing of wild hogs, they readily followed the ſailors, and hunted for them; but notwithſtanding their being of a large and bold breed, the hogs fought with ſuch fury, that they at length deſtroyed the greateſt part of them.

This iſland was alſo of extreme advantage on account of its fruits and vegetables, which were moſt happily adapted to the cure of the ſea ſcurvy; for the woods produced ſweet and ſour oranges, limes, guavoes, vaſt quantities of cocoa-nuts, with the cabbages growing on the ſame tree, and a peculiar kind of fruit to be found only in theſe iſlands, called by the *Indians* Rhyma, but by the *Centurion*'s people the bread fruit, for it was conſtantly eaten by them inſtead of bread, and ſo univerſally preferred to it, that none of the ſhip's bread was expended during their ſtay on the iſland. It grows upon a pretty loſty tree, which near the top divides into large and ſpreading branches, the leaves, which are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length, are of a remarkable deep green, and notched about the edges. The fruit which is found indifferently on all parts of the branches is rather of an oval form than round, is covered with a rough rind, and is uſually ſeven or eight inches long, and each of them grows ſingly, and not in cluſters. It is fitteſt to be uſed when green, but full grown, and being roaſted in the embers, has ſome di-

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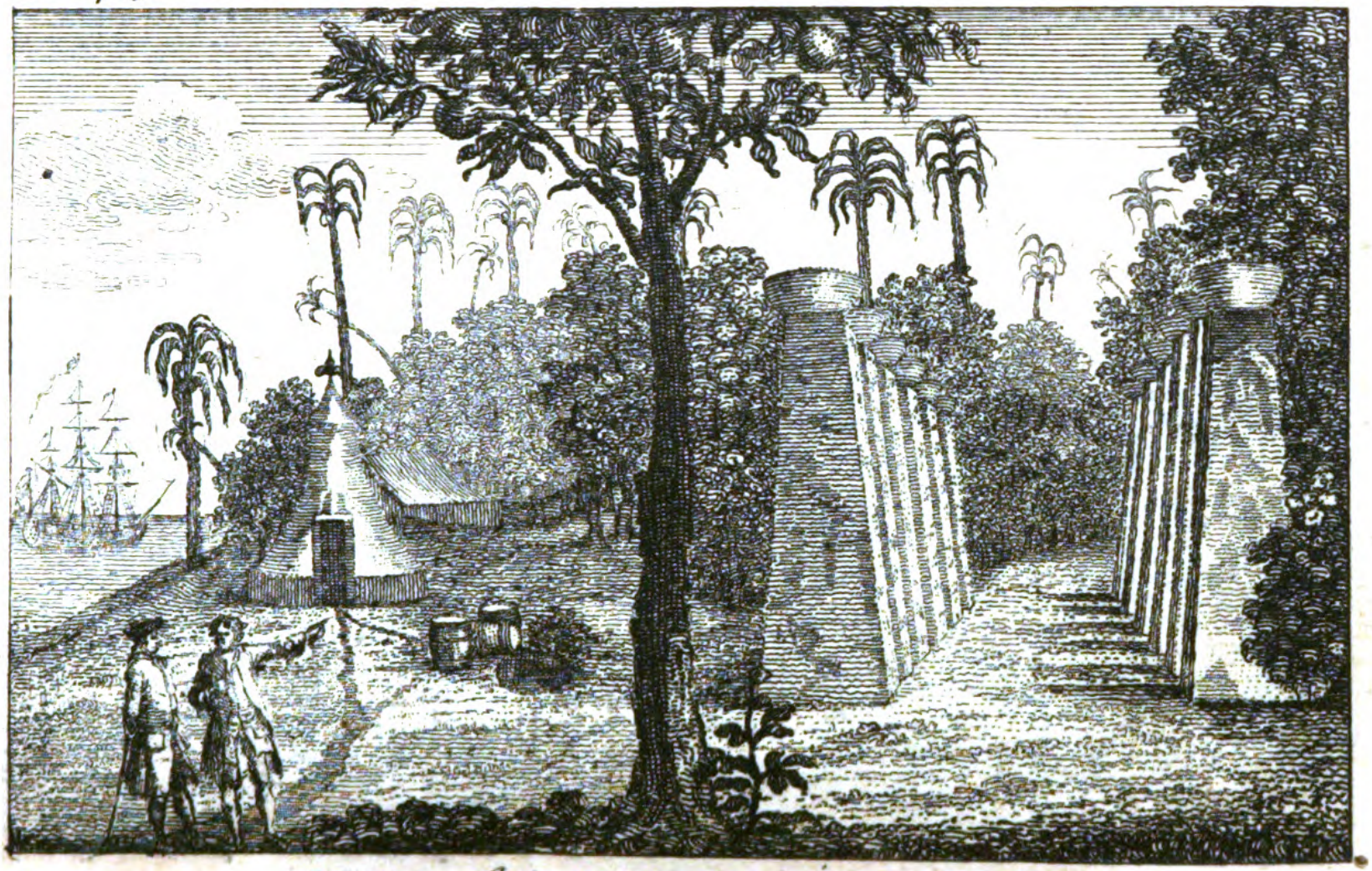
ſtant reſemblance to the taſte of an artichoke's bottom, and is like that of a ſoft and ſpungy nature: But as it ripens it becomes ſofter, turns yellow, and has a luſcious taſte, and agreable ſmell, not unlike a ripe peach; however, it is then eſteemed unwholſome, and is ſaid to produce fluxes. Mr. *Dampier*, to whom our author refers for a more particular deſcription, ſays, it is as large as a good ſized two-penny loaf, and that the inſide is ſoft, tender, white and crummy like bread, and if eaten in twenty-four hours after it is plucked, has a ſweet and pleaſant taſte; and that this excellent fruit is in ſeaſon eight months in the year: This iſland alſo affords many other vegetables, proper for the cure of that dreadful diſeaſe they had ſo long laboured under, as ſcurvy-graſs, ſorrel, mint, dandelion, creeping-purſlain, and water-melons, of all which, together with the freſh proviſions, they fed with great eagerneſs, being prompted to it by the ſtrong inclination which the ſea ſcurvy never fails to excite for thoſe powerful remedies.

It may ſeem ſurpriſing, that this beautiful iſland, ſo elegantly furniſhed with the neceſſaries and luxuries of life, ſhould be entirely void of inhabitants. To remove this difficulty, it muſt be obſerved, that in ſomething leſs than 50 years before Mr. *Anſon*'s arrival, it was a populous country, and is ſaid to have contained 30,000 ſouls, but a ſickneſs raging at *Tinian*, *Rota* and *Guam*, all of which were full of inhabitants; the *Spaniards*, to recruit the people at *Guam*, who were greatly diminiſhed by the mor-

mortality, forced all the inhabitants of *Tinian* to remove thither; where they languiſhed after their native iſland, till, in a few years, the greateſt part of them died of grief. Theſe poor *Indians* might reaſonably have expected, from their being placed at ſuch an immenſe diſtance from *Spain*, to have eſcaped the cruelty which had occaſioned the deſtruction of great part of the weſtern world; but the only advantage they received from this diſtance, was their periſhing an age or two later.

The iſland ſtill affords remains, which ſhow it to have been once extremely populous; for, in all parts of it, there are many ruins of a very remarkable kind, which generally conſiſt of two rows of pyramidical pillars, at about twelve feet diſtance, each pillar in the row ſtanding about ſix feet from the next. Theſe pillars are almoſt five feet ſquare at the baſe; they are about thirteen feet high; and on the top of each is a ſemi-globe, with a flat ſurface upwards. Both the pillars and ſemi-globe are ſolid, and compoſed of ſand and ſtone cemented together, and plaiſtered over. The priſoners informed the *Engliſh*, that theſe were the foundations of buildings, ſet apart only for thoſe *Indians* who had engaged in ſome religious vow; and indeed monaſtic inſtitutions are often to be met with in pagan nations; but, if theſe ruins were originally the baſis of the common dwelling-houſes of the natives, even in this caſe their numbers muſt be conſiderable, ſince, in many parts of the iſland, they are extremely thick planted, and are a ſufficient proof



A View of the Watering place at Tenian.

proof of the multitude of its former inhabitants.

It muſt not be omitted that all the above advantages enjoyed by this iſland, were much enhanced by the healthineſs of its climate, by the breezes that almoſt conſtantly prevailed, and the frequent ſhowers with which it was ſprinkled, which were uſually of a very ſhort, and almoſt momentary duration. The ſalubrity of the air, had a ſurpriſing effect in ſtrengthening both the appetite and digeſtion. It was here very remarkable, that even thoſe of the officers who every where elſe had been very temperate eaters, and who, beſides a ſlight breakfaſt, uſed to make only one moderate meal a day, ſeemed here transformed into gluttons; for inſtead of one reaſonable meal upon fleſh, they were now hardly ſatisfied with three, each of which was ſo prodigious, that at another place, it would have produced a fever, or a ſurfeit, and yet their digeſtion, was ſo agreeable to the keenneſs of their appetites, that they were neither diſordered nor overloaded by this uncommon repletion.

The principal inconvenience attending thoſe who reſide in the iſland, ariſes from the great number of muſcatoes, and many other ſpecies of flies, together with a kind of tick, which though it principally fixes on the cattle, would frequently fall upon the limbs and bodies of the men, and if not removed in time, would bury its head under the ſkin, and raiſe a painful inflamation. The *Centurion*'s people alſo found there ſcorpions and centipedes, which

they ſuppoſed to be venomous, though they received no injury from them.

However, the moſt conſiderable exception to this place is the inconvenience of the road, which, in ſome ſeaſons of the year, affords but little ſecurity for a ſhip at anchor. The only proper anchoring-place for ſhips of burden is at the ſouth-weſt end of the iſland, where the *Centurion* anchored in 20 and 22 fathom water, oppoſite to a ſandy-bay, about a mile and a half diſtant from the ſhore; but the bottom of this road being full of ſharp-pointed coral rocks, it has a very unſafe anchorage from the middle of *June*, to the middle of *October*, which is the ſeaſon of the weſtern monſoons; and what adds to this danger, is the extraordinary rapidity of the tide of flood, which ſets to the ſouth-eaſt between this iſland and *Aguigan*. But in the remaining eight months of the year, there is ſuch a conſtant ſeaſon of ſettled weather, that if the cables are well armed, there is ſcarcely any danger of their being ever rubbed. But to return to the employment of the *Centurion*'s people on ſhore.

While they were landing the ſick, four of the *Indans* on the iſland ſurrendered themſelves to the Commodore, ſo that he had eight now in his cuſtody. One of theſe four offered to ſhew the moſt convenient place for killing cattle; and two of the *Engliſh* were ordered to attend him on that ſervice; but on one of them truſting the *Indian* with his firelock and piſtol, the *Indian* eſcaped with them into the woods, when his countrymen being appre-

apprehenſive of ſuffering for this inſtance of perfidy, deſired, however, to ſend one of their party into the country to bring back the arms, and to perſuade the remainder of the detatchment from *Guam* to ſubmit. The Commodore granted their requeſt, and one of them was diſpatched, who returned the next day with the piſtol and firelock, which he pretended to have found in a path-way, and proteſted that he had not been able to meet with any of his countrymen: But this report appeared ſo improbable, that it occaſioned a ſuſpicion, that ſome treachery was carrying on, upon which the Commodore ordered all the *Indians* in his power to be ſent on board the ſhip, and not allowed to return on ſhore.

All the hands that could be ſpared from attending the ſick, were now employed in arming the cables, with a good rounding to ſecure them from being rubbed by the coral rocks, which being compleated, many attempts were made to ſtop the *Centurion*'s leak; but after ſeveral efforts they were obliged to deſiſt, till they could have an opportunity of heaving down.

On the 12th of *September*, thoſe who were ſo well recovered as to be capable of doing duty, were ſent on board the ſhip, and then the Commodore, who was himſelf ill of the ſcurvy, and had cauſed a tent to be erected for him on ſhore, went thither with a view of ſtaying a few days, to recover his health; being convinced, by experience, that no other method but living on the land, was to be truſted for the

removal of that dreadful diſeaſe. The place where his tent was pitched was an elegant ſpot near the well, whence they got all their water.

The caſks were next ſent on ſhore to be filled by the coopers, and as the new moon was approaching, when it was apprehended there would be violent gales, every method was taken that prudence could ſuggeſt to arm the anchors, and ſecure the ſhip from the effects of windy weather. But when they had for ſome days flattered themſelves, that the prudence of their meaſures had ſecured them from all accidents, the wind, on the 22d of *September*, blew from the eaſtward with ſuch fury, that thoſe on board ſoon deſpaired of riding out the ſtorm. The Commodore and moſt of the hands were on ſhore, and all their hopes of ſafety ſeemed to depend on their putting immediately to ſea. But all communication with the ſhip was cut off, for it was impoſſible that a boat could live. As the night approached, the violence of the ſtorm increaſed, while the tide, which at the beginning of the hurricane ſet to the northward, turned ſuddenly to the ſouthward, and in ſpite of the ſtorm forced the ſhip before it. The ſea now broke ſurpriſingly all round the ſhip with a large tumbling ſwell, by which the long-boat, which was moored aſtern, was ſuddenly canted ſo high, that it broke the tranſome of the Commodore's gallery, whoſe cabbin was on the quarter-deck, and the ſtroke was ſo violent that it ſtove the boat all to pieces, yet the poor boat-keeper, though extremely bruiſed, was

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ſaved. At length the tide ſlackened, but the wind did not abate, and their cables breaking, all on board were in the greateſt danger, and accordingly fired guns, and ſhewed lights to the Commodore, as ſignals of diſtreſs. About one o'Clock, the night being extremely dark, a ſtrong guſt, attended with rain and lightning, forced them out to ſea, utterly unprepared to ſtruggle with the united fury of the waves and winds, and every moment expecting to be loſt.

CHAP. XI.

Tranſactions at Tinian *after the* Centurion's *being driven to Sea. The Proceedings on Board the* Centurion *till her Return, and the Employment of the* Centurion's *People, till their final Departure; with a Deſcription of the* Ladrone *Iſlands.*

THE dreadful ſtorm by which the *Centurion* was driven to ſea, was too violent to permit any of the people on ſhore to hear the guns, which ſhe fired as ſignals of diſtreſs, while the flaſhes of lightning had hindered the exploſions from being obſerved, and therefore at day break, when it was perceived on ſhore, that the ſhip was miſſing, they were all in the utmoſt conſternation. Much the greateſt part of them inſtantly concluded that ſhe was loſt, and entreated the Commodore to ſend the boat

round the iſland in ſearch of the wreck. While thoſe who believed her ſafe, had ſcarcely any expectation of her ever been able to return, as the wind ſtill continued, and as ſhe was ill manned, and ſo poorly provided for ſtruggling with ſo tempeſtuous a gale. In either of which caſes they conſidered their ſituation as very deplorable, ſince it would be impoſſible for them ever to leave the iſland, and that therefore they muſt bid an everlaſting adieu to their country, their friends, their families, and all their domeſtic endearments. They had alſo reaſon to apprehend, that the Governor of *Guam*, on being informed of their ſituation on ſhore, would ſend a force ſufficient to overpower them, and to remove them to that iſland, and that on his having them in his power, he would make their want of commiſſions, all of which were on board the *Centurion*, a pretence for treating them as pirates, and for putting them to an infamous death.

However, Mr. *Anſon* ſoon formed a ſcheme for extricating himſelf and his men from their preſent anxious ſituation, and having conſulted ſome of the moſt intelligent perſons about him, and ſatisfied himſelf that it was practicable, endeavoured to animate his people to put it ſpeedily in execution. He told them that he was not without hope, that the *Centurion* would return in a few days, ſince there was no reaſon to apprehend her being loſt, and that the worſt that could be imagined, was her being driven too far to the leeward of the iſland to return, which would oblige

obliged her to bear away for *Macao*, on the coaſt of *China*; that in this caſe he had conſidered of a method of following her; which was, to haul the *Spaniſh* bark on ſhore, to ſaw her aſunder, and to lengthen her twelve feet; which would enlarge her to near 40 ton burthen, and enable her to carry them all to *China*; that the carpenters whom he had conſulted, had agreed that this was practicable, and that nothing was wanted to execute it but their united reſolution and induſtry: and then added, that, for his own part, he would ſhare the fatigue and labour with them, and would expect no more from any man than he himſelf was ready to ſubmit to.

The people now began to flatter themſelves, that the *Centurion* would be able to regain the iſland; and from this hope they did not ſo heartily engage in the project as the Commodore could have wiſhed; but at laſt being ſatiſfied that it was impoſſible the ſhip ſhould return, they reſolutely applied themſelves to the different taſks allotted them, with as much eagerneſs and induſtry as the Commodore could deſire; punctually aſſembling by day-break at the rendezvous, where they were ſet to their different employments, which they followed with unuſual vigour till night.

But before they entered upon this arduous taſk, an incident happened that gave Mr. *Anſon* the deepeſt concern; for a few days after the ſhip was driven off, ſome men on ſhore cried out a ſail; which ſpread a general joy, every body ſuppoſing that the ſhip was returning; but

but ſoon after a ſecond ſail being obſerved, deſtroyed their hopes, and made it difficult to gueſs what they were. Mr. *Anſon* eagerly turned his glaſs towards them, and ſeeing they were two boats, it immediately occurred to him that the *Centurion* was ſunk, and that theſe were the two boats coming back with the remains of her people; an idea which ſo deeply affected him, that he was obliged immediately to retire without ſpeaking to his tent, in order to conceal his emotion; where he paſſed ſome bitter moments under the firm belief that the ſhip was loſt, and that all his views of ſtill ſignalizing his expedition by ſome important exploit were at an end. He was, however, ſoon relieved from theſe diſtreſſing thoughts by diſcovering that the two boats were *Indian* proas; when obſerving that they made towards the ſhore, he ordered that every thing that could give them any ſuſpicion ſhould be removed; and concealed his people in the adjacent thickets, to ſecure the *Indians* upon their landing; but the proas, after coming within a quarter of a mile of the beach, ſtopped ſhort, and, having remained motionleſs two hours, ſteered to the ſouthward.

About the ſame time another incident happened of a very extraordinary nature. The Commodore, attended by ſome of his officers, endeavoured to make the tour of the iſland, and being on a riſing ground obſerved a ſmall thicket in the valley beneath that had a progreſſive motion. They were at firſt ſurprized, but ſoon perceived it was only ſome large co-

coa

coa bushes dragged along by persons concealed beneath them. They immediately concluded that these were some of the party they had found there at their arrival; and therefore Mr. *Anson*, and those who were with him, hastened after them in hopes of discovering their retreat; when the *Indians*, perceiving that they were discovered, ran away with precipitation: but the Commodore was so near them as not to lose sight of them till they reached their cell; which he and his officers entering, found that there was a passage through it, which led down a precipice, at which they made their escape. They here found an old firelock or two, but no other arms. However, there was a large quantity of provisions, and in particular salted pork, which was excellent; and, from what these gentlemen saw, they concluded, that their own extraordinary appetite was not confined to the *English*; for it being about noon, the *Indians*, considering their number, had laid out a very plentiful repast, and had their cocoa nuts and bread fruit ready prepared for eating; and in such a manner as shewed, that a good meal was neither an uncommon nor a disregarded article. Mr. *Anson* having searched to no purpose after the path by which the *Indians* had escaped, he and his officers sat down to the dinner so luckily provided for them. After which they returned back somewhat displeased at missing the *Indians*, as they hoped that if they could have had any conference with them, they should have engaged them in their service.

The

The lengthning the bark was attended with great difficulty; ſome of the tools were to be made, and many of the materials were wanting: when the whole ſhould be compleated, they were to rigg, victual, and navigate her, for the ſpace of ſix or ſeven hundred leagues, thro' unknown ſeas, which had not been paſſed by any one of the company. However, their hopes were kept up by the intervention of ſeveral extraordinary and unexpected accidents. The carpenters both of the *Glouceſter* and *Tryal* were on ſhore with their cheſts of tools; the ſmith too was on ſhore with his forge and ſeveral of his tools; but his bellows were on board the ſhip; ſo that he was incapable of working, and they could have no hopes of proceeding without his aſſiſtance. They reſolved, therefore, firſt of all to make him a pair of bellows, but were for ſome time puzzled for want of leather; but having plenty of hides, and finding an hogſhead of lime, which belonged to the *Spaniards* or *Indians*, they tanned a few of the hides with it; ſo that the leather anſwered the intention, and they compleated the bellows by making a gun-barrel ſerve for a pipe.

While the ſmith was preparing the iron-work, others were employed in felling trees, and ſawing them into planks; which being the moſt laborious taſk, the Commodore, for the encouragement of the people, worked at it himſelf. A new difficulty was occaſioned by there being neither blocks nor cordage for hauling the bark on ſhore; but this was removed

moved by making rollers of the body of the cocoa-nut-tree, which, from its ſmoothneſs and circular turn, was adapted to the purpoſe with very little labour. A dry dock was dug to receive the bark, and a way found from thence into the ſea; a party was ordered conſtantly to kill and provide proviſions for the reſt: and good order being eſtabliſhed, and all hands employed, the preparations advanced apace; the men being perhaps the more tractable and induſtrious from there being neither wine nor brandy on ſhore; for the juice of the cocoa-nut, which, though pleaſant, was not intoxicating, was their conſtant drink.

As the work advanced apace, the officers began to conſider of the rigging neceſſary to fit the bark for ſea; when it was found that the tents on ſhore, with the ſails and rigging already belonging to the bark, and the ſpare cordage, which had been accidentally landed from the *Centurion*, would anſwer this purpoſe. They propoſed to pay her bottom with a mixture of tallow and lime; but there was one inconvenience which could not be removed: which was, that, as ſhe was not quite 40 tons burden, ſhe would be incapable of containing half the crew below the deck, and would be ſo top-heavy, that, if all were upon deck at the ſame time, ſhe would be in danger of overſetting. The article of procuring a ſtock of proviſions for the voyage gave them great perplexity, as they had neither grain nor bread of any kind on ſhore, and the bread fruit would not keep at ſea; and, though they had live

live cattle, they had ſcarcely any ſalt. However, they preſerved a ſmall quantity of jerked beef, which they had found in the iſland at their landing; but this was greatly inſufficient. However, it was at laſt reſolved to carry as many cocoa-nuts as they could, to prolong the jerked beef, by uſing it very ſparingly, and to ſupply the want of bread by rice; to obtain which, they ſhould land in the iſland of *Rota*, where the *Spaniards* had large plantations of that grain, and carry off a ſufficient quantity by force; but this ſcheme making it neceſſary for them to examine the ammunition they had on ſhore, they had the mortification to find that all the powder did not amount to one charge a-piece to each of the company.

One of the moſt alarming circumſtances was, the diſcouraging diſcovery, that there was neither compaſs nor quadrant on the iſland: but, at laſt, on rumaging the cheſt belonging to the *Spaniſh* bark, they diſcovered a ſmall compaſs, which, though little better than ſuch as were made for the amuſement of ſchool-boys, was to them an invaluable treaſure, and afterwards a quadrant was found on the ſea-ſhore, which had been thrown overboard among other lumber belonging to the dead. This was eagerly ſeized, but, on examination, it unluckily wanted vanes, and was therefore entirely uſeleſs. However, a perſon ſometime after pulling out the drawer of an old table, which had been driven on ſhore, found ſome vanes in it, which fitted the quadrant very well; when it being examined by the known

known latitude of the place, it was found to be sufficiently exact.

All things now being in great forwardness, and some of the principal obstacles removed, they were able to determine when the whole would be finished, and had accordingly fixed the 5th of *November* for the day of their putting to sea; but on the 11th of *October*, in the afternoon, one of the *Gloucester*'s men being upon a hill in the middle of the island, saw the *Centurion* at a distance, and running with the utmost speed towards the landing place, saw in his way some of his comrades, to whom he called with great extasy, "The ship! the ship!" which being heard by Mr. *Gordon* a Lieutenant of the marines, he ran to the place where the Commodore and his people were at work, and being fresh and in breath, easily outstripped the *Gloucester*'s man, and told the Commodore, who, on hearing this joyful and unexpected news, threw down his ax with which he was then at work, while the others ran down to the sea side, to feast themselves with the sight, for which they had so eagerly longed. By five in the evening the *Centurion* was visible to them all, when a boat was sent off with eighteen men to reinforce her, with fresh meat and fruits for the refreshment of the crew, and the next afternoon she happily cast anchor in the road, where the Commodore immediately went on board her, and was received with joyful acclamations.

To proceed to what happened on board the *Centurion* while at ſea. It has already been obſerved that ſhe was driven from the iſland in a very dark night, by a prodigious ſtorm. The condition of thoſe on board was very dreadful, they were in a leaky ſhip, with three cables in their hawſes, to one of which hung their only remaining anchor, not a gun on board was laſhed, nor a port barred in, and they were able to ſet no ſail except the mizen. They could muſter no more ſtrength to navigate the ſhip, than 108 hands, which were ſcarcely the fourth part of her complement, and moſt of theſe were either boys, or ſuch as were ſtill feeble from their being but lately recovered of the ſcurvy. By the violence of the ſtorm and the working of the ſhip, they made a great quantity of water through the ports, hawſe holes, and ſcuppers, which added to the leak, rendered their pumps a ſufficient employment for all on board. But they had other dangers which appeared ſtill more immediate. They all imagined they were driving on the iſland of *Aguiguan*, which was about two leagues diſtant, and as they had no ſail ſet but the mizen, that was inſufficient to clear them of this imminent danger. They, therefore, left the pumps to uſe their utmoſt efforts to heave up the main and fore yards, in order to ſave themſelves, if poſſible, from being wrecked. But after three hours ineffectual labour, the jears broke, and the men were obliged, from mere debility, to deſiſt, and quietly expect their fate, which appeared inevitable; for they eſteemed themſelves driven

driven juſt upon the ſhore, and the darkneſs of the night made them expect to diſcover it no otherwiſe than by ſtriking upon it, ſo that they were ſeveral hours under the ſerious apprehenſions that each ſucceeding moment would ſend them to the bottom; nor did theſe continued terrors of inſtantly ſtriking and ſinking ceaſe till day-break, when in a tranſport of joy they perceived that the dreadful iſland was at a conſiderable diſtance, and that they had been preſerved by a ſtrong northern current.

The boiſterous waves which had forced them from *Tinian* did not abate till three days after, and while they continued out at ſea, both the chaplain and every other officer were obliged to ſubmit to the ſame bodily labour as the common ſailors. The heaving up of the ſheet anchor, which they had hitherto dragged at their bows with two cables, coſt them the ſevereſt application for twelve hours, before they brought it in ſight, when it growing dark, their fatigue obliged them to deſiſt till the next day, and then that arduous taſk was compleated. They afterwards conquered ſome of the other difficulties they laboured under, and being enabled to make uſe of their canvas, ſtood to the eaſtward in hopes of regaining the iſland of *Tinian*, they being according to their own reckonings but 47 leagues diſtant from it. But on the firſt of *October*, when they had run the diſtance neceſſary for making the iſland, according to their own reckoning, and were in full expectation of ſeeing it, they were unhappily diſappointed, and convinced that a current

had driven them considerably to the westward. They were now in great perplexity from the apprehensions of wanting water, but the next day had a sight of the island of *Guam*, and thence computed that the current had driven them 40 leagues to the westward of their accounts. The sight of land let them know their situation, and, therefore, plying to the eastward, they continued that course with excessive labour, and with a contrary wind till the 11th of *October*, which was the 19th day from their departure, when arriving in the offing of *Tinian*, they were reinforced from the shore, and to their inexpressible joy, on the evening of the same day, came to an anchor in the road.

The Commodore on his going on board the *Centurion*, after her return to *Tinian*, resolved to stay no longer at the island than was absolutely necessary to complete his stock of water, and the long-boat being staved, as has been already mentioned, they were obliged to make use of rafts, which as the tide ran extremely strong, occasioned frequent delays, and more than once the loss of the whole raft; but this was not their only misfortune, for on the third day after the *Centurion*'s return, a sudden gust of wind brought home the anchor, and drove her a second time to sea. However, the Commodore and the principal officers were now on board; but there were near 70 of the men on shore, who had been employed in filling water and procuring provisions. They had the two cutters with them; but they being too many for

for the cutters to bring off at once, the Commodore ſent the 18 oared barge to their aſſiſtance. The two cutters ſoon returned filled with men, but forty of the company remained behind, who were employed in killing cattle in the woods, and in bringing them to the landing-place. Yet as the ſhip ſoon drove to a conſiderable diſtance, it was not in their power to join her, though the 18 oared barge was left to convey them on board. The weather, however, being favourable, the *Centurion* within about five days returned again to an anchor at *Tinian*.

On the *Centurion*'s arrival it appeared that the *Spaniſh* bark had undergone a new change, for the people on ſhore deſpairing of her return, had reſolved to reſtore the bark to her firſt ſtate, and had made ſuch progreſs, that they would ſoon have compleated her.

The people at their ſecond return to the iſland laboured with indefatigable induſtry in getting in their water, and having by the 20th of *October* compleated it to 50 ton, which was thought ſufficient for their paſſage to *Macao*, the Commodore ſent the next day one of each meſs on ſhore, to gather as large a quantity of oranges, lemons, cocoa-nuts, and other fruits, as they pleaſed, for the uſe of themſelves and their meſs-mates at ſea, and they returning in the evening, fire was ſet to the bark and proa, the *Centurion* hoiſted in her boats, got under ſail, and ſteered towards the ſouth end of the iſland of *Formoſa*.

It cannot here be improper to interrupt the narration, with a description of that range of islands, generally called the *Ladrones* or *Marian* islands, which were discovered by *Magellan*, in the year 1521, and from the account given of the two first he fell in with, it seems as if they were those of *Sapan*, and *Tinian*, for they are represented as extremely beautiful, and as lying in between 15 and 16 degrees of north latitude. From the pleasing appearance of *Tinian*, the *Spaniards* have given it the name of *Buenavista*, and *Saypan*, which is in the latitude of 1 °. 22'. north, affords an agreeable prospect when seen at sea.

These islands are generally reckoned 12 in number; but if the small islets and rocks are counted, they will in all amount to above 20. Formerly most of them were inhabited; but of the three principal islands, *Guam*, *Rota*, and *Tinian*, which 60 years ago are said to have been extremely populous, *Tinian* hath been intirely depopulated, and not above two or three hundred *Indians* left at *Rota* to cultivate rice for the island of *Guam*, so that at present the last mentioned island is the only one that can properly be said to be inhabited by the *Spaniards*, for there they keep a governor and a garrison, and there the *Manila* ship generally touches for refreshment, in her passage from *Acapulco* to the *Philippines*. That island is computed to be about 30 leagues in circumference, and contains near 4000 inhabitants, 1000 of which are supposed to live in the city of *San Ignatio de Agana*, which is the governor's usual residence.

residence. The houses are built with stone and timber, and covered with tiles, which is a very unusual method of building in these warm climates. This island has also 13 or 14 villages. As *Guam* is esteemed a place of consequence, on account of its affording refreshment to the *Manila* ship, there are two castles on the sea shore, which mount only five guns each, and a battery of five pieces of cannon on an eminence near the sea. The *Spaniards* have here three companies of foot of between 40 and 50 men each; this is the principal strength on which the Governor depends, for he is generally upon ill terms with the inhabitants, who are debarred the use of lances and fire-arms.

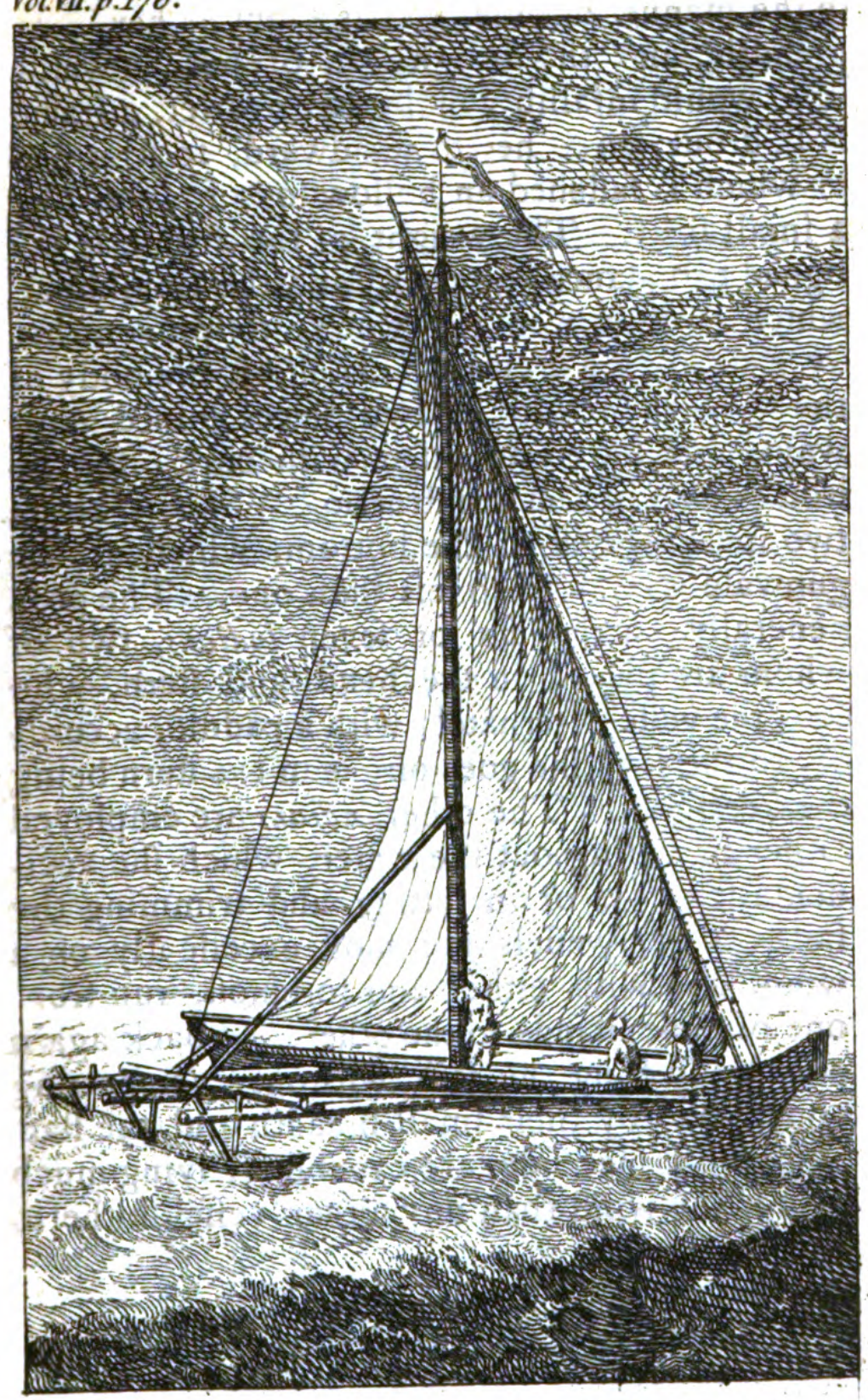
Though the rest of these islands are uninhabited, they afford plenty of all kinds of refreshment, but there is not a good harbour or road among them all; and though the *Manila* ship is to stay only 24 hours at *Guam*, it is not uncommon for her to be forced out to sea, and to leave her boat behind her.

The *Indians* of these islands are strong, well limbed, and bold people, and from some of their practices, seem to be no ways defective in understanding; for their flying proas, which for ages past, have been the only vessels they have employed, are a very singular and extraordinary invention, and are said to be capable of running with a brisk trade wind near 20 miles an hour. The head and stern of the proa are exactly alike, but her two sides are very different. That intended to be always the leeside being flat, whilst the windward side is built rounding

in

in the manner of other veſſels; but as her ſmall breadth, and the ſtraight run of her leeward-ſide, would infallibly make her overſet, a frame is laid out from her to windward, to the end of which is faſtened an hollow log, formed like a ſmall boat. The weight of the frame is deſigned to balance the proa, and the ſmall boat, which is always in the water, to prevent her overſetting to windward. In ſhort, the body of the proa is formed of two pieces joined endways, and ſewed together with bark; for no iron is uſed in her conſtruction. She is about two inches thick at the bottom, which at the gunwale is reduced to leſs than one. The proa generally carries ſix or ſeven *Indians*, two of whom are placed in the head and ſtern, who ſteer the veſſel alternately with a paddle, according to the tack ſhe goes on, he in the ſtern being the ſteerſman. The other *Indians* are employed either in baling out the water, which ſhe accidentally ſhips, or in ſetting and trimming the ſail. Theſe veſſels ſail moſt excellently on a wind, and with either end foremoſt, run from one of theſe iſlands to the other, and back again only by ſhifting the ſail, without ever putting about, and by their ſmall breadth and the flatneſs of their lee-ſide, are capable of lying much nearer the wind than any other veſſel hitherto known.

CHAP.



A Flying Proa, taken at the Ladrone Islands.

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CHAP. XII.

The Centurion's *Run from* Tinian *to* Macao. *The Commodore's Proeeedings at that Port. Having refitted, he ſails to* Cape Eſpiritu Santo, *takes the* Manila *Galeon, and returns back. His Tranſactions in the River of* Canton, *and in the City of that Name, where the* Engliſh *extinguiſh a dreadful Fire. A ſhort Character of the* Chineſe. *The* Centurion *returns to* England.

THE *Centurion* departed from *Tinian* on the the 21ſt of *October*, in the evening, when the eaſtern monſoon being ſettled, ſhe generally ran from 40 to 50 leagnes a day. On the 3d of *November* they ſaw an iſlet or rock, and about an hour after, the iſland called *Botel Tobago Xima*. Having doubled the ſouthern extremity of *Formoſa*, which is in the latitude of 21°. 15′. north they paſſed by the rocks *Vele Rete*, but at this inſtant the people in the *Centurion* were alarmed by an out-cry of fire in the fore caſtle, upon which the whole crew immediately flocked together in the utmoſt confuſion, ſo that for ſome time the officers found it difficult to appeaſe the uproar, but the people being at length reduced to order, it was perceived that the fire proceeded from the bricks in the furnace being over-heated. which had occaſioned their communicating the fire

fire to the adjacent wood work, but by pulling down the brick work it was easily extinguished. In the evening they were surprised with the sight of what they at first took to be breakers, but on a stricter examination, they were found to be only a great number of fires on the island of *Formosa*, which they imagined were intended by the inhabitants as signals to invite them to touch there. But they were too impatient to reach the port of *Macao* to consent to his delay. At about midnight they got sight of the main-land of *China* at four leagues distance, upon which they brought the ship to, proposing to wait for the morning; but before sun rise they were surprised to find themselves in the midst of an incredible number of fishing boats, which seemed to cover the surface of the sea, as far as the eye could reach, most of them were manned with five hands, and none with less than three; and as they ran to the westward they found them as numerous on every part of the coast. The Commodore was at first in hopes of procuring a pilot from them, to conduct the ship to *Macao*; but the people on board could not make them understand their meaning. What appeared most surprising, was the inattention and want of curiosity observed in this herd of fishermen, who had doubtless never seen any ship like the *Centurion*, and perhaps there was not one in all that fishery who had ever beheld any *European* vessel: But tho' many of the boats came close to the ship, they did not in the least deviate from their course to regard it.

On

On the 5th of *November* at midnight, they first made the coast of *China*, and about two the next day, while they were steering to the westward within two leagues of the coast, and still surrounded by fishing vessels in as great numbers as at first, they perceived that a boat a-head of them waved a red flag and blew a horn, which was considered by the people of the *Centurion* as a signal made to them either to warn them of some shoal, or to inform them that they would supply them with a pilot. Mr. *Anson* therefore immediately sent out the cutter to the boat to know their intentions, when it was found that this boat was the Commodore of the whole fishery, and that the signal was to order them all to leave off fishing, and to return in shore, which they instantly obeyed.

Being thus disappointed, they kept on their course, and the next day, were abreast of a chain of islands that stretch from east to west, called the islands of *Lema:* They are rocky and barren, and are 15 or 16 in number, besides many more between them and the main land of *China*. Being still surrounded by fishing boats, the Commodore once more sent the cutter on board some of them to endeavour to procure a pilot, but without effect. However, one of the *Chinese*, directed them by signs to sail round the westermost of the islands or rocks of *Lema*, and then to hale up, which direction they followed, and in the evening they came to an anchor.

The

The next morning a *Chinese* pilot came on board the *Centurion* and offered in broken *Portuguese*, to carry the ship to *Macao* for 30 dollars. These were immediately paid him, and they then weighed and made sail, but soon after several other pilots came on board, who endeavoured to recommend themselves by producing certificates from many *European* ships they had piloted in, but they still continued under the management of the *Chinese* whom they had first engaged. They now passed by a number of other islands; but the tides frequently setting strongly against them, they were often obliged to come to an anchor, and on the 12th of *November* anchored in *Macao* road, and once more arrived at an amicable port, where they expected the satisfaction of receiving letters from their relations and friends, and where their countrymen, who were lately arrived from *England*, would be able to answer the numerous inquiries they were prepared to make.

The city of *Macao* is situated in an island at the entrance of the river of *Canton*, and was formerlv rich, populous, and able to defend itself against the power of the adjacent *Chinese* Governors; but is at present so reduced, that the Governor, who is nominated by the King of *Portugal*, subsists merely by the courtesy of the *Chinese*, who can starve the place and dispossess the *Portuguese* whenever they please, which obliges the Governor carefully to avoid giving them offence. The river of *Canton*, at the mouth of which this city lies, is the only

Chinese

Chinese port, to which *European* ships resort, and is a far more commodious harbour than *Macao*. But the Commodore's apprehensions, that if he should insist on being treated upon a different footing than the merchantmen, he would embroil the *East India* company with the regency of *Canton*, made him chuse rather to go to *Macao*, than to enter the port of *Canton*.

Mr. *Anson* no sooner came to an anchor in *Macao* road, than he dispatched an officer with his compliments to the *Portuguese* governor, to desire his excellency's advise, in what manner it would be proper for him to act, to avoid giving offence to the *Chinese*, which was a matter worthy of attention, as there were then four of our *East-India* ships in their power at *Canton*; particularly with respect to the duty usually paid by ships in that river, according to their tonnage; for as men of war are exempted in every foreign harbour from paying all manner of port charges, Mr. *Anson* thought it would derogate from the honour of his country to submit to this duty. In the evening the boat returned with two officers sent by the Governor, who told Mr. *Anson*, it was the Governor's opinion, that if the *Centurion* entered the river of *Canton*, the duty would certainly be expected, and therefore, if he approved of it, he would send him a pilot, who should conduct her into another safe harbour on the *Typa*, where the ship might be careened, and where the above-mentioned duty would probably never be demanded. To

this propoſal the Commodore agreed, and the next morning ſteered under the direction of the *Portugueſe* pilot, and after ſome difficulties, on account of the ſhallowneſs of the water, entered the harbour, which is formed by a number of iſlands, and is about ſix miles diſtant from *Macao*. He here ſalutued the caſtle of *Macao* with eleven guns, which were returned by an equal number.

As Mr. *Anſon* wanted both a ſupply of proviſions, and of naval ſtores for refitting the ſhip, he the next day paid a viſit, in perſon, to the Governor, and at his landing, was ſaluted by eleven guns, which were returned by the *Centurion*. But though the Governor ſeemed inclined to do him all the ſervice in his power, and told him, that he would do this privately, yet he frankly owned that he could not furniſh him with what he demanded, without an order from the Viceroy of *Canton*, ſince all the proviſions and other neceſſaries he received for himſelf and his garriſon, where by permiſſion of the *Chineſe* government, who took care to victual him only from day to day, and were always able to oblige him to ſubmit to their terms, by laying an embargo on his proviſions.

Upon this declaration, Mr. *Anſon* reſolved to go to *Canton* to ſeek redreſs from the Viceroy, and for that purpoſe hired a *Chineſe* boat for himſelf and his attendants; but juſt when he was ready to embark, the Hoppo, or *Chineſe* cuſtom-houſe officer of *Macao* refuſed to grant a permit, and ordered the watermen not to

proceed

proceed at their peril; and though the Governor of *Macao* joined his intereſt to perſuade him, the Hoppo continued inflexible. The next day Mr. *Anſon* told him, that if the permit was any longer refuſed, he would man and arm the *Centurion*'s boats, and aſked the Hoppo, who he imagined would dare to oppoſe their paſſage? Upon this threat the permit was granted, and Mr. *Anſon* arriving at *Canton*, conſulted the ſupercargoes and officers of the *Engliſh* ſhips, how to procure an order from the Viceroy for the neceſſaries he wanted, upon which they referred him to ſome *Chineſe* merchants, who having cajoled him from day to day, by promiſing to lay the ſtate of his affairs before the Viceroy, and obtaining for him whatever he deſired; after reiterated excuſes, and a month's delay, threw off the maſk, and, being cloſely preſſed, declared, that they neither had, nor could make application to the Viceroy, as he was too great a man for them to approach on any occaſion. The commodore now perceived, when too late, that he had been wrong in conſulting ſo much the intereſt of the *Eaſt-India* company, and therefore, after his return to the *Centurion*, wrote a letter to the Viceroy, to inform him, that he was commander in chief of a ſquadron of *Britiſh* ſhips of war, which had been cruiſing for two years paſt againſt the *Spaniards*, who were at enmity with the king his maſter, and that he was obliged to enter the port of *Macao* to ſtop a conſiderable leak in his ſhip, and to ſupply

himſelf with proviſions and neceſſaries, in order to purſue his voyage.

This letter being tranſlated into the *Chineſe* language, the Commodore delivered it himſelf to the Hoppo, or cheif officer of the cuſtoms at *Macao*, and deſired him to forward it to the Viceroy of *Canton*, with as much expedition as he could, but that officer ſeeming unwilling to take charge of it, the Commodore took it again, and told him, that he would immediately ſend it to *Canton* in his own boat, and would give his officer poſitive orders not to return without an anſwer from the Viceroy. The Hoppo now perceiving that the Commodore was in earneſt, and fearing to be called to an account for his refuſal, begged to be intruſted with it, and promiſed to procure an anſwer as ſoon as poſſible. Two days after, in the morning, a Mandarine of the firſt rank, who was Governor of the city of *Janſon*, together with two Mandarines of an inferior claſs, and a conſiderable retinue of officers and ſervants, came in 18 half gallies, decorated with a great number of ſtreamers, and attended with a band of muſic. The *Centurion*'s boat was immediately diſpatched to bring the principal Mandarine on board; and 100 of the moſt likely people of the crew were uniformly dreſſed in the regimentals of the marines, and drawn up under arms on the main deck againſt his arrival. On his entering the ſhip, he was ſaluted by the drums and trumpets, and paſſing by the new formed guard, was met by the Commodore on the quarter-deck; who conducted him to the great cabbin.

cabbin. The Mandarine there explained his commiſſion, and told the Commodore that he had brought with him two *Chineſe* carpenters, to examine the ſtate of the ſhip; and the neceſſary inſpection being made, they declared, that it was impoſſible for the *Centurion* to proceed to ſea without being refitted. Upon which the Mandarine expreſſed himſelf ſatisfied with the account given in the Commodore's letter. This Mandarine appeared to be a perſon of conſiderable parts, and endowed with more frankneſs and honeſty, than is generally to be found among the *Chineſe*. He was alſo very curious and inquiſitive, viewed every part of the ſhip with extraordinary attention, and appeared greatly ſurpriſed at the largeneſs of the lower deck guns, and at the weight and ſize of the ſhot. The Commodore obſerving his aſtoniſhment, ſeized this opportunity to convince the *Chineſe* of the prudence of granting all his demands in the moſt ample and ſpeedy manner. He therefore complained of the proceedings of the officers of the cuſtom-houſe of *Macao*, who had prevented his being ſupplied with freſh proviſions, and then telling the Mandarines, that as they had informed themſelves of his wants and were eye-witneſſes of his force, they muſt be ſatisfied that his deſire of having the government's permiſſion to purchaſe what proviſions he wanted, was not becauſe he had no power to ſupply himſelf, ſince he preſumed, they were convinced that the *Centurion* alone, was capable of deſtroying the whole navigation of the port of *Canton*, or any other port in *China*. That this, it was true,

was not the manner of proceeding between nations in friendſhip with each other; but it was alſo true, that it was not cuſtomary for any nation to ſuffer the ſhips of their friends to ſtarve and ſink in their ports, when thoſe friends, only deſired liberty to lay out their money. That they muſt confeſs, he and his people had hitherto behaved with great modeſty and reſerve, but as his diſtreſſes were every day increaſing, famine would at laſt prove too ſtrong for any reſtraint, and neceſſity in all countries was acknowledged to be ſuperior to every other law. That therefore, if by the delay of ſupplying him with proviſions, his men ſhould from the impulſes of hunger, be obliged to turn cannibals, and to prey upon their own ſpecies, it was eaſy to be foreſeen, that, independent of their friendſhip to their comrades, they would in point of luxury prefer the plump well-fed *Chineſe*, to their own emaciated ſhipmates. The firſt Mandarine acquieſced in the juſtneſs of this reaſoning, and promiſed on his arrival at *Canton* to call a council of Mandarines, and ſaid, that he did not doubt, but on the repreſentation he ſhould make of what he had ſeen, they would all be of the ſame opinion as himſelf, and that every thing he had demanded would be ſpeedily granted. That with regard to the complaint of the cuſtom-houſe of *Macao*, he would rectify it immediately by his own authority, and then deſiring a liſt to be given him of the proviſions neceſſary for the ſhip for one day, wrote a permit under it, and delivered it to one of his attendants,

dants, with orders to ſee that quantity ſent on board every morning early, and this order was punctually complied with.

This affair being regulated, the Commodore invited him and the two other Mandarines, to dinner, but they were much embarraſſed with their knives and forks. After ſome fruitleſs attempts to make uſe of them, in which they appeared extremely aukward, one of their attendants cut their meat for them, in ſmall pieces; however, notwithſtanding the difficulty they found in complying with the *European* manner of eating, they ſeemed to be no novices at drinking. The Commodore excuſed himſelf under the pretence of illneſs, but there being another gentleman preſent of a florid complexion, the chief Mandarine clapped him on the ſhoulder, and told him by the interpreter, that he was ſure he could not plead ſickneſs, and therefore inſiſted on his bearing him company, and that gentleman perceiving, that after they had diſpatched four or five bottles of Frontiniac, the Mandarine was ſtill unruffled, ordered a bottle of citron-water to be brought, which the *Chineſe* ſeemed much to reliſh, and this being near finiſhed, they aroſe from table, in appearance, cool and undiſordered, and Mr. *Anſon* having according to cuſtom, made the Mandarine a preſent, they all departed in the ſame veſſels in which they came.

Mr. *Anſon* waited with great impatience for the reſolution of the council, and the proper licences to enable him to refit the ſhip; but

but notwithſtanding the favourable diſpoſition of the Mandarine Governor, ſeveral days elapſed, before he had any advice from him, and Mr. *Anſon* was privately informed, that there were great debates in council upon his affair. However, on the 6th of *January*, the Mandarine who was the Commodore's advocate, ſent the Viceroy of *Canton*'s warrant for refitting the *Centurion*, and for ſupplying her people with all they wanted, and having now the neceſſary licences, a number of *Chineſe* carpenters and ſmiths went on board the next day, to treat about the work they were to perform. They at firſt aſked the value of 1000 *l.* ſterling for repairing the ſhip, the maſts, and the boats, which the Commodore thinking unreaſonable, ſtrove to perſuade them to work by the day; but this they would not hearken to, but it was at laſt agreed, that the carpenters ſhould receive the value of about 600 *l.* for their work, and that the ſmiths ſhould be paid for their iron work by weight, at the rate of near 3 *l.* *per* hundred, for the ſmall work, and 2 *l.* 6 *s.* for the large.

The Commodore now exerted himſelf in order to get this important work compleated, and diſpatched his firſt Lieutenant to *Canton* to hire two junks, one of which was intended to heave down by, and the other to ſerve as a magazine for the ammunition: At the ſame time the ground was levelled on one of the neighbouring iſlands; a large tent pitched for lodging the lumber and proviſions, and near 100 *Chineſe* caulkers were ſoon ſet to work

work on the decks and ſides of the ſhip; but though they worked very well, they were far from being expeditious. However, on the 3d of *March*, the paying and ſheathing the bottom was compleated, to their great joy, ſince not only the fatigue of careening had been conſiderable, but the crew had been apprehenſive of being attacked by the *Spaniards*, while the ſhip was thus incapable of defence. Indeed their fears were not groundleſs, for they were afterwards informed by a *Portugueſe* veſſel, that the *Spaniards* at *Manila* had learned, that the *Centurion* was in the *Typa*, and intended to careen there, upon which the Governor had ſummoned his council, and made a propoſal to burn her while ſhe was careening, which, if properly conducted, might have been accompliſhed. It was alſo reported that the ſcheme was approved, and that the captain of a veſſel had actually undertaken it for 40,000 dollars, which he was not to receive, unleſs he ſucceeded; but the Governor pretending that there was no treaſure in the royal cheſt, inſiſted that the money ſhould be advanced by the merchants, and they refuſing to comply with the demand, the affair was dropped.

The *Centurion* was no ſooner righted, than the crew took on board her powder and ammunition, and ſet about repairing the fore maſt, but while they were thus employed, they were alarmed on the 10th of *March* by a *Chineſe* fiſherman, who pretended, that he had been on board a large *Spaniſh* ſhip off the *Grand Ladrone*, and that there were two more in company, and added,

added, that he had brought one of their officers to *Macao*, and that boats went off early in the morning from *Macao* to him. The better to gain credit to this ſtory, he deſired no money if his information ſhould not prove true. It was preſently believed that this perſon was come with a view of burning the ſhip. Upon which the Commodore immediately prepared his cannon and ſmall arms for her defence, and his pinnace and cutter being then in the offing, he let them know the advice he had received, and ordered them to keep a ſtrict look out; but no *Spaniſh* ſhips ever appeared, and the Commodore was ſoon convinced that the whole ſtory was a fiction.

In the beginning of *April* the ſhip was new rigged, her proviſions and water were ſtowed on board, and ſhe fitted for the ſea, before which time the *Chineſe* had been very uneaſy at her ſtay. At length two Mandarine boats came on board from *Macao*, to preſs the Commodore to leave their port, and this having been often urged before, though there had been no reaſon to ſuſpect Mr. *Anſon* of delay, he at this laſt meſſage deſired them to give him no farther trouble, for he would go when he thought proper, and not ſooner. Upon this they prohibited all proviſions being carried on board, and took ſuch care to inforce this order, that nothing could be purchaſed at any price whatſoever. The *Centurion* however weighed from the *Typa* on the 6th of *April*, and having got into *Macao* road, compleated her water, as ſhe

paſſed

paſſed along, and her whole buſineſs being finiſhed by the 19th, ſhe weighed and ſtood to ſea.

It ought to be obſerved that ſoon after their firſt arrival at *Macao*, Capt. *Saunders* being charged with diſpatches from the Commodore, took his paſſage to *England* on board a *Swediſh* ſhip, and that ſeveral other officers had obtained the Commodore's leave to return home, and had embarked on board ſome of the *Eaſt-India* commany's ſhips.

The Commodore before his departure, had entered 23 men, moſt of whom were *Laſcars*, or *Indian* ſailors, and the reſt *Dutch*. While he was at *Macao*, he gave out that he was bound to *Batavia*, and thence to *England*, and though the weſterly monſoon was ſet in, and rendered that paſſage in a manner impracticable, yet he expreſſed ſuch confidence in the ſtrength of his ſhip and the ſkill of his men, that he raiſed a belief, not only among his own crew, but among the people at *Macao*, that he intended to try that unuſual experiment. But his real deſign was to return to the *Pacific Ocean*, and to cruiſe off *Cape Eſpiritu Santo*, on the iſland of *Samal*, for the *Manila* ſhips, for he ſuppoſed that there would that year be two, on account of his having prevented one of them from putting to ſea the preceding year. Therefore being clear of the coaſt, he ſummoned all his people on the quarter-deck and informed them of his reſolution; told them that he would chuſe a ſtation where he could not fail of meeting with the two *Manila* ſhips, and

and notwithſtanding their being ſtout veſſels and full manned, yet if his own people behaved with their uſual ſpirit, he was ſure that he ſhould prove too hard for them both, and that one of them at leaſt would not fail of becoming his prize. The men received the Commodore's ſpeech with great joy, expreſſed their approbation by three hearty cheers, and declared their reſolution to ſucceed or periſh when ever the opportunity offered. Their hopes, which on their departure from the coaſt of *Mexico* had entirely ſubſided, were again revived, and they were all firmly perſuaded that they ſhould take the galeons, and return home enriched with the ſpoils of the enemy.

On the firſt of *May* they ſaw part of the iſland of *Formoſa*, and on the fourth diſcovered the *Baſhee* iſlands, which have hitherto been laid down 25 leagues too far to the weſtward; for by their obſervations, they found the middle of theſe iſlands to be in 21°. 4′. north latitude.

On the 20th of *May*, at noon, they firſt diſcovered *Cape Eſpiritu Santo*, which appeared of a moderate height, with ſeveral round hummocks upon it. But as they knew that there were ſentinels placed upon this cape to make ſignals to the *Acapulco* ſhip, when ſhe firſt falls in with the land, the Commodore, when at 11 leagues diſtance, tacked, and ordered the topgallant ſails to be taken in, to prevent being diſcovered, reſolving to cruiſe for the galeons, between the latitude of 12°. 50′. and 13°. 5′. the cape itſelf, according to their obſervations, lying

lying in 12°. 40′. north latitude. As there was now but ſmall employment for the crew, they were ordered by the Commodore to be exerciſed almoſt every day, in working the great guns, and in the uſe of their ſmall arms; which had, more or leſs, been his practice at every convenient opportunity, during the whole voyage. They were, indeed, taught no more of the manual exerciſe, than the ſhorteſt way of loading with cartridges, but were conſtantly trained to fire at a mark, which was generally hung at the yard-arm, and, as ſome little reward was given to the moſt expert, the whole crew were become extremely ſkilful; for, beſides an uncommon readineſs in loading, they were all of them good markſmen.

The *Centurion* having arrived off *Cape Eſpiritu Santo*, and the galeons being expected, the Commodore made all the neceſſary preparations for receiving them, and was at the ſame time ſollicitous to keep at ſuch a diſtance from the cape as not to be diſcovered. But it has ſince appeared, that, in ſpite of all his care, he was ſeen from the land; and advice of this was ſent to *Manila*, where it was at firſt diſbelieved; but, upon repeated intelligence of his being again ſeen, the merchants were alarmed; and application being made to the Governor, he undertook to fit out a force, conſiſting of two ſhips of 32 guns, one of 20, and two ſloops of 10 guns each, to attack the *Centurion* in her ſtation, the merchants being to ſupply the neceſſary ſums. Some of theſe veſſels actually weighed; but the principal ſhip not be-

ing ready, and the monſoon being againſt them, the Governor and the merchants diſagreed, which occaſioned the enterprize to be laid aſide.

The impatience of the Commodore's people daily increaſed, in proportion as the month of *June* advanced: but at length the laſt of *June*, new ſtile, arrived; when the certainty of ſeeing theſe veſſels dwindled down to a mere poſſibility; but the next day they were relieved from their uncertainty; for, at ſun-riſe, they diſcovered a ſail from the maſt-head. A general joy inſtantly ſpread thro' the whole ſhip, for they did not at all doubt but this was one of the galeons, and they expected ſoon to deſcry the other. The Commodore immediately ſtood towards her; and, at half an hour after ſeven, ſhe was viſible from the *Centurion*'s deck; at which time the galeon fired a gun, and took in her top-gallant ſails, which was ſuppoſed to be a ſignal to her conſort to haſten up; and therefore, the *Centurion*, to amuſe her, fired a gun to the leeward. During all this time, the galeon did not change her courſe, but, to the Commodore's ſurprize, bore down upon him; for he could hardly believe, what afterwards appeared to be the caſe, that ſhe knew his ſhip to be the *Centurion*, and reſolved to fight him.

About noon the galeon haled up her foreſail, and brought to on her top-ſails, hoiſting *Spaniſh* colours, and having the ſtandard of *Spain* flying at the top-gallant-maſt-head. Mean while Mr. *Anſon* picked out about 30 of his beſt markſmen, whom he diſtributed into his tops; and, as he had not hands enough left

to

to quarter a ſufficient number in the cuſtomary manner to each gun, he on his lower tire fixed only two men to each gun, who were to be ſolely employed in loading it, while the reſt of his people were divided into different gangs of 10 or 12 men each, who were to be continually moving about the decks, to run and fire ſuch guns as were loaded; by which management he was enabled to make uſe of all his guns; and, inſtead of whole broad-ſides, with intervals between them, to keep up a conſtant fire without intermiſſion; from which he hoped to procure great advantages: for it is uſual with the *Spaniards*, when they ſee a broad-ſide preparing, to fall down upon the decks, and to continue in that poſture till it is given; after which they riſe again, and, thinking the danger to be for ſome time over, fire with great briſkneſs till another broad-ſide is ready; and therefore firing gun by gun rendered this impoſſible. The *Centurion* now approached the galeon a-pace, but ſeveral ſqualls of wind and rain often obſcured her from their ſight. However, when it cleared up, they perceived her reſolutely lying to. About one o'clock the *Centurion* being within gun-ſhot of the enemy, hoiſted her broad-pendant and colours; and the Commodore perceiving that the *Spaniards* had till then neglected clearing their ſhip, and were throwing their cattle and lumber overboard, he gave orders to fire upon them with their chaſe-guns to diſturb them in their work, and prevent their compleating it, though he had before given general directions not to engage

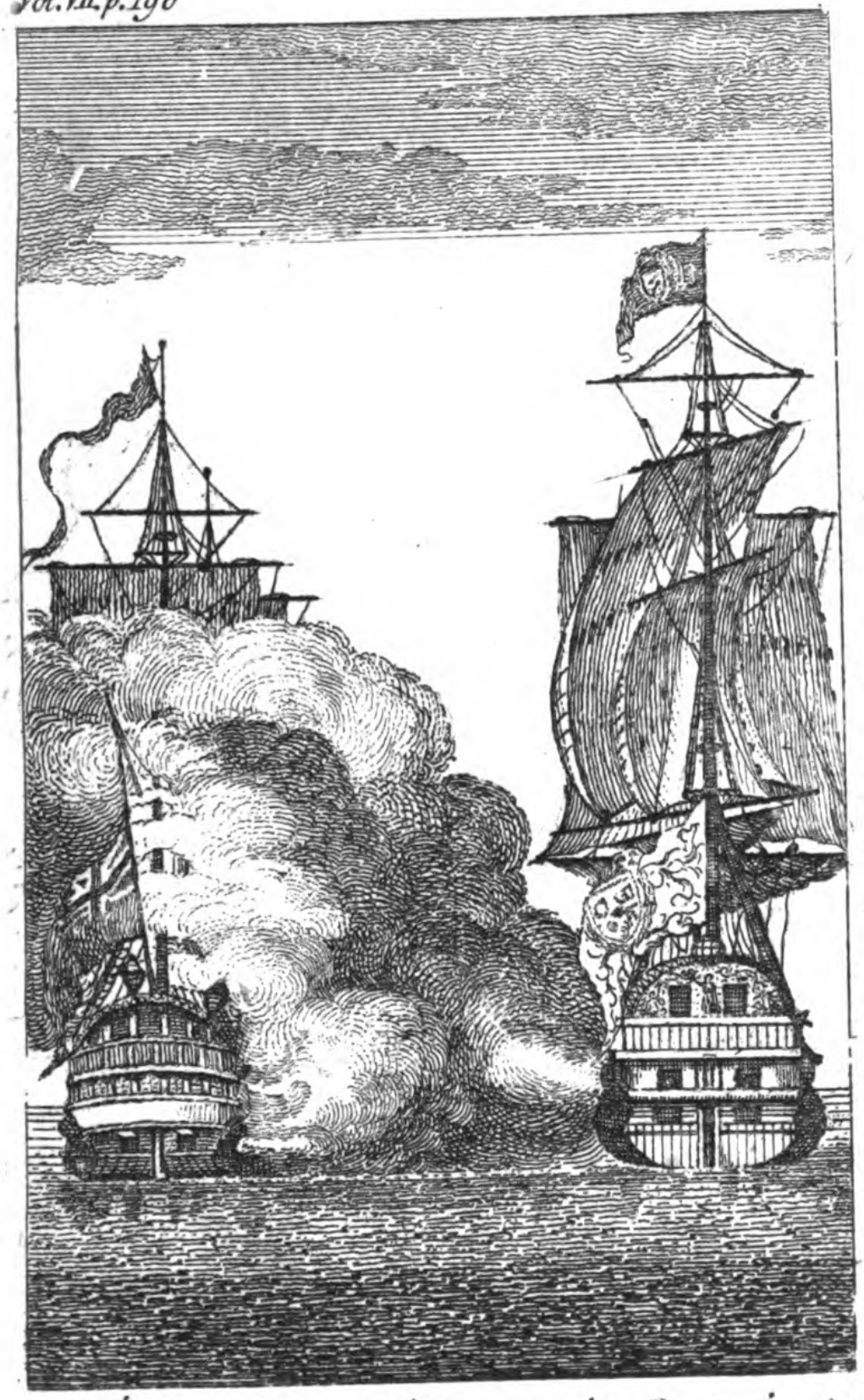
before they were within piſtol-ſhot. The galeon inſtantly returned the fire with two of her ſtern-chace; and the *Centurion* getting her ſprit-ſail-yard fore and aft, that, if neceſſary, ſhe might be ready for boarding, the *Spaniards* in a bravado alſo rigged their ſprit-ſail fore and aft. The *Centurion* ſoon after came abreaſt of the enemy, within piſtol-ſhot, when the enagement began in earneſt; and, for the firſt half hour, Mr. *Anſon* over-reached the galeon and lay on her bow, where, from the wideneſs of his ports, he could traverſe almoſt all his guns upon the enemy, while the galeon could bring only a part of her's to bear. At the beginning of the action, the mats with which the galeon had ſtuffed their netting took fire, and, burning violently, blazed up near half as high as the mizen-top. This accident, which was ſuppoſed to be cauſed by the *Centurion*'s wads, filled the enemy with the utmoſt terror, and alſo alarmed the Commodore, who was in pain, from the apprehenſion of the galeon's being burned, and from the poſſibility of his ſuffering by her driving on board him. The *Spaniards*, however, at laſt freed themſelves from the fire, by cutting away the netting, and tumbling the whole heap which was in flames into the ſea. Mean while the *Centurion* kept her firſt advantageous poſition, firing her guns with great briſkneſs and regularity, while the galeon's decks lay open to her topmen, who, having at the firſt volley driven the *Spaniards* from their tops, made prodigious havock with their ſmall arms, killing or wounding

wounding every officer, but one, that appeared on the quarter-deck, and in particular wounding the general of the galeon himſelf: but, when the *Centurion* had continued in this advantageous ſituation about half an hour, ſhe loſt the ſuperiority ſhe had gained by it, and was cloſe along-ſide the galeon, who continued firing briſkly for near an hour longer: yet, in this poſture, the Commodore's grape-ſhot ſo effectually ſwept their decks, and the number of their ſlain and wounded became ſo conſiderable, that they began to fall into great diſorder; and the ſhips were ſo near, that ſome of the *Spaniſh* officers were ſeen running about with much aſſiduity to prevent the men from deſerting their quarters. But their endeavours were vain; for after they had, as a laſt effort, fired five or ſix guns, with more judgment than uſual, they ſubmitted; and, as the galeon's colours were in the beginning of the action, ſinged off the enſign ſtaff, ſhe ſtruck the ſtandard at her main-top-gallant-maſt head.

This valuable prize, which amounted to near a million and a half of dollars, was called the *Noſtra Signora de Cabadonga*, and was commanded by Don *Jeronimo de Mentero*, a *Portugueſe*, who was an officer diſtinguiſhed by his ſkill and courage. The galeon was conſiderably larger than the *Centurion*, and had 550 men, and 36 guns mounted for action, beſides 28 pedreroes in her gunwale, quarters, and tops, each of which carried a four-pound ball. She had 67 men killed in the action, and 84 wounded; while the *Centurion* had only two

killed, and a lieutenant and ſixteen wounded; all of whom recovered, except one. It is impoſſible to deſcribe the tranſport on board, when, after their numerous diſappointments, they at laſt ſaw their wiſhes accompliſhed. But this ſudden joy was on the point of being as ſuddenly damped by a moſt dreadful accident, for the galeon had no ſooner ſtruck, than one of the lieutenants, coming to congratulate the Commodore on his prize, whiſpered him, that the *Centurion* was dangerouſly on fire near the powder-room. Mr. *Anſon* received this dreadful news without any apparent emotion; and, taking care not to alarm his people, gave the neceſſary orders for extinguiſhing the fire; which was happily done in a ſhort time, tho' its appearance at firſt was extremely terrible. Some cartridges had been blown up by accident between decks, and the blaſt had communicated its flame to a quantity of oakum in the after-hatch-way, near the powder-room, where the ſmoke of the oakum occaſioned the apprehenſion of a more extended and dreadful conflagration, and even the hopes of avoiding its fury, by eſcaping on board the prize had vaniſhed; for, at the ſame inſtant, the galeon fell on the ſtar-board quarter of the *Centurion*, tho' ſhe was happily cleared without doing or receiving any conſiderable damage.

Before night, Mr. *Saumarez*, the Commodore's firſt lieutenant, ſent all the *Spaniſh* priſoners on board the *Centurion*, except ſuch as were thought moſt proper to be retained to aſſiſt in navigating the galeon, when Mr. *Anſon* learned



The Engagement between the Centurion & the Acapulco Ship.

learned from ſome of the priſoners, that the other *Manila* ſhip which he had the year before kept in the harbour of *Acapulco*, had ſet ſail much earlier than uſual, and had probably reached the port of *Manila* ſome time before the *Centurion* arrived off *Cape Eſpiritu Santo*; ſo that, notwithſtanding Mr. *Anſon*'s preſent ſucceſs, he had reaſon to regret his loſs of time at *Macao*, which had prevented his taking both theſe rich prizes.

The Commodore ordered the treaſure to be immediately removed into the *Centurion*, and was under much concern about ſecuring the priſoners, their numbers amounting to double the number of his own men: which being done, the Commodore reſolved to return to the river of *Canton*; and, on the 11th of *July*, came to an anchor off the city of *Macao*.

The particulars of the cargo of the galeon were by this time aſcertained; and ſhe was found to have on board 1,313,843 pieces of eight, and 35,682 oz. of virgin ſilver, beſides ſome cochineal, and a few other commodities; whence it appears that the whole treaſure taken from the *Spaniards* by the *Centurion*, was not much ſhort of 400,000 *l.* independant of the ſhips and merchandize which ſhe had either burned or deſtroyed; which amounted to above 600,000 *l.* more: ſo that the whole damage done the enemy by Mr. *Anſon*'s ſquadron exceeded a million ſterling, beſides the great expence of the court of *Spain* in fitting out *Pizarro*, and the loſs of the men of war employed in that expedition.

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On the 14th of *July*, the *Centurion* caſt anchor, ſhort of *Bocca Tigris*, which is a narrow paſſage that forms the mouth of that river, and propoſed to run through it the next day, as far as *Tiger* iſland, where there is a very ſafe road: but while the *Centurion* and her prize were thus at anchor, a boat was ſent by the Mandarine, who commands the forts at *Bocca Tigris*, to enquire what the ſhips were, and whence they came. Mr. *Anſon* told the officer, that his own ſhip was a man of war belonging to the king of *Great-Britain*, and the other a prize he had taken. That he was going into *Canton* river to ſhelter himſelf againſt the approaching hurricanes, and that he ſhould ſail for *England* as ſoon as the monſoon ſhifted. The officer then deſired an account of his force, which he was to ſend to the Governor of *Canton*; but being told that there were in the *Centurion* between three and four hundred barrels of powder, and four hundred firelocks, he ſhrugged up his ſhoulders, and appeared terrified at the bare recital, ſaying, That no ſhips ever came into *Canton* river armed in that manner, and ſeemed amazed at Mr. *Anſon*'s expecting to be exempted from all the duties paid to the Emperor by the ſhips that enter his ports; and it is ſuppoſed that he gave private directions to the *Chineſe* pilot not to carry the Commodore through the *Bocca Tigris*.

The narrow paſſage, called the *Bocca Tigris*, is little more than muſket-ſhot over, and formed by two points of land, on each of which there is a fort: that on the ſtar-board

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ſide being a battery on the water's edge, with 18 embraſures, but no more than twelve iron cannon mounted, which ſeemed to be four or ſix pounders. The fort on the larboard ſide is a large caſtle, ſituated on an high rock, and did not appear to be furniſhed with more than eight or ten cannon, which did not ſeem to exceed ſix pounders. Theſe defences the *Chineſe* had imagined ſufficient to prevent an enemy from forcing his way through, but would have been incapable of giving any obſtruction to Mr. *Anſon*'s paſſage. However, the pilot, after the *Chineſe* officer had been on board, refuſed at firſt to take charge of the ſhip, without leave from the forts; but, it being neceſſary to get through without delay, for fear of the bad weather, which was hourly expected, the Commodore weighed on the 15th, ordered the pilot to carry him by the forts, and threatened him, that, if the ſhip run a-ground, he would inſtantly hang him up at the yard-arm. Upon which the pilot, terrified by theſe threats, carried the ſhip ſafely through, the forts not attempting to diſpute the paſſage. The poor pilot, however, did not eſcape the reſentment of his countrymen; for, on his going on ſhore, he was ſent to priſon, rigorouſly diſciplined with a bamboa. He however afterwards went to Mr. *Anſon*, to deſire ſome reward for the chaſtiſement he had ſuffered, of which he bore very evident marks; when Mr. *Anſon*, pitying his ſufferings, gave him an handſome recompence. The Mandarine who commanded the forts, was alſo inſtantly turned out of his place,

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and carried to *Canton*, where it was expected that he would be ſeverely puniſhed for ſuffering the ſhips to paſs by.

On the 16th of *July*, Mr. *Anſon* ſent his ſecond Lieutenant to *Canton* with a letter to the Viceroy, to inform him of the reaſon of the *Centurion*'s putting into that port, and that the Commodore propoſed to pay his Excellency a viſit. The Lieutenant had a very civil reception, and was promiſed that the next day an anſwer ſhould be ſent to the Commodore. Mean while, Mr. *Anſon* gave leave to ſeveral of the officers of the galeon to go to *Canton*, on a promiſe of their returning in two days. When theſe priſoners got thither, they were ſent for and examined by the regency; upon which they had the honeſty to declare, that, as the kings of *Great-Britain* and *Spain* were at war, they had propoſed to take the *Centurion*, and, with that view, had bore down upon her; but that the event had been contrary to their hopes. And being afterwards queſtioned as to their uſage on board, they frankly acknowledged, that the Commodore had treated them much better than they believed they ſhould have treated him, had he fallen into their hands. This confeſſion from an enemy had great weight with the *Chineſe*, who had hitherto conſidered Mr. *Anſon* rather as a lawleſs free-booter, than as one commiſſioned by the ſtate for the revenge of public injuries. But now changing their opinion, they conſidered him as a very important perſon. In the examination there were two circumſtances, which, in the opinion

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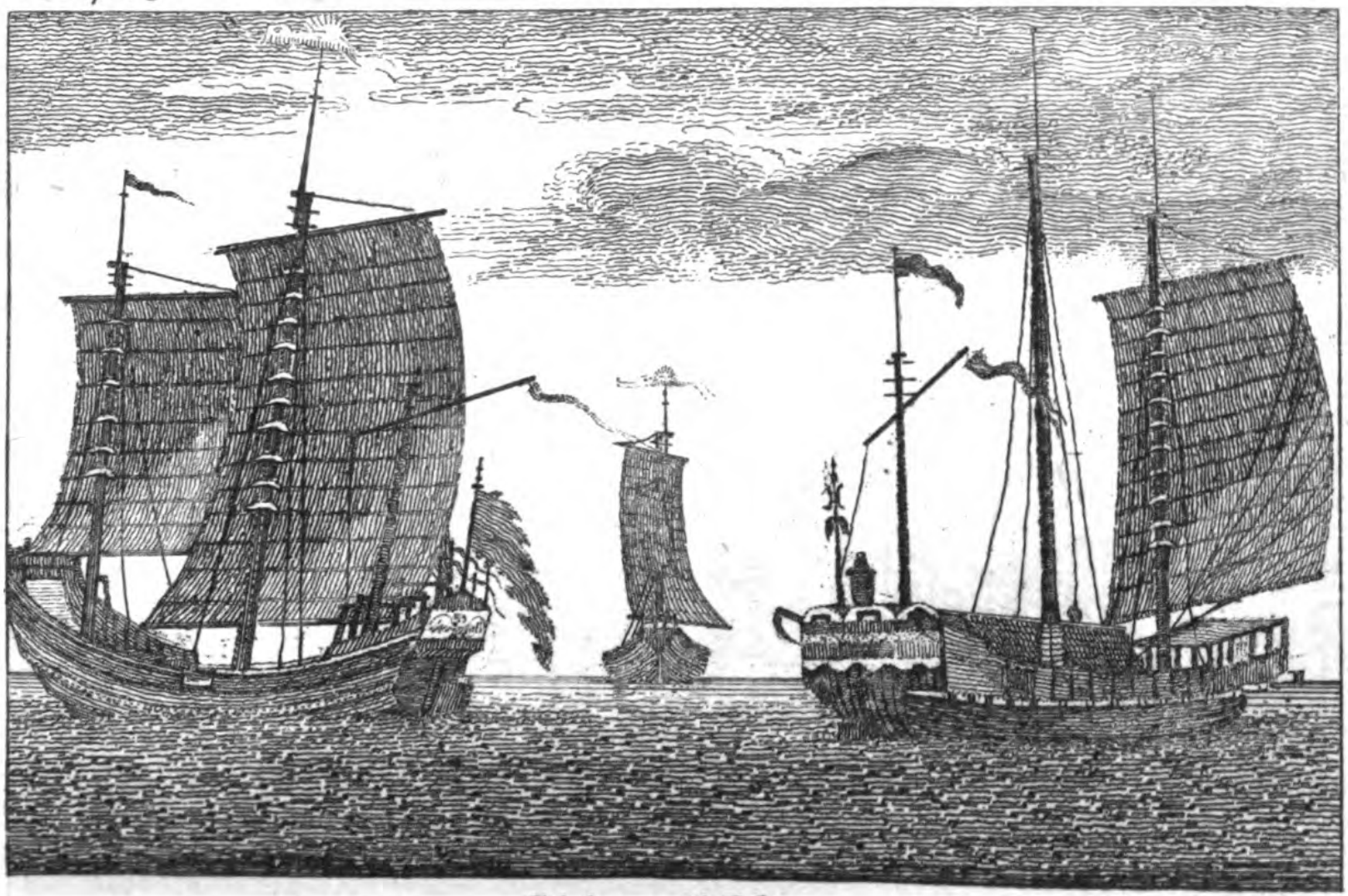
of the *Chinese*, appeared extremely singular; the Mandarines therefore asked the *Spaniards*, how they came to be overpowered by so inferior a force, and how it happened, since the two nations were at war, they were not put to death when they fell into the hands of the *English?* To the first of these questions the *Spaniards* answered, That though they had more men than the *Centurion*, yet she being solely intended for war, was greatly superior in the size of her guns, and in many other articles, to the galleon, which was a vessel fitted out principally for trade: and as to the second inquiry, they observed, that amongst the nations of *Europe*, it was not customary to put those to death who submitted, though they readily acknowledged, that the Commodore, from the natural biass of his temper, had treated both them, and those of their countrymen, who had been formerly in his power, with very unusual courtesy, much beyond what was expected, or than was required by the customs established between nations at war. With these replies the *Chinese* were fully satisfied, and from them entertained very favourable sentiments of the Commodore.

In the morning of the 20th of *July* three Mandarines, with a vast retinue in a great number of boats, came on board the *Centurion*, and delivered to the Commodore an order from the Viceroy of *Canton* for a daily supply of provisions, and for pilots to convey the ships up the river as far as the second bar. They also

alſo delivered him a meſſage from the Viceroy, in anſwer to his letter; in which he deſired to be excuſed from reciving the Commodore's viſit, during the exceſſive heat of the weather, but that he ſhould be glad to ſee him in *September*.

The Mandarines having delivered their meſſage, began to talk to the Commodore on the duties to be paid by his ſhips; but he immediately let them know, he would never ſubmit to any demand of that kind, and that as he did not come to trade with them, he could not be deemed within the meaning of the Emperor's orders; and added, that no duties were ever demanded of men of war by nations accuſtomed to receive them, and that he was expreſly forbid, in the orders he had received from his maſter, to pay any acknowledgement for his ſhip's anchoring in any port whatever.

The Mandarines then obſerved, that they had another affair to mention, and ſolicited him to releaſe the priſoners he had on board the galeon, obſerving that the Viceroy of *Canton* apprehended that the Emperor his maſter would be diſpleaſed, if he ſhould be informed, that perſons who were his allies, and carried on a great commerce with his ſubjects, were under confinement in his dominions. But though Mr. *Anſon* was extremely deſirous of getting rid of the *Spaniards*, he at firſt, to enhance the favour, raiſed ſome difficulties, but at laſt ſuffering himſelf to be prevailed on, he told the Mandarines, that to ſhew his readineſs to oblige the Viceroy, he would releaſe the priſoners,



Chinese Vessels.

ſoners whenever they would order boats to fetch them off. This affair being thus adjuſted, the Mandarines departed. A few days after two *Chineſe* junks were ſent for them, when the Commodore diſmiſſed them all, and as they were to be carried to *Macao*, allowed them eight days proviſions for their ſubſiſtence while they fell down the river.

Though the Commodore found no difficulty in purchaſing proviſions for the daily conſumption of his men, yet he was under much perplexity about laying in ſuch a large quantity, both of proviſions and naval ſtores, as would be neceſſary to carry him to *England*. There were indeed people at *Canton*, who had engaged to furniſh him with biſcuit, and whatever elſe he wanted; but after being aſſured from day to day that all was ready, and would be immediately ſent on board, he had the vexation to be informed, that no order had been procured from the Viceroy to furniſh him with naval ſtores, that there was no biſcuit baked, nor any of the articles which had been promiſed him in readineſs.

It is, perhaps, impoſſible to account for the inſincerity of the *Chineſe* in this particular. However, Mr. *Anſon* found by experience, that in artifice, falſhood, and avarice, many of the *Chineſe* are ſcarcely to be parallelled by any other people upon earth, which will be ſufficiently evident, from the following ſhameful inſtances of the fraudulent and ſelfiſh turn of temper peculiar to that nation.

While the Commodore firſt lay at *Macao*, one of his officers who had juſt recovered from a fit of illneſs, deſired leave to take a walk every day upon a neighbouring iſland, which he imagined would greatly contribute to the recovery of his ſtrength. Though the Commodore would have perſuaded him from it, yet the importunity of the officer prevailed, and the boat was ordered to carry him thither; but the ſecond day of his taking this exerciſe he was aſſaulted by a number of *Chineſe*, who had been hoeing rice in the neighbourhood, who ſtruck him with the handles of their hoes, till they had laid him on the ground incapable of reſiſtance, and then robbed him of his ſword, his money, watch, gold-headed cane, hat, ſnuff-box, ſleeve-buttons, and ſeveral other trinkets. Mean while, the boat's crew being without arms at a ſmall diſtance, one of them flew on the fellow, who had the ſword, and wreſting it out of his hands, drew it, and was preparing to run ſome of the *Chineſe* through the body; the officer immediately ordered him to deſiſt, thinking it more prudent to ſubmit, than to involve his commander in a quarrel with the *Chineſe* government, which was the more admired, as this gentleman was known to have an uncommon ſpirit, and to be of an haſty temper. By this means the *Chineſe* recovered the ſword, and carried off their whole booty unmoleſted. No ſooner were they gone than a *Chineſe*, who had the air and appearance of a gentleman, rode on horſeback to the ſea ſide, and by his ſigns ſeemed to commiſerate the officer;

ficer; but though he was wonderfully officious in getting him into the boat, he was ſhrewdly ſuſpected of being an accomplice in the robbery.

The officer, at his return, reported what had paſſed to Mr. *Anſon*, and he immediately complained of it to a Mandarine who attended to ſee the ſhip ſupplied with proviſions. The Mandarine found fault with the boat's going on ſhore; but promiſed, that if the robbers could be found they ſhould be puniſhed; it however plainly appeared, that he would give himſelf no trouble about them. A conſiderable time afterwards, one of the principal thieves was ſeen in a proviſion-boat along ſide the ſhip, and orders being immediately given to ſieze him, he was taken on board. The robber on his firſt being apprehended, expreſſed ſuch fright in his countenance, that it was feared he would have died upon the ſpot, and the Commodore declaring, to the Mandarine who attended the ſhip, that he would not deliver up the robber, but would himſelf order him to be ſhot, the Mandarine inſtantly put off the magiſterial air, with which he had at firſt demanded him, and begged his releaſe in the moſt abject terms; when the Commodore appearing inflexible, in leſs than two hours there came on board five or ſix of the neighbouring Mandarines, who joined in the ſame intreaties, and offered a large ſum of money for the fellow's liberty. While they were thus ſolliciting, it was diſcovered, that the moſt aſſiduous Mandarine, was the very

gentleman who rode up to the officer, after the robbery, and who pretended to be so highly displeased with the villany of his countrymen. It was also found on further enquiry, that he was the Mandarine of the island, and had by the authority of his office, ordered the peasants to commit that act of violence. Hence arose his extraordinary vigilance, and from some casual hints it appeared, that he and his brethren, every one of whom had been privy to the action, were terrified with the apprehension of being called before the tribunal of *Canton*, where they would be immediately stripped of all they were worth. Mr. *Anson* entertained himself for some time with their perplexity, rejected their money with scorn, appeared inexorable to their prayers, and gave out that the thief should be certainly shot; but at last suffered himself to be persuaded, and as a favour released his prisoner, though not till the Mandarine had collected and returned all that had been taken from the officer, even to the minutest trifle.

But the avarice of the *Chinese*, notwithstanding the good intelligence which subsists between the magistrates and criminals, frequently prompts them to defraud the persons by whom they are protected of their share of the pillage. A short time after the above transaction, the Mandarine attendant on the ship being relieved by another, the Commodore lost his top-mast from his stern, which he had borrowed at *Macao*, and being extremely desirous to recover it, offered a considerable reward to

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any who would bring it again. Soon after he was informed by the Mandarine, that ſome of his attendants had found it, and deſired the Commodore to ſend his boats for it, which being done, the Mandarine's people received the reward. But beſides this, the Commodore had told the Mandarine, that he would make him a preſent for his care in directing it to be ſearched for, and accordingly gave his linguiſt ſome money, with orders to deliver it to the Mandarine, but the linguiſt being ignorant, that a further preſent had been promiſed, kept the money himſelf. However, the Mandarine confiding in Mr. *Anſon*'s promiſe, took occaſion one morning to admire the ſize of the *Centurion's* maſts, and from thence made a digreſſion to the top-maſt, which had been loſt, and aſked Mr. *Anſon* if he had not got it again. Mr. *Anſon* ſoon perceived what he aimed at, and enquired if he had not received the money from the linquiſt, and finding he had not, offered to pay him immediately; but this the Mandarine refuſed, having ſome more important affair in view. For the next day the linquiſt being ſeized, was fined all he had got in the Commodore's ſervice, which was ſuppoſed to be little leſs than 2000 dollars, and was beſides ſo ſeverely baſtinadoed, that it was a wonder he eſcaped with his life. But when the Commodore, to whom he afterwards came a begging, upbraided him with his folly in riſking the ſevere chaſtiſement, and the loſs of all he was worth for the ſake of 50 dollars, of which he had defrauded the Mandarine, he

had no other excuſe to make, but crying in his broken jargon, *Chineſe man very great rogue truly ; but have faſhion no can help.*

There would be no end of recounting all the frauds, extortions, and artifices practiſed by theſe ſelfiſh people on the Commodore. As the method of buying proviſions in *China* is by weight, they uſed the moſt incredible methods, to augment the weight of what they ſold to Mr. *Anſon.* Thus a large quantity of fowls and ducks being bought for the ſhip's ſtore, the greateſt part of them preſently died, which alarmed all on board from the apprehenſion of their being poiſoned ; but on examination it was found to be owing to their being crammed with ſtones and gravel to increaſe their weight; the quantity thus forced into moſt of the ducks amounting to ten ounces in each. The hogs bought ready killed, had water injected into them for the ſame purpoſe, ſo that a carcaſe hung up all night for the water to drain out of it, loſt above a ſtone of its weight. To avoid this cheat, the Commodore bought the hogs alive, when it was diſcovered, that the *Chineſe* gave them ſalt to increaſe their thirſt, and having made them drink great quantities of water, took meaſures to prevent their diſcharging it. As the *Chineſe* never ſcruple eating any food that dies of itſelf, they practiſed another artifice; when the Commodore firſt put to ſea from *Macao*, they by ſome ſecret practices contrived that great part of his live ſtore ſhould die in a ſhort time after it was put on board, and two thirds of the hogs

dying

dying before the *Centurion* was out of ſight of land, ſhe was followed by many of the *Chineſe* boats, with no other view but to pick up the carcaſſes.

Towards the end of *September* the Commodore finding that he was deceived by thoſe who had contracted to ſupply him with ſea-proviſions, and that the Viceroy had not according to his promiſe invited him to an interview, found it impoſſible to ſurmount the difficulty he was under, without going to *Canton* and viſiting the Viceroy. He therefore prepared for this expedition: The boat's crew were cloathed in an uniform dreſs, reſembling that of the watermen on the *Thames*. They were in number 18, and a coxſwain; they had ſcarlet jackets, and blue ſilk waiſtcoats, the whole trimmed with ſilver buttons, and had alſo ſilver badges on their jackets and caps. As it was apprehended that the cuſtomary duties would be demanded by the regency of *Canton* for the *Centurion* and her prize, and would be inſiſted on previous to their granting a permiſſion to victual the ſhip, the Commodore who had reſolved never to eſtabliſh ſo diſhonourable a precedent, appointed Mr. *Brett* to be Captain of the *Centurion* under him, directing him, in caſe he ſhould be detained at *Canton* on account of the duties in diſpute, to deſtroy the *Centurion*'s prize, and then to proceed down the river through the *Bocca Tigris*, and to remain without that entrance, till he received farther orders. On the 13th of *October* the Commodore continuing firm to his reſolution, all the ſu-

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percargoes of the *English*, *Danish*, and *Swedish* ships came on board the *Centurion* to accompany him to *Canton*, for which city he the same day set out in his barge, attended by his own boats, and by those of the trading ships, which were sent to augment his retinue. As he passed by *Wampo*, where the *European* vessels lay, he was saluted by all of them, except the *French*, and the same evening arrived safe at *Canton*.

The Commodore on his arrival at that city, was visited by the principal *Chinese* merchants, who promised to inform the Viceroy of his being at *Canton*; but the next day pretended that his Excellency was so busy, that there was no getting admittance to him. They then prepossessed the supercargoes of the *English* ships, with a fear of being embroiled with the government, and of suffering in their interests; when to quiet the uneasiness of these supercargoes, Mr. *Anson* consented not to take any immediate step for getting admittance to the Viceroy, provided the *Chinese*, who contracted to furnish his provisions, would let him see that his bread was baked, his meat salted, and his stores prepared with the utmost dispatch; but notwithstanding the equity of these conditions, many difficulties and objections were urged, nor would the *Chinese* agree to the proposal, till the Commodore had consented to pay for every article before it was put in hand. While the stores and provisions were getting ready, the merchants continually entertained Mr. *Anson* with accounts of their various endeavours to procure a licence from the Viceroy, and their

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frequent disappointments. But at length every thing being completed and ready to be shipped, he resolved to demand an audience of the Viceroy, as he found that without this ceremony, it would be difficult to obtain permission to take his stores on board. Mr. *Anson* therefore sent one of his officers to the Mandarine who commanded the guard of the principal gate of *Canton*, with a letter directed to the Viceroy. This Mandarine received the officer very civilly, took down the contents of the letter in *Chinese*, promising that the Viceroy should be immediately acquainted with it, and that a message should be sent to the Commodore. Mr. *Anson* had been under great difficulties about a proper interpreter, but he happily prevailed with Mr. *Flint*, an *English* gentleman belonging to the factory, who spoke *Chinese* perfectly well, to accompany his officer. He had been left at *Canton* when a youth, and was upon that, and many other occasions, of signal service to the Commodore.

Two days after the above letter was sent, a fire broke out in the suburbs of *Canton*. Mr. *Anson* on the first alarm went thither to assist the *Chinese*, attended by his officers and boat's crew. When he found that it begun in a sailor's shed, and that by the slightness of the buildings, and the timorous aukwardness of the *Chinese*, it was getting a-head. But observing that it was running along a wooden cornice, which blazed fiercely, and would soon spread the flame to a great distance, he ordered his people to begin with pulling the cornice down, which

which would ſoon have been executed; but being told, that as there was no Mandarine there, who alone has a power to direct on theſe occaſions, the *Chineſe* would make him pay for whatever was pulled down by his orders, he directed his attendants to deſiſt, and ſent them to the *Engliſh* factory, to aſſiſt in ſecuring the company's treaſure and effects, it being eaſy to foreſee, that no diſtance could be a protection againſt the rage of ſuch a fire, where ſo little was done to put a ſtop to it. All this while the *Chineſe* were contented with viewing it, and now and then holding one of their idols near it, which they ſeemed to expect ſhould check its progreſs. At laſt, however, a Mandarine came from the city, attended by four or five hundred firemen, who made ſome feeble efforts to pull down the neighbouring houſes; but by this time the fire had ſpread prodigiouſly, and was got amongſt the Merchants warehouſes, and the *Chineſe* firemen wanting both ſkill and ſpirit, were unable to check its fury, ſo that it encreaſed ſo faſt, that it was feared the whole city would be deſtroyed. In this general confuſion, the Viceroy himſelf went thither, and a meſſage was ſent to the Commodore to entreat him to afford his aſſiſtance, and to let him know that he might take ſuch meaſures as he thought prudent for extinguiſhing the conflagration. Upon this, the Commodore went thither a ſecond time, with about 40 of his people, who in the ſight of the whole city exerted themſelves in ſo extraordinary a manner,

The English Sailors extinguish the Fire at Canton.

manner, as in that country was altogether without example. They behaved with a boldness and agility peculiar to sailors, and seemed rather animated than deterred by the flames and buildings, among which they exerted themselves: whence by their resolution and activity, the fire, to the amazement of the *Chinese*, was soon extinguished, and the buildings being all on one floor, and the materials slight, the seamen, notwithstanding their daring behaviour, escaped with a few inconsiderable burns and bruises.

This fire consumed 100 shops and 11 streets full of warehouses, so that the damage amounted to an immense sum, and one of the *Chinese* merchants, well known to the *English*, was supposed to lose for his own share near 200,000 *l.* sterling. The principal reason of its raging with such violence was, there being large quantities of camphire in many of the warehouses, which produced a column of white flame, and blazed up into the air to such a prodigious height, that it was plainly seen on board the *Centurion*, notwithstanding her being at least 30 miles distant.

While Mr. *Anson* and his people were endeavouring to extinguish the fire, and the whole city were possessed with the terror of its becoming general, several of the most considerable *Chinese* merchants applied to Mr. *Anson*, to beseech him to let each of them have one of his soldiers, for such they stiled his boat's crew, from the uniformity of their dress, to guard

guard their warehouſes and dwellings, which from the diſhoneſty of the populace, they apprehended would be plundered in the tumult. This requeſt Mr. *Anſon* granted, and all the men thus employed behaved much to the ſatisfaction of the merchants, who afterwards highly applauded their fidelity and diligence.

The intrepidity of the *Engliſh*, in putting a ſtop to the fire, and their prudence and honeſty where they were employed as guards, was the general ſubject of converſation among the *Chineſe*, and the next morning many of the principal inhabitants waited on the Commodore to thank him for his aſſiſtance, freely owning, that he had preſerved the city from being intirely conſumed, ſince they could never have extinguiſhed the fire of themſelves. Soon after the Commodore received a meſſage from the Viceroy, appointing the 30th of *November* for his audience, which ſudden reſolution was owing to the ſignal ſervices performed by Mr. *Anſon* and his people on this occaſion.

The Commodore was much pleaſed at having his audience fixed, ſince he was convinced that the *Chineſe* government would not have come to this determination, had they not reſolved to give up their pretentions to the duties they claimed, and to grant him every thing he could reaſonably deſire. The Commodore therefore prepared for this event, and engaged Mr. *Flint* to act as an interpreter in the conference.

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On the day appointed, a Mandarine came to the Commodore at 10 o'clock in the morning, to let him know that the Viceroy was prepared, and expected him; on which the Commodore and his retinue immediately set out. At his entering the outward gate of the city, he found a guard of 200 soldiers, who attended him to the great parade before the Emperor's palace, where the Viceroy then resided, and where a body of troops, to the number of 10,000, were drawn up under arms, and being all new cloathed for this new ceremony, made a very fine appearance. The Commodore, with his retinue, having passed through the middle of them, was conducted to the great hall of audience, where the Viceroy was seated under a rich canopy in the Emperor's chair of state, with all his Council of Mandarines attending him. There was a vacant seat, in which the Commodore was placed on his arrival, which was the third from the Viceroy, there being only above him the Chiefs of the Law and the Treasury, who in the *Chinese* government precede all military officers. When the Commodore had taken his seat, he addressed himself to the Viceroy by his interpreter, and began with mentioning the various methods he had taken to obtain an audience; the delays he had met with, and the insincerity of those he had employed, which had obliged him to send his own officer with a letter to the gate. The Viceroy here interrupted the interpreter, and bid him assure the Commodore, that the

first knowledge he had of his being at *Canton*, was from that letter. The Commodore then complained to him of several grievances suffered by the *East-India* company from the vexatious impositions of the merchants, and inferior custom-house officers, and at length entered upon his own affairs, and informed the Viceroy, that this was the proper season for returning to *Europe*. That he wanted only a licence to ship off his provisions and stores, which were all ready, and that as soon as he had gotten his necessaries on board, he intended to leave the river of *Canton* and sail for *England*. To this the Viceroy replied, that the licence should be immediately issued, and that the following day every thing should be ordered on board, then finding Mr. *Anson* had nothing further to insist on, he for some time continued the conversation, acknowledged, in very civil terms, how much the *Chinese* were obliged to him, for his signal services at the fire, and owned that he had saved the city from being destroyed; then observing, that the *Centurion* had been a good while on their coast, he wished the Commodore a prosperous voyage to *Europe*, after which the Commodore thanking him for his civility and assistance, took his leave.

The Commodore was no sooner out of the hall, than he was much pressed to go into a neighbouring apartment, where an entertainment was provided, but finding that the Viceroy was not to be present, he declined the invitation, and

and departed, attended in the ſame manner as at his arrival, only, on his leaving the city he was ſaluted by three guns, which are the moſt that are ever fired by the *Chineſe* on any ceremony.

The Commodore had now, to his great joy, at laſt finiſhed this troubleſome affair; had procured a licence for ſhipping off his ſtores, and eſtabliſhed an authentic precedent, by which his Majeſty's ſhips of war, will for the future be exempted from the payment of duty in any of theſe *Chineſe* ports.

The Commodore's proviſions were begun to be ſent on board, according to the Viceroy's promiſe, the day ſucceeding the audience, and four days after the Commodore embarked for the *Centurion*, and all preparations for putting to ſea, were purſued with ſuch vigour, that on the 7th of *December*, the *Centurion* and her prize unmoored, and on the 12th anchored before *Mecao*, where the merchants of that town purchaſed the galleon for 6000 dollars, which was much below her value; but theſe merchants inſiſted on theſe unequal terms, from their knowing the Commodore's impatience to put to ſea, and ſhe being delivered up on the 15th of *December* 1743, the *Centurion* the ſame day got under ſail, and the 3d of *January* ſhe came to an anchor at *Prince*'s iſland in the ſtreights of *Sunda*, where ſhe continued taking in wood and water till the 8th, and then ſtanding for the *Cape of Good Hope*,, anchored in *Table* bay on the 11th of *March*. This *Dutch* ſettlement

is the beſt provided of any in the known world, for the refreſhment of ſeamen after long voyages. The Commodore continued there till the beginning of *April*, highly delighted with the pictureſque appearance of the country, the healthineſs of its air, and its extraordinary accommodations. While he ſtaid there he entered about 40 new men, and on 3d of *April* 1744, having completed taking in water and proviſions, put to ſea. On the 19th of *April*, the *Centurion* was within ſight of the iſland of *St. Helena*, but did not touch at it. On the 10th of *June* he ſpoke with an *Engliſh* ſhip bound for *Philadelphia*, from whom the Commodore received the firſt intelligence of a *French* war, and though there was at that time a conſiderable *French* fleet cruiſing in the chops of the channel, the *Centurion* ran through, being all the time concealed by a fog. In ſhort on the 15th of the ſame month, to the inexpreſſible joy of the whole crew, the *Centurion* came to an anchor at *Spithead*. Thus after a ſeries of the moſt extraordinary adventures, and the moſt dreadful ſcenes of diſtreſs, did they encompaſs the globe in three years and nine months. All *England* rejoiced at the news; the treaſures taken by the *Centurion*, were conveyed in many waggons, adorned with *Spaniſh* flags, through the ſtreets of *London*, amidſt the acclamations of the multitudes. Mr. *Anſon* was juſtly loaded with honour, and the meaneſt ſailor who had ſhared

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in all the dangers and diſtreſſes of theſe glorious enterprizes, had not only the ſatisfaction of having contributed to humble the pride of the enemies of his country; but of being made rich with the ſpoils.

The End of the Seventh Volume.