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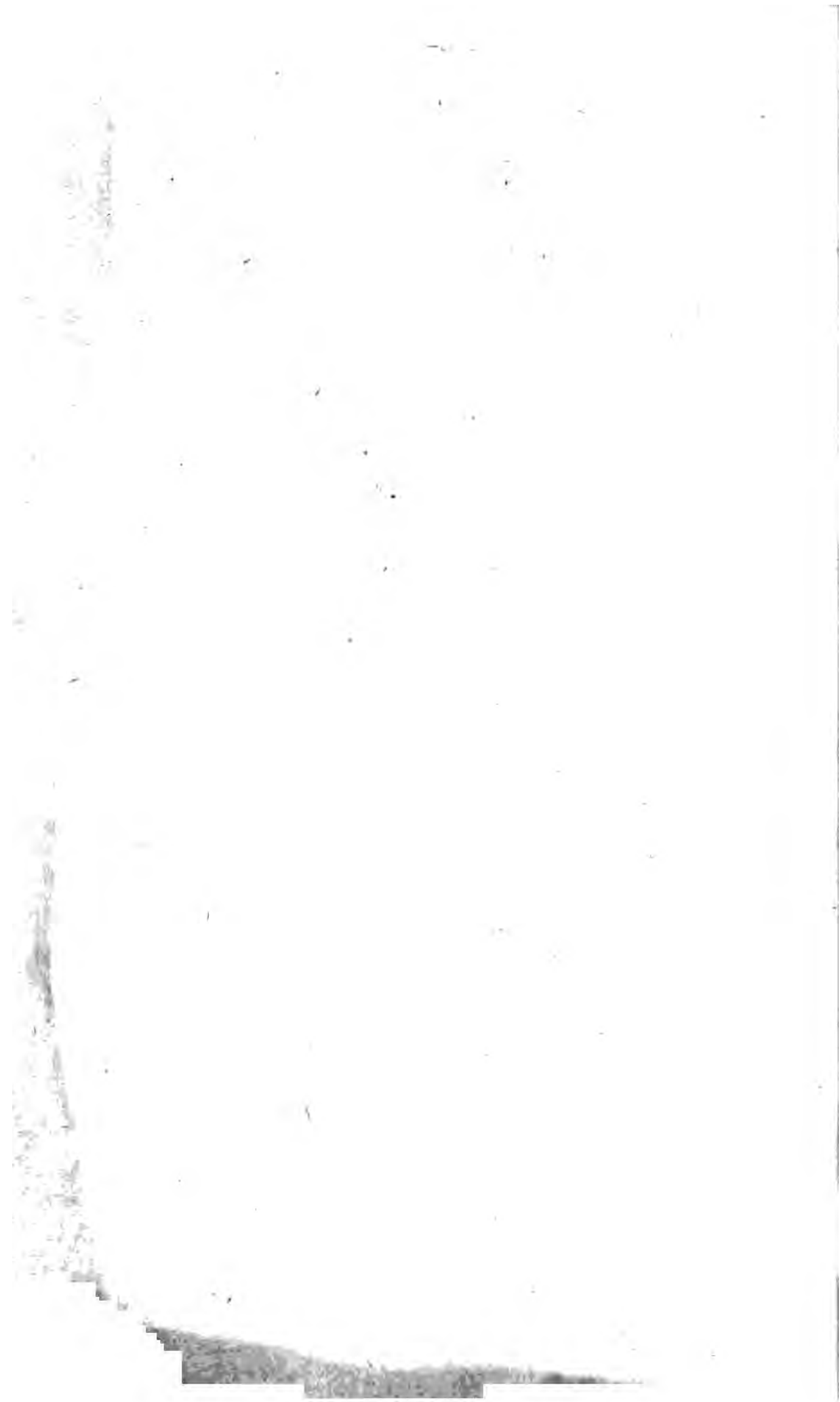
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THE  
WORLD displayed;  
OR, A  
CURIOUS COLLECTION  
OF  
VOYAGES and TRAVELS,

Selected from  
The WRITERS of all NATIONS.  
In which the  
CONJECTURES and INTERPOLATIONS

OF  
Several vain *Editors* and *Translators* are  
expunged,  
Every Relation is made concise and plain,  
AND  
The DIVISIONS of *Countries* and *Kingdoms* are  
clearly and distinctly noted.

Illustrated and Embellished  
With Variety of MAPS and PRINTS  
By the best HANDS.

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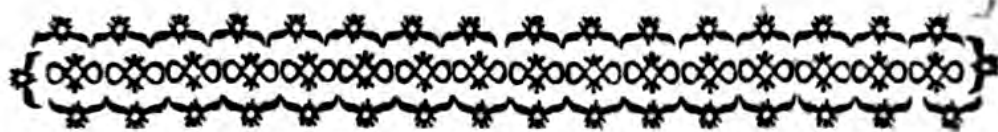
V O L. VII.

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T H E  
C O N T E N T S.  
O F T H E  
S E V E N T H V O L U M E.

Commodore *Anson's* Voyage round the World.

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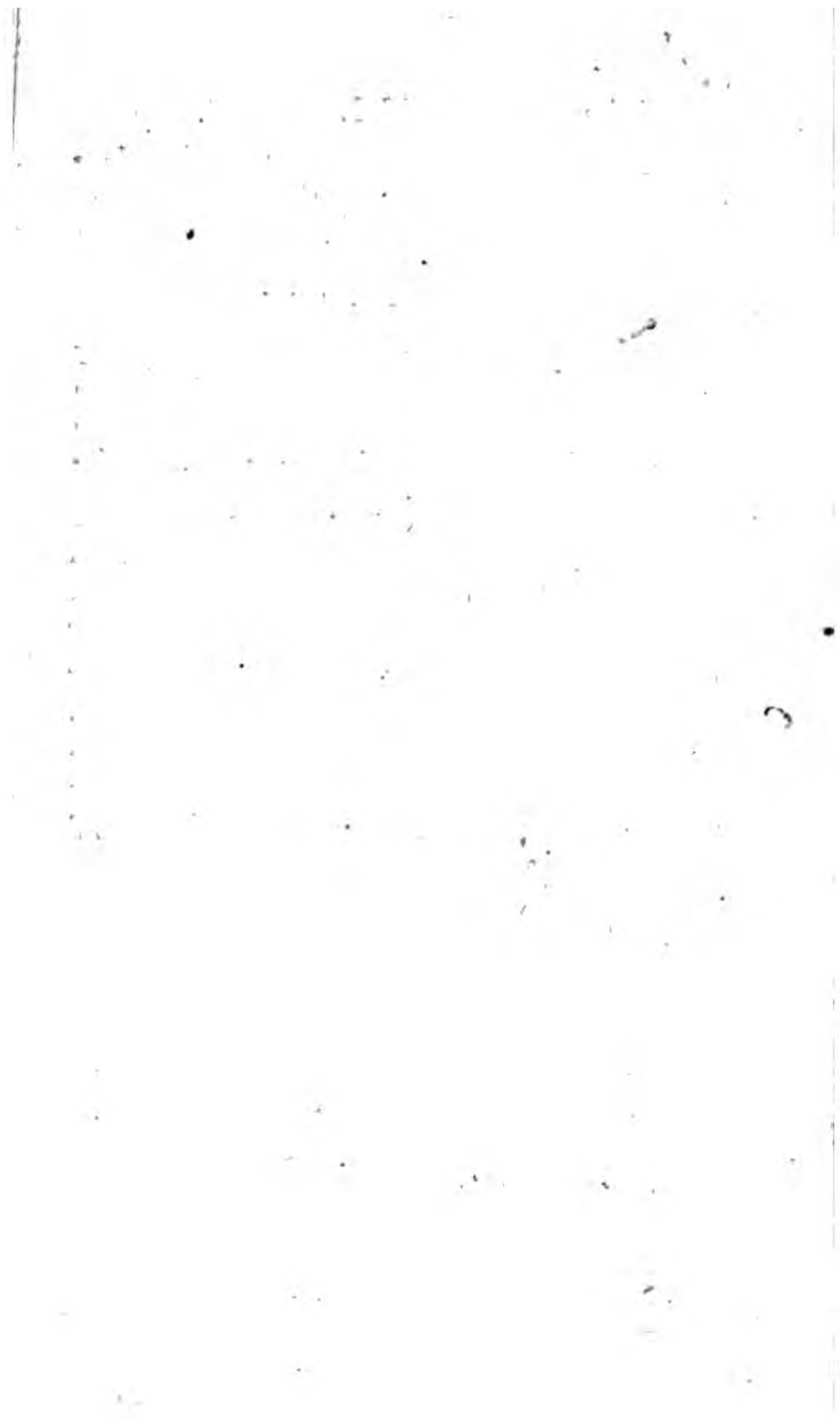
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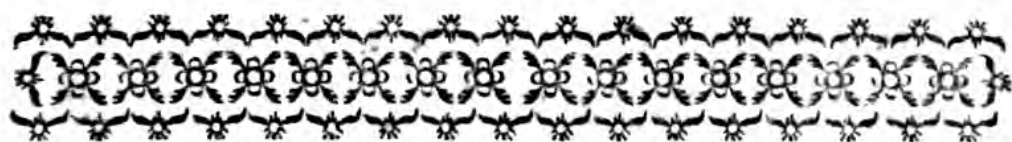
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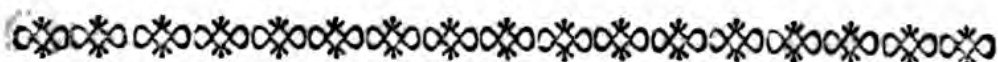


COMMODORE ANSON'S\*

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*  
❖❖❖❖ I ❖❖❖❖ appearing inevitable, it was pro-  
❖❖❖❖ posed to cut off all the principal re-  
❖❖❖❖ sources of the *Spaniards*, and to de-  
❖❖❖❖ prive 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.*

## 2 Commodore ANSON'S VOYAGE

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 enterprize, 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 surf 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°.*

#### 4 Commodore ANSON'S VOYAGE

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 *Brazil*, 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



## 6 Commodore ANSON'S VOYAGE

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 *Brazil*.

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°.*

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 inconveniences. 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 muscitos, resembling the gnats in *England*, but more venemous 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

## 8      *Commodore ANSON'S VOYAGE*

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 melancholly 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 *Brazil*, 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 clothes, 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 Pas*, 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 Governor



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\*.



## C H A P. II.

*The Commodore proceeds from St. Catharine'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.*

**T**HE 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.*

ary 1741, in order to proceed to a desert 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 chase; 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 *Gloucester* 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 rendezous in case of separation, for all cruifers 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.

The

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 surprizing 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 hamstringing 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 manner 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 uses 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 solicitous 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 *Trial* 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 *Nuestra Señora 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 straits *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 straits, 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  
are

are scarcely to be paralleled, and had a continual succession of such tempestuous weather, as surprized 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 tare the sails from the yards; and to increase 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 dif-

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-fail breaking, the main-fail 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 fail; 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 delay



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 westernmost 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, surprizing 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, pleurifies, 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 increased 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 Commodore'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 fortnight'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 needlessly 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.



## C H A P. 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.*

**T**Hough 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 Mair*, with between four 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 indured by this Squadron in this long and dangerous passage, Mr. Walter advises, all ships who sail to the South Sea not to pass streights le Mair, 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 enchanting landscape, 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 boats 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  
 boat's

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



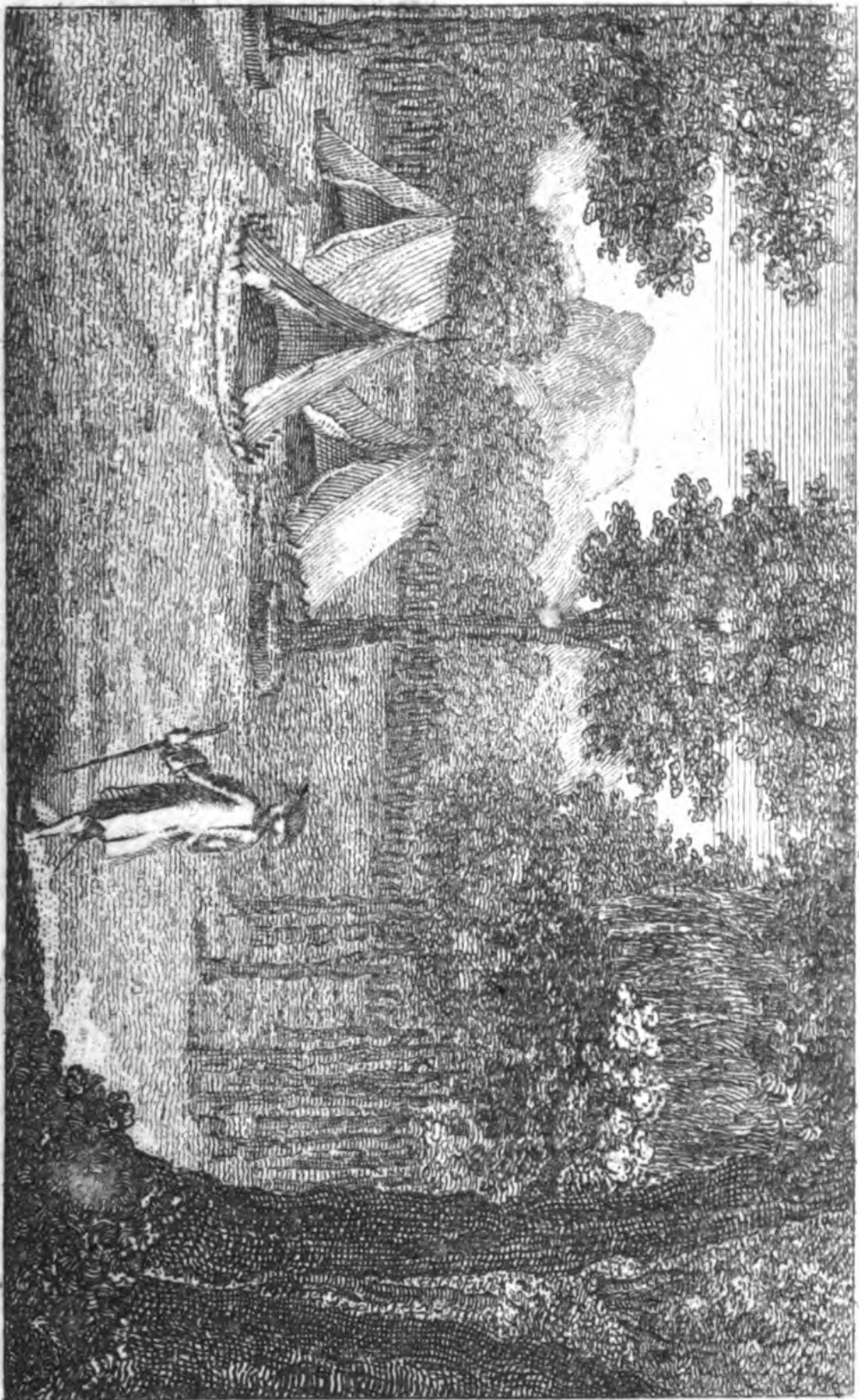
tremely loathsome between decks. But notwithstanding the eager desire of all to be on shore, they had not hands enough to prepare the tents before the 16th, but on that and the two following days, they were all landed, amounting to 167 persons, besides 12 or 14 who died in the boats, on being exposed 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.

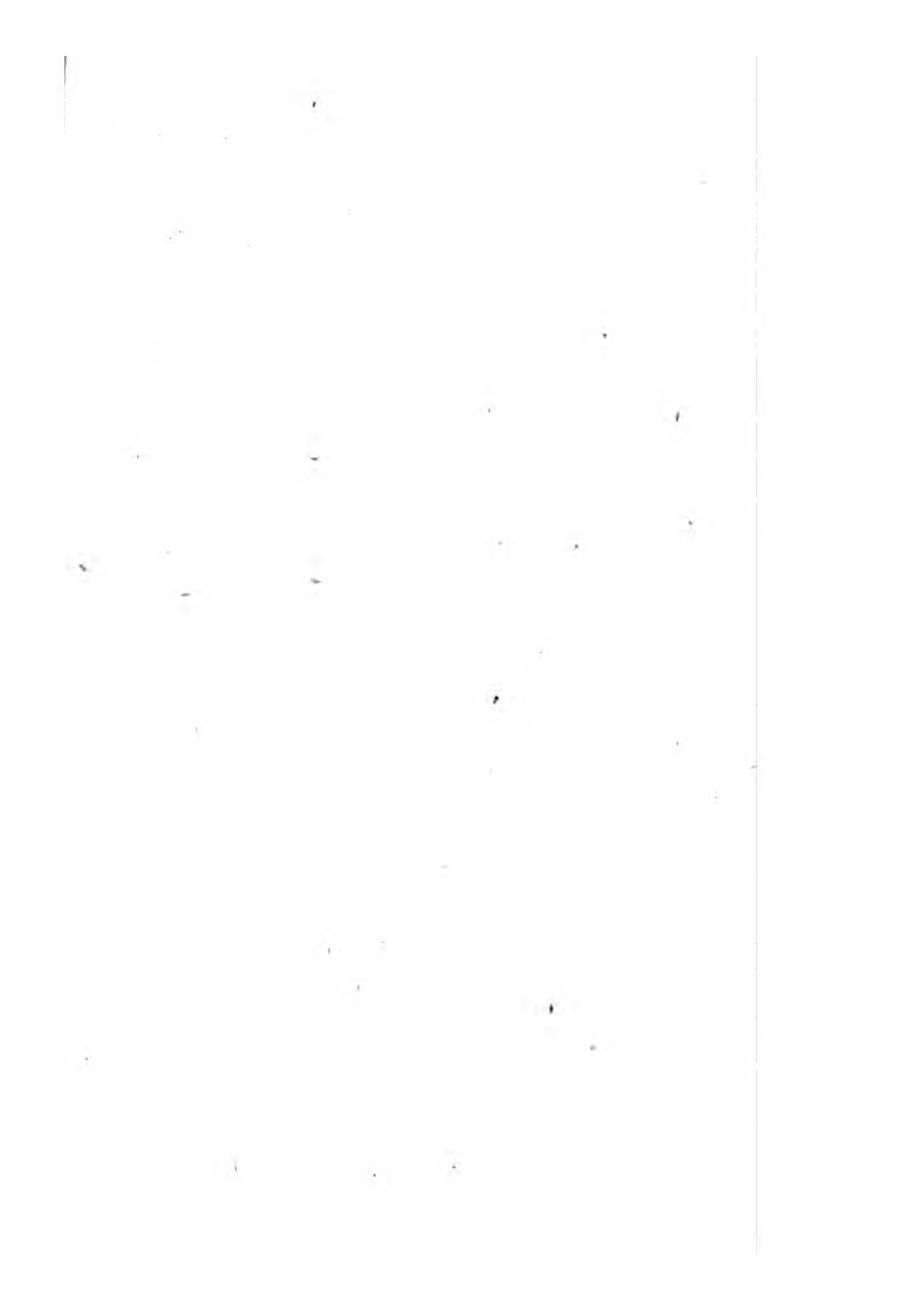
Mr. *Anson* was particularly industrious in directing the roads and coasts to be surveyed, and such observations to be made as might be of use to any *British* vessels, that should hereafter be sent into those seas. The island of *Juan Fernandes* \*, is said to have received its name  
from

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





*View of the Commodore's Tent in the Island of San Fernando.*



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 too 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 va-

*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 afterwards 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 vermilion, 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



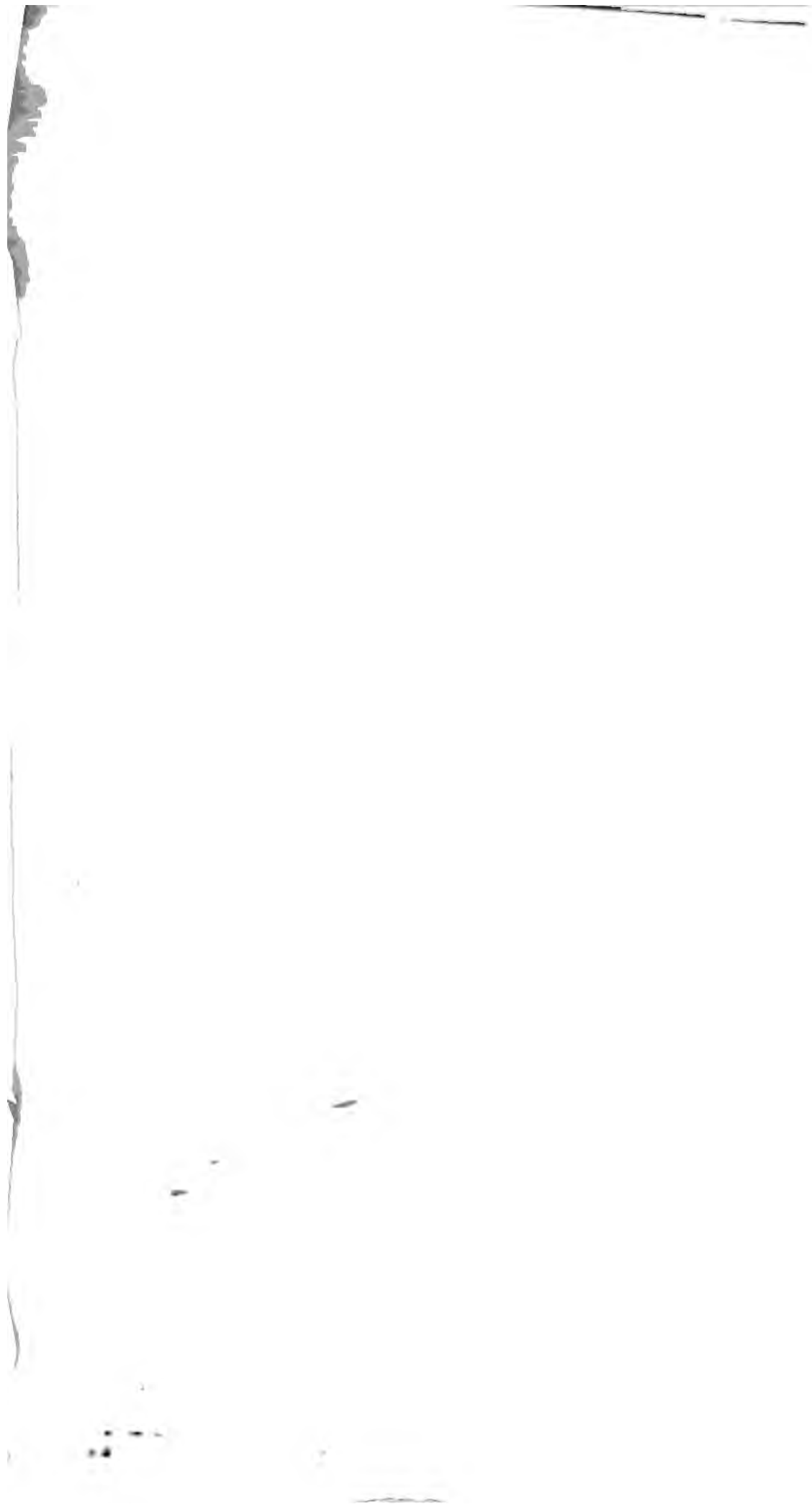
unassisted nature, may be said to excel all the fictitious descriptions of the warmest imagination.

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 crystal 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.

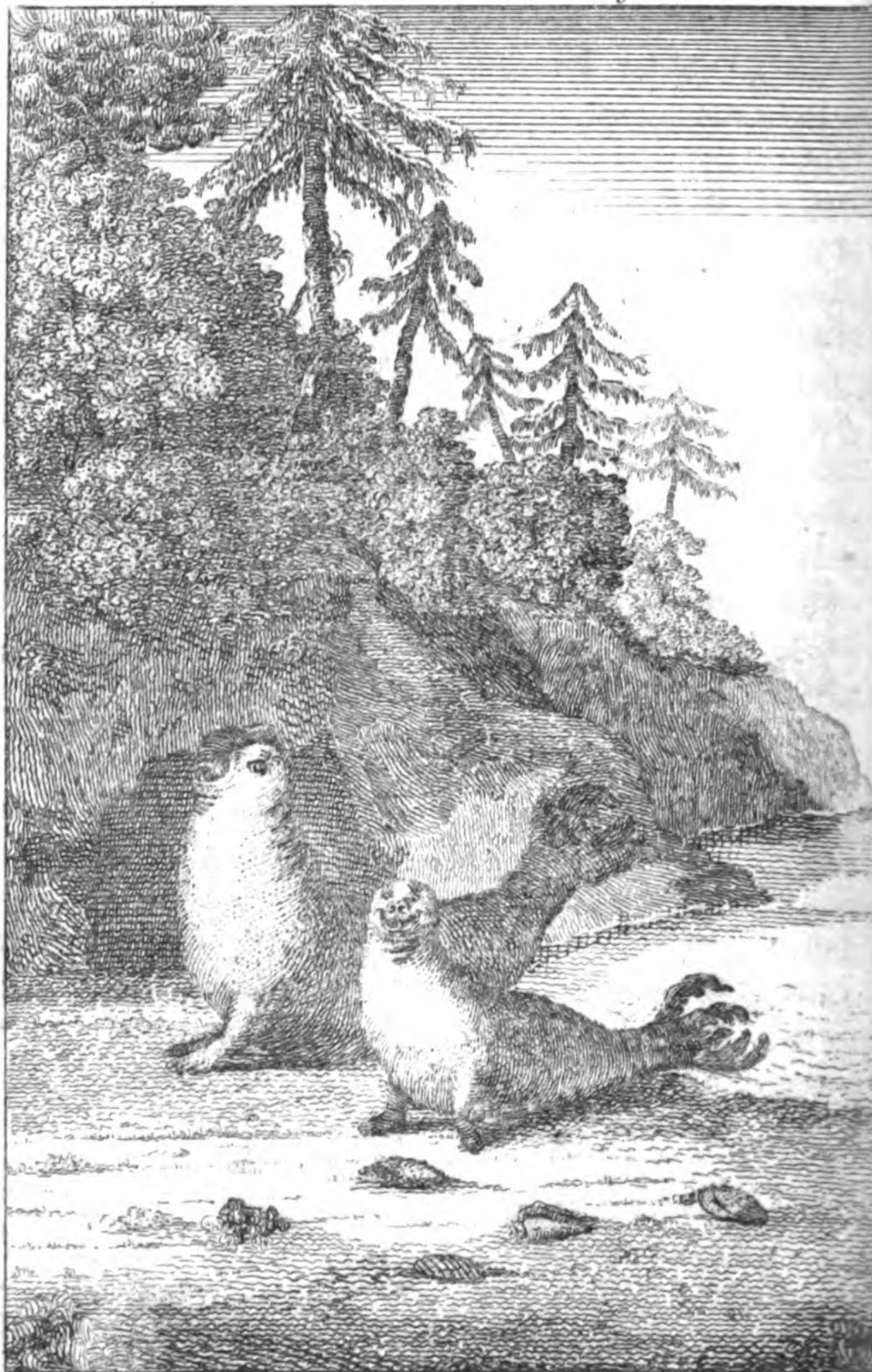
The prodigious number of goats former writers mention to have been found upon this island, have been greatly diminished by the dogs set ashore by the *Spaniards* to deprive the buccaniers and privateers of the advantages they reaped from their numbers, which supplied them with plenty of provisions; but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

pect, which, from having their ears flit, they naturally supposed 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.*





selves down and gave over the chase. 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 hogheads. But though these unweildy 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, gro-pers, 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-cray-fish, 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 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. Tho' 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 *Trial's* boat, with a further 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

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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* cruizers 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.

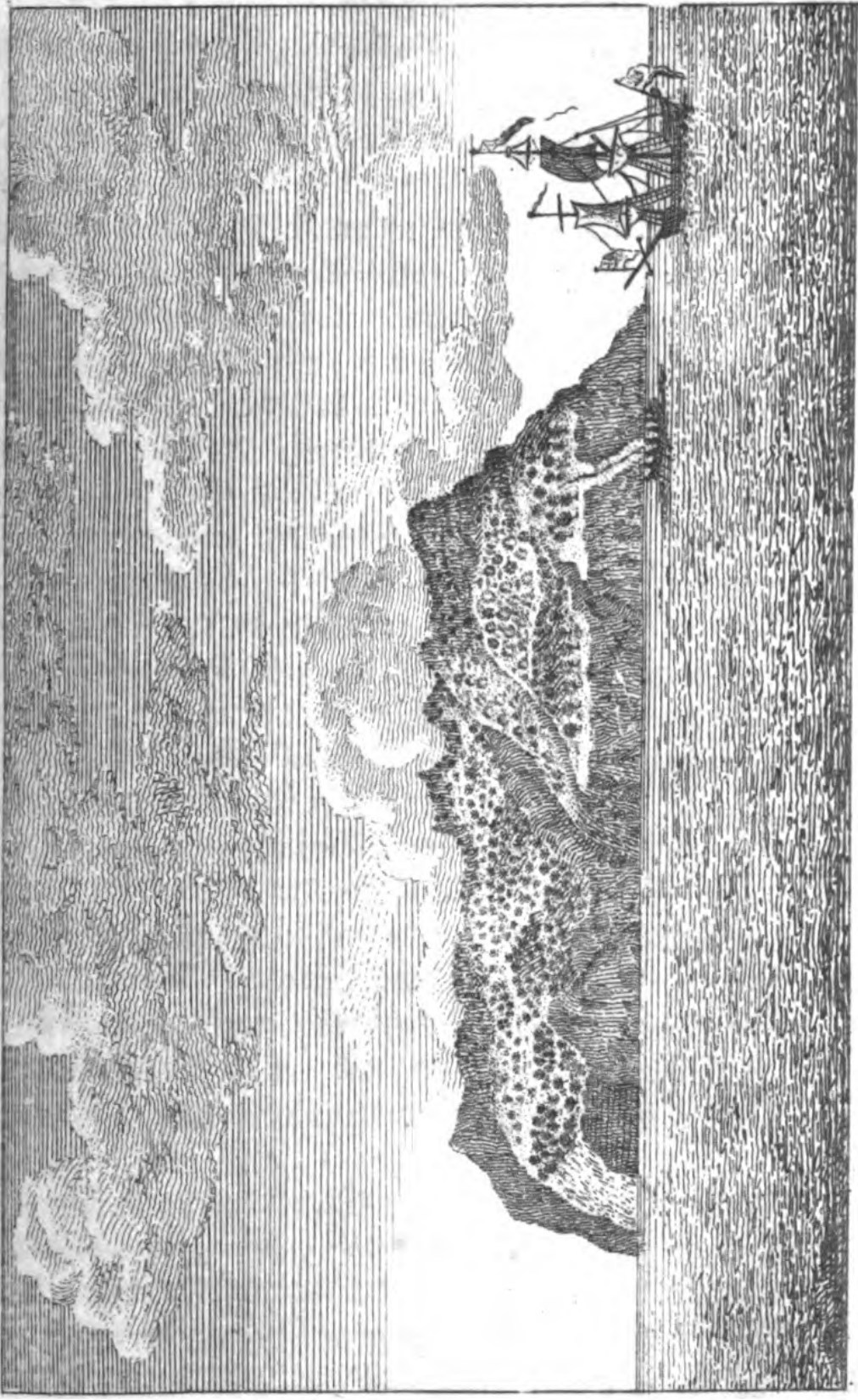
In the beginning of *July*, some of the men being pretty well recovered, the strongest of them were ordered to cut down trees and split them into billets, while others, who were not  
strong

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.

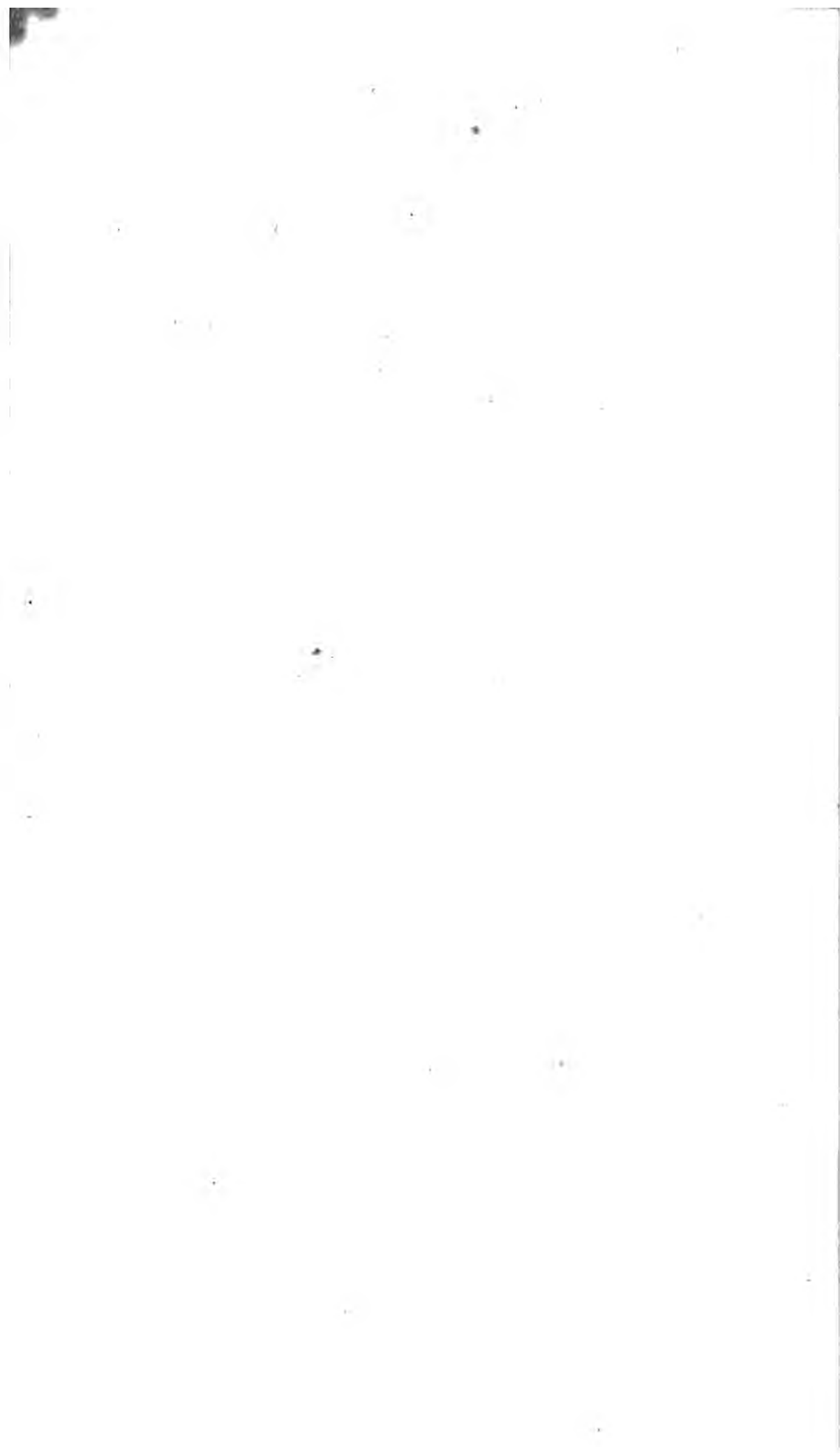
The Commodore then ordered the forge on shore, and employed the smiths, who were but just able to work, in mending the chain-plates, and all the other broken and decayed iron work. They also began to repair the rigging; but as they had not junk enough to make spun-yarn, they waited for the arrival of 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

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*A View of Masati-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 its 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 cleaner, 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

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.

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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 *Centurian* 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  $45^{\circ} 15'$  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 hawser 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



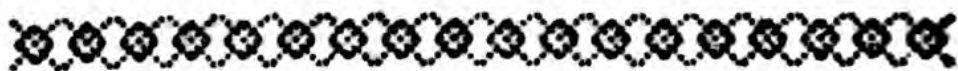
bers were not sufficient to give the least jealousy to a ship of ordinary force, and they appeared to be neither of a mischievous nor merciless disposition. The excursions of the crew, were however generally confined to a tract of land that surrounded the port, where they were never out of view of the 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 daytime, 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 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 fore-castle, 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 ashore. 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,  
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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*.



## C H A P. 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.*

**A**S 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 threatening 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 unaccountable

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  
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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 embittered 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 incident 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 sufficient 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



him, they were just ready to put to sea, they left 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 80 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

gaged in the enterprize, 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 Farnandes*. 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  
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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 to 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 *In-*



*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  
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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 *Buenos 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 *Masafuero*, 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 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 up the search, but having continued cruizing all that day and the next, they resolved to return to *Juan Fernandez*. 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 crowded 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 *Pizzaro's* squadron, which induced the Commodore to order all the officer's cabbins 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 ferons 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 *Pizzaro's* squadron, which cruized off the *Madeiras* at their arrival there, and afterwards chased 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 Pizzaro* 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 450 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. *Pizzaro* 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, *Pizzaro* 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 *Pizzaro's* fleet, and narrowly escaped being taken.

At the latter end of *February*, *Pizzaro* 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 ring-leaders were put to death. But though the conspiracy was suppressed, 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 *Barragan*, 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 *Brazil*. 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 butt ends 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 *Brazil*, 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 shoal, 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, proceed 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, *Mindinuetta* 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 excellenc

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 completed 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 averie 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 *Orclana*, 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 which were on board, and also employed themselves in fixing to each end 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 fore-castle 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 cabin. Upon this they were reprimanded by the boat-

fwain, 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. The confusion which this unexpected attack spread amongst the ships crew is not to be described, many of the officers in the beginning of the tumult, rushed into the great cabin, 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 fore-castle; 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 barricades 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 fore-castle finding their communication cut off, had run up into the rigging of the fore-mast and bowsprit. The officers in the great cabin, 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; tho' 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 skillful.

At length *Pizarro* and his companions in the great cabin began to converse through the cabin 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 cabin, which were only pistols, and distributed them amongst those who were with him, and as they had neither powder nor ball, they lowered down a bucket out of the cabin 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 intrepid



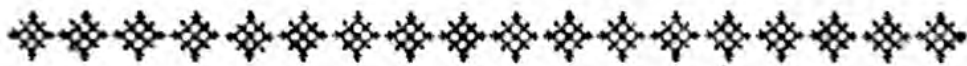
trepid chief, and his brave, but unhappy countrymen.

*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 cruise 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*.



## C H A P. V.

*The taking of the Tryal's Prize the Arranzazu. The Tryal condemned and sunk as unfit for Service. The taking of the Santa Terefa 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 him 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 sailer, 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 chase; but the *Centurion* out-failing the two prizes, run them out of sight, and gained considerably on the chase. 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 chase 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 *Guayaquil* 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 Buccaneers; 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 generally



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 scarcely 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 *Brazil*. 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 *Brazil* 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 *Brazil* 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 mole-hills 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 chase; 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 chase, 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 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* indulgencies, 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

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a few days before, a vessel had entered *Payta*, the Master of which had told the Governor that he had been chased 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 *Sonsonate* 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 chased 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 sailer, 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 Commo-  
dore

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



C H A P. 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.*

**P**AYTA is situated in a barren soil, only composed of sand and slate; it is in  $5^{\circ} 12'$  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

coming from the *North*, since there is no other place for the ships from *Acapulco*, *Sonsonate*, *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  
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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 threatened 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, then he was perceived by some of the people on board a vessel riding at anchor, who immediately getting into their boat, rowed towards the shores 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, then 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  
VOL. VII. K naked,

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 slipped 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 surpris'd at their grotesque figure, when a party thus ridiculously metamorphos'd 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 enterprize, 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 seem'd 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 surprize 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  
away

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 increased 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  
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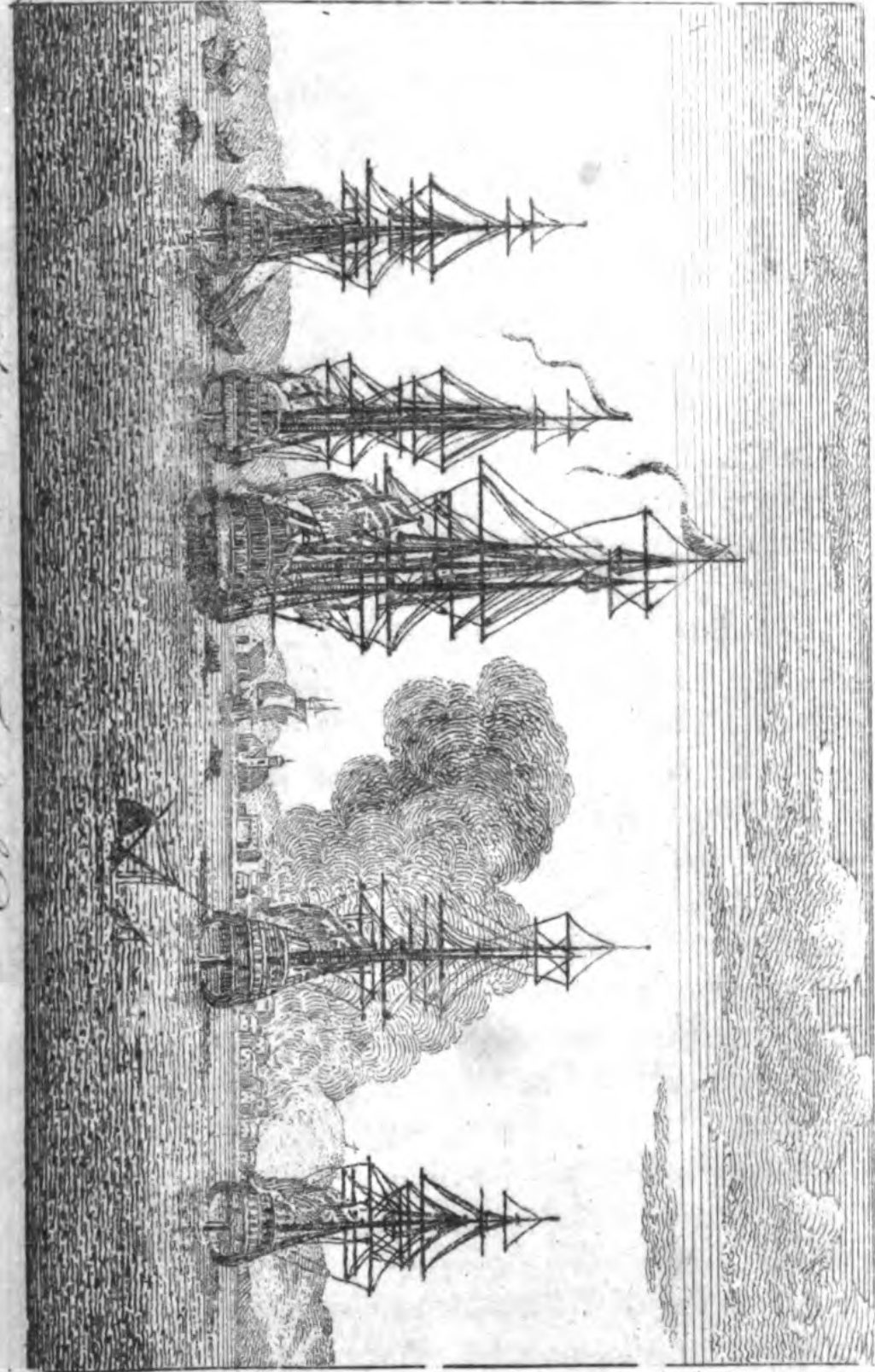


unable by their inquiries amongst each other to learn where he was left, or by what accident he was detained, they after a considerable delay, got into the boats, in order to depart without him, but when the last man was actually embarked, and the boats were putting off, they heard him calling to them 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 greatness 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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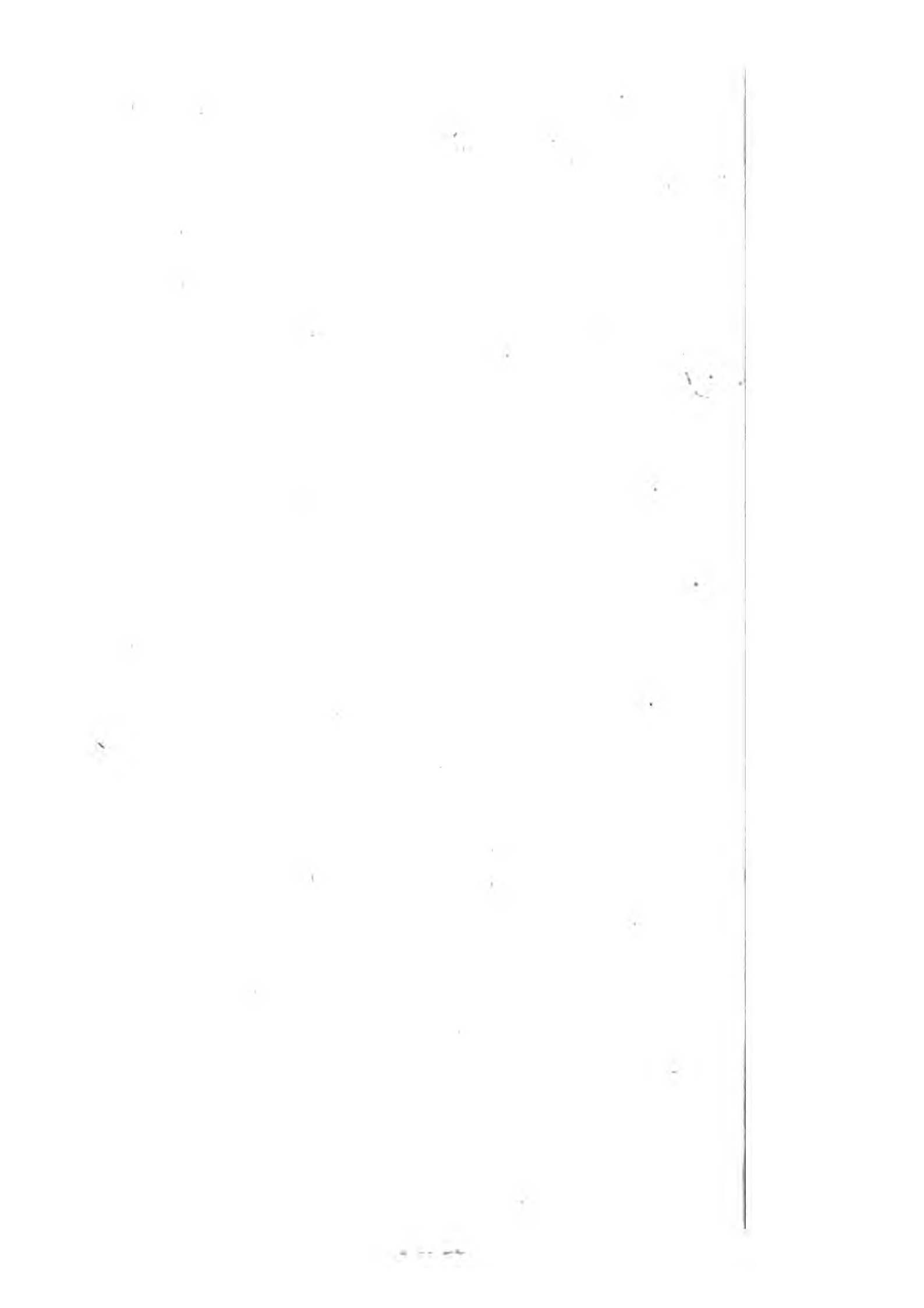
as far into the water as he durst, before he ventured to look back; but to the honour of all the other brave fellows who were on shore, though there were great quantities of wine and spirituous liquors, ready at their hands, at almost every warehouse, this was the only man who was known to have so far 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 ~~fix~~ 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 sailer, 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 Smyrna.





given to Mr. *Hughes* the Lieutenant of the *Tryal*, who was allowed ten men to navigate her; and the squadron, which 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* was 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 preceding 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

ticular 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 farewell 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 cheerful, 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.”



## C H A P. 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  
on



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 commended 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-

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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 surpris'd 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 fight 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 resolv'd 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 sailer, 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.

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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 detached 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  
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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 negro 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 hawkbill, and the green turtle. The two first are rank and unwholesome; the hawkbill, 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.

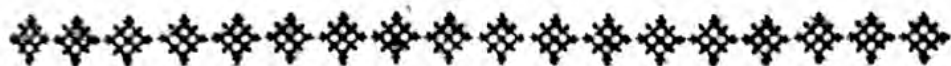


food. At this island they caught as many as they pleased, without the least difficulty, for as they are an amphibious animal, they go on shore to lay their eggs, which they usually deposit in a large hole in the sand, just above high-water mark, and after having covered them, leave them to be hatched 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

*Juan*

*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.



## C H A P. 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.*

**H**AVING 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 chase, 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, some 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  
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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 chased 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 suspense 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 suspense. 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 ship's bottoms, and in bringing them 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 chase 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

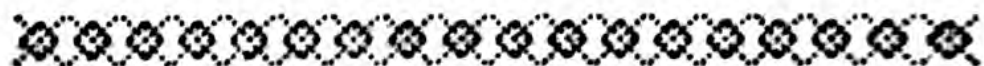
evening, time enough to arrive at the port in the night; and having boldly entered the harbour's mouth, he intended to have put 200 men on shore in his boats, who were immediately to attempt the fort, while he with his ships were employed in firing upon the town and the other batteries. But when he began 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 left the galleon on having certain  
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intelligence 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 fail 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

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



### C H A P. 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 ann Carmin scuttled and burnt.*

**T**HE 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  $17^{\circ} 36'$  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  
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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 on amiable 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 sentinel 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  
were

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 *Pataplan*, 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 here 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 kil-

led 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 surpris'd by the *Spaniards*, the Commodore caus'd 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

no person 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 thence 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 surpris'd by four *Indians* who stripp'd him naked, and in that condition conducted him to *Acapulco*, where he was expos'd 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* gave him a continual proof of the ha-

ted 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 cagoes, 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 accordingly 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 cruise 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 reach

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 began to ply to the westward in order to join the squadron, but a strong adverse current forced them down the coast to  
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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.*

fore,



fore, they were all immediately embarked in two launches which had belonged to the prizes, and lest 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 learnt 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.



## C H A P. 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.*

**T**HEIR 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 easternmost 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  
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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 melancholly 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, albigores, 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 spoiled 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 considered 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 cheered 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;  
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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 melancholly, and their despondency was increased, when as they were plying under their top-sails, 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 *Ladron* 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 number of cattle, 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 of this spot, where alone, all  
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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 solicitous 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 about without assistance.

The island of *Tinian* lies in the latitude of  $15^{\circ}. 8'$ . north, and in  $114^{\circ}. 50'$ . 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. These

These vallies, and the gradual swellings of the ground to which their different combinations gave rise, are beautifully diversified, by the mutual approach of woods and lawns, which border upon each other, and in large tracts traverse the island. The woods are composed of tall and spreading 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 landscapes 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 cheerfulness 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 as 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, guavaes, 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 *Centurian'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 lofty 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 distant

stant resemblance to the taste of an artichoke's bottom, and is like that of a soft and spongy nature: But as it ripens it becomes softer, turns yellow, and has a luscious taste, and agreeable smell, not unlike a ripe peach; however, it is then esteemed unwholesome, 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-purslan, 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.

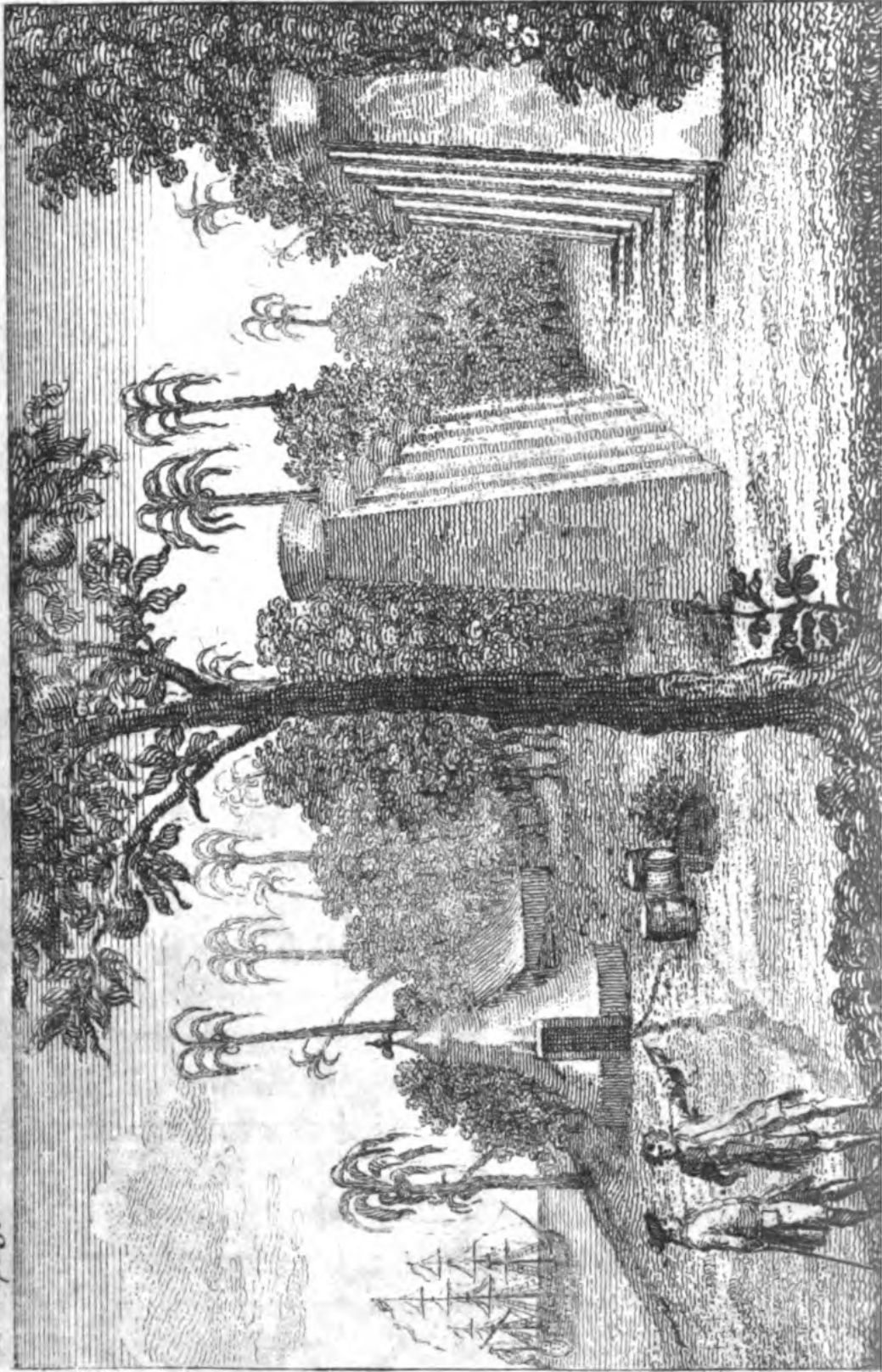
It may seem surprising, that this beautiful island, so elegantly furnished with the necessities and luxuries of life, should be entirely void of inhabitants. To remove this difficulty, it must be observed, that in something less than 50 years before Mr. *Anson's* arrival, it was a populous country, and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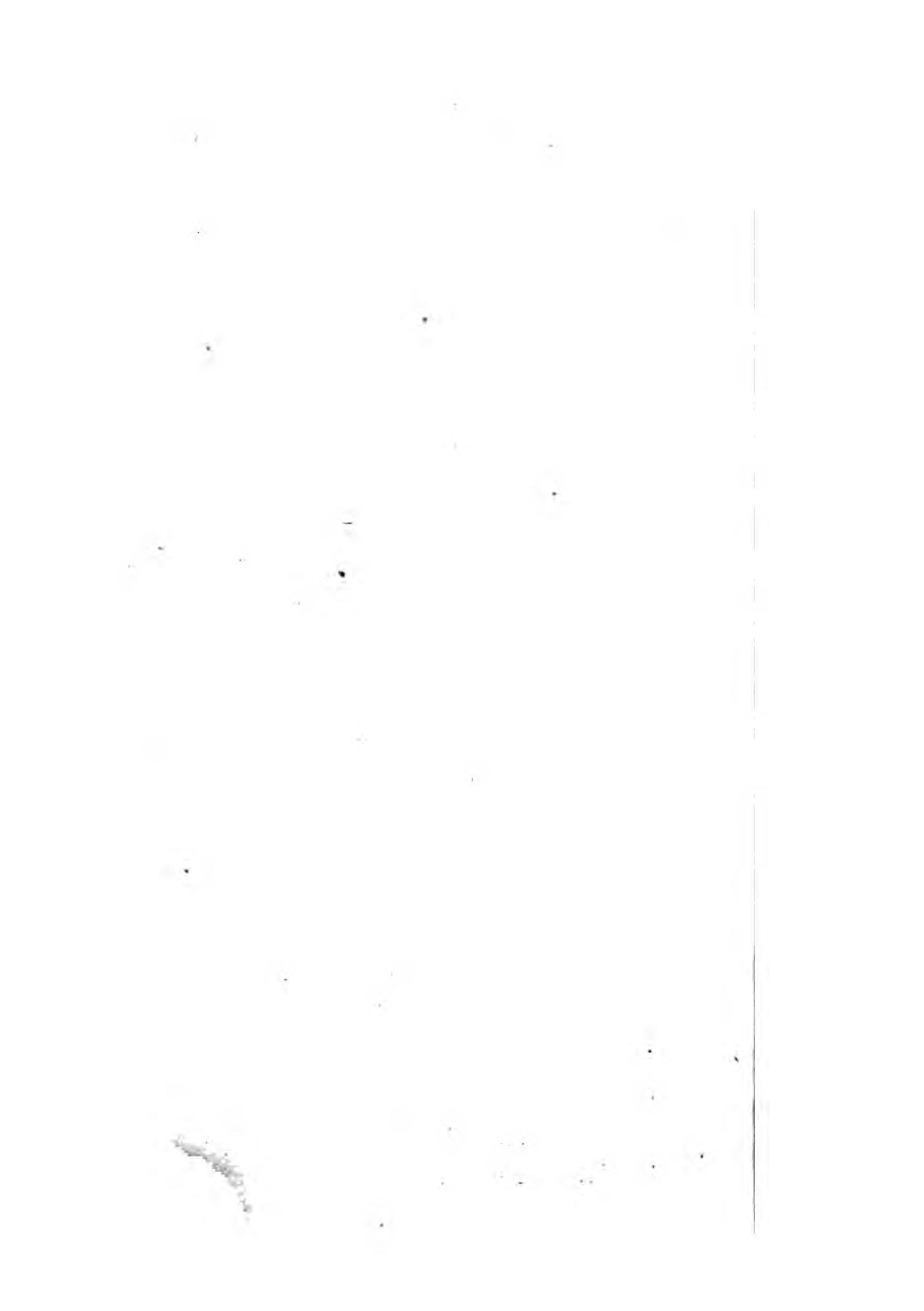


mortality, forced all the inhabitants of *Tinian* to remove thither, where they languished after their native island, till in a few years the greatest part of them died of grief. These poor *Indians* might reasonably have expected, from their being placed at such an immense distance from *Spain*, to 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 pyramidal 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







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 over loaded 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 inflammation. The *Centurion's* people also found there scorpions and centipedes, which

they supposed to be venemous, 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 *Indians* 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  
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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 detachment 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.

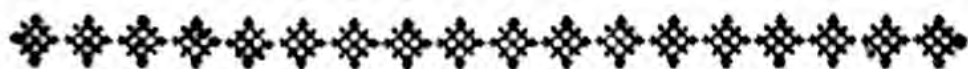
All the hands that could be spared from attending the sick, were now employed in arming the cables, with a good rounding to secure them from being rubbed by the coral rocks, which being compleated, many attempts were made to stop the *Centurion's* leak; but after several efforts they were obliged to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

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 gulf, 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.



C H A P. 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.*

**T**HE 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 afunder, 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 wanting 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 soon  
after

after a second fail 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 signalling 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-

~~the~~ 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 had 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 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 6 or 700 leagues, through 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 hogshhead 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 compleated the bellows by making a gun-barrel serve or 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 that 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 upsetting. 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  
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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 rummaging 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 over board 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  
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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 18 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 *Agui-guan*, 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 meer debility, to desist, and quietly expect their fate, which appeared inevitable; for they esteemed themselves



elves 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 dreaded 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

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had

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 compleat 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 two many  
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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 *Saypan*, 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 15°. 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 entirely 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.

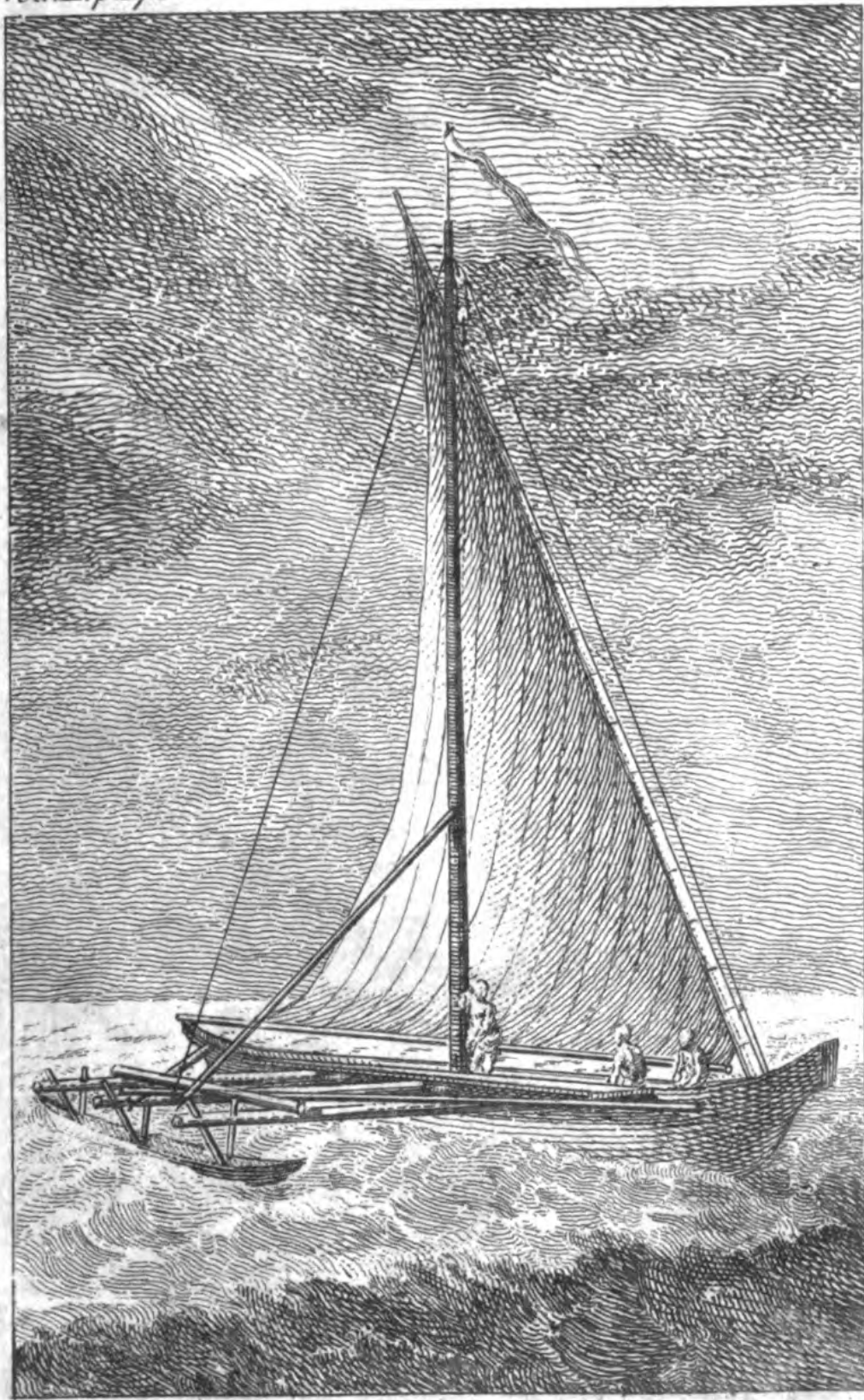


residence. The houses are built with stone and timber, and covered with tiles, which is a very unusual method of building in these warm climates. This island has also 13 or 14 villages. As *Guam* is esteemed a place of consequence, on account of its affording refreshment to the *Manila* ship, there are 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.

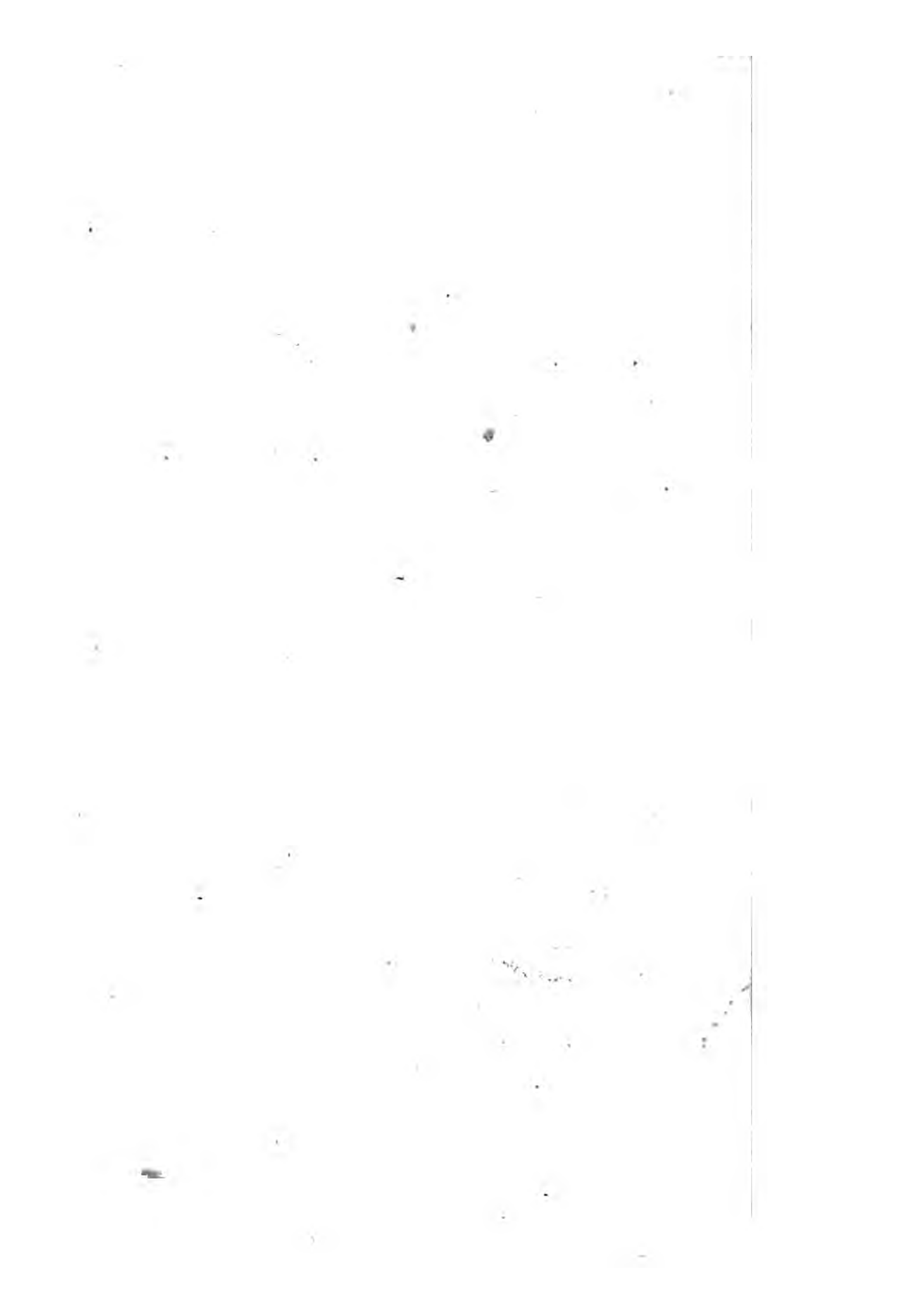
Though the rest of these islands are uninhabited, they afford plenty of all kinds of refreshment, but there is not a good harbour or road among them all; and though the *Manila* ship is to stay only 24 hours at *Guam*, it is not uncommon for her to be forced out to sea, and to leave her boat behind her.

The *Indians* of these islands are a 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 forages 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 lee-side

side being flat, whilst the windward-side is built rounding in the manner of other vessels, but as her small breadth, and the straight run of her leeward-side, would infallibly make her overfet, 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 end ways, 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.



*A Flying Proa, taken at the Ladrone Islands.*







## C H A P. XII.

*The Centurion's run from Tinian to Macao. The Commodore's Proceedings 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.*

**T**HE *Centurion* departed from *Tinian* on the 21st of *October*, in the evening, when the eastern monsoon being settled, she generally ran from 40 to 50 leagues 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 overheated, 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 surpris'd 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 this 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 surpris'd to find themselves in the midst of an incredible number of fishing boats, which seem'd 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 appear'd most surpris'ing, was the inattention and want of curiosity observ'd 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 though many of the boats came close to the ship, they did not in the least deviate from their course to regard it.

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 westernmost 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.

They

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 formerly 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 dispose of 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 advice, in what manner it would be proper for him to act, to avoid giving offence the to *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 *Typha*, 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 saluted 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, were 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 months delay, threw of 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 chief 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 Mandarin of the first rank, who was Governor of the city of *Fanson*, together with two Mandarines of an inferior class, and a considerable retinue of officers and servants, came in 18 half galleys, 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 Mandarin 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 cabin,



cabbin. The Mandarin 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 Mandarin expressed himself satisfied with the account given in the Commodore's letter. This Mandarin 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, view'd every part of the ship with extraordinary attention, and appeared greatly surpris'd 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 complain'd 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 inform'd 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 Mandarin 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 awkward, one of the 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 Mandarin 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 Frontinac, the Mandarin 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 undisturbed, and Mr. *Anson* having according to custom, made the Mandarin 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 Mandarin 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 Mandarin, 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 completed, 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 *Typha*, 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 this 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 Ladron*e, 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 enforce this order, that nothing could be purchased at any price whatsoever. The *Centurion* however weighed from the *Typha* 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* company'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 of *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 whenever 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 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  $21^{\circ}. 4'$ . north latitude.

On the 20th of *May*, at noon, they first discovered *Cape Espiritu Santo*, which appeared of a moderate height, with several round hummocs 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  $12^{\circ}. 50'$ . and  $13^{\circ}. 5'$ . 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 Espritu Santo*, and the galleons being expected, the Commodore made all the necessary preparations for receiving them, and was at the same time solicitous 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 day of *June* new stile arrived, when the certainty of their 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 through 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 leeward. During all this time the galeon did not change her course, but to the Commodore's surprise, 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.

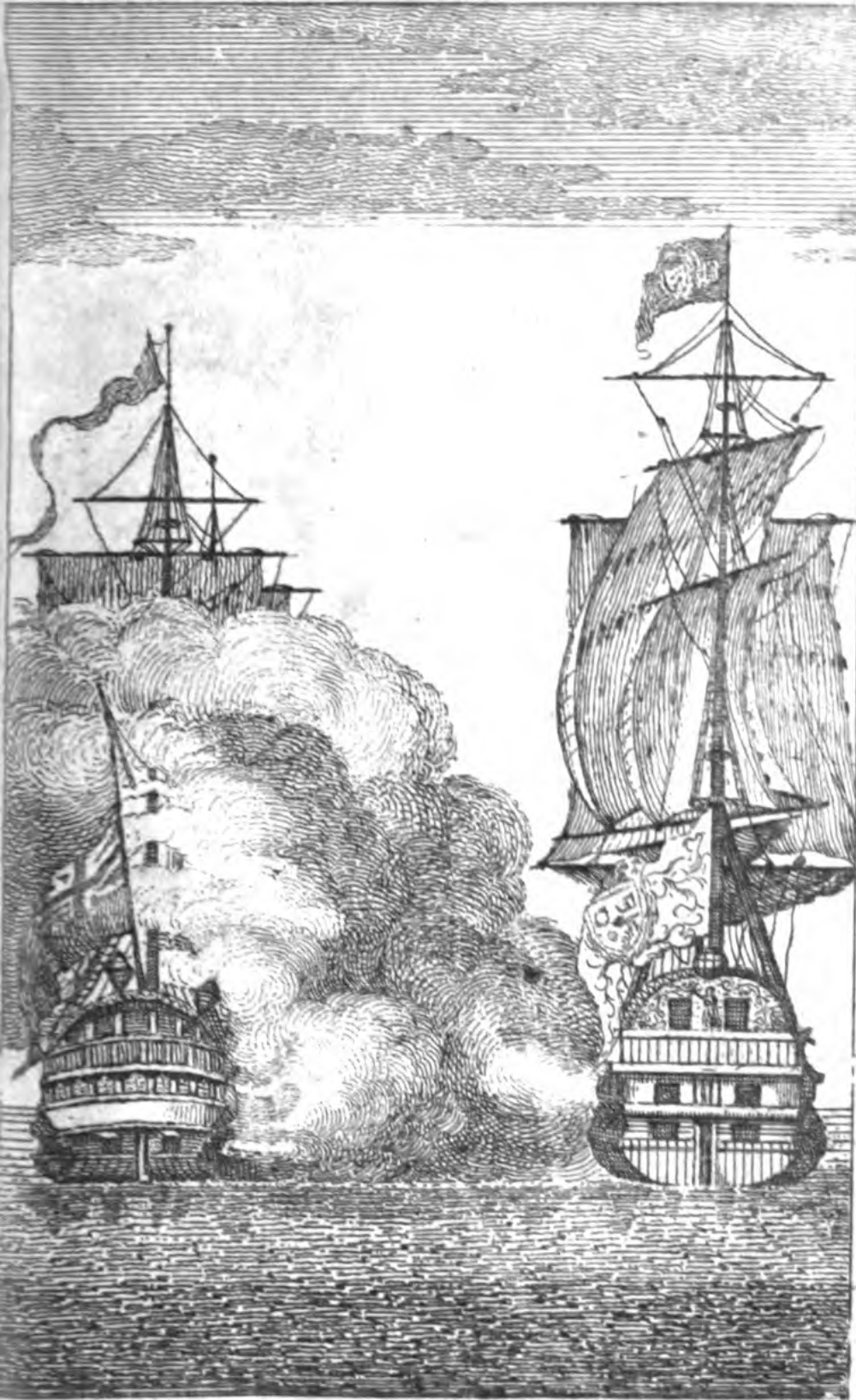
About noon the galeon haled up her fore-sail, and brought to on her top-sails, hoisting *Spanish* colours, and having the standard of *Spain* flying at the top-gallant-mast-head. Mean while Mr. *Anson* picked out about 30 of his best marksmen, whom he distributed into his tops, and as he had not hands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

to 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-fail-yard fore and aft, that if necessary, she might be ready for boarding, the *Spaniards* in a bravado also rigged, their sprit-fail fore and aft. The *Centurion* soon after came abreast of the enemy within pistol-shot, when the engagement 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's, 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 their first volley driven the *Spaniards* from their tops, made prodigious havock with their small arms, killing or wound-





*The Engagement between the Centurion &  
the Ucapulco Ship.*

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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

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killed, and a Lieutenant and 16 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 Lieutenant's 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, though 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*, though 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



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 cargoe 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 merchandise 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.

On

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 inquire 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 400 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  
side

side being a battery on the water's edge, with 18 embrasures, but no more than 12 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 Mandarin who commanded the forts, was also instantly turned out of his place, 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 of  
of



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 galeon, 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 biases 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.

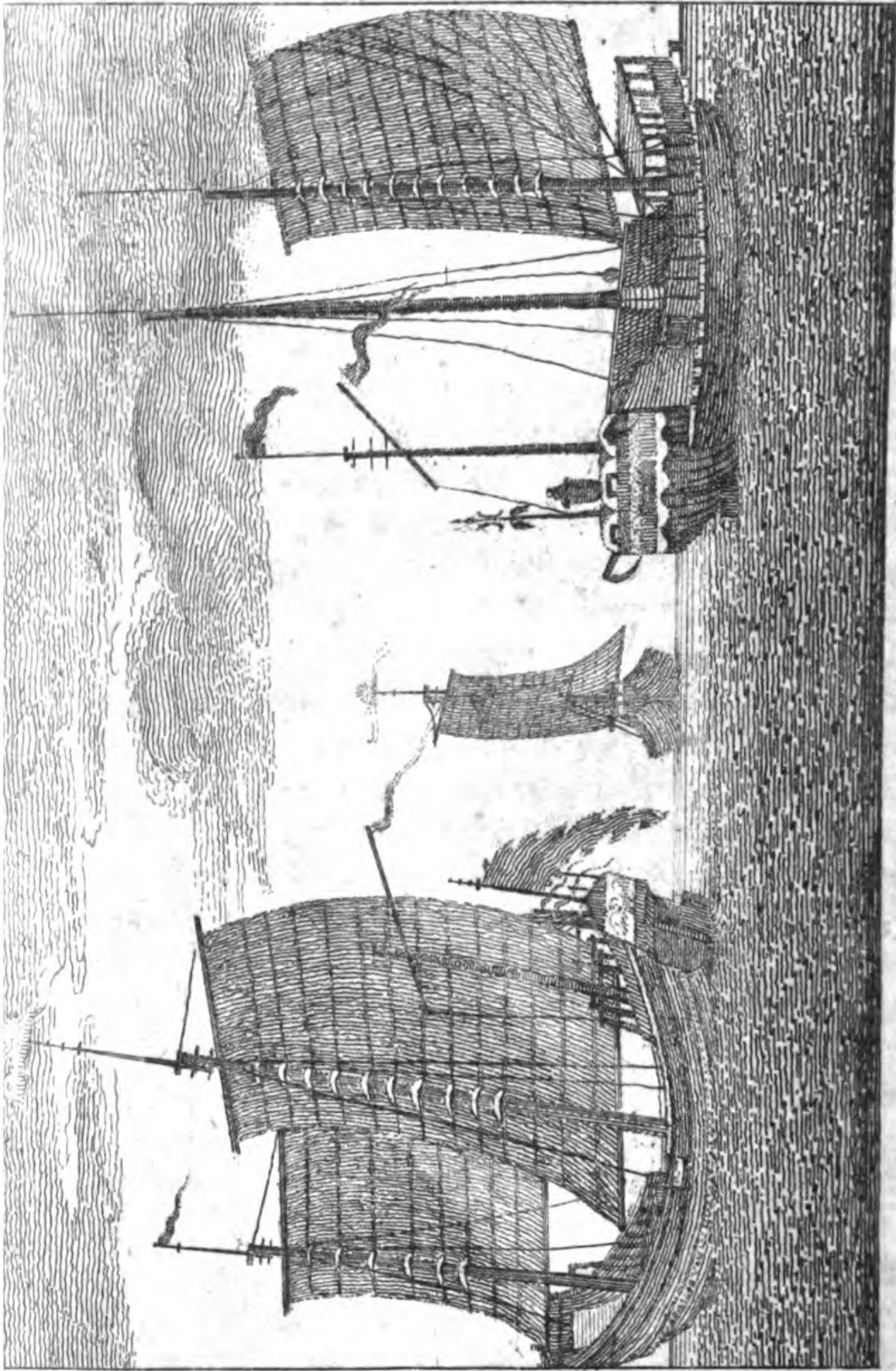
In the morning of the 20th of *July* three Mandarines, with a vast retinue in a great number of boats, came on board the *Centurion*, and delivered to the Commodore an order from the Viceroy of *Canton* for a daily supply of provisions, and for pilots to convey the ships up the river as far as the second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

also delivered him a message from the Viceroy, in answer to his letter; in which he desired to be excused from receiving 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 expressly 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 displeas'd, if he should be inform'd, 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, rais'd some difficulties, but at last suffering himself to be prevail'd 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 paralleled 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 resting 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 Mandarin who attended to see the ship supplied with provisions. The Mandarin found fault with the boats 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 seize him, he was taken on board. The robber on his being first apprehended, expressed such fright in his countenance, that it was feared he would have died upon the spot, and the Commodore declaring, to the Mandarin who attended the ship, that he would not deliver up the robber, but would himself order him to be shot, the Mandarin 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 Mandarin, was the very

gentleman who rode up to the officer, after the robbery, and who pretended to be so highly displeas'd with the villany of his countrymen. It was also found on further inquiry, that he was the Mandarin of the island, and had by the authority of his office, order'd the peasants to commit that act of violence. Hence arose his extraordinary vigilance, and from some casual hints it appear'd, that he and his brethren, every one of whom had been privy to the action, were terrified with the apprehension of being call'd before the tribunal of *Canton*, where they would be immediately stripp'd of all they were worth. Mr. *Anson* entertain'd himself for some time with their perplexity, reject'd their money with scorn, appear'd inexorable to their prayers, and gave out that the thief should be certainly shot; but at last suffer'd himself to be persuad'd, and as a favour releas'd his prisoner, though not till the Mandarin had collect'd and return'd 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 protect'd of their share of the pil-lage. A short time after the above transaction, the Mandarin attendant on the ship being relieved by another, the Commodore lost his top-mast from his stern, which he had borrow'd at *Macao*, and being extremely desirous to recover it, offer'd a considerable reward to  
any



any who would bring it again. Soon after he was informed by the Mandarin, that some of his attendants had found it, and desired the Commodore to send his boats for it, which being done, the Mandarin's people received the reward. But besides this, the Commodore had told the Mandarin, 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 Mandarin, but the linguist being ignorant, that a further present had been promised, kept the money himself. However, the Mandarin 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 inquired if he had not received the money from the linguist, and finding he had not, offered to pay him immediately; but this the Mandarin refused, having some more important affair in view. For the next day the linguist 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 Mandarin, 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 carcases.

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 clothed 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 super-



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 preposessed 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  
fre-



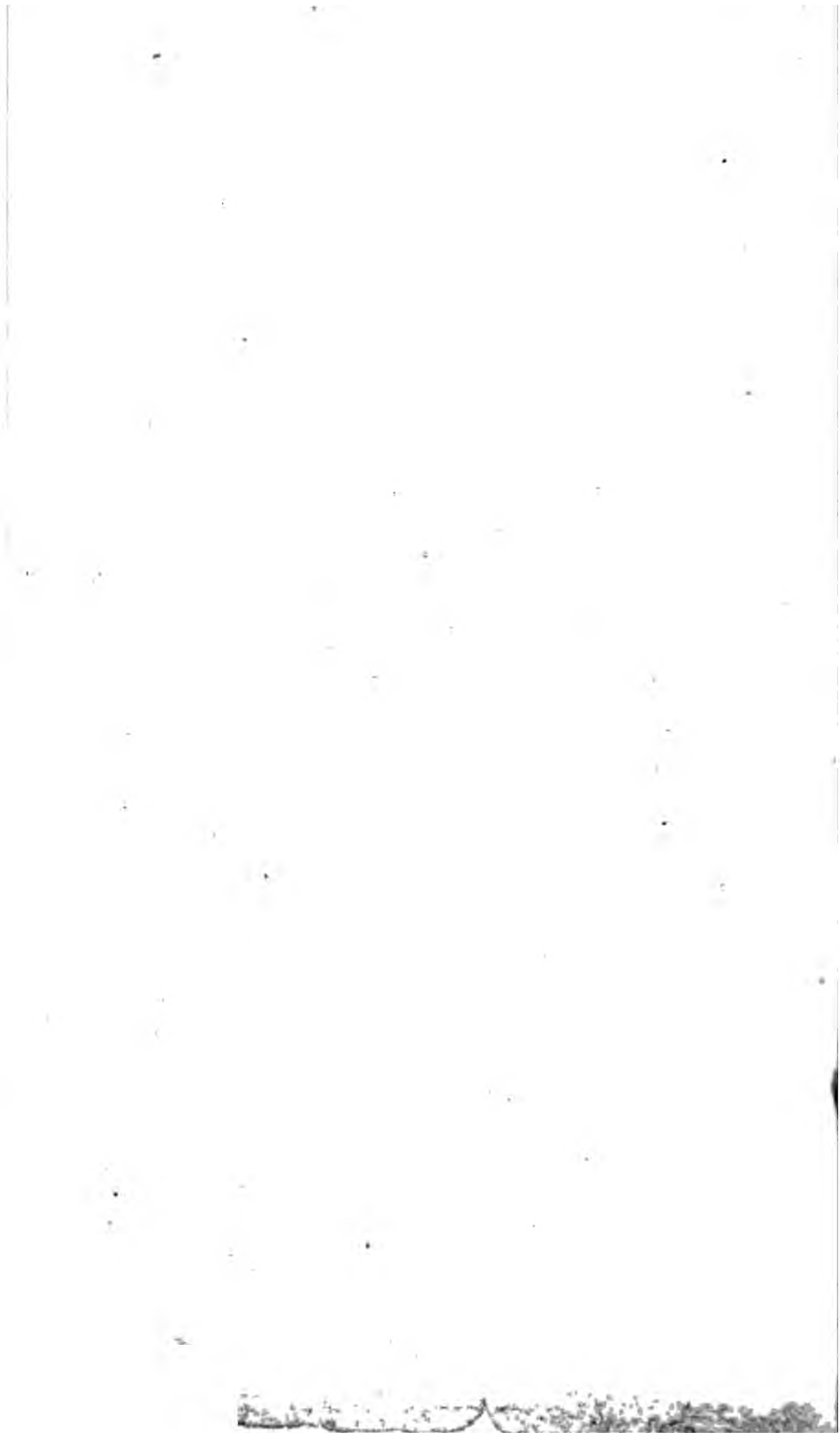
frequent disappointments. But at length every thing being compleated and ready to be shipped, he resolved to demand an audience of the Viceroy, as he found that without this ceremony, it would be difficult to obtain permission to take his stores on board. Mr. *Anson* therefore sent one of his officers to the Mandarin who commanded the guard of the principal gate of *Canton*, with a letter directed to the Viceroy. This Mandarin 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 sailer's shed, and that by the slightness of the buildings, and the timorous awkwardness 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 Mandarin 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 Mandarin 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 increased 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 man-



*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 ware houses 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* goverment would not have come to this determination, had they not resolved to give up their pretensions 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.

On the day appointed, a Mandarin 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 *Macao*, 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 the 3d of *April* 1744, having compleated 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.*









