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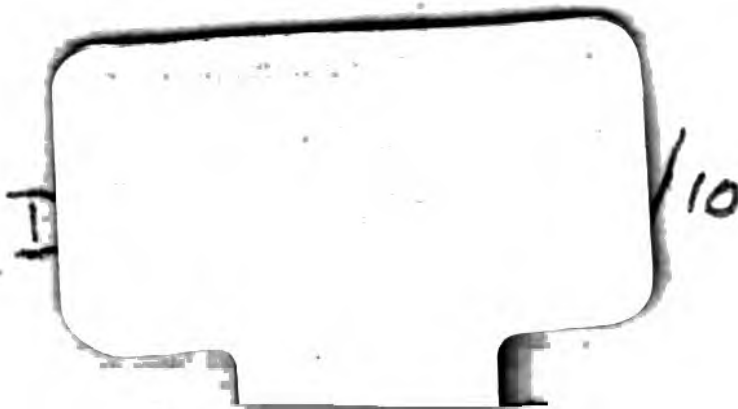
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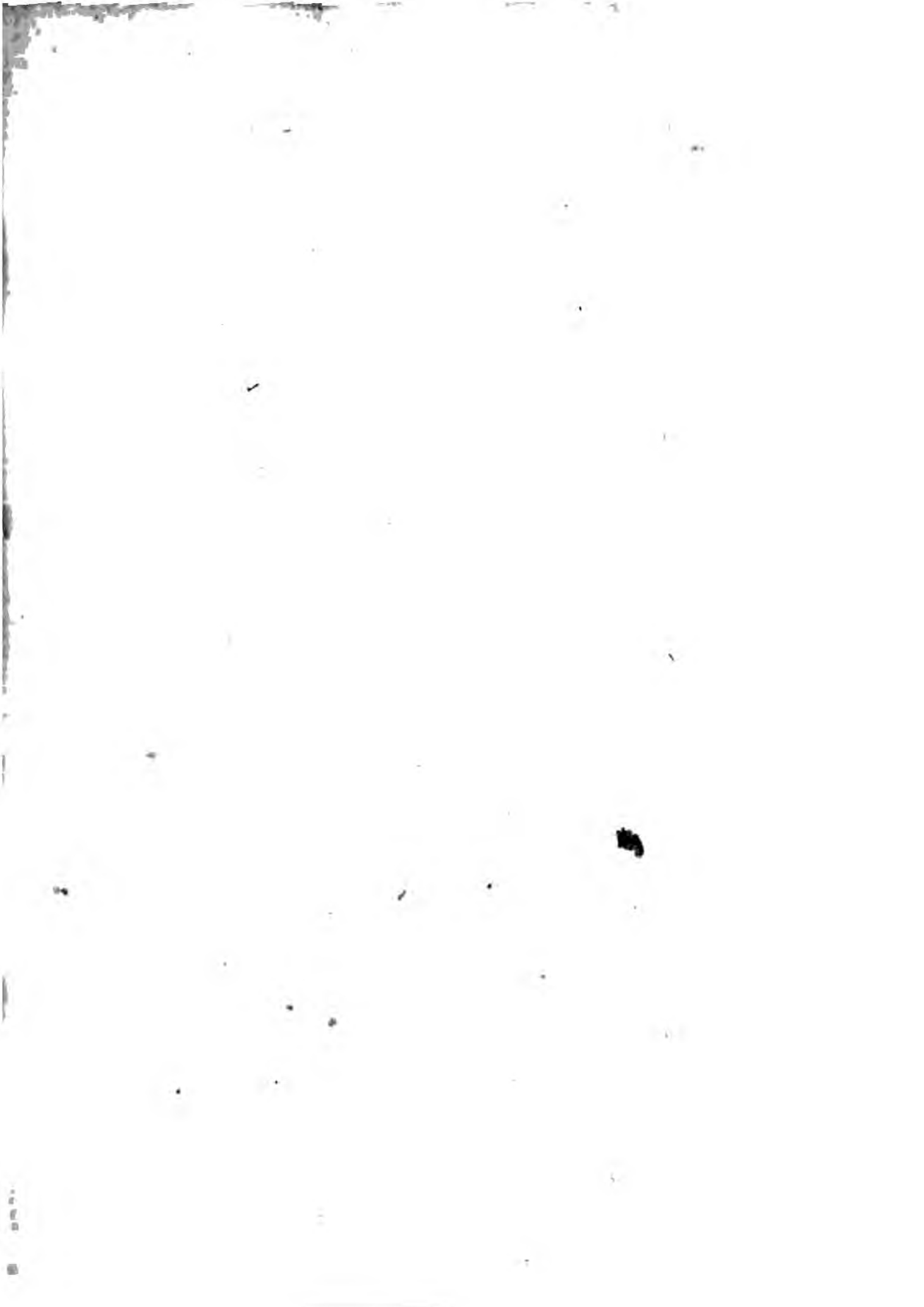


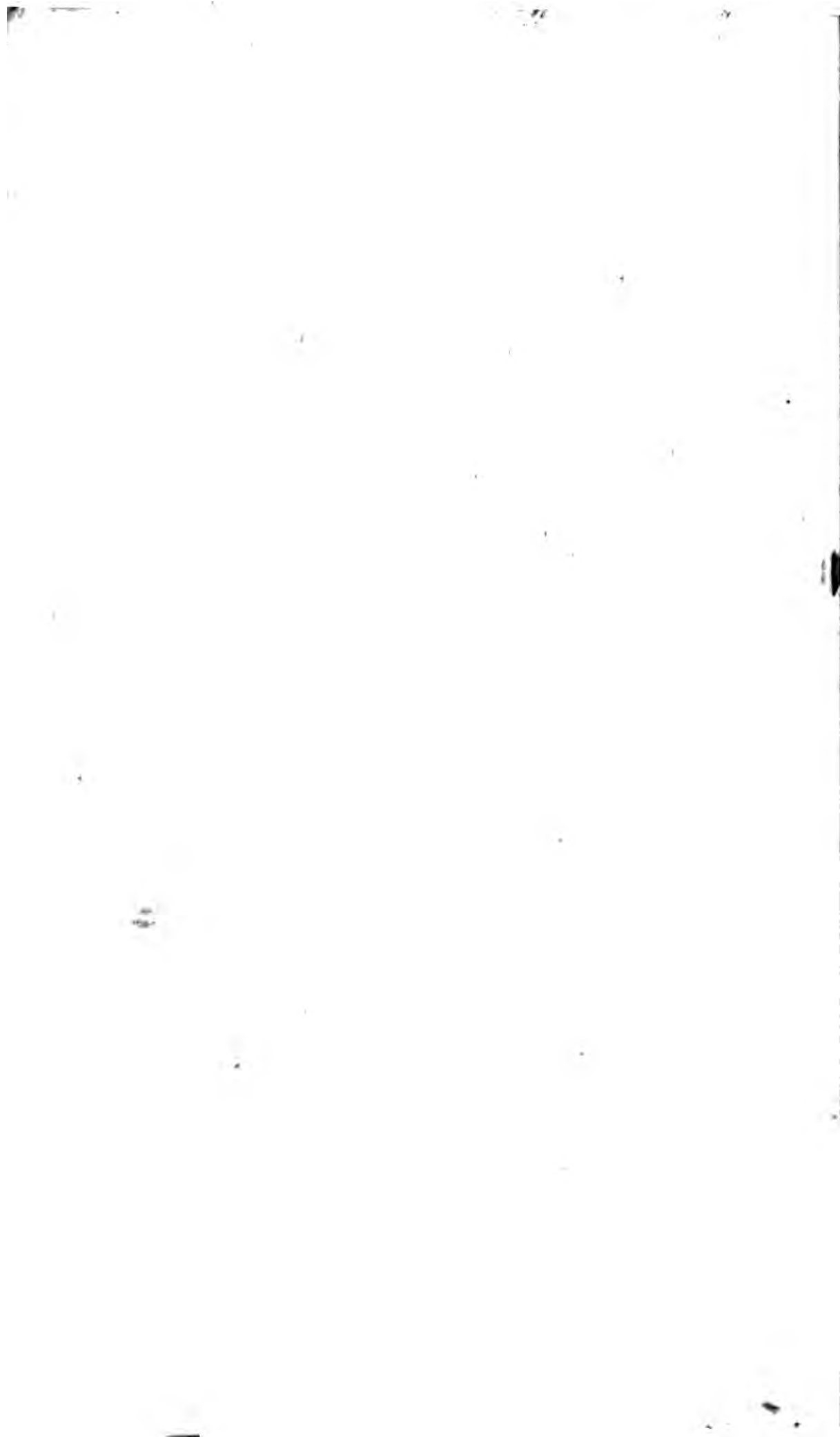
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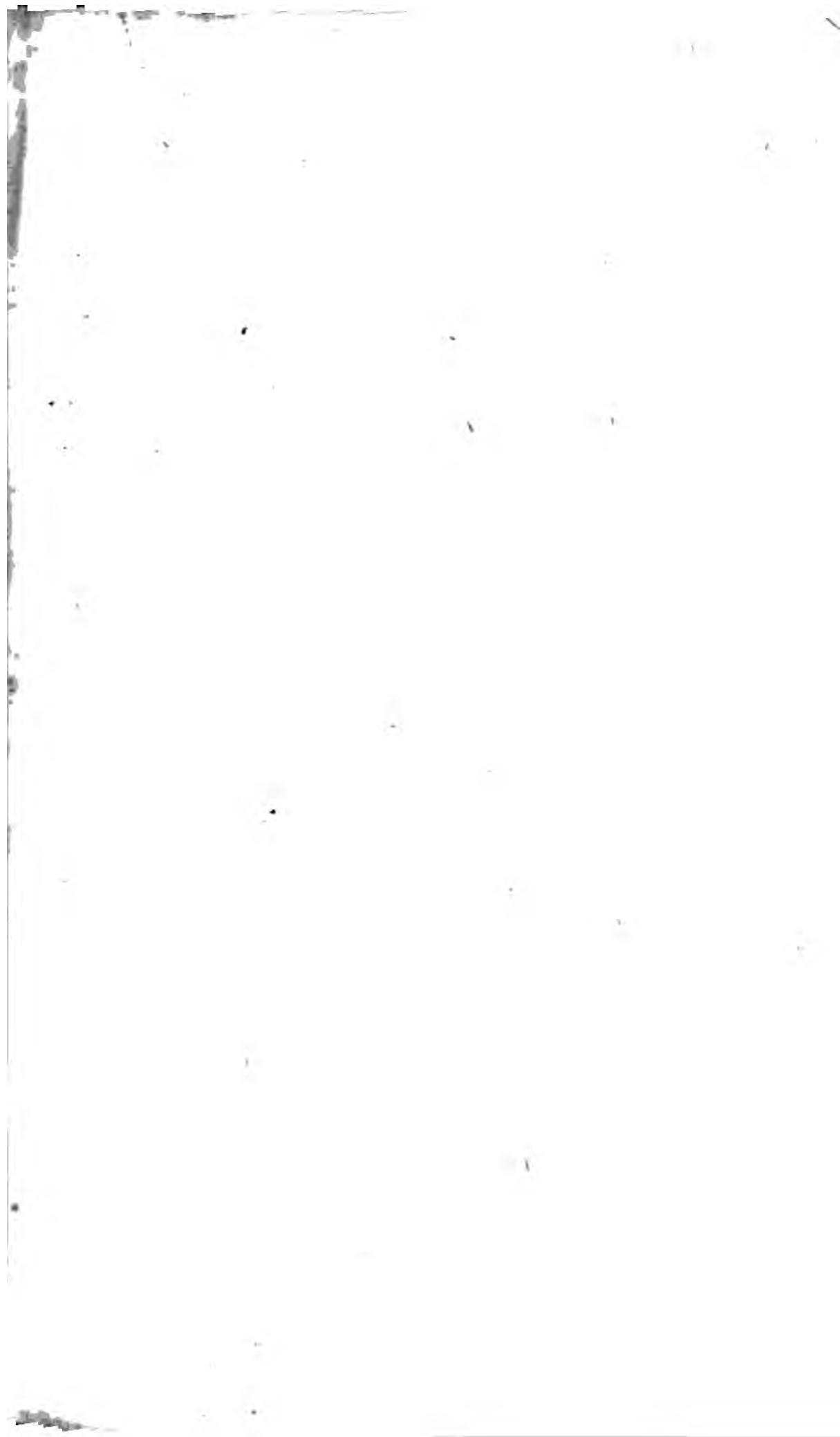
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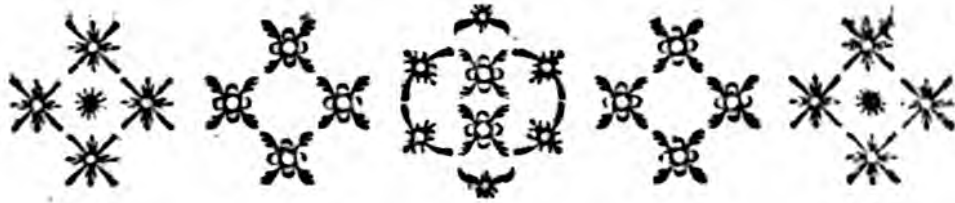
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T H E
C O N T E N T S
O F T H E
T E N T H V O L U M E.

A Description of the MALDIVA ISLANDS by
FRANCIS PIRARD DE LAVAL.

CHAP. I. *The Author embarks for the East-Indies, is shipwrecked, and lands on one of the Maldiva Islands. A general Description of them, and of the Natives. The Grandeur of the King. Of the Royal Revenue, the Civil Government and Laws. The different*
A 2 Ranks

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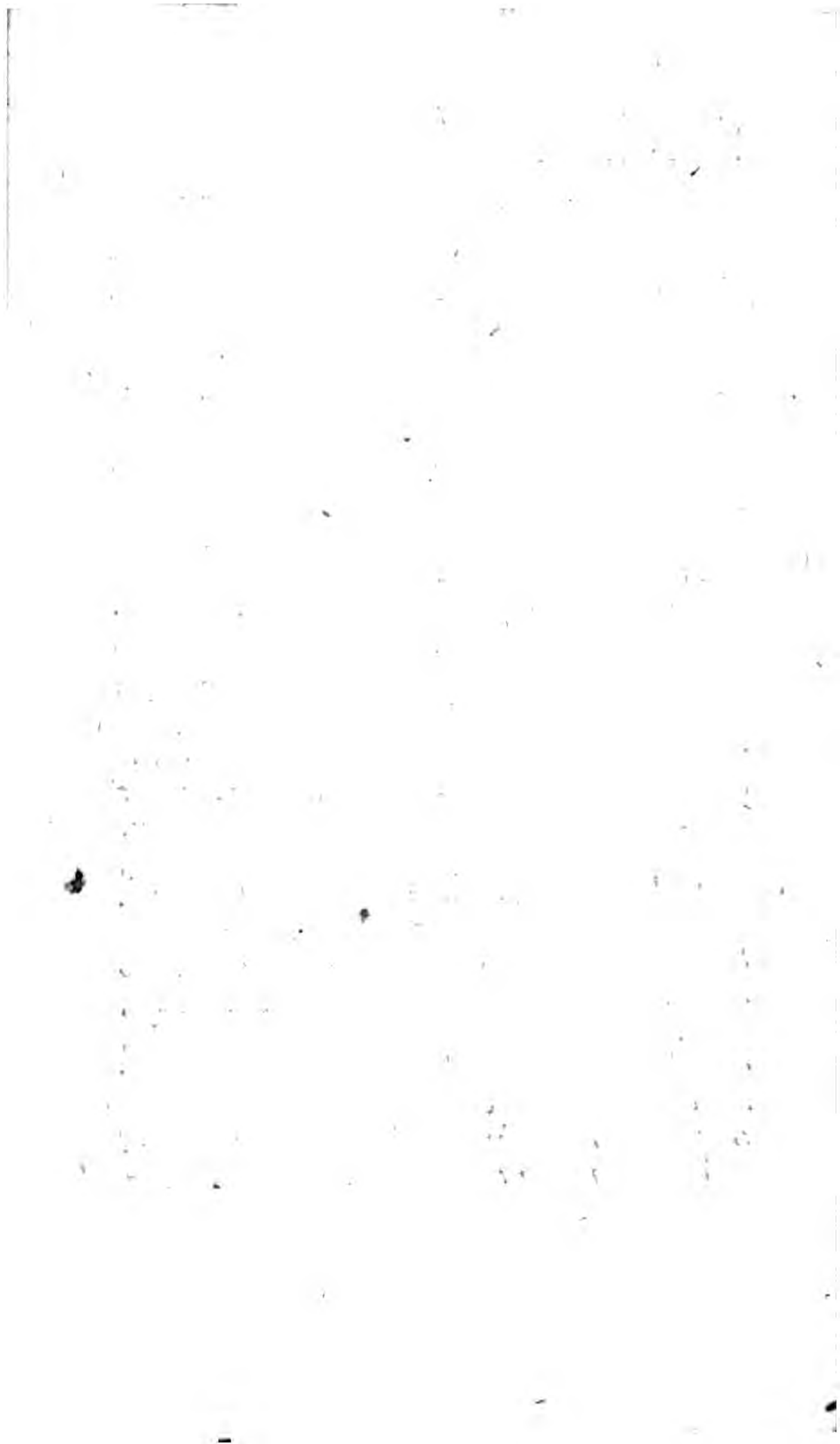
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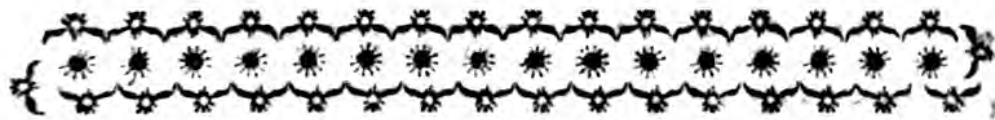
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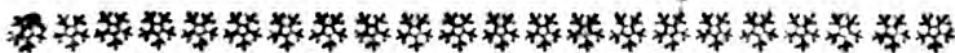
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A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
MALDIVA ISLANDS
BY
FRANCIS PIRARD DE LAVAL.



CHAP. I.

The Author embarks for the East-Indies, is shipwrecked, and lands on one of the Maldiva Islands. A general Description of them, and of the Natives. The Grandeur of the King. Of the Royal Revenue, the Civil Government and Laws. The different Ranks of the People; their Trade, peculiar Customs, Buildings, and religious Ceremonies.

✱✱✱ N the beginning of the seventeenth
✱ I ✱ century, the fame of the *East-India*
✱✱✱ trade prompting some *French* mer-
chants of *St. Malo's* to take the resolution o
fending ships into that part of the world, the
fitted out the *Croissant* of 300, and the *Corb*

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of 200 tons burden. These vessels set sail from *St. Malo's* on the 18th of *May* 1601, the Author being in the last mentioned vessel. They took in fresh water and fruit at the island of *Anabon*, on the coast of *Africa*; and from thence steered to *St. Helena*, where the men, who had contracted the scurvy, speedily recovered. Having afterwards doubled the *Cape of Good Hope*, they refitted in *St. Augustine's Bay* in the island of *Madagascar*, and proceeded from thence to the *Comro* islands, where they staid a fortnight, highly delighted with their fertility; and afterwards continued their voyage, till being in the latitude of 5°. north, they perceived some great shelves, and attempting to pass by them between the *Maldives* and the coast of *India*, the *Corbin*, which sailed a-head, struck thrice upon a rock.

When the crew were under this disaster, they saw a bark belonging to one of the *Maldiva* Islands; but could not prevail on those aboard to come near them, on account of a strict prohibition to approach any ship in distress without the King's leave. In the meanwhile the sailors eat and drank heartily, treated their commanders with insolence, and impiously insulted all who shewed the least regard to religion; loudly proclaiming, that since death was inevitable, they were resolved to render its approach as easy as possible. This behaviour filled *M. De Laval*, and all thinking persons on board, with horror. In short, after continuing two days in this deplorable situation, they made a shift to haul the *Corbin* over

over the flats, and, with infinite labour and difficulty, at length arrived at one of the islands, which is called *Pouladon*, and is not a league in circumference. They carried some arms with them; but the inhabitants would not suffer them to set their feet on shore till they had delivered them up; which they immediately did, and surrendered themselves at discretion. Though there were not above 25 inhabitants on the island, they concerted their measures so prudently, that they sent off the ship's boat, and all their own, to the other islands, to prevent any disturbance from the *French*. They then carried them to a lodge at a distance from the shore, where they entertained them with cocoas, lemons, and other fruit; but rifled them of all they had, alledging that it belonged to the King, the ship being a wreck.

However, the *French* having a piece of scarlet cloth, pretended that it was designed for a present to the King of the islands, together with the whole cargo of the ship. Upon this nobody dared so much as touch the scarlet; but the *French* cutting off a piece of two or three ells, presented it to the Governor of this little island, who was a very old man, and thankfully accepted of it, desiring them to keep it a secret.

Soon after the Governor sent the master of the ship and two of the sailors to the King, who resided in the capital island called *Male*, and the King immediately sent for his brother-in-law, to saye what was on board the ship.

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The *French*, on leaving the vessel, brought with them about 1000 crowns, and several girdles, which they buried on shore, as a common reserve for the supply of their necessities; but some of the men being in want of subsistence, dug up the hoard; and having offered the natives pieces of money for food, they would no longer allow them any without being paid for it, and even greatly over-valued their provisions. Every seaman now hid what he had got from his neighbour, and would not assist him even at the point of starving; and when any were sick, the rest were so inhuman as to rifle them. Mean while Mr. *De Laval* and two more were transported to the island of *Pandow*; where the natives being informed of what had passed in the other island, and thinking they had money about them, refused them provisions, in hopes of their giving them pieces of silver; but having none, they were reduced to great extremities. Mr. *De Laval* however made it his business to learn their language, and being soon able to discourse with them, insinuated himself into the favour of the Governor of the island, who sent him to *Male* with recommendations to the King; and both his Majesty and the Queens were so well pleased with his conversing with them in their own language, and with the account he gave of the customs of *Europe*, that they caused particular care to be taken of him in a long fit of sickness; and, in short, he rose by the King's favour to enjoy a competency; and having by his long stay in the country an opportunity of observing

observing whatever was worthy of notice, he has obliged the public with the following account of these islands.

The *Maldives* lie between one deg. north, and four deg. south latitude, extending 200 leagues in length, and 35 in breadth. They are divided into 13 provinces called Attolons, each of which comprehends many small islands, and is of a circular form, about 30 leagues in circumference. These clusters of islands are surrounded by a ridge of rocks, which breaks the force of the sea, and raises prodigious surges. The number of the islands is said to amount to 12,000; but a great part of them are only large hillocks of sand, entirely uninhabited, some producing no vegetables, and others being covered with large crabs and cray-fish, and others again with penguins, so that one cannot place a foot in any part without treading upon their eggs and young ones, or the old birds themselves.

These sandy islands afford little or no fresh water, and some of those that are inhabited also want it; so that the people are obliged to send for it from the neighbouring isles, and to collect that which falls from the clouds.

The Attolons all lie in a line, and are parted by channels, the widest of which is not above 200 paces over, and some of them are less than 30. Four of these are navigable for large ships, but cannot be passed without danger, especially by night, on account of the rocks and flats, which are exactly marked in charts kept by the inhabitants, who have a surprizing

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dexterity in avoiding these dangerous places; for they will steer so nicely, as to rub upon rocks on both sides without any damage.

Both the rich and poor are from their infancy inured to the sea, and are under no fear at encountering the most turbulent and foaming waves in their barks and small boats, the number of which is inconceivable; for the poorest man amongst them has one, and the rich have several. They never sail by night, or out of sight of land, unless they undertake some great voyage; and accordingly they take provisions on board only for one day. The greatest part of the islands comprehended in one Atollon being surrounded with a common flat or bar, which is only passable at one or two narrow places that are not easily observed, they are under the necessity of being very expert in the management of their boats, since the least slip is certainly followed by their being wrecked and the loss of their goods. But as for their own persons, they have no great reason to fear; for all of them are admirable swimmers.

The *Maldives* lie so near the equinoctial on both sides, that the climate is extremely hot, though the nights are very cool, and have heavy dews, that refresh the trees and herbs. Their winter commences in *April*, and continues till *October*, during which they have perpetual rains, but no frost, and the westerly winds are very boisterous. The summer begins in *October*, and also lasts six months, during

of the MALDIVA ISLANDS. 7

ring which the winds are easterly, with excessive heat, but no rain.

The inhabitants are handsome, well made, and of an olive complexion. Those who live in *Male*, the largest of these islands, and between it and the north cape, where most of the shipwrecks happen, are more polished and civilized than those on the south coast, who are ruder, and of a darker complexion: there many of the women go naked, with only a small covering round the waist. On the north the nobility and men of fortune reside; and when the King punishes a criminal with banishment, he only sends him to the south. The soldiers are all raised in the north parts; but, notwithstanding this preference, the inhabitants of the south are naturally as lively, and as quick of apprehension, as those of the north. The *Maldivans* in general are very ingenious, and apply themselves with great industry and success to various manufactures, and to letters. They are wise and cautious, brave and well skilled in arms, and their form of government is extremely regular.

Their women have very agreeable features: their hair is black, which is esteemed a great ornament; and, in order to render it still blacker, they keep their daughters heads shaved till they are eight or nine years of age, leaving only a little hair on the forehead, to distinguish them from the boys. The women take a pride in having their hair thick and long, and wash their heads and hair with a water made for that purpose, letting it hang dishevelled in the wind
till

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till it dries, after which they perfume it with an odoriferous oil. Both sexes bathe once a day, and afterwards anoint their bodies; but their hair is not washed above twice or thrice a week, and they are obliged to do it on *Fridays*, which is their sabbath. After the women have washed, rubbed, and perfumed themselves, they stroke all the hair backwards from the forehead, and tie it behind in a tuft or knot, which they enlarge by adding a great lock of man's hair in the form of a horse's tail, of which some of them have two. They also adorn their hair with fragrant flowers.

As for the men, there are none but gentlemen, and the King's officers and soldiers, who are allowed to wear long hair; and these wash, perfume, and dress it in the same manner as the women, only they do not make the tuft behind, but on the crown of the head, or on one side, and wear no other hair with it. It grows much faster than ours, partly from its being so often washed and perfumed, and partly from the excessive heat, which renders it thick, strong, and black. They have no combs, but have scissors of cast copper, and pieces of the same metal, which being rubbed bright, serve for looking-glasses; and they have steel razors of a different form from ours: but as there are no barbers in the country, every one shaves himself, except the King and some Lords, who are served by persons who are proud of that honour, without any prospect of gain. Their beards are of two sorts; for though all the men shave the upper and lower lips, and
under





The Habits of the Maldivians.

under the chin, ecclesiastical persons, and those who have performed a pilgrimage to *Mecca*, are allowed to wear them long, while all other people clip them short. They are very careful in saving the parings of their nails and the cuttings of their hair, which they wrap up in cotton and bury in the church-yards, from a notion that they being parts of the body, require interment as well as the rest; for which reason many of them shave in the porches of the temples.

As to the apparel of the men, they tie a great swathe of cloth between their legs, and round their waist, to prevent any indecent discovery in working or walking about. They have next a piece of blue or red cotton cloth, that reaches to their knees, and then a larger piece of cotton or silk reaching to their ankles, and girded with a square handkerchief embroidered with gold and silver, which is spread upon their backs and tied before. Above these they have a small piece of party-coloured silk, that reaches only to the middle of the thighs; and over all they gird themselves with a great silk fringed girdle, the ends of which hang down before; and within this girdle, on the left side, they keep their money and betel, and on the right side a knife. These knives are made of excellent steel, the sheaths being of wood, and the hafts of fish-bone; for they will not wear the bone of a land animal: however, the richer sort have both their hafts and sheaths of wrought silver. Every one wears a knife, on which they set a great value, on account

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count of its being their only arms; for none but the King's officers and soldiers are allowed to wear any other. These indeed have a dagger at their sides, and when they walk along the streets carry a drawn sword in one hand, with a buckler or javelin in the other. The *Maldivans* place their chief ornaments in their silver chains that hang about their girdle, and of which every boy or girl has more or less in proportion to their substance; but only persons of quality and fortune shew them openly. In these they place their chief treasure, and commonly appropriate them to pay the expence of their funeral.

The common people are naked from the girdle upwards, except on festival days, on which they wear cotton and silk jerkins and waistcoats, the sleeves of which reach only to their elbows; for they alledge, that if their wrists were tied up like ours, they could not have the free use of their arms. Persons of quality commonly wear such coats, but some have a custom of covering their skin from the girdle upwards with an odoriferous paint made of the powder of camphire and sanders, beaten upon a smooth stone, and incorporated with a water distilled from sweet-scented flowers: these make their wives or friends anoint their backs, and draw figures with this paint. However, they must not appear with this foppery before the King, or be seen with it in his palace. The men wear red or party-coloured turbans upon their heads, those of the meaner sort having them of cotton, and persons of quality
of

of silk. The King's officers and soldiers have frequently embroidered handkerchiefs on their heads, which others are not allowed to wear: their feet are always naked, except within doors, where they have wooden sandals, which they pull off when visited by a person of superior rank, and frequently their legs are also naked.

The women wear a coat of cotton or silk, which extends from their middle to their ankles, over which they have a long robe of taffety or fine cotton, that reaches to their feet, without any slit besides the neck, where it is fastened with two small gilt buttons. This robe they pull quite up to suckle their children. Their arms are loaded from the wrist to the elbow with silver bracelets, so that they have sometimes three or four pounds of fine silver upon them. The poorer sort, however, alloy their silver with brass. The women of quality have many gold chains, or strings with little pieces of gold about their necks. They have their ears pierced when young, not only in the tip, from which there hangs a rich pendant, but in twenty-four places up the gristle, in which they put as many gilt nails with precious stones or pearls in their heads. But they are not allowed to wear rings, jewels, bracelets, ear-rings, or chains of gold, till they have obtained leave of the Queens. The men also obtain the same privilege of the King, which commonly costs them money. When the women walk in the streets, they cover their heads with a veil, and are very cautious of shewing their faces before the men, though in the presence

sence of women of superior rank they take off their veil.

The different quality of the women is distinguished by their ornaments; for none but Queens and Princesses are allowed to wear gold bracelets or gold rings on their arms and legs: besides, the Queens put rings on their fore-fingers; the Princesses, and persons of the first quality, upon their middle fingers; and all other women have theirs upon the ring finger and little fingers; and the men only wear rings on their thumbs. If a man's wife wears richer ornaments than usual, her husband's taxes are raised, unless he is one of the King's officers, or an inhabitant of *Male*; for these are exempted from all taxes on apparel. Foreigners and their wives are also free, for they, as well as the Clergy, may wear what they please. The women also place a great part of beauty in staining the nails of their fingers and toes red, which they perform with the juice of a certain tree. In a word, they are very handsome; and are extremely careful in setting themselves off with a genteel habit, and with frequent washing and perfuming.

The King is generally cloathed in a fine white robe or coat of cotton, which reaches to the girdle, or a little lower, with white and blue edgings, and is made fast before with buttons of solid gold. Over this he has a piece of red embroidered tapestry, which hangs from his waist to his heels, and is fastened with a long large silk girdle, fringed with gold, and a gold chain before, upon which hangs a large
knot

knot of jewels as big as one's fist, composed of the finest precious stones. He also wears a knife made after the fashion of the country, but richer than those worn by others. Upon his head he has a scarlet cap, that colour being so much esteemed, that none but the King presumes to wear it. This cap is laced with gold, and has on the top a large gold button, with a precious stone. The Grandees and soldiers wear their hair long, but the King has his head shaved every week. His legs are naked, after the fashion of the country, and his feet covered with slippers of gilt copper imported from *Arabia*, and made like sandals, which none besides are allowed to wear, except the Queens and the Princes of the Blood.

The chief mark of the King's dignity is a white umbrella, which none are permitted to use but strangers. He has three pages near his person, one carrying a fan, another his sword and buckler, and a third a box of betel and areca, which he chews every hour. This King did not pursue the diversions of going abroad and fishing; but shut himself up in his palace, and spent his time in caressing his Queens, giving audience to his courtiers, and seeing a great number of mechanics and artificers at work; for he kept in his palace painters, goldsmiths, embroiderers, cutlers, joiners, and turners, whom he frequently attended, and even laboured with his own hands, thinking it a sin to be idle. He had a quick lively apprehension, was a good mechanic, and encouraged all strangers, who practised arts unknown to

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his people. His guards consisted of six companies, commanded by six of his counsellors, called Moscoulis. Besides which, there were ten battalions, commanded by ten of the Grandees of the country, who served his Majesty not in fighting, but in launching of ships, building of palaces, and other works. In five of these companies none but gentlemen were received; the other five took in common people; but slaves, all kind of labourers, and the illiterate were always excluded. Whoever listed as a foldier paid twenty larrins to the King, and forty to be distributed among the company: but though all offices were bought of the King, no officer could either sell or resign his post.

On a *Friday* he went in great pomp to the mosque, attended by a hundred of his guards, his ordinary officers, and a complete band of music, consisting of trumpets, flutes, and drums. After service was over, he returned with the same retinue, the soldiers leaping all the way to the sound of the music, and in a regular succession striking their swords on one another's bucklers. As these islands afford no beasts of burthen, the King walked abroad on foot, unless he was carried in a chair on the shoulders of his slaves, which happened but seldom; for, being a strong man, he chose rather to go on foot.

His Queens wore the same sort of habits with the other *Maldiva* women, only their cloaths were richer; the noblemen's ladies and daughters were obliged to wait upon them
every

every evening, and when the Queens went abroad, which happened but very seldom, all the women in the island ran to meet them, in their respective districts, with presents of fruits and flowers; for a number of female slaves proceeded at a great distance before them, to give notice that all the men might get out of the way. Four great ladies carried a veil of white silk, which reached down to the ground, so that they could not be seen. The Queens frequently bathed in the sea, as well as the other women, and for that purpose had an enclosure in the water covered with cotton cloth, and upon the shore a little house with a fresh water bath, which they used as they came out of the sea. It is usual in this country, never to admit the day-light into the chambers of the Queens, or those of the ladies of quality, for their only light is lamps continually burning. The part of the room where they usually retire is blocked up with four or five rows of tapestry, the innermost of which neither man nor woman dares to pull up, without coughing or hemming first, and telling who they are.

The revenues of the King of the *Maldives* arises from many of the islands being crown lands; in a fifth part of the grain and fruits of the country, and in a tax on dried fish, and on shells called Bely, laid upon the people according to their circumstances; in the money paid to purchase titles and offices, and for licences to wear fine cloaths. The people are however obliged every year to make him a
C 2 present

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present of as much fine cloth as will cloath the soldiers. This revenue is enlarged by the King's having a claim to the goods imported by shipping; for a vessel no sooner arrives, than they give the King an account of their cargo, out of which he takes what he pleases at low rates, and obliges his subjects to purchase them of him again, at what price he thinks proper, by way of exchange for such things as he wants.

All the goods cast upon the shore by shipwreck belong to the King. This also is the case with ambergrease, which is more plentiful here than in any other part of the *Indies*, and is so narrowly watched, that whoever appropriates it to his own use, loses a hand. The King has also a sort of sea-nuts, called *Tanacarre*, which are cast upon the shore. These are as big as a man's head, and are supposed by the natives to grow on trees under water. The *Portuguese* call them *Cocoas* of the *Maldives*; they are used in physic, and are very dear.

We shall now take a view of their Government, which is an absolute Monarchy; for every thing depends upon the King's pleasure. Each *Attolon* has a *Naybe* or Governor, who is a Priest and Doctor of the Law. The *Naybes* not only govern the inferior Priests, but are the only judges both in civil and criminal cases, and therefore make four circuits in the year to all parts within their jurisdiction. They are, however, under the direction of a Superior, called the *Pandiare*, and in *Arabic*
the

the Cady, who resides in the isle of *Male*, and is both the supreme judge in all causes, and the head of the national church. But the judgment of the Pandiare may be reversed, by appealing to the King himself.

The Pandiare makes a circuit once a year through the isle of *Male*, as every Naybe does in his respective Attolon, and condemns all to be whipped that cannot say their creed and prayers in the *Arabic* tongue, and construe them into the *Maldivan*. When he goes along the street, the women must not shew themselves; for if he sees any unveiled, he orders their hair to be shaven. The contending parties plead their own causes, and in allegations of matter of fact, the plaintiff must bring three witnesses, or else the defendant's oath will bring him off. But if women are called as witnesses, three of them are only equivalent to one man, and slaves are not allowed the privilege of being witnesses.

An insolvent debtor is obliged to become a servant to his creditor, but not a slave; and both he and his children continue in the service till the debt is worked out. If a man is murdered, his wife cannot prosecute the malefactor; but the judge obliges him to maintain her children, and to bring them up to a trade till they are of age, when they may either forgive or prosecute the murderer. The ordinary punishment for criminals is whipping, which is performed with thongs of thick leather, in such a manner that it frequently proves mortal. In this manner Sodomy, Incest, Adultery,

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Perjury and Rapes are punished; and besides, an adulteress has her hair cut off, a perjured criminal pays a pecuniary mulct, and a ravisher is obliged to give a dowry to the injured woman.

In some cases they are banished to the southern islands, and in others they are doomed to the loss of a principal member. Thus stealing any thing of value is punished with the loss of a hand. But though death is by law the punishment of homicide, they never condemn a prisoner to die, unless the King expressly desires it, which seldom happens, and when it does, he sends his own soldiers to execute the sentence. When the King is personally offended, the criminal is laid upon the ground flat upon his belly; his arms and legs are held by four men, while his back is soundly beat with a rattan.

The inhabitants are divided into four classes; the royal family, persons invested with dignities and offices, the nobility and gentry, and the common people. The third rank is distinguished from the fourth by their birth, and the distinction is so strictly observed, that the latter dare not sit in the presence of the former. If a noble-woman marries a plebeian, she retains her rank, and upon her account the children are reckoned noble; but a woman of the lowest class cannot ennoble herself by marrying a nobleman. Besides those of noble birth, there are some ennobled by the King; who not only gives them letters intitling them to that privilege, but sends an officer round the island, to make public their promotion.

The *Maldivans* may be considered as a lively,
brisk,

brisk, and, in many respects, a sober and wise people; for they are discreet in most of their actions, fond of arms and exercise, and are not destitute of courage. They are religious to a very high degree; and if they quarrel, they never rail, for if they did, every body would fall upon them. They are polite in their manners, and discover much industry in arts and manufactures; but are at the same time of so libidinous a disposition, that adultery, incest, and sodomy, may be reckoned among their common actions, and fornication is accounted no crime: for a young woman is not liable to be affronted for having been unchaste before marriage. The lasciviousness of the women is, indeed, equal to that of the men, and it is impossible for the latter to exceed them. The men bend their whole thoughts to the gratification of their desires, and would give their whole estates for a receipt to corroborate their drooping appetite. Their intrigues engross their whole discourses, and their wives or mistresses are their inseparable companions; and yet if a man talks indecently to a woman before any of her relations, they will resent it so far, as to prosecute him at law, and oblige him to acknowledge in open court, that he took them for persons of honour, unless he declares that he did not know of their affinity to the lady.

As the women seldom stir abroad in the day, they make all their visits at night, accompanied by a man who walks before, and when he sees another man approaching, calls out thrice *Gas*, that is, *Take care*. Upon which signal, the person betakes

betakes himself to the other side of the street without seeming to see or know the woman ; nay, if one woman meets another, she takes the other side of the way, and does not salute her, unless she is very intimately acquainted with her.

Their literary accomplishments consist in learning to read and write the *Arabic* and *Maldivian* tongues, to understand the *Koran*, and to know their duty. Their lessons are wrote down on white tables of wood, which they clean and whiten again, after they have got their lessons by heart ; but their durable writings are on paper made of the leaf of a tree a fathom and a half long, and a foot broad. In teaching the children to write, they make use of no paper ; but draw the letters with a bodkin upon smooth plain boards covered with fine white sand. The children have such a profound veneration for their masters, that they cannot marry them any more than their own parents. They have also schools for the mathematics, which are much esteemed ; and likewise for teaching the use of the sword and buckler, the bow, the gun and the pike.

It may here be proper to take notice of some of their manufactures and articles of commerce. As to their money, it is only silver, and of one sort called *Larrins*, each larrin being of about the value of eight-pence. This money is long, like one's finger, and folded ; the King's name being set upon the folds in *Arabic* characters. However, all gold and silver is current here by weight, as it is all over the *Indies* : but instead of small kinds they sometimes

sometimes use shells, 12,000 of which make a larrin; and in their own markets they often barter one thing for another. Their gold and silver is all imported from abroad, and the plenty of it that appears in these islands is an evident proof that the balance of trade is in their favour. The *Maldives* are frequented by merchants; and the commodities they send abroad, besides cowries, are cocoas; with which, Mr. *De Laval* says, they at that time annually loaded above 100 ships. Cocoa-trees are no where either in such abundance, or in such perfection. Of this fruit the cordage is made, that serves the ships of *Arabia*, *Malabar*, and all the *Indies*. The fruit produces also oil, and a kind of honey; and by weaving the leaves of the tree, they make sails. The most beautiful tortoise-shell in the world, which is found no where but here and in the *Philippines*, is exported in great quantities. They make fine red mats, cotton cloths, and silk stuffs; in exchange for which they obtain all the necessaries and accommodations of life.

They have many peculiar customs with reference to eating. If they intend to compliment a friend with an entertainment, they send a covered table with several dishes of meat to his house; but in their own houses they are cautious of eating in the presence of others. Before and after meals they say grace. Their table is the floor covered with a fine mat, upon which, like all the other *Eastern* nations, they sit cross-legged; but eat with such neatness, that they will not let fall a crumb, or a drop
of

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of water, though they wash their mouths before and after their meals. Instead of tablecloths and napkins, they use banana leaves. Their dishes are made of earth, or china ware, which is very common, gold and silver vessels being prohibited by law. They are all round, with an earthen cover, over which they put a piece of silk to keep out the ants, which are so numerous and troublesome, that it would otherwise be impossible to prevent their getting into the dishes; and the natives are so nice, that they will not taste any meat that has been touched by a fly, pismire, or any insect or unclean thing, but give it to the fowls. As for the poor, whom they consider as the servants of God, they scorn to offer them what they will not eat themselves, and entertain them with the best victuals they have. They eat every thing with their fingers, but with such care that they let nothing fall; and if they have occasion to cough or spit at their meals, they rise from the table and walk out. They begin their meals with eating a cocoa-nut half ripe, and drinking the milk of it. While they eat they are silent, and make quick dispatch; for they esteem it indecent to be long eating, and a mark of rudeness to drink before they have ended their meal: even then they drink but once, either water or cocoa wine, which are brought in well-wrought copper cups with covers. After eating and washing, a plate of betel is served up instead of sweetmeats; for the fruit is brought in with the meat. They have no set meals, but eat when their appetite serves;

erves; and all the provisions are dressed by the women, for if a man was to assume the office, no other would converse with him, and he would be doomed by his trade to the company of women alone. Their butchers however must be ancient men, and fathers of children.

As soon as the children come into the world, they wash them six times a day in cold water, and then anoint them with oil. All mothers, and even the queens themselves, suckle their own children, and, besides the milk of their breasts, feed them with a sort of pap made of millet bruised and steeped in water, and afterwards boiled in milk and the honey of cocoas. Though they do not swaddle their children, they are never deformed. They rock them in hammocks of cord, or in little chairs hung up in the air, which they swing backwards and forwards. At the age of nine months the children begin to go, and when they are nine years old they commence the studies and exercises of the country.

When the *Maldivans* wake out of their sleep, they immediately wash their faces and eyes, rub them with oil, and blacken their eye-lids and eye-brows; for before this is done they must not speak, or bid any one good morrow. They are very careful in washing and cleansing their teeth, that the betel and areca may the more easily stain them with their red colour, which they are extremely fond of; and they are always chewing betel, which they mutually present to each other upon occasional salutations. They wash with their left hands after

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ter natural evacuations. When they set out upon a journey, they superstitiously avoid meeting with any body; for if any unlucky accident befalls them, they impute it to the person who touched them. When they go a fishing they must not salute any body, or bid him good morrow; and from sun-set on *Thursday* till three or four o'clock the next morning, they will not suffer any thing to be carried out of the house, but receive all that is brought in.

They have also several Pagan customs; for when crossed at sea they address themselves to the King of the winds, though they do not call him a God; and in every island there is a desolate place, where those who have escaped danger make offerings of little ships and boats made on purpose, and loaded with gums, perfumes, flowers, and odoriferous wood; and having set them on fire, turn them adrift, so that they float up and down till they are quite burnt: but when they cannot easily set them afloat, they kill cocks and hens, and throw them into the sea, right afore the ship in which they intend to sail. They also pay a superstitious respect to the imaginary King of the sea, whence they dare not spit to the windward of the ship; and all their ships and boats being devoted to the Kings of the wind and the sea, they keep them as clean and as neat as their mosques.

They impute all affliction, sickness, and death to the devil; and in a certain place make him offerings of flowers and banquets in order to pacify him, and there suffer them to be
consumed,

consumed, unless some poor person has the sense to take them. With the same view they offer him cocks and hens, though they kill them with their faces directed towards *Mahomet's* tomb. They attribute a wonderful virtue to certain characters, which they wear under their garments in little boxes, and sometimes fix them under their arms or their necks, girdles, and feet, according to the seat of the distemper; for their imaginary virtue is said to consist in curing or alleviating diseases, procuring love and safety, and preserving them from hatred and danger. These they buy of the magicians, who are their only physicians.

In all the islands, and even in *Male* itself, there are no inclosed towns, the houses lying scattered, though not without some order and distinction of streets. Those of the common people are built of cocoa wood, and covered with cocoa leaves sewed one within another; but persons of quality and fortune have their houses built of stone, which is taken from under the flats and rocks, and is at first smooth, white, and hard to cut; but on its being wet with rain, or fresh water, it loses its hardness and colour, and at last becomes black.

The manner of taking these stones out of the sea is very remarkable. There grows in these islands a tree called *Candou*, which is as big as our walnut-trees, and resembles the aspin in the shaking of its leaves; but is extremely soft, and lighter than cork: it is improper for burning, and when dry they saw it into planks. These people being most expert

swimmers, they dive under water, and having pitched upon a stone fit for their purpose, fasten a strong rope to it, and then take a piece of the candou wood, and, having bored it, force it along the rope quite down to the stone. After this they run on a number of other boards, till the light wood rises up to the top, dragging the stone along with it. By this contrivance the natives took up the cannon and anchors of the *French* ship that was cast away; and M. *De Laval* says, that he was an eye-witness of their clearing, by this means, within 15 days, the harbour of *Male*, which was so choaked with great rocks that no ship could come in. When the candou wood has been long soaked in water, it must be dried in the sun before it is used.

To return from this digression. The royal palace is of stone, and has many fine apartments without the ornaments of regular architecture. It is surrounded with gardens, in which are large fountains and cisterns of water walled in; these are paved with smooth stones, and continually guarded, to hinder people from washing in them, they being solely reserved for the use of the King and Queens. The palace is divided into several courts paved with white stone, and in one of these are two magazines, one for the ordnance, and the other for ammunition. The portal is built like a square tower, and on festival days the musicians sing and play upon the top of it. Passing on from the gate, where a guard is constantly kept, you come first to a hall, where the soldiers wait;
then

then to another great hall, where the noblemen and gentlemen attend; for none but the officers of the household, with the King and Queen's servants and slaves, are allowed to go further. The floor of these halls is raised three feet high from the ground, to avoid the ants; they are neatly boarded, and covered with party-coloured mats made in these islands, which have several characters and other figures wrought upon them. Both the ceiling and the walls are hung with silk tapestry, adorned with fringes. The chambers and inner apartments are also hung with silk tapestry, and enriched with gold, flowers, and branches of several colours. The beds of the palaces, and those of the great men, are hung with cords upon a beam, supported by two pillars; in these beds they are rocked to sleep, and it is usual among the better sort of people, to make the servants rub and chafe their bodies when they lie down.

Their mosques are built of stone well cemented, and stand in the middle of a square inclosure where they bury their dead. These mosques are square buildings, and have three doors, to which there is an ascent of steps. The bottom of the mosque is of polished stones, and the floor covered with mats and tapestry, kept extremely clean. The ceiling is of wood admirably polished, and the walls are wainscotted; but both the ceiling and wainscoting are firmly joined without nails, pegs, or any other visible artifice. Upon the walls are large tables of stone or wood, with inscriptions in

Arabic. A particular place is assigned for the King and his court, there are galleries for the guards, and distinct places allotted for persons of different qualities and ages; so that if any person takes an improper place, he is liable to be fined. Some of the islands have nine or ten mosques.

Each mosque has its Priest, and each island that has forty persons above fifteen years older than the King, is dignified by having a Catibe, who assists as principal at all public exercises, and governs the inferior Priests. He pronounces the public prayers, and expounds the law of *Mabomet*. Under him the Moudins, or inferior Priests, teach the children to read and write their mother tongue, and also *Arabic*, for which they are paid by the parents.

They repair to their mosques five times a day, *viz.* at day-break, at noon, at three o'clock in the afternoon, at sun-set, and at ten o'clock at night. But those who have no mind to go to the mosque may say their prayers at home; though, if any person be known to neglect prayer altogether, nobody will eat or converse with him. Before they enter the mosque they wash their feet, hands, ears, mouth and eyes, and nothing in the world will make them neglect this washing. It is observable that they offer their penitential prayers with a loud voice, and by this means make every one acquainted with the most secret transactions of their lives. The adventures of the man and wife are made known to the world by the prayers of both parties; for though the women
never

never go to the mosque, they pray aloud as well as the men, only they do it at home.

The male children are circumcised at seven years of age, upon which occasion the parents and relations divert themselves with music and public feasting, during fourteen days. They have particular operators, who perform the work of circumcision, and have no other employment; and this ceremony is performed in the following manner: for six or seven hours before the operation, the child is bathed in the sea, in order to make the yard shrink, and to render the skin soft and tender. The boy being then brought to a lodge built on purpose, is held by two or three Priests, who sing verses and repeat prayers suitable to the occasion; then the operator pulling the prepuce, cuts it off with a razor, after which he heals the wound in about fifteen days. The girls are also circumcised; but this ceremony only consists in drawing two or three drops of blood from the clitoris, when they are two years of age; but this is attended with no solemnity. When the children are grown up, they pay a profound respect to the operator who circumcised them, and call him master.

They celebrate several festivals, and in particular every *Friday* being their Sabbath is a day of feasting, at which all the males above fifteen years of age are present, but none of the females. On the preceding evening they pray in their houses, and have an entertainment provided; on *Friday* morning the public crier goes round the island; beating upon an

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instrument with a wooden hammer, and is assisted by three trumpeters, to give the people notice of their duty, who after washing, bathing, and putting on their best cloaths, repair to the mosque. In the mean time the King's musicians play before his palace on several instruments, and soon after the King's four Priests, who are men of quality and learning, and never assist but at public solemnities, ascend an high stone edifice adjoining to the principal mosque, clap their hands upon their ears, and cry with a loud voice *Alla Ekber, &c.* "God is great, God is great, God is great; bear witness there is but one God, and that *Mahomet* is his Prophet:" which done they repair to the King's palace, where they pronounce the same words. The King coming last to the church, immediately prays, after which the Catibe being mounted on a raised place at one end of the mosque, takes a naked sword in his hand with the point downward, and flourishing it about recites his prayers. In the mean while the people pray incessantly, putting themselves in various postures, and practising several ridiculous gestures. The Catibe has a new prayer for every *Friday* in the year, and when that year is expired, makes use of the same prayers for the next. He repeats all without book, and if he makes a mistake of a single word, the Moudins reprimand him publicly, and the feast is thought to be ineffectual. This service lasts about two hours, and after it is over the people salute each other, and the King returns in state to his palace, where he entertains them at his own expence. The

The like solemnity is observed on the day of every new moon, for which they prepare by cleaning their houses, courts and streets. At the entrance of the churches, and the gates of their houses, they place cocoa shells, cut in the middle, and filled with white sand and burning coals; upon which they burn, almost all night, sweet-scented gums and woods. The insides of their houses, their beds, &c. are perfumed after the same manner. Four of these new moons are observed with greater solemnity than the rest; particularly in *December* they have a fast called *Ramadam*, which commences at the new moon. This fast they observe with such strictness, that they not only avoid tasting all kinds of food or liquids, but do not even swallow their spittle; and though the men practise bathing as usual, they are prohibited from plunging their heads in the water, lest some drop of it should enter at their mouths or ears; and the women are forbid to bathe at all. Half an hour before sun-set, they repair to the mosque, where they pick their teeth and then pray, and the service being over, return home, where they feast and make merry with their friends. In this month nobody will work, be they ever so poor; and notwithstanding their fasting so rigorously in the daytime, intrigues run higher than in any other month; the young men and maids sending songs and verses to each other inscribed with bodkins on cocoa leaves. The youths also present their mistresses with garlands of the most fragrant flowers, and receive in return presents of betel. All manner of diversions

are at this time carried on, and nothing is omitted that can heighten their mirth. Three days before the end of the *Ramadam*, a person beating with a hammer, and the trumpeters, go round every island, requiring all the inhabitants, whether men or boys, women or girls, to send their names in writing to the Naybe of their respective Attolon, and to pay an offering of half a larrin a head; to which they willingly submit, considering it as a tribute to God and *Mabomet*. The parents pay for their unmarried children, servants, and slaves; and if any poor person has not the money to lay down, the rich very willingly pay for him. One third of this money goes to ecclesiastical persons, another to the profelytes, and a third to the poor.

In *August* or *September* they have a solemnity of two days, during which they send to each other boiled wine, with honey and cocoa milk.

About the month of *October* they have a solemn nocturnal festival, called *Maulude*, on the night in which *Mabomet* died. Upon this occasion a large wooden house or hall, in several parts of the island, is hung within with the finest and richest tapestry. The floor is covered with white sand, over which there are mats, and the cieling is adorned with white cotton cloth, supported by black strings that run along it like stripes. In this large hall a multitude of lamps render it as light as day, and the air is filled with the smoke of perfumes. In the midst of the hall is a table covered with several
 sorts

sorts of meats and mix'd liquors. The men repair thither about eight o'clock in the evening, and are placed in order according to their respective stations, by officers appointed for that purpose. The Priests and other ecclesiastical persons sing almost all night the Psalms of *David*. When midnight approaches, the whole assembly fall flat upon the ground, and continue for some time in that posture, till the Pandiare and Catibe suddenly starting up, all the rest follow their example, and begin to skip about the room. The people are served with betel and drink, by 50 persons chosen into that office, which is esteemed very honourable. When the night is almost over, the Priests leave off singing, and say prayers; after which they all go to the middle of the hall, where the table stands, and every one takes a plate of meat and some aromatic liquors, which they carry home and highly esteem.

Upon a design of marriage they address themselves to the Pandiare or Naybe, who takes the man by the hand, and asks if he is willing to have such a woman on the conditions proposed; and she being always absent, he questions her parents as to their consent. If they all agree, the woman is brought, and he marries her, and calls the by-standers to witness. The whole company then wait upon the woman home, where she is visited by her friends, who are entertained with feasting, music, and dancing. The new-married man makes presents to the King and the great Lords, and the bride pays the same compliments to the
Queens

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Queens and the other Ladies. Both also make presents to their relations. But when the King is married, instead of giving, he receives presents from his subjects, as cloth, garments, turbans, fruit and flowers; and all these presents, which amount to a great value, belong to the new-married Queen. A man may have three wives if he can maintain them, but not more; and if all three live in one island, he is obliged by law to bestow as many nights upon one as the other. The bridegroom receives no dowry with his wife, and is obliged not only to pay the expence of the nuptial solemnity, and to maintain her, but to settle a jointure upon her, equal to what her mother and other ancestors had; and if the Priest apprehends the husband cannot afford such a jointure, he refuses to marry them, though both parties require it. However, the bride may, after marriage, give up the whole or a part of the jointure. Though the males may marry when they please, a female orphan cannot marry till she is fifteen years of age: but if the girl's father be living, he marries her at ten or eleven to the first suitor, whether old or young, provided his quality be in some measure suitable to hers; for it is esteemed a great sin to keep the daughters unmarried.

Though a woman cannot part from her husband without his consent, a man may divorce his wife; but, if she is averse to the separation, she may demand her jointure: this, however, is reckoned mean, and is seldom practised. The divorced parties frequently re-
pent

pent of their separation, and marry again a second, third, or fourth time; though they are not allowed to be married to each other after the third divorce: but they elude this law, by getting some profligate fellow to marry the divorced woman, and lie with her one night without touching her, after which he quits her before witnesses, and she is then married again to her former husband. When death deprives a woman of her husband, she must mourn four months and ten days before she can marry again: but if the separation be accomplished by divorce, she is only obliged to remain three months single.

When a person dies, the corpse is washed by those of the same sex, who buy that office of the King, and are paid for their service. The corpse is then wrapped up in cotton, its right hand placed upon its ear, and its left upon its thigh. This done, it is placed upon the right side, in a coffin of candou wood, and carried to the burying-place by six relations and friends, attended by the women washers, who cry and howl most hideously. Besides the six principal mourners, the other relations and neighbours are present without invitation; and in their walk from the deceased person's house to the grave, they scatter shells for the benefit of the poor, distribute among them rice and millet, and give pieces of gold and silver to the Priest, in proportion to the circumstances of the deceased; which he distributes among those who assist in praying for the departed person. The Priest sings continually during the whole

whole ceremony; and in the procession a person of quality sprinkles the assistants with water drawn from sweet flowers. The grave is covered with a large piece of silk or cotton, which on the interment goes to the Priest of the mosque. The corpse is laid in the grave with the face towards *Mahomet's* tomb, and then the grave is filled up with fine white sand sprinkled with water. The ceremony being over, the relations entertain all the company, and the three following *Fridays* they pray over the grave; but the Priests sing, eat, and pray there every day till after the third *Friday*, when a general feast is prepared for the relations, friends, and Priests, who pretend that the soul of the deceased is then conveyed to Paradise. This feast is repeated every year, when the grave is perfumed with incense. It is surrounded with wooden pales, for they esteem the walking over a grave a great sin; and have such reverence for the bones of the dead, that even the Priests themselves dare not touch them. If a great Lord dies, the Priests sing for him a whole year, and are every day entertained with dishes of meat and betel: but if the King or Queen dies, the ceremony is continued till the death of the next successor.

The mourners in this country make no alteration in their habit: they only go bare-headed to the grave, and continue so for a few days after the interment. Those who die fighting with persons of a contrary religion are buried without any ceremony, upon the spot where they fall; and, being esteemed ho-

ly and happy, neither the Priests nor their friends pray for them. They never transport a corpse from one island to another, and even the King himself is buried where he happens to die. If a person dies at sea, they wash the body, and put it into a coffin; within which they also put silver in proportion to his circumstances, with a written paper mentioning his religion; desiring those who meet with the corpse to take the money, and give it a handsome burial: after which they place it upon a float of candou wood, and commit it to the waves.



C H A P. II.

The vast Fertility of the Maldiva Islands. The Manner of the Author's Escape out of the Country. His Voyage to Bengal, and Return to France.

THE *Maldives* produce great plenty of millet, and of another small grain called *Brinby*, which resembles millet, but is black like rape-seed. These two sorts of grain they sow and reap twice a year. Of the meal produced by grinding these seeds they make pottage, in which they put milk of cocoas and honey: they also make it into cakes and fritters. They have several sorts of roots that serve for food, particularly a kind of bread-fruit called *Nellpou*, which grows wild, is round,

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and as big as one's two fists. This they bruise upon a rough stone, and then exposing it to the sun, it turns to a white sort of meal, that eats admirably well in pottage or cakes. They have also another root called Allas, that grows in great plenty, and is very palatable. This is sown and cultivated, and is commonly as big as a man's thigh: it is of two species, the red and white. The inhabitants boil it several ways, and make it their principal food. They have no rice, except what they get from the continent; but as they have it pretty cheap, they make great use of it.

The country is covered with woods producing abundance of citrons, pomegranates, *Indian* figs, (that are a most nourishing and delicious fruit) and cocoas, of which there is prodigious plenty.

It is very remarkable, that though all the thirteen Attolons are in the same climate, and all of them very fertile, yet they produce such different commodities, that the people in one cannot live without what is found in another; and this occasions the necessity of mutual commerce. The inhabitants have likewise so divided themselves, as to render this still more necessary; for all the weavers live in one island, the goldsmiths in another; and so of the other manufacturers. But to render the communication easy, these artificers have little boats, built high on the sides, in which they work, sleep, and eat, while sailing from one island to another to expose their goods to sale; and

and sometimes they are a year out, before they return to their first habitations.

Though they have few domestic poultry, they have prodigious numbers of wild fowl, which are sold at the rate of a penny a piece, and the same price will fetch three dozen of eggs. They have also great plenty of wild pigeons, ducks, rails, and birds resembling sparrow-hawks. Their crows, which are very numerous, are so bold and troublesome as to take things out of their houses, before the people's faces. Their bats are as large as ravens, and their musketoos or gnats bite more severely than in any other parts of the *Indies*.

They have no poisonous animals except snakes, of which there is a very dangerous sort that frequents the sea; but they are most incommoded by rats, dormice, pismires, and other sorts of vermin, which over-run all the houses, and spoil their provisions, fruit, and other perishable commodities; on which account they build granaries and warehouses on piles or stakes in the sea, at the distance of two or three hundred paces from the land; and most of the King's magazines are built after the same manner. Cats, polecats, and ferrets are likewise found in these islands; but there are no large quadrupedes, except a few sheep, and three or four hundred cows or bulls in the island of *Male*, which belong to the King, and are never eat but on festival days; these being imported from the continent. They have no dogs, and abhor them so much, that when the King of *Portugal* sent two as a present to

the King, he ordered them to be immediately drowned.

The sea here affords plenty of all sorts of fish. Fishing is therefore the most constant exercise of the natives, who fry their fish in the oil of cocoas, or boil them in salt water, and afterwards dry them for keeping. Hence they daily send vessels loaded with fish to *Sumatra*, and other places. They have also great quantities of small shell-fish called Cowries,* which contain a little creature of the bigness of

** These Shells are now in great Use on the Coasts of Africa, and particularly on those of Guinea, where they are called Bougies, and are esteemed as much as Gold and Silver; and the English, French, and Dutch dispose of them for the most valuable Commodities. Formerly about 12,000 Pounds Weight of Cowries would purchase a Cargo of five or six hundred Negroes; but now the Market is raised, and the Proportion between Man's Flesh and Baubles so altered, that a Ship-Load of Slaves cannot be bought for less than twelve or fourteen Tons of Cowries, which are measured out in a Vessel that holds about 108 Pounds. It may be wondered how the Demand for these Shells is kept up: To account for this it is to be observed, that these, like Gold and Silver, are not only the Medium of Commerce among the Negroes, but also the highest Mark of their Finery, they wearing them strung upon Hair or Silk either in single or double Rows, as Necklaces, Collars, and Bracelets; which indeed make an odd, but no disagreeable Figure, upon their Necks and Arms, the snowy Whiteness of the Shells appearing to great Advantage, when compared with their jet-black Skins. These Shells are also to be found on the Coast of the Philippines; but*

of the end of one's little finger. These, however trifling they appear, pass for money at *Bengal* and other places; and our Author says, that he has seen thirty or forty ships laden with them, without any other commodity.

In short, there is such plenty of all necessaries, that 400 cocons cost but about the value of eight-pence: the same price will also purchase 500 bananas, a dozen of fowls, 300 weight of roots, or 100 large fish.

In fine, there is no part of the *Indies* where a stranger may get an estate so soon as here, for these islands are conveniently situated for trade; but this plenty renders the natives negligent and idle, and prevents their growing rich.

When *M. De Laval* had been about four years and a half in this country, the news arrived that the King of *Bengal* was preparing to invade the *Maldives* with a fleet of 16 large galleys. This was in the beginning of *February* 1607. The King of *Male* no sooner received this intelligence, than he issued his orders for fitting out with all possible expedition the large ships, and all the galleys, barks, and vessels in his dominions. But before this could be accomplished, the enemy's fleet ap-

but they are much inferior to the Cowries of the Maldives in Whiteness and Lustre. The principal Mart in Europe for Cowries, vulgarly called Black-moor's Teeth, is Amsterdam; where they have large Magazines of them, and where they are purchased both by the French and English Merchants for the Convenience of exporting them to Africa.

peared in fight; upon which the King suddenly altered his resolution, and resolved to fly to the southern islands, in hopes of finding shelter there, till he could assemble a force sufficient to expel the invaders. His best goods were immediately embarked, as also his three Queens, each of whom was carried by a gentleman in his arms, as if they had been children, covered with veils of taffety of different colours; and no sooner were they on board than the King followed them, leaving his capital altogether defenceless, and the streets full of women crying, and lamenting the danger to which they were exposed.

The enemy on their arrival divided their forces, sending eight of their galleys in pursuit of the King, with whom they speedily came up, engaged his small fleet, and, having killed that unfortunate Monarch, made themselves masters of his ships, wives, and treasures.

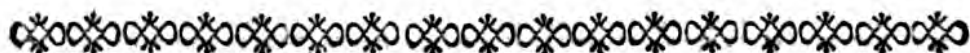
As soon as these people landed in *Male*, our Author surrendered himself to them, declaring in what manner he came thither, and that he had remained prisoner there for several years. As soon as they knew that he was not a *Portuguese*, they treated him very kindly. The conquerors remained about ten days on the island, during which they carried on board their vessels all the plunder of the King's palace, particularly 120 pieces of cannon, and then prepared for their departure, leaving every body at liberty except the King's brother-in-law, whom they carried with them, and our Author,

thor, who went of his own accord, and with some difficulty got to *Bengal*, where he had leisure to contrive the means of finding a passage to *Europe*.

While he remained at *Bengal*, the Mogul declared war against that Prince, who immediately assembled a prodigious army to oppose him, amounting, as our Author was informed, to several hundred thousand men, and some thousands of armed elephants; and he now found an opportunity of withdrawing to the coast of *Malabar*, from whence he proceeded to *Calicut*, where he remained eight months waiting for a *Dutch* ship; but finding none arrive there, he travelled to *Cochin*, where he had the misfortune to be imprisoned as a spy. However, he at length made his escape, and fled to *Goa*; but the *Portuguese* were no more merciful to him than the government of *Cochin*: he was again thrown into prison and confined with several *Englishmen* and *Hollanders*, till by means of the *Jesuits* they were all set at liberty; and sailing to *Europe*, he on the 16th of *February* 1611 arrived at *Rochelle*.



T H E
V O Y A G E
O F
P E T E R K O L B E N, A. M.
T O T H E
CAPE of GOOD HOPE.



C H A P. I.

*The Author's Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope.
A concise History of the Proceedings of the Eu-
ropeans at the Cape, and the Manner in which
it was settled by the Dutch; with a general
View of the Country.*

AS I had early felt an ardent desire to travel, which I had long sought for a favourable opportunity of gratifying, the reader may imagine that I was filled with a transport of joy, when I was told by my generous patron
the

the *Baron van Krosick**, whom I had the honour to serve in the quality of secretary, that if I approved of it, he would send me at his own expence to reside at the *Cape of Good Hope*, in order to make proper observations of the appearance of the heavenly bodies on that southern extremity of *Africa*. With the highest expressions of gratitude I accepted of this employment, and my noble patron having settled upon me an annual salary, I prepared for my voyage, and, leaving *Berlin*, set out for *Amsterdam*, where I embarked on board the *Union*, one of the *Dutch East India* ships that then lay in the *Texel*.

On the 8th of *January* 1705, the *Union* set sail with eight more of the company's ships bound for the *East Indies*, and on the 13th of *March* steering round *St. Jago*, one of the *Cape de Verd* islands, we had a distinct view of the rocks and mountains, and of the situation and extent of the city of the same name. After saluting the castle of the harbour of *Braya* with 15 guns, which was returned, we were visited by a *Portuguese* gentleman, accompanied by a *Negro Romish* priest, who had received an university education at *St. Jago*, and had been made priest, the better to promote the conversion of his countrymen. They were liberally entertained, and the father, besides other things, eat at least two pounds of *Dutch* cheese, and drank an astonishing quantity of brandy, after

* *This Nobleman was Privy Counsellor to the late King of Prussia.*

which

which he sung, danced, and performed so many antic tricks, as convinced us all, that though he appeared a very indifferent priest, he would make an excellent harlequin.

At parting, the father invited several of us to take a dinner with him, and to view what he called his fine library. This invitation was accepted, and two days after we waited on him at his house, where he received and entertained us handsomely enough, shewing us his library, which consisted of a body of the civil law (for he told us he was a Doctor of Laws) some Popish legends, and a few breviaries.

On the 18th we paid a visit to the governor of the castle. He introduced us to his lady, who was with several women in her own apartment, and received us with much civility, gave us bread of *Turkish* wheat, butter and cheese; and we returned the kindness, by making her a present of a paper of tobacco, which she and the other women immediately smoked in the presence of us all.

While we stay'd at *Braya* we had some thoughts of taking a trip to the city of *St. Jago*; but we were persuaded from this design. The ways were represented as steep and craggy, and the ground so hot and parched, from the scarcity of rain, that the slaves sometimes perished in the way with thirst, there being rarely any such thing as water, or the least kind of refreshment to be found upon the road. The island is principally refreshed by the morning dews, which at certain seasons fall plentifully.

tifully. Yet it is a fertile delightful place, abounding with orange, lemon and cotton trees: the valleys yield rice, beans, sugar-canes, &c. which turn to very good account; the tops of the hills are crown'd with trees, and the turf strewed with a variety of the most beautiful flowers. In the mean time the ships wooded, watered, and took in fresh provisions, together with every sort of fruit produced at *St. Fago*, which were so incredibly cheap, that I bought a hundred sweet oranges for half a paper of pins, and, for the other half, five fat fowls.

On the 19th of *March* we sailed from the harbour of *Braya*. After suffering several tempests of thunder and lightning, on the 9th of *April*, a large flash, followed by a noise like that of the report of a cannon, startled all on board. The captain, who was at breakfast in his cabin, imagining that somebody had presumed to discharge one of the great guns, ran in a rage to punish such rashness, when he found his fore-mast shatter'd by thunder; but no hurt was done to any on board. When we came to consider the risk of the powder-room, in which we had 3000 quintals of that dangerous commodity, every man's heart sunk within him, and, I dare say, felt some sensations of gratitude to the author of our preservation.

On the 10th of *June* we discovered the *Cape of Good Hope*, and the next day arrived safe in the harbour. Being introduced to the governor, that gentleman, on sight of my recommendatory letters, treated me in a very friendly
and

and affable manner, and soon assigned me a commodious abode.

Notwithstanding the *Cape of Good Hope* was discovered so early by the *Portuguese* as the year 1493, not one of them landed till 1498, when the *Portuguese* Admiral *Rio d'Infante* went ashore in his voyage to *India*, and on his return gave such an account of the advantages of the place to *Emanuel* King of *Portugal*, that it was resolved to form a settlement there: but this was not carried into execution. At length *Francisco d'Almacei*, Viceroy of *Brazil*, returning from thence with a fleet for *Portugal*, took his course by the *Cape*, and casting anchor there, sent a party on shore to traffic for cattle; but they were repulsed by the natives, and driven back to their ships. Upon this the Viceroy was persuaded to land them again with a considerable reinforcement, and for the encouragement of the men to put himself with eleven captains of the fleet at their head. His Excellency however seemed to have some presages of the unhappy issue; for being got into the long-boat, he cried, with a dejected look, "Ah! whither do you carry seventy years?" for that was his age. On their being landed, one of the men refusing to give a *Hottentot* a pair of brass buckles he had in his shoes, which the savage much admired, his refusal was taken as an affront; and this trifle became the foundation of a quarrel. The *Hottentots* who were present espoused the cause of their countryman, and attacked the *Portuguese* with such fury, that 75 of them were laid

laid dead on the shore, among whom was the Viceroy, and the rest fled in confusion to their ships.

The *Portuguese*, mortify'd at this disgrace, vowed revenge; but after smothering it for two or three years, a fleet for the *Indies* landed again at the *Cape*, and the *Portuguese* knowing what a value the natives set on brass, landed a large brass cannon loaded with several heavy balls, and to the mouth fastened two long ropes. The *Hottentots* transported with joy at receiving so large a piece of their admired metal, laid hold of the two ropes in great numbers, as they were directed, in order to drag it along; thus a great body of them extended in two files all the length of the ropes, full in the range of the shot, when the cannon being suddenly discharged a terrible slaughter was made, and those who escaped the shot, fled up into the country in the wildest consternation. After this cowardly exploit, the *Portuguese* re-embarked at their leisure; and from that day to this it seems that the *Hottentots* have constantly dreaded both the sight and touch of fire-arms.

It does not appear that any *Europeans* afterwards landed at the *Cape* till the year 1600, when it began to be visited by the *English*, *French*, and *Dutch*, in their voyages to and from the *East Indies*. But in 1650, a *Dutch* fleet anchoring before it, Mr. *Van Riebeeck*, a surgeon on board, observing that the country was well stocked with cattle, the soil rich, the harbour commodious, and the people tractable,

digested his observations, and on his return to *Holland* laid them before the Directors of the *India* company, who, after a grand consultation, resolved to attempt a settlement at the *Cape* without loss of time. Accordingly four ships were immediately ordered out on that design, with all the materials, instruments, artificers, and other hands necessary for such an expedition. The surgeon *Van Riebeck* was appointed governor and commander in chief of the intended settlement, with power to treat with the *Hottentots*, in what manner he should think fit.

With these four ships *Van Riebeck* arrived safe at the *Cape*, and so captivated the natives by his address and good humour, and with the presents he brought them of brass toys, beads, tobacco, brandy, &c. that a treaty was instantly concluded, and he giving the natives toys and commodities to the value of 50,000 guilders, they granted the *Dutch* full liberty to settle there, resigned to them a part of the country, and a trade was established with them, on a good and solid foundation.

After these wise regulations, in which so just a regard was paid to the natural rights of the inhabitants, Mr. *Van Riebeck* raised a square fort, and built in it dwelling-houses, warehouses, and an hospital for the reception of the sick; to this fort he added proper outworks, to secure himself from any attacks of the *Europeans*. His Excellency then set the seeds he had brought from *Europe* on a piece of land two leagues up the country, part on a hill,
and

and part in a vale, dividing the ground into a vineyard, a fruit, flower, and kitchen garden.

Every thing prospering in a surprizing manner, the company offered 60 acres of land to every man who would settle at the *Cape*; provided he could not only maintain himself upon it within three years, but also contribute at a certain rate to the support of the garrison: but every one was left at liberty, at the end of that term, to sell or make over his land, and to leave the settlement. Encouraged by these proposals, and by the assistance given to those who could not of themselves provide utensils, tools and instruments of agriculture, great numbers went to the *Cape*, and the settlement soon began to make a considerable figure: but all this while there was a growing evil, against which no provision had been made. *European* women were very scarce, and those they had were wives, who had settled there with their husbands: while the plantation swarmed with young fellows, each settled upon his farm, and in a way of thriving, but wanted wives as much for the sake of issue and domestick help, as for sensual gratifications; and yet had not the least inclination to marry the *Hottentot* women. But an account of this grievance being dispatched to *Amsterdam*, a fine troop of young women were levied, who, on their arrival at the *Cape*, were bestowed by the Governor on such as wanted wives, with all the indulgence that could be shewn upon such an occasion, to their several fancies and inclinations.

The settlement being thus firmly established, it increased to such a degree, that being still joined by other settlers, the *Dutch* in a few years extended themselves in new colonies along the coast. They now form four principal settlements: The first is at the *Cape*, where are the grand forts, and the capital city, called also the *Cape*, in which and its neighbourhood are many genteel buildings, with all sorts of accommodations; the second is the *Hellenbogish*; the third, the *Drakenston*; and the fourth, the *Waverish* colony. The company have likewise provided for a future increase of people, by purchasing all the tract of land call'd *Terra du Natal*, lying between *Mosambique* and the *Cape*, for which they paid in toys, commodities, and utensils, to the value of 30,000 guilders: so that the province is of great extent.

The greatest part of the country about the *Cape* is full of rocks and mountains, which long after the discovery, being only viewed at a distance, were considered as barren: but their spacious tops are covered with rich meadows, every where enamelled with a variety of flowers of uncommon beauty and fragrance, and abound with delicious springs, running in many streams into the valleys. These mountains are in clear weather seen at sea at the distance of fifteen leagues. On their skirts are interspersed groves, that afford excellent wood for the joiners and turners. The plains and valleys are all delightful meadow lands, where nature appears with such a profusion of charms as to ravish the
eye

eye of the beholder. They every where smile, and are adorned with beautiful trees, plants and flowers, that fill the air with the sweetest odours: among these are the aloe, and other curious trees and herbs.

The soil is so rich, as to be capable of every kind of culture; it bears all sorts of grain, and every kind of fruit-tree. The country abounds with salt, and hot baths of mineral waters, that have been found salutary in many diseases. The regions about the *Cape* are, however, subject to boisterous winds, that generally blow from the south-east while the sun is in the southern signs, and from the north-west, while in the northern signs. These winds, however, though they frequently do considerable damage to the trees and corn, are of service in purging the air, and contributing to the health of the inhabitants; who, after a calm of a week or ten days, generally complain of the head-ach and other disorders, which vanish when they blow again.



C H A P. II.

A general Character and Description of the Hot-tentots, with their Dresses and Ornaments.

SOME Authors have represented the *Hot-tentots* as so brutal, as to be in a manner incapable of reflection, as having no sense of religion, nor any notion of order or decency,

and scarcely possessing the least glimpse of reason or humanity: but this is far from being true. I have known many of them who understood *Dutch, French, and Portuguese* to a degree of perfection; and one I knew, who learnt *English* and *Portuguese* in a very short time, and having conquered the habits of pronunciation contracted from his native language, was said by good judges to understand and speak them with a surprizing readiness and propriety.

They are, perhaps, the most faithful servants in the world. The *Europeans* at the *Cape* are so fond of them in this capacity, that they are loth to part with them. Though they are infinitely fond of wine, brandy and tobacco, and will at any time part with the most valuable things they have to purchase them, yet they will neither diminish them themselves, nor suffer any one else to diminish the least drop or part of those commodities, when they are committed to their trust. It is surprizing to see the care and fidelity with which they acquit themselves on these occasions. They are even employed by the *Europeans* in affairs that require judgment and capacity. An *Hottentot*, named *Cloas*, had such integrity and discernment, that he was often entrusted by Mr. *Vander Stel*, the late Governor at the *Cape*, with large quantities of wine, brandy, rice, and other commodities, and directed to exchange them for cattle among the *Hottentot* nations at a great distance from the *Cape*, attended by a guard of two armed men
of

to the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 55
of the Governor's own people. He executed his commissions with address and reputation, and generally returned the Governor more and finer cattle than the commodities he carried out could be judged to be worth. To these qualities he joined the greatest humanity and good nature; and notwithstanding the ignorance in which he was born, and in which, with respect to religion, he always lived, was a man of excellent morals, and had, perhaps, as much charity and benevolence as the best of us all. Many an *European* in distress has been relieved by this generous good-natured creature, who, by means of a handsome stock of cattle, in which the wealth of the *Hottentots* chiefly consists, was very able to lend them his assistance.

Notwithstanding what has been said, the *Hottentots* seem to place their whole earthly happiness in sloth and indolence. They can think to the purpose, if they please; but they hate the trouble of thought, and look upon every degree of reasoning as a tormenting agitation of the mind: they therefore never reason but in case of necessity; that is, when it is requisite to remove some pressing want of their own or their friends. If the *Hottentot* is not roused by some present appetite or necessity, he is as deaf both to thought and action as a log; when urged by these, he is all activity; but when these are gratified, and his obligation to serve is at end, he retires to enjoy again his beloved idleness.

Some

Some Authors have said, that all the *Hottentots* devour the entrails of beasts, uncleaned of their filth and excrements, half broiled; and that whether found or rotten, they consider them as the greatest delicacies in the world: but this is not true. I always found, that when they had entrails to eat, they turned and stripped them of their filth, and washed them in clean water. They then boiled them in the blood of the beast, if they had any; if not, they gave them a thorough broiling. This, however, is done in so nasty a manner as to make an *European* loath their victuals.

But, uncleanly as their manner of dressing their provisions is, those who keep to the diet of their country have few diseases, are seldom sick, and live to an extreme old age. But those who drink wine, brandy, or other strong liquors, suffer diseases before unknown to them, and shorten their days: even the meat dressed and seasoned after the *European* manner is very pernicious, with respect to them.

What chiefly renders the *Hottentots* a nasty generation, is a custom observed from their infancy of besmearing their bodies and apparel, which is only a skin thrown over their shoulders, and another round their waist, with mutton fat, marrow or butter, mixed with the soot that gathers round their boiling pots, in order to make them look black, they being naturally of a nut or olive colour. This custom is repeated as often as the grease is dried up by the sun or dust, if they are able to get either fat or butter. The meaner sort are

are mostly obliged to make use of that which is rank; but the more wealthy always besmear themselves with the freshest and choicest that can be had. No part of the body from the crown of the head to the sole of the foot escapes this paint; their skins are thoroughly daubed with it. The richer they are, the more fat and butter they employ; for this is the grand distinction between the rich and poor; but they abominate the fat of fish.

This rubbing and greasing promotes the suppleness and activity of the body; and the *Hottentots*, though a lazy race, are, perhaps, the swiftest of foot in the world: for they not only dart away from the swiftest *European*, but frequently out-run a very fleet horse. Besides living almost naked in a region where the sun's heat is very great all the year round, by closing their pores with grease, they prevent that excessive perspiration which would, in all probability, exhaust and destroy them.

What renders them most disagreeable is their suffering their woolly hair to be matted together with fat and dirt, their offensive smell, arising from these uncleanly customs, and their abominable lousiness. Add to this, their language is a composition of the strangest sounds that ever were uttered by any people, and their pronounciation depends upon such collisions of the tongue against the palate, and upon such strange vibrations and inflections of that member. as a stranger cannot easily imitate, and neither they themselves, nor hardly any one else can describe.

These

These people are, however, neither so small of stature, nor so deformed and wrinkled as they have been described by some authors: for most of the men are from five to six feet high; but the women are a great deal less. Both sexes are very erect and well made, keeping a due medium between being fat and lean. There is not a crooked limb, or other piece of deformity to be seen among them, which is the more remarkable, as they do not take near so much care of their children as the *European* women. Their heads being generally large, their eyes are so in proportion. Their general mien is so far from being wild and terrible, that it is sweet and composed, and declarative of the highest benevolence and good nature. The worst features they have is their large flat noses, and their thick lips, especially the uppermost; but the flatness of their noses is not natural, but caused by art. Their teeth are as white as ivory, and their cheeks have something of the cherry; but from their continual dawblings, it is not easily discerned. The men have large broad feet; but those of the women are small and tender. Neither the men nor the women cut the nails of their fingers or toes. But what is very extraordinary, all the *Hottentot* women are distinguished by having a broad callous kind of flap growing to their bellies, which seems intended by nature to hide what other nations are taught most carefully to conceal; and some of them have it so large, that it can hardly be covered by the piece of sheep-skin they wear before them, it being often seen
below

below it. This no *Hottentot* considers as a deformity; but through their nastiness and daubings, it is always in such a condition, as to make an *European* loath the sight of it: yet for a little tobacco they will suffer you to handle and examine it. *Thevenot* in his travels, says, the Negro, *Egyptian*, and the women of some other nations, are subject to the like excrescence; but that they stop the growth of it very early by fearing: this may probably be done from their considering it as a deformity.

In hot weather the men constantly go without any other covering on their heads, than the composition of fat, soot and dirt, with which their hair is matted together; for they say, that the fat keeps their heads cool under the fiercest sun-beams; but in the cold seasons, and in wet weather, they wear caps made of cat or lamb skins, which they tie on with two strings; but the face and fore-part of the neck of the men are always uncovered. About the man's neck hangs a little greasy bag, in which he carries his pipe and tobacco, with a little piece of wood of a finger's length, burnt at both ends, as an amulet against witchcraft.

Their *Krosses*, as they term them, or the mantles they hang over their shoulders, are worn open or closed according to the season. The *krosses* of the most wealthy are of tyger or wild cat-skins; and those of the common people of sheep-skins: in winter they turn the hairy side inwards, and in summer turn it outwards. They lie upon them in the night, and
when

when they die, they are tied up and interred in them.

Three rings of ivory they generally wear upon the left arm; these they form from the elephants teeth they find in the woods, which they cut into rings, and finish with such art and exactness as would surprize the ablest turner in *Europe*. These rings, or bracelets, serve as guards when they fight against an enemy, and when they travel, they fasten a bag to them for the conveyance of their *viaticum*, which they fix so cleverly that it is hardly any incumbrance. Round their waists hang what they call a kull cross, a square piece of the skin of a wild beast, generally of wild cat, tied on with the hairy side outward. When they drive their herds to pasture, they put on a kind of leather stockings to secure their legs from being scratched by briars and thorns. When they are to pass over rocks and sands, they put on a kind of sandals, cut out of the raw hide of an ox or elephant, each consisting of only one piece turning up about half an inch quite round the foot with the hairy side outward, and fastened on with strings.

The women wear caps all the year round, made of the skins of wild beasts, that point up spirally from the crown of the head. They generally wear two krosses round their shoulders, which, like those of the men, cover their backs, and sometimes reach down to their hams. Between these krosses they fasten a sucking child, if they have one, with the head just peeping over their shoulders.

The



The Habits of the Hottentots.



The under krossie serves to prevent their bodies being hurt by the children at their backs. About their neck is tied a string to which is fastened a leather bag, which they constantly wear from morning till night, both at home and abroad; it contains some kind of food, a pipe, tobacco, &c. The girls, from their infancy to twelve years of age, wear bulrushes tied in rings round their legs from their knees down to their ancles. These bulrush rings are then laid aside, and their place is supplied with rings of the thickness of a little finger made of slips of sheep or calf-skins, from which the hair is singed; for the *Hottentot* sheep have nothing like wool. Some of the women have above an hundred of these rings upon each leg so curiously joined, and so nicely fitted to the leg, and to each other, that they seem like curious pieces of turnery. They are smooth and as hard as wood, and make a clattering noise in dancing. These rings are kept from slipping over their heels by wrappers of leather or rushes about their ancles; and as the women are obliged every day to walk through bushes and brambles to gather roots and other things for food, they preserve their legs from being torn by the thorns and briers. These rings are one great distinction of their sex, and are considered as very ornamental; for the more rings they wear, the finer they are reckoned: but this is not all, they are provisions against an hour of hunger and great scarcity; for when that arrives, they pull them off and eat them.

But the principal part of the finery of both sexes among the *Hottentots* are brass buttons, and plates of the same metal, which they buy of the *Dutch*, and then polish to an amazing lustre; these dangle in the men's hair: they are also extremely fond of bits of looking-glasses, which they likewise fix in their hair, and consider as very splendid ornaments. Diamonds are not more admired in *Europe*, than these trinkets in the *Hottentot* nations. They wear small ear-rings made of brass wire, which they always polish very neatly; and to these rings the most wealthy and eminent hang bits of mother of pearl, to which they have the art of giving a curious shape and polish. These are advantages in point of ornament, of which they are extremely proud; for they imagine they draw upon them the admiration of all who behold them.

To their commerce with the *Europeans* they owe likewise several other ornaments for the body, as brass and glass beads, of which they are extravagantly fond. Hardly a *Hottentot* of either sex can be met with, who is not adorned with some of them. But the preference is universally given to beads of brass, because they are not so liable to break as those of glass. They wear them in necklaces, bracelets and girdles; of which every one has more or less according to his ability. They chuse the smallest beads they can meet with for the neck and arms. The large ones they wear about their waists. Some wear half a dozen necklaces together, and others more, so large that they
fall

fall very gracefully to their navels. They likewise cover their arms with bracelets from their elbows to their wrists, and wear half a dozen or more strings of beads about their waists, which are the largest they can get, and stain'd of various colours. For these ornaments the *Hottentots* part with their cattle very freely. If they serve the *Europeans*, they always stipulate for some ear-rings, if they are not already provided, and whenever one of them serves an *European*, though it be but for a week or a day, he hardly ever fails in the bargain to article for beads.

It is an invariable custom among the men to wear the bladders of the wild beasts they have slain, blown up and fastened to their hair, where they hang as honourable trophies of their prowess.

But with all this finery the men do not reckon themselves completely dressed, unless their hair be also lavishly powdered with a pulverized herb called *Buchu*; and this being done, they are beaus and grandees, and appear in their utmost magnificence. As the hair of the women is constantly hid under their caps, they lay this powder as thick as they can upon their foreheads, where being rubbed into the grease, it sticks very firmly. The women also paint their faces with a red earth, with which they make a spot over each eye, one upon the nose, one upon each cheek, and one upon the chin. These red spots they consider as striking beauties, and therefore this is their constant practice, when they are called to mirthful assem-

blies, or intend to make a conquest: but whatever the *Hottentot* men may think of a woman thus painted, they appear frightful to an *European*.



C H A P. III.

Of the several Nations of the Hottentots, and of their Government and Laws.

HAVING given an account of the persons and dresses of the *Hottentots* in general, we shall take a view of the several nations into which they are divided, and of their government and laws. The first of these is the *Gunjeman* nation, who sold their territories to the *Dutch*; with whom they still dwell promiscuously, but hold only a small part of their antient possessions.

Bordering on these, to the northward, is the *Kochaqua* nation, in whose territories are spacious meadow lands, held by such *Europeans* as are particularly employed in supplying the company's ships with provisions; and here are several fine salt-pits, which belong to the *Dutch*. The *Kochaquas* still possess most of the land, and, like the other *Hottentot* nations, remove with their cots and cattle from one part of their territories to another, for the convenience of pasturage. When the grass is too old and rank they burn it to the ground, and, leaving the place, return by the time it grows
up

up again, which is very speedily; for the ashes of the grass enrich the soil, which is usually in no want of refreshing rains. By this practice of burning the grass, which grows thick and high, the country is sometimes seen in a blaze for several miles round. In this the *Hottentots* are imitated by the *Europeans* at the *Cape*, only the latter make ditches round the grass they would burn, to stop the progress of the flames; but the *Hottentots* do not give themselves so much trouble.

To the northward of the *Kochaquas* are the *Sussaquas* or *Sassiquas*, situated at some distance from *Saldhana Bay*. They were a numerous people, and had much cattle, till they were plundered and dispersed by the *Dutch* freebooters, who in the infancy of the settlement ravaged several *Hottentot* nations. This territory, being thinly peopled, has but few villages; and indeed there is little spring-water in all the country. It is mountainous, but affords plenty of grass, not only in the valleys, but on the tops of the mountains; both which are adorned with the gayest flowers, and the most odoriferous herbs.

Adjoining to the last are the *Udiquas* or *Odiquas*. These two nations formerly entered into a perpetual confederacy against their neighbours the *Chirigriquas*, with whom they have had many long and bloody wars; but by the mediation of the *Dutch* they have been reconciled.

The *Chirigriquas*, who are next, extend along by the Bay of *St. Helen's*, and are a nu-

merous people, remarkable for their strength of body, and their dexterity in throwing the hassagaye. The soil of their country is much better than that possessed by the two last nations. It is famous for the *Elephant River* running through it, thus named from the number of those animals near its banks. This territory is covered with mountains, which, like most others in the *Hottentot* countries, have fine meadows on their summits: the valleys have the richest soil, and are adorned with a variety of flowers of uncommon beauty, but abound with snakes. In this territory is also a large wood of thick and tall trees, none of which I have ever seen or heard of except in these countries. It is inhabited by lions, tygers, leopards, wolves, and other ravenous beasts, which render it dangerous to pass through it. 'Tis divided by several roads, over which the branches of trees meeting at the top make the ways gloomy in the brightest day, and in some places so dark, that it seems as if we were travelling through a cavern.

We now come to the two countries called the *Greater* and *Lesser Namaqua*. The *Lesser* is situated on the coast, and the *Greater* is the next nation to the eastward: but though these nations bear the same name, they differ in their form of government and manner of living. Both, however, are much respected by the other *Hottentot* nations, on account of their strength, bravery, and discretion. They are able to take the field with 20,000 men. Both these territories are full of mountains that are
bare

bare of grass, the soil being stony and sandy; besides, there is little wood, and only one spring in all the country; but the *Elephant River* running through it supplies the inhabitants with water. Here numbers of wild beasts are found, and also a sort of deer spotted with white and yellow. These are smaller than the deer of *Europe*, but exceeding swift: they always keep together by hundreds, and sometimes there are a thousand in a company. The venison is generally fat and delicate.

North of *Namaqua* is *Attaqua*, which has a very indifferent soil, and is but ill provided with water. For this reason the inhabitants live in small troops, on the most fertile spots. They have generally no more cattle than, with the game they catch, is necessary for their support: but yet they are as brave, contented, and lively, as if they enjoyed the most flourishing country. They live in great tranquillity, and are seldom at war with their neighbours. When they are in danger of an invasion, they, like the *Swiss*, hasten to the tops of their highest mountains, where they make fires that cast up a great smoke by day, and a clear flame by night. Upon this signal all who are able resort speedily with their arms to a constant place of rendezvous, and a numerous army is immediately assembled.

To return to the *Gunjemans*, where we began. To the southward of them are the *Koopmans*, whose territory extends far to the eastward. Many *Europeans* are settled here, and enjoy large and rich tracts of land; this being a fruitful

fruitful country, well watered, and abounding in woods.

Bordering on the *Gunjemans* are also the *Hessaquas*, who are perhaps the richest of any of the *Hottentot* nations. Their pastures are covered with droves of horned cattle and flocks of sheep. Their oxen for carriage exceed all others in strength and beauty. They traffic with the *Europeans* for brandy, tobacco, and beads, more perhaps than any of their neighbours, and are consequently more luxurious and effeminate. The *Kraals*, as they are called, or villages of the *Hessaquas* are larger, more numerous, and better peopled than those of any other *Hottentot* nation. The country abounds with game, and furnishes more of the accommodations and luxuries of life, than any other of these territories. The inhabitants, who have their fortunes to make, enter into the service of the *Europeans*, and lay out their wages in the purchase of cattle, with which they set up for themselves.

Bordering on the *Koopmans* to the eastward are the *Sonquas*, a lively daring people, very dexterous in the management of their arms. This proficiency and martial genius they owe to their living in a mountainous rocky country, that affords but little subsistence for man or beast, and therefore obliges them mostly to become a kind of mercenaries to the other *Hottentot* nations in their wars, serving barely for food from day to day. The barrenness of their land also renders them dexterous at the chase: they pursue all the game they discover, and it rarely escapes them.

them. Hence they are not numerous; a few small kraals or villages contain them all. They have so few cattle, that they kill none when any other provision is to be had, except on certain solemn occasions: however, roots and herbs for food are here and there found in plenty; with woods that serve for firing, to keep off the wild beasts from their kraals. The *Sonquas* are very expert in robbing the bees of the honey they lay up in hollow trees, though they are not fond of it themselves: but they exchange it with the *Dutch* for knives, and other implements of iron and brass, and for brandy, tobacco, and pipes. They put it into rough leathern sacks, and give a sackful for a very trifle.

Next to these people dwell the *Dunquas*, who possess a fruitful country, well watered, several fine rivulets passing through it into the *Palmit River*. Both the hills and plains are covered with plenty of grass, herbs and flowers: cattle and game therefore abound in all parts of this territory.

Next are the nation of the *Damaquas*, who inhabit a tract of land as fine and fertile as the former, and much more level. It produces water melons and wild hemp, and abounds with cattle and game; but there is such a scarcity of wood, that the inhabitants are hard put to it for fuel to dress their provisions. There are also several salt-pits; but, being at a considerable distance from any *European* settlement, no use is made of them; for the *Hot-tentots* eat no salt. The *Palmit River* runs through

through the country with many turnings and windings, and the inhabitants pass it in canoes, and on floats of timber. The *Damaquas* being great lovers of the flesh of such wild beasts as are fit for food, they are often engaged in the chase, and are plentifully provided with furs for their apparel.

Next to this nation are the *Gauroes*, a numerous people, who inhabit a small country: but the soil is every where so rich and fertile, and so well provided with wood and water, that they all live in ease and plenty. The pastures are covered with cattle, and the territory swarms with wild beasts of every kind, more than any other about the *Cape*: in which the inhabitants glory, as it calls for the frequent exercise of their courage and dexterity, which they are fond of shewing, most of them wearing the skins of lions, tygers, wild cats, and other animals, as trophies of their valour.

To the north-east of these people, on the coast, dwell the *Houteniquas*, in whose territory are several woods of stately trees, and between them fine meadows adorned with wholesome herbs, and a variety of the most beautiful and fragrant flowers.

Bordering on these are the *Chamtours*, who possess a fine flat country, in which are many little woods that consist of the tallest trees in all the country of the *Hottentots*. Here is great plenty of game, with all sorts of wild and ravenous beasts. The land is divided by several large streams, that contain different kinds of wholesome and very delicate river
fish,

fish, and sometimes sea fish; particularly the sea-cow often appears in these channels. It is said that neither elephants nor buffaloes are to be found in the woods, though those in every other *Hottentot* country abound with them: the inhabitants perhaps kill them, or chase them out of the country as fast as they appear.

To the north-east of this territory is situated the nation of the *Heykoms*, who are possessed of a mountainous tract of land, unprovided with fresh water, and only fertile in the valleys; yet it is pretty well stocked with cattle of every sort, which thrive upon the brackish water of the rivers, and the reeds on their banks. The country also abounds with game and wild beasts of every kind seen about the *Cape*: but the people are put to great difficulties to procure fresh water.

We are now come as far as *Terra du Natal*, inhabited by the *Caffres*, who are a different people from the *Hottentots*; for they do not anoint or grease their bodies. They have a different language, and dwell in square plastered houses, a sort of building not seen among the *Hottentots*. They sow a sort of *Turkish* corn, and brew with it; but the *Hottentots* neither sow nor brew. They traffic with vessels that come from the *Red Sea*, and bring manufactures of silk, for which they give elephants teeth. These manufactures the *Caffres* exchange with such *European* vessels as touch at *Du Natal* sometimes, for anchors, cordage and tar; which they again barter with the rovers of the *Red Sea*. The silk they dispose of to the *Monomotapas*,

tapas, and they also trade with the *Portuguese* of *Mozambique*.

Each of these nations has a Chief, whose office is to command the army, and without whose consent they neither make peace nor war. His office is hereditary; but he is not permitted to enter upon it, till he has solemnly engaged in a national assembly not to attempt the subversion of the old form of government. He was antiently distinguished only by the beauty of the skins of which his *krosses* were composed: but the *Dutch*, soon after their establishment at the *Cape*, made a present of a brass crown to the Chief of every nation in alliance with them, which they wear upon solemn occasions. However, in time of peace the Chief has little else to do but to govern the *kraal* or village where he resides.

The Captain of a *kraal* preserves the peace, and administers justice; and in time of war has, under the Chief of the nation, the command of the troops furnished by his *kraal*. His office is also hereditary, though he cannot execute it till he has solemnly engaged before the people not to alter or deviate from the antient laws and customs of the *kraal*. These *Kraal* Captains were likewise antiently distinguished only by the fineness of the skins they wore, which were those of tygers or of wild cats: but all of them have now a cane with a brass head, given them by the *Dutch*, which descends along with the office. But neither the Chiefs of the nations, nor these Captains, have

have any revenue from the public, or any perquisite attending the execution of their office.

The Captain of a kraal decides all disputes of right and property, and tries and punishes for murder, theft, adultery, and other crimes committed within his jurisdiction, being assisted by all the men of the kraal; and from his sentence there lies no appeal: but state criminals are tried by a Chief, assisted by all the Captains of kraals.

Whenever a dispute about property arises, the Captain summons all the men of the kraal into the open field, who squat down in a circle. The plaintiff and defendant plead their own causes, and the witnesses on both sides are heard. The depositions being finished, the Captain, after some debate, collects the voices, and immediately pronounces the decree according to the majority; when full and quiet possession is instantly secured to the party in whose favour the decree passes.

The criminal matters which employ the Kraal Courts are murder, adultery, and robbery: for adultery is punished with death. When a *Hottentot* is known or suspected to have committed any of these crimes, notice is given to all the men of the kraal to which he belongs; who, considering themselves as officers of justice, look out sharply in order to seize the suspected party; and it is in vain for him to think of finding sanctuary in any other *Hottentot* nation, for he would be taken up as a fugitive or a spy. The criminal being apprehended, he is secured till the men of the

kraal can assemble, which is done the very day he is brought back to the kraal. The Court sitting squat upon their hams in a circle, the prisoner is placed in the middle; because the *Hottentots* say, that in an affair in which a man's life is at stake, he ought to have the best situation for hearing and being heard. The prisoner being in this place, the charge against him is pronounced by the prosecutor, and the prosecutor's witnesses give their evidence. Next the prisoner makes his defence, calling his own witnesses, who are heard with the greatest indulgence. Then the Captain, after some debates on the evidence, collects the voices, a majority of which acquits or condemns him. If he is acquitted, the Court assigns him damages out of the prosecutor's cattle. If he is convicted, and judged worthy of death, sentence is immediately pronounced: the Court rises, while the prisoner stirs not a limb: for a minute or two all is silent; when suddenly the Captain flies at the prisoner, and with one blow on the head with his kirri lays him sprawling on the ground. This is followed by all the rest, who rush forwards, and striking him with all their might; he in a moment expires. They then bending the corpse neck and heels, wrap it up in his krosse, and bury it with every thing they find about it, except his ear-rings, and other ornaments of copper or brass, which are given to his family or his heir, who suffers nothing either in name, privilege, or property. His family, relations, and friends are treated with the same respect

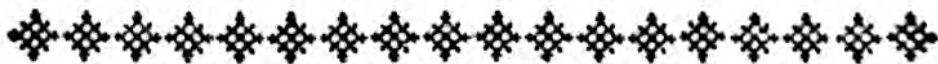
as before; and every thing proceeds as if no such misfortune had happened. Even the memory of the criminal is so far from being insulted, that his corpse is interred with the same ceremonies, and as much pomp as is shewn at the funerals of the richest and most virtuous among them.

All the riches of the *Hottentots* descend to the eldest son, or, when a son is wanting, to the next male relation; and the younger sons of an *Hottentot*, who are at home and unprovided for at the death of their father, are at the courtesy of the eldest both with respect to their fortune and their liberty. Marriage with first and second cousins is forbidden, and punished by being cudgelled to death: but yet a *Hottentot* may have as many wives as he can maintain, though the richest seldom exceed three. A man may be divorced from his wife, and a woman from her husband, upon shewing such cause as shall be satisfactory to the men of the kraal. But one of the most extraordinary of their laws is, that a widow, for every husband she marries after the first, is obliged to cut off a joint of a finger, which she presents to her husband on the wedding day, beginning at one of the little fingers.

The *Hottentots* have no lawyers; and the only public officers, besides those already mentioned, are the Physician and the Priest. In every kraal there is a physician, and the large ones have two, who have some skill in botany, surgery, and medicine. They are chosen out of the sages of each kraal, and appointed to

watch over the health of the inhabitants. This they perform without fee or reward, the honour of the employment being judged a sufficient recompence for their trouble. They suffer none to see them gather and prepare their remedies, for all their preparations are kept a profound secret; and if a patient dies under their hands, they constantly assert that all their medicines were rendered ineffectual by witchcraft.

The Priest is, at the *Cape*, inferior to the Physician. His office is also elective; but he is neither to pray for the people, nor to instruct them in religious matters. He presides at their offerings, and has the ordering of all ceremonies.



C H A P. IV.

Of the Religion, Ceremonies, and Customs of the Hottentots; with the Manner of their roasting their Cattle, and building their Kraals.

AS the Chief of a *Hottentot* nation presides over the Captains of the kraals, so the *Hottentots* call the Supreme Being the Great or Supreme Captain, whom they believe to be the Creator of all things and the Governor of the world, and that he is endowed with unsearchable perfections. They commonly call him *Gounja Gounja*, or *Gounja Tiquoa*, the God of all Gods; and say that he is a good man, who

who does nobody any hurt; and that he dwells far above moon: but it does not appear that they address any act of devotion immediately to the Supreme God. Their adorations are paid to what they call inferior Deities, dependent upon him; for the most sensible of them, when they are in the humour to answer the questions asked them on this subject, say, Their first parents so grievously offended the God of Gods, that he cursed them with hardness of heart; therefore they know little of him, and have still less inclination to serve him.

The Moon with them is an inferior visible God. They call this planet *Gounja* or God, and say that he is the subject and representative of the High and Invisible. They assemble for the celebration of its worship at the change and full, and no inclemency of the weather prevents them: they then throw their bodies into a thousand different postures, scream, prostrate themselves on the ground, suddenly jump up, stamp like made creatures, and cry aloud, *I salute thee; thou art welcome: grant us fodder for our cattle, and milk in abundance.* These and other addresses to the Moon they repeat over and over, singing *Ho, ho, ho*, many times over, with a variation of notes, accompanied with clapping of hands. Thus in shouting, screaming, singing, jumping, stamping, dancing, and prostration, they spend the whole night in worshipping this planet, which they consider as the distributor of the weather.

They likewise adore as a benign Deity a certain insect, said to be peculiar to the *Hottentot*

countries. It is of the size of a child's little finger; the back is green, and the belly speckled with red and white: it has two wings, and on its head are two horns. Whenever this insect appears in sight, they pay it the highest tokens of veneration; and if it honours a kraal with a visit, the inhabitants assemble about it with transports of devotion. They sing and dance round it, troop after troop, in the highest raptures, throwing to it the powder of buchu, with which they cover the area of the kraal, and the tops of the cots. They likewise kill two fat sheep as a thank-offering for this high honour, and fancy all their past offences are buried in oblivion. If this insect happens to alight upon a *Hottentot*, he is looked upon as a man without guilt, and ever after revered as a saint. The fattest ox is immediately killed for a thank-offering, and is eaten in honour of the Deity and the saint, who feasts alone on the entrails, which are boiled, while the men devour the meat dressed the same way, and the women are regaled only with the broth. He is obliged to be very careful of the fat, and to anoint his body and apparel with that alone, while any of it remains. But the most extraordinary part of the ceremony is, that the caul well powdered with buchu, and twisted like a rope, is put in the manner of a collar about his neck, and he is obliged to wear it day and night till it rots off, or till the insect, at another visit, lights upon another inhabitant of the kraal, when he is at liberty to remove it. The case is the same
if

if the insect settles upon a woman: she commences a faint with the same ceremonies; only here the women feast upon the meat, while the men are only regaled with the broth.

The *Hottentots* will run every hazard to procure the safety of this animal. A *German*, who had a country seat about six miles from the fort, having given leave to some *Hottentots* to turn their cattle for a while upon his land there, they removed to the place with their kraal. A son of this *German* was amusing himself in this kraal, when the deified insect appeared. The *Hottentots* flew tumultuously to adore it, while the young gentleman ran to catch it, in order to see the effects such a capture would produce. He seized it in the midst of them: but how great was the general cry and agony when they saw it in his hand! They stared at him, and at each other, with looks of distraction. "See, see, see, cried they: "What is he going to do? Will he kill it? "Will he kill it?" Mean while every limb shook with fear. He asked them why they were in such agonies for that paltry insect. "Ah, Sir, (they replied with the utmost concern) 'tis a Divinity. 'Tis come from heaven: 'tis come on a good design. Ah! do not hurt it: do not offend it. We shall be the most miserable wretches upon earth if you do. This ground will lie under a curse, and the crime will never be forgiven." He appeared unmoved by their petitions, but seemed as if he intended to maim or destroy it. On which they started, and ran about like people

people frantic, asking where was his conscience? and how he dared to think of perpetrating a crime that would bring upon his head all the curses and thunders of heaven? But this not prevailing, they all fell prostrate on the ground, and, with streaming eyes and the loudest cries, besought him to spare the creature, and give it liberty. The young man now yielded, and let the insect fly, on which they capered and shouted in a transport of joy, and running after it, rendered it the customary honours.

The *Hottentots* also pay a religious veneration to their deceased saints and men of renown, whom they honour, not with tombs, statues or inscriptions, but consecrated woods, mountains, fields and rivers, to their memory. On passing by any of these places, they stop to contemplate the virtues of the deceased, to whose memory it was dedicated, and to implore his protection for them and their cattle. Mean while they stand with their heads muffled up in their krosses or mantles; and sometimes they also dance round these places, singing and clapping their hands.

The *Hottentots* likewise worship an evil Deity, whom they consider as the father of mischief; the source of all their afflictions, and the instructor of the wicked *Hottentots* in the cursed arts of witchcraft, by which they believe that innumerable mischiefs are done to the persons and cattle of those who are good. They call him *Touquoa*, and say, he is a little crabbed inferior Captain, whose malice will seldom let him

him rest, and therefore they worship him in order to avert it, and wheedle him by the offering of an ox or a sheep.

The *Hottentots* believe that the soul survives the body, and therefore upon the death of any man, woman or child, remove their kraals to a new settlement; from the opinion that the dead never haunt any place but that in which they died, unless any thing that belongs to them is carried out of it, and then they apprehend the departed spirits will follow a kraal and be very troublesome: they therefore leave the huts they died in standing, and in them all the utensils belonging to the deceased.

This is the absurd system of the *Hottentot* religion, of which those people are so fond, that I never heard of one of them dying a Christian. Though the *Dutch* have sent Missionaries among them, who have undergone numberless fatigues, and taken the greatest pains to make proselytes, it was without effect, and they were compelled with sorrow to abandon the generous design, without leaving the least trace of it on the minds of the *Hottentots*. Of this the following incident may serve for a proof. Mr. *Vander Stel*, Governor of the *Cape*, took an infant *Hottentot*, whom he educated in the knowledge of the Christian religion, and after the genteel manners of the *Europeans*, allowing him little or no conversation or intercourse with the *Hottentots*. He became well versed in the mysteries of religion, and in several languages; he was always richly dressed, and his manners were formed after the best *European* model.

models at the *Cape*. The Governor seeing him thus qualified, entertained great hopes of him, and sent him with a Commissary General to the *Indies*, where he remained employed in the Commissary's affairs, till the death of that gentleman, when he returned to the *Cape*. A few days after, at a visit among his relations, he stripped himself of his *European* apparel, and equipped himself in the manner of his country, in a sheep-skin. This done, he pack'd up his cast off cloaths, ran with them to the Governor's, and presenting himself before his patron, laid the bundle at his feet, and address'd his Excellency to the following purpose: "Be pleas'd, Sir, to take notice, that
 " I for ever renounce this apparel. I likewise
 " for ever renounce the Christian religion. It
 " is my design to live and die in the religion,
 " manners, and customs of my ancestors. I
 " shall only beg you will grant me (and I
 " I am persuas'd you will grant me) the
 " collar and hanger I wear. I will keep them
 " for your sake." Here he stopp'd, and turning his back, fled swiftly away, and was never more seen in that quarter. This man I frequently convers'd with up in the country, and found, to my great amazement, that he had a surprizing stock of Christian knowledge. But though I made use of the most persuasive and endearing language, to call him back into the fold of Christ, he continued deaf to all my reasoning and remonstrances.

We shall now take a view of those ceremonies that are generally consider'd as of a religious

ligious nature, and begin with the marriages of the *Hottentots*. If a batchelor or widower has a mind to marry, he discovers his views to his father, and if he is dead, to the next in authority of kindred; who, if he consents, attends him to the woman's relations, whom they regale with a pipe or two of tobacco, or of dachu, which they all smoke. The father of the lover then opens the business to the woman's father, who having heard it, generally retires to consult his wife, and soon returns with a final answer, which is generally favourable. If the lover's father receives a denial, which rarely happens, nothing more is said about it, and the lover at once tears his choice from his heart, and looks out for another. If it be complied with, the lover chuses two or three fat oxen from his own herd, or his father's; and drives them to the house from whence he is to take his destined bride, accompanied by all his relations of both sexes who live near him: they are received with careffes by the woman's kindred; the oxen are immediately slain, and the whole company besmear their bodies with the fat, and then powder themselves all over with buchu; while the women spot their faces, as already described, with a kind of red chalk. The men then squat on the ground in a circle, the bridegroom squatting in the center: the women at some distance also squat in a circle about the bride. At length the priest who lives at the bride's kraal enters the circle of the men, and coming up to the bridegroom pisses a little upon him. The bridegroom receiving

ceiving the stream with eagerness, rubs it all over his body, and makes furrows with his long nails, that the urine may penetrate the farther. The priest then goes to the other circle, and evacuates a little upon the bride, who rubs it in with the same eagerness as the bridegroom. To him the priest then returns, and having streamed a little more, goes again to the bride, and again scatters his water upon her. Thus he proceeds from one to the other till he has exhausted his whole stock, uttering from time to time to each of them the following wishes, till he has pronounced the whole upon both : *May you live long and happily together. May you have a son before the end of the year. May this son live to be a comfort to you in your old age. May this son prove a man of courage, and a good huntsman.*

The nuptial ceremony being thus over, the oxen are cut into many pieces, and the whole dressed ; some pieces being boiled, and the rest roasted in the following manner. A large flat stone is fastened in the ground in the manner of a hearth, and a brisk fire made upon it, which burns till the stone is thoroughly heated. The fire is then removed, the stone cleaned from the ashes, and the meat placed upon it. It is then covered with a flat stone, as large as that upon which the meat lies ; round which a fire is kindled, as well as upon the upper stone, by which the meat is soon roasted, or rather baked. The provisions being thus dressed, the men and women sit in different circles, the bridegroom alone eating in company of the
 women.

women. They are all so nasty as to use the lappets of their greasy krosses or mantles for plates; but their spoons are sea shells. Dinner being over, what is left is set by, and they go to smoking; each company having one tobacco-pipe. The person who fills it, after taking two or three whiffs, gives it to his or her neighbour, and thus it goes round: the best part of the night is spent in smoking and merriment, till the bridegroom retires to the arms of his bride, and the company separate. The next day they again assemble, and feast and smoke as before; and this is continued every day, till the provisions dressed on the day of marriage are consumed. Upon these occasions they have neither music nor dancing; and they have only their ordinary drink, which is milk and water.

A *Hottentot* never has a hut of his own till after his marriage, and then his wife assists him, not only in erecting it, but in getting the materials, which are all new, and in providing the furniture. This being done, he abandons to her the care and toil of seeking and dressing the family provisions, except when he goes a hunting or fishing: she also bears a part in attending the cattle.

At the birth of a child the parents have a solemn feast by way of thanksgiving, of which all the inhabitants of the kraal partake. But upon the birth of the first son, the rejoicings are far superior to those attending any other birth. The parents slay cattle very liberally for the entertainment of the whole kraal; and

every one, on such an occasion, is particularly zealous to congratulate them on the obtaining an heir. If at any time a woman has twins, and they are both boys, they kill two fat bullocks, and all their neighbours, men, women, and children, rejoice at their birth as a great blessing. The mother only is excluded from the entertainment, and has only some fat sent her, to anoint herself and her infants. However, if the twins are girls, there is little or no rejoicing, and all the sacrifice they make is at most a couple of sheep. On these occasions they often give the lie to these thank-givings by a cruel custom, practised indeed by other nations, but contrary to every sentiment of reason and humanity. If the parents are poor, or the mother pretends that she has not milk for both the twin girls, the worst featured of the two is buried alive at a distance from the kraal, cast among the bushes, or tied on its back to an under bough of a tree, where it is left to starve, or to be devoured by the birds or beasts of prey.

An exposed female infant is sometimes found by an *European*, when if it be dead he generally stays to bury it: but if it be alive he always takes it home, and if he is not willing to breed it up, he easily finds those that are. These children always receive a good education, and great care is taken to instruct them thoroughly in the knowledge of Christianity, and to secure them from falling off to the *Hottentot* nastiness and idolatries; but these generous labours have never produced
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any lasting effect. Not once has it appeared that a *Hottentot* mind is to be deprived of its native bias: for these unhappy females no sooner come to years of maturity, than flying to their own people, they constantly renounce the Christian religion, with the *European* manners and apparel, embrace the religion and customs of their ancestors, and remain with the *Hottentots* ever after.

At eight or nine years of age the young *Hottentot* is, with great ceremony, deprived of his left testicle: but the poverty of the parent sometimes occasions its being deferred till the youth is eighteen years of age; this cruel ceremony being attended with some expence. This is supposed to contribute to the agility of the *Hottentots*: they have also a prevailing opinion, that a man with two testicles constantly begets two children; and was a young man to try the experiment, both he and the woman would lie at the mercy of the rulers, and the woman would, for so great a crime, be perhaps torn to pieces by her own sex.

This is one act of legitimation for the marriage of the males; but it is not the only one. Till they are about eighteen years of age they are confined to the tuition of their mothers, and live and ramble about with them: there is therefore a second act of legitimation by which they are made men. When the father, or the generality of the men of a kraal, resolve to call a young man into their society, all the inhabitants assemble in the middle of a kraal, and sit upon the ground in a circle. The young

fellow to be admitted, being without the circle, is ordered to squat down upon his hams, and then the oldest man of the kraal rises, and asks, Whether the youth without shall be admitted into their society, and made a man? To this all answering Yes, yes, he leaves the circle, and stepping up to the youth, informs him, That the men having thought him worthy of being admitted into their society, he is now to take an eternal farewell of his mother, the nursery, and all his puerile employments: That if he is but once seen talking to his mother, and does not always carefully avoid her company, he will be considered as a child, and unworthy of the conversation of the men, from which he will be banished: That all his thoughts, words, and actions must now be manly. This he repeats till he judges that he has fixed these admonitions on his mind. The youth having before well daubed himself with fat and foot, the old man evacuates a smoking stream of urine all over him, having before reserved his water for that purpose. The youth receives the stream with eagerness and joy, and making furrows with his long nails in the fat upon his body, rubs in the briny fluid with the quickest action. The old man having given him the last drop, utters aloud the following benediction. *Good fortune attend thee. Live to old age. Increase and multiply. May thy beard grow soon.* The youth is then solemnly proclaimed a man, and all the men feast upon a sheep, part roasted, and part boiled.

If after this the young man is seen eating and drinking with the women, he is treated with the utmost contempt; he becomes the jest and derision of the whole kraal, and is excluded from the conversation of the men, till the ceremony is performed over again.

A *Hottentot*, thus freed from the care of his mother, may be so brutish and unnatural as to cudgel her, merely to shew his independence; and it is common for a young fellow on his being admitted into the society of the men, to go and abuse his mother, and, as a testimony of the sincerity of his intentions to follow the admonitions given him, to insult and triumph over her, on his being discharged from her tuition.

We have already observed, that some of the *Hottentots* have a kind of honourable distinction in wearing bladders tied to their hair as trophies of their valour. These are those who having singly encountered and slain a lion, tyger, leopard, elephant, rhinoceros or elk, are considered as heroes. Such a person on his return home squats down; but is soon visited by an old man deputed by the rest of the kraal, to thank and congratulate him upon so beneficial an exploit, and to acquaint him that the men of the kraal expect him immediately to receive from them the honours that are his due. The hero instantly rises, and attends the messenger to the middle of the kraal, where all the men wait for him, and squatting down on a mat spread for him, all the men squat round him, while the hero's face is flushed with joy.

The deputy then marches up to the hero, and pours a plentiful stream all over him from head to foot; pronouncing over him certain terms, which I could never get explained. The hero, as in other cases, rubs in the smoking stream upon his face and every other part, with the greatest eagerness. This done, the deputy lights his pipe, and having taken two or three whiffs, gives it to whomever he pleases in the circle; who having taken the same solace gives it to another; and thus it goes round till only ashes remain, which the deputy shakes upon the hero, who rubs them into the fat on his body with an eager motion, as if he would not lose one particle of it. The circle then rises, he does so too, and every one congratulates him on the high honour he has received, and thanks him for the service he has done his country. The hero now considers himself as raised to the highest summit of human glory, and by the bladder of the beast he has killed, which he wears fastened to his hair, and the majestic part he ever after assumes, demands the homage and respect which *Hottentot* custom assigns to his high dignity, and which all his countrymen constantly pay him.

The death of no wild beast gives such joy to a kraal, as that of a tyger. The *Hottentots* are infinitely fond of the flesh, which, indeed, I found to be most delicious food, and much superior to the finest veal.

I now come to the last ceremonies that have a reference to a private person; those that attend and succeed his departure out of life.

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A *Hottentot* man, woman or child, being in the agony of death, the friends and relations assemble and set up a terrible howling: but the breath is no sooner out of the body, than they join in so dreadful a chorus of screaming, howling, yelling, roaring, and clapping of hands, that it is impossible for an *European* to stay in the kraal with safety to his brains. The corpse is instantly wrapt up neck and heels together, much in the posture of a child in the womb, in the krosse of the deceased, so close that not the least part of it is to be seen. The grave is almost always either a cleft in a rock, or a hole made by a wild beast; for the *Hottentots* never dig one when either of these is to be found at a convenient distance. About six hours after the death, the burial is performed. When the corpse is ready to be brought out, all the men and women of the kraal, but such as are employed about the corpse, assemble before the door of the hut, and squatting in two circles, the men in one, and the women in another, they clap their hands crying in doleful accents, *bo, bo, bo*, or father, father, father. The covering being removed, the corpse is brought out from the back part of the hut; for it must not be taken out at the door. The bearers are named by the captain of the kraal, or by the relations of the deceased, and carry the body in their arms. When it is brought out, the circles before the door rise and follow it to the grave, the men and women in separate bodies, all the way wringing their hands; howling out *bo, bo, bo*, and putting themselves in such ridiculous postures,

postures, that it is difficult for an *European* to be present and forbear laughing. Having put the corpse into the hole, they fill it up with the mould of ant-hills, that it may be the sooner consumed, and cram stones and pieces of wood into the grave to prevent its being devoured by wild beasts. This being done, they return to the kraal, squat again in two circles before the door, and for about an hour longer continue their lamentations, till the word being given for silence, two old men, the friends or relations of the deceased, enter into each circle, and sparingly dispense their streams upon each person, so that all may have some: all the company receive their water with eagerness and veneration. This being done, each steps into the hut, and taking up a handful of ashes from the hearth, comes out by the passage made for the corpse, and strews the ashes by little and little upon the whole company. This, say they, is done to humble their pride; to banish all notions of distinction; and to shew them, that old and young, rich and poor, the weak and the strong, the beautiful and the ugly, will all be alike, and reduced to dust and ashes. If the deceased left any cattle, the heir now kills a sheep, and some of his nearest relations, if they are able, do the same, for the entertainment of the kraal. The caul of the sheep killed by the heir is well powdered with buchu, and put about his neck, and he is obliged to wear it till it rots off. The other relations wear likewise about their necks the cauls of the sheep they kill on this occasion. These cauls are
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the mourning the rich *Hottentots* put on for the dead. But if their relations are so poor, that they cannot afford to kill any cattle for the entertainment of the kraal, they shave their heads in narrow stripes, alternately leaving a stripe of hair, and another shaved.

But they have a most horrid custom with regard to those of both sexes who are grown superannuated. So long as an old man or woman is able to fetch in a stick a day, or can perform any office of kindness, care is taken to render their lives as easy as possible: but when they can be of no manner of service, they are by the consent of the kraal placed in a solitary hut at a considerable distance, with a small stock of provisions within their reach, where they are left without any one to assist them, to die of hunger, or to be devoured by the wild beasts. Cruel as this custom is, they consider it as an act of mercy; and are filled with amazement at hearing the *Europeans* speak of it with horror.

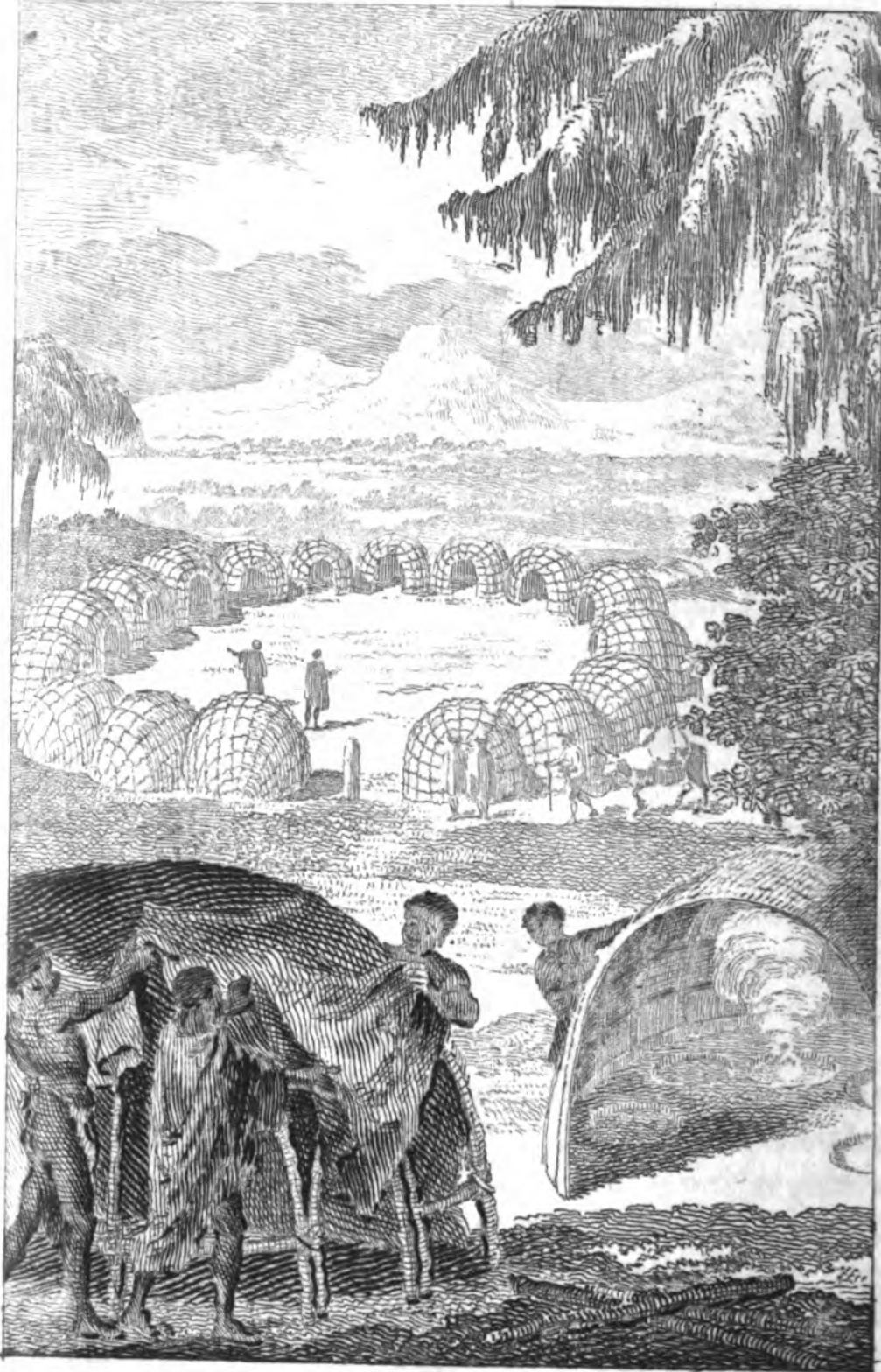
Besides these they have some ceremonies of a general concern; as upon the overthrow of an enemy; on a considerable slaughter being made of the wild beasts that devour their cattle; on the removal of a kraal, when the pasture about it becomes too barren for the support of their cattle; when an inhabitant dies in it, whether a violent or natural death; or to propitiate the Deity when a disease is got among their sheep.

When they design a public entertainment they erect in the centre of the kraal a sort of booth

booth or arbour, sufficient to entertain commodiously all the men, and made of new materials, alluding to their design of beginning on such occasions to lead a new life. On the morning of the day appointed for the solemnity, the women and children of the kraal go into the valleys to gather the most beautiful and odoriferous herbs, flowers, and boughs of trees, and with these they adorn the booth. The men then kill the fattest bullock, part of which is roasted, and the other boiled. The men eat it in the booth, and the women are obliged to be satisfied with the broth. They then go to smoking and dancing; while a band of music composed of a kind of flutes formed of reeds, and a sort of drum, strikes up between whiles. Some sing, others crack jokes, and mirth triumphs in storms of laughter: but though they are immoderately fond of strong liquors, yet little or none of any sort is seen in these solemnities, which commonly continue the remainder of the day, and the greatest part of the night.

When they resolve to remove a kraal, on account of the barrenness of the pasture, they kill a fat sheep: part they roast, and part they boil, sending to the women the usual regale of broth. The feast is conducted with a great deal of mirth and good humour; and is considered as a thank-offering for the bounties of nature enjoyed in that place. When they have done, they demolish their cots, pack up their furniture, and remove at once, the men in one body, the women and children in another, to
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The Kraals of the Hottentots.

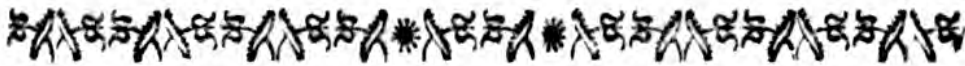
the place marked out for a new settlement; where being arrived, in about two hours time they erect the kraal, and dispose of their furniture. A sheep is then killed by the women, and dressed as before; but they now send their husbands the broth, and eat the flesh themselves. Having anointed their krosses with the fat, they powder their hair with buchu, and go to the several diversions among themselves, which they continue the rest of the day, and till pretty far in the night. The sheep is here considered as a sacrifice, and the unctions and powderings are religious formalities, for the prosperity of the kraal, and the continuance of plenty in that neighbourhood.

It may here be proper to describe the manner of building their huts, and disposing of their kraals. The huts are all oval, about fourteen feet the longest way, formed of sticks; one end of which is fixed in the ground, and the other bent over the top so as to make an arch: but they are rarely so high as for a man to stand upright within them. The arches being fixed by tying bent sticks with a kind of rope made of rushes, the whole is covered with mats, which are made so fast to each other and the sticks, as not to be removed by the wind or rain. Those of the wealthy *Hottentots* have also a covering of skins: they have no other opening but at the entrance, which is also arched, and only about three feet high; on the top of which is fixed a skin to be taken up and let down, in order to keep out the wind; and this is the
only

only passage for the smoke. Their furniture consists of earthen pots for dressing their victuals, and several other vessels for holding water, milk, and butter. Their fire-place is a hole made in the middle of the hut, and their bed a skin spread in a hole sunk a little below the surface of the ground. A kraal consists of 20 or more of these huts, placed near each other in a circle, leaving an area in the middle; each kraal containing from one to three or four hundred souls. The huts of the wealthy are often hung with beautiful skins, and a variety of trinkets: but though all the *Hottentot* huts are narrow, dark, and filthy, harmony reigns continually in almost every one of them; that heavenly charm, so rarely to be found in the palaces of *Europe*. When a difference happens between a man and his wife, it is soon accommodated. All their neighbours instantly interpose, and the quarrel is speedily made up. The *Hottentots* run to the suppression of strife, when it has seized a family, as we do to put out a fire that has seized a house, and allow themselves no rest till every matter of dispute is adjusted.

The last public ceremony we shall here mention is propitiatory offerings for a disease among their sheep, which last for three days, on each of which the old men assemble by themselves, and feast on fat sheep; while the young men at a distance eat the entrails, and the women and children sup the broth prepared from the part that is boiled. The feast being over, they spend the remainder of each day in singing and dancing. If upon these offerings, which they consider

consider as acts of atonement for their offences against *Gounja*, the distemper ceases, they grow wild with joy, and there is no end of their feasts and rejoicings. They imagine that *Gounja* is delighted with their offerings, and the thoughts of having pleased him transports them out of themselves, and furnishes such scenes of extasy and mirth, as are perhaps nowhere else to be met with.



C H A P. V.

Of the Hottentot Management with respect to their Cattle. Their Dexterity at several Arts. Their offensive Weapons, and the Skill with which they use them, particularly in the Chace. The Manner in which they intrap Elephants, &c. Their Skill in Swimming and Fishing.

THE cattle of a kraal run all together, and the meanest inhabitant who has but a single sheep has the privilege of turning it into the flock, where as much care is taken of it, as of the sheep of the richest and most powerful of the kraal. They have no particular herdsmen or shepherds, for driving their cattle to the pasture, and guarding them from wild beasts. This office they take upon them by turns, three or four of them together; the women milking the cows morning and evening. Between five and six in the evening, they generally drive them home. In the area of the

kraal they lodge the calves and all the small cattle, and on the outside range their great cattle, tying two and two together by the feet. These are in the night guarded by the dogs, of which every hut has one or two:

The *Hottentots* have what they call *Backe-leyers*, or fighting oxen, which they use in their wars, as some nations do elephants: these gore, kick, and trample the enemy to death with incredible fury. Each army has a drove of them, which they take an opportunity to turn upon their foe. The courage of these creatures is amazing, and the discipline upon which they are formed does not a little honour to the *Hottentot* genius and dexterity. They are also of great use to them in the government of their herds at pasture, for upon a signal given they will fetch in stragglers. Every kraal has at least half a dozen of these oxen, and when one of them dies, or grows so old as to be unfit for service, the most stately young ox is chosen out of the herd, and taught to succeed him. The *Backeleyers* know every inhabitant of the kraal; but if a stranger, especially an *European*, approaches the herd, without having with him a *Hottentot* of the kraal to which they belong, they make at him full gallop; and if he is not within hearing of any of the *Hottentots* who keep the herds, if there is not a tree which he can immediately climb, or if he has not a light pair of heels, or a piece of fire-arms, he is certainly demolished. But they no sooner hear the whistling of the keepers thro' their fingers, or the report of a pistol, than they return to the herds. The

The *Hottentots* have likewise great numbers of oxen for carriage, whom they break with such art that they render them as obedient to their drivers, as a taught dog in *Europe* is to the commands of his master. When the *Hottentots* remove their kraals, they convey the materials of their huts, with their furniture, on the backs of these oxen.

The *Hottentots* are very expert at several arts; they will with great dexterity cut out the hides of a beast in straps of several yards in length; they make mats and ropes of great strength of flags and bulrushes, and form earthen pots of the mould of ant-hills, in which the bruised ant-eggs form a surprising cement. They fashion the pot on a smooth flat stone, by hand, as a pastry-cook does a pye, in the form of a *Roman* urn; they let it dry in the sun, and then burn it in a hole made in the earth, by making a quick fire over it. These pots are as black as jet, and of a surprising firmness. They point their weapons with iron, which they even draw from the ore: for this purpose, they make a hole in a raised piece of ground, and about a foot and a half on the descent make another of less extent, to receive the melted iron, which is to run into it by a channel made from one hole to the other. They then kindle a fire in the upper hole, and when the earth about it is thoroughly heated, put in the iron stones, and make a large fire over them, which they supply with fuel, till the iron runs into the receiver. When the iron is cold they take it out, heat it in other fires, and with

no other implements but stones, beat it out, and shape it into weapons, after which they grind and polish it so nicely upon a flat stone, as to render it a valuable piece of work, both for use and beauty. This ingenuity is not inconsistent with their habitual laziness; for a poor *Hottentot* having made a set of arms for his own use, and another for sale to a rich one, by which he has got two or three heads of cattle, can hardly ever be induced to set his hand to the same labour a third time.

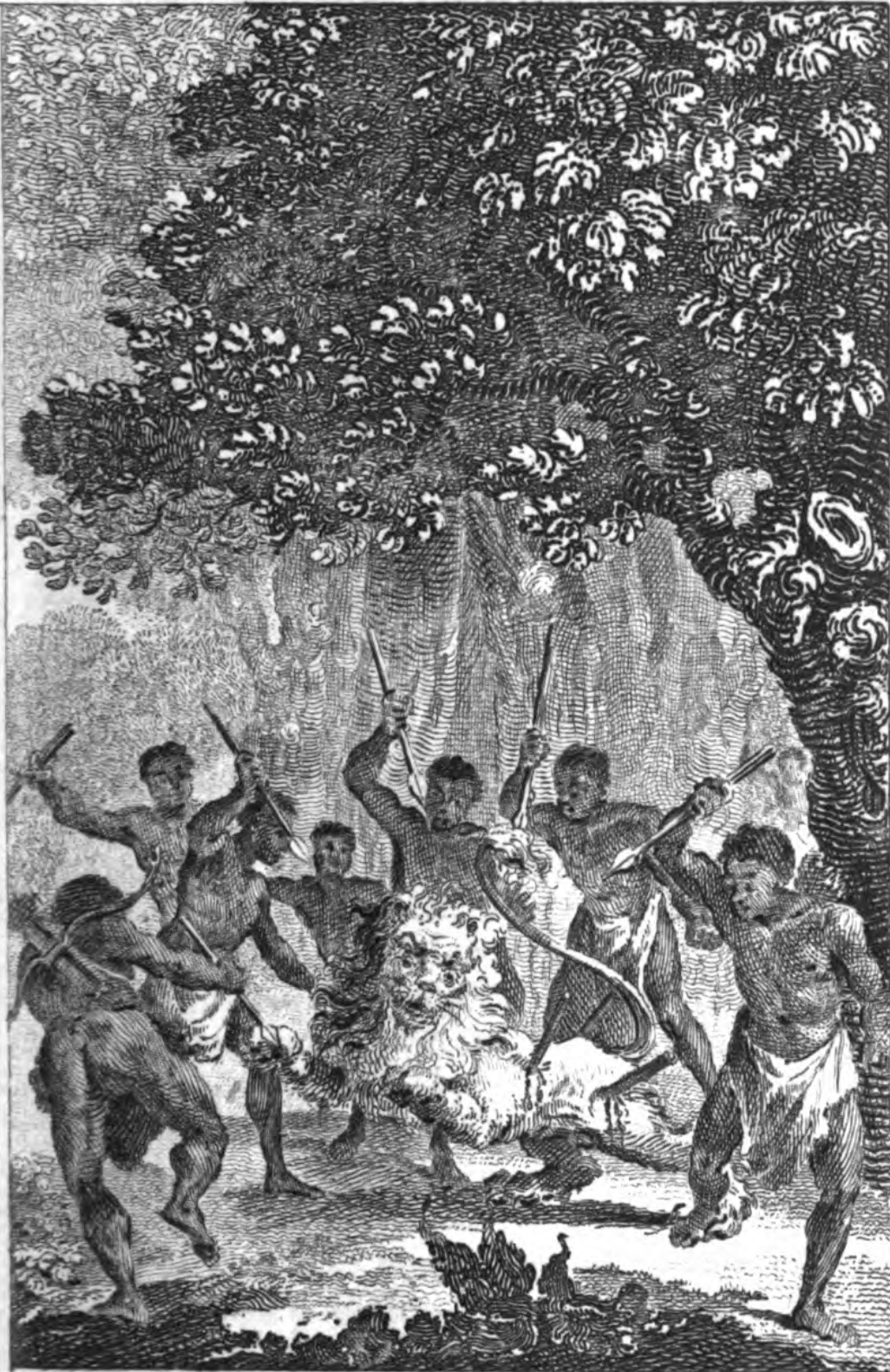
The dexterity of the *Hottentots* in discharging an arrow, and throwing what they call the *hassagaye* and *rackum-stick*, is very astonishing. A *Hottentot* arrow consists of a small tapering stick or cane of about a foot and a half in length, pointed with a small thin piece of iron bearded, and joined to the stick or cane by a barrel. Their bows are made of olive or iron wood, and the strings of the sinews or guts of beasts, fastened to a strong wooden or iron hook at each end of the bow. The quiver is a long narrow bag, made of the skin of an ox, elk, or elephant, and slung over the shoulder by a strap fastened to it; but to the upper end of the quiver is fixed a hook, on which the bow is hung, when they go to war, or to the chase. The *hassagaye* is a kind of a half pike; the shaft is a taper stick of the length and thickness of a rake handle, armed at the thickest end with a little thin iron plate, tapering to a point, and very sharp on the edges. The *rackum-stick* is a kind of dart, little more than a foot long, made of hard wood. In the use
of

of these weapons, the *Hottentots* shew such quickness of eye, and sureness of hand, as I believe no people upon earth have besides themselves. If a *Hottentot* sees a hare, deer, or wild goat within 30 or 40 yards of him, away flies the rackum-stick, and down falls the animal, generally pierced through the body. They are not less expert in the use of the bow and arrow, for if there be no wind, they will hit a mark no bigger than a silver penny, at a considerable distance. They are equally expert in throwing the hassagaye, and flinging a stone. In all these cases they stand not, as the *Europeans*, like statues, to take their aim, but while they gather it, which they are not long in doing, they skip from side to side, and brandish and whirl the weapon about in such a manner, that you would take the whole for idle flourish; but on a sudden away it flies to the mark. Their dexterity on these occasions is quite incredible, and can hardly be conceived.

When all the men of a kraal are out upon a chace, and discover a wild beast of any considerable size, they endeavour to surround him, which they generally do very soon, tho' the beast, of whatever kind, betakes himself to his heels. If they thus encompass an elephant, or a rhinoceros, they attack him with hassagayes, the hardness and thickness of his hide fortifying him against a shower of arrows. If they do not lay him dead upon the spot, and he is able to return the attack upon the *Hottentots*, they form as large a ring as they can make, so as to reach

reach him with their hassagayes. The creature being wounded, runs with great noise and fury at the persons who threw the weapons. Then others attack him in the rear. He turns about to attack the last assailants, and is again attacked in the rear. Again he turns about, and is again attacked. The hassagayes multiply upon his body. He roars, tears up the ground, and has sometimes as it were a forest of hassagayes upon his back before he falls.

When a lion, tyger, or leopard is thus encompassed, they attack him both with hassagayes and arrows. With flaming eyes and the wildest rage he flies upon those who discharged them. He is nimble, they are nimbler, and avoid him with astonishing dexterity till they are relieved by others. He leaps towards one so quick, and, as you would think, with so sure a paw, that you shudder for the fellow, expecting to see him in an instant torn to pieces; but the man in danger leaps away in the twinkling of an eye, and the beast spends all his rage upon the ground. He turns and leaps towards another, and another, and another; but still in vain: they avoid him with the quickness of thought, and still he fights only with the air. All this time the arrows and hassagayes are showering upon him in the rear. He grows mad with pain, and running and leaping from one party of his enemies to another, and tumbling from time to time to break the arrows and hassagayes that are fastened in him, he foams, yells, and roars in the most terrible manner. Nothing in the world
can



*The Hottentot's manner of attacking
Wild Beasts.*



can be more admirable than the activity and address with which the *Hottentots* escape the paws of the beast, and the incredible speed and resolution with which they relieve each other. If the beast is not quickly slain, he is soon convinced that there is no dealing with so nimble an enemy; and then he makes off with his utmost speed; but having by this time a multitude of arrows and hassagayes on his back, some of which are commonly poisoned, he soon falls.

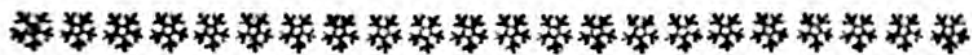
But the *Hottentots* do not often engage an elephant, a rhinoceros, or an elk after this manner: the elephants going always to water in troops in a line, make a path from their haunts to the water side. In this path the *Hottentots*, without spade or pick-ax, for they have no such tools, make a hole from six to eight foot deep, in the middle of which they fix a strong stake tapering up to a point almost to the top of the hole. When this is done they cover the hole with small boughs, leaves, mould, and grass, so that no man living would suspect the trap. The elephants keeping pretty close to the track, one or other of them is sure to fall in with his fore feet, when his neck or breast being pierced by the stake on which his whole body rests, the more he struggles, the farther it penetrates. The rest of the elephants immediately make off as fast as possible. Mean while the *Hottentots* seeing the elephant thus caught, issue out of their covert, get upon the neck of the beast, and either break his skull with heavy stones, or cut his large veins with their knives. The
carcase

carcase is then cut in pieces and carried to the kraal, where all the inhabitants feast upon it very jovially. The rhinoceros and the elk are also frequently taken in the same manner.

The *Hottentots* are likewise very dexterous swimmers: this they perform in a different manner from other nations; they beat the water with their feet, and raising themselves erect, paddle along with their necks and arms above the surface. Thus they cross deep rivers, and proceed with great swiftness in the sea, dancing forward without the least apprehension of danger, in the manner which the *European* swimmers call treading the water, rising and falling with the waves like so many corks. They are also extremely expert at fishing.

I have already observed, that the wealth of the *Hottentots* consists in their cattle, and it is never to be seen in any other kind, unless it be in elephants teeth, of which they get a great number, though they bring but few to the *Cape*. The *Dutch* imagine they dispose of the best part of them to the inhabitants of *Terra du Natal*, or to the *Portuguese* at *Mosambique*. They have no such thing as money among them; for their traffic with one another, as well as with strangers, is always in the way of barter. A few of them now and then get the eggs of ostriches, and the skins of wild beasts, which they dispose of to the *Europeans*, in exchange for wine, brandy, tobacco, pipes, coral, beads, small looking-glasses, knives, iron, small bits of polished brass or copper, ear-rings, &c. Generally speaking, they part with the cattle,
both

both to the *Europeans* and to one another, at so cheap a rate as is almost incredible. I never offered a pound of tobacco to a *Hottentot* for an ox, half a pound for a large sheep, and a quarter of a pound for a fat lamb, but the offer was accepted; tho' I had the bargain the sooner, if I offered to crown it with the present of a dram. Many a time have I bought great and small cattle of them at these rates, which I solemnly assure the reader is strictly true.



C H A P. VI.

Of the most remarkable Animals found at the Cape.

IT has been already observed, that the grass about the *Cape* is intermixed with the most beautiful flowers; and, besides the many rich fruits natural to the climate, the *Dutch* have planted in their gardens most of those of every other part of the world, which flourish here in great perfection.

On the other hand, the wild beasts of the country are extremely fierce and savage. The Lions here are remarkable for their strength. When they come upon their prey they knock it down, and never bite till they have given it the mortal blow, which is generally accompanied with a dreadful roar. When the lion is pinched with hunger he shakes his mane, and lashes his sides with his tail. When he is thus agitated

agitated 'tis almost certain death to come in his way; and as he generally lurks for his prey behind the bushes, travellers sometimes do not discover the motion of his tail till it is too late: but if the lion shakes not his mane, nor lashes himself with his tail, a traveller may pass safely by him. The flesh of a lion eats something like venison.

The Leopard and Tyger, which nearly resemble each other, are next in fierceness to the lion. The tyger is much larger than the leopard, and is distinguished by rings of black hair inclosing spots of yellow; but the black streaks of the leopard are not round, but formed with an opening in the manner of an horse-shoe. They will neither of them eat the flesh of any beast they have not killed themselves. One *Bowman*, a burgher at the *Cape*, walking by himself in the fields, was surprised by a tyger, which leaped at his throat; but though terribly frightened he had the presence of mind to seize him by the head, and struggling with him, threw him to the ground, and fell upon him, when holding him down with one hand, and the weight of his body, he with the other drew a knife out of his pocket, and cut the tyger's throat. The beast immediately expired; but Mr. *Bowman* received so many wounds, and lost so much blood, in this brave conflict, that it was long before he recovered.

The *Cape* Elephants are much larger than those of any other country, and their teeth are from 60 to 120 pounds weight. The female is much less than the male, and her dugs fall
from

from her breast between her forelegs. I am certain those authors are mistaken who say that they sleep standing; for I have many a time seen very perfect impressions of their bodies on the ground where they have slept. Their ordinary food is grass, heath, roots, and the tender branches of shrubs. They have no hair, and their skins have a multitude of scars and scratches, which they receive by pressing through thorns and bushes.

The *Cape* Rhinoceros is of a dark ash-colour approaching to a black. His skin is also without hair; but is so hard that it is difficult to pierce it with a sharp knife. He is represented as armed all over with scales; but those at the *Cape* have really none, though the numberless scars and scratches on his hide make him look at a distance as if fenced with scales. His mouth resembles that of a hog, and upon his snout grows a solid dark grey horn near two feet long, somewhat bent, with which, when he is angry, he will tear up the ground, and throw stones a great way over his head; and on his forehead is another horn, about six inches in length, hollow, and in the form of a half bowl inverted. His ears are small, and his legs shorter than those of the elephant. With that animal he is at perpetual enmity, and wherever he surprises him he rips open his belly with the horn on his snout. He catches the scent of any creature that is to the windward of him, and marches towards it on a right line, grunting and tearing his way thro' all opposition of trees and bushes. He never attacks

tacks a man unprovoked, unless he wears a red coat, in which case he rends and destroys every thing that stands between him and the object of his rage; if he seizes him he throws him over his head with great violence, and then feeds upon him by licking the flesh off the bones with his rough and prickly tongue. His eyes are very small, and he only sees strait forward: though he is pretty swift of foot, he is very slow and aukward in turning. The way therefore to avoid him is to suffer him to come within eight or ten paces of you, and then to slip a few paces aside, by which means he loses sight of you, and it costs him a great deal of aukward trouble to get you again in his view. This I have more than once experienced. He feeds chiefly on shrubs, broom, and thistles.

The Buffaloes of the *Cape* are larger than those of *Europe*, and of a brown red. Their horns are short, and their skin so hard and tough, that it is difficult to kill them without very good fire-arms. They are also intraged at the sight of any thing red, and at the discharge of a gun near them: on these occasions they roar, stamp, tear up the ground, and run with fury at the offending party.

The Elks of the *Cape* are generally five feet high. Their heads resemble that of the hart, and are very small. The horns are about a foot long and twisted; but the ends are strait, smooth, and pointed. The neck is slender and beautiful, and the hair on the body smooth, soft, and of an ash-colour. The legs are long
and

and slender, and the tail about a foot in length. The flesh tastes like good beef. They climb the highest roughest rocks with surprising dispatch and security.

The wild Asses of the *Cape* are very beautiful creatures. They are of the size of an ordinary saddle horse, and resemble an ass in nothing but the length of their ears. The legs of this animal are slender and well proportioned, and the hair on his body is soft and sleek. On the ridge of his back a black streak extends from his mane to his tail, and on each side are a great many streaks of various colours, that meet under his belly in so many circles: some are white, some yellow, and some of a chestnut-colour; and these colours lose themselves in one another, in a very beautiful manner. His head, ears, mane, and tail, are also streaked with the same variety. He is so swift that, I am apt to believe, there is not an horse in the world that can keep up with him.

The Roe-bucks in the *Cape* countries are like those of *Europe*.

The Goats are of several species. Besides those which resemble the *European*, they have some of a fine blue, with long beards of the same colour. They are all of the size of an *European* hart. Their horns run curiously up in rings, till within a little of the point, and their legs are long. Their flesh is well-tasted, but seldom fat.

The spotted Goats are very numerous, there being sometimes above a thousand in a herd. They are covered with red, white, and brown

spots, and are of the same size as the blue goats. Their horns, which are about a foot long, incline backwards, and run up twisting to the middle, and from thence to the end are strait and smooth. Their beards are of a brown red, and very long; and their legs are well proportioned. Their flesh has the taste of venison.

There is another kind of Goat, which has a very beautiful head, adorned with a couple of smooth, bending, pointed horns, three feet long, extending towards the back. From his forehead to his tail runs a white streak, which is crossed at the shoulders by another; likewise another white streak crosses the middle of the back, and extends on both sides to the belly; and a third crosses it above the buttocks, and runs down them. The hair on all the other parts of his body is greyish with little touches of red, only that of the belly approaches to a white. His beard is grey, and his legs long.

The Earth Hogs in the *Hottentot* countries are not unlike the hogs in *Europe*, only they are somewhat red; their heads are longer, their snouts more pointed, and they are quite toothless. The tongue of this animal is very long and sharp. When he is hungry he looks out for an ant-hill, and placing himself near it, he stretches out his tongue to a great length, when the ants mount upon it in vast numbers, where they are held by a glutinous matter; and when it is well covered, he draws it in, swallows them, and then lays out his tongue
for

for more. His legs are long and strong. He scratches holes in the ground, in which he hides himself, and is very expeditious at this work. If he gets but his head and fore-legs into the earth, he holds so fast, that the strongest man cannot pull him out. His flesh tastes much like that of a wild Hog.

The Porcupines of the *Cape* are about two feet high, and three long. The body of this animal is armed with a sort of black and white quills very sharp at the out points, and not unlike goose quills stripped of the feathers. Those on his back are about six inches long; but the longest are on his hind-parts; and these he darts at his pursuer, whether man or beast; but never does it till they are pretty near him, and sometimes does it so effectually that they stick in the flesh, and cause a violent pain and inflammation. His head and feet are like those of a hare, and his ears resemble those of a man. His flesh is wholesome and well tasted. This animal does great mischief in the gardens; and therefore, when the breach is discovered by which he enters them, a musket is planted against it, charged and cocked: to the trigger is tied a string, which runs close along by the barrel to the muzzle, where a carrot or turnip is fastened. The Porcupine on seizing this bait, pulls the trigger, and is shot.

The Baboons at the *Cape* are very numerous, and frequently enter the gardens and orchards, they being great lovers of fruit. On their entering them, they set a party to watch upon the fences, and a number of them begin to

strip the trees, while the rest stand at a distance from each other, in a line from the orchard or garden, to the place of rendezvous on the mountains. The fruit as it is gathered is tossed to the baboon at the head of the line, and it immediately passes from hand to hand, up to the mountains; they being so very nimble and quick sighted, as hardly ever to fail catching in their paws the fruit that is thrown to them. All this is done with great silence and dispatch. When the baboons upon the watch discover any body approaching, they give a loud cry, and the whole troop scowrs away, as if destruction was at their heels, the young ones jumping up on the backs of their mothers. It is supposed they punish neglect in the sentinels with death, for when any are taken or shot before the alarm is given, a quarrelling noise is heard among them on their getting back to the mountains, and it is not uncommon to find the bodies of some of them torn to pieces in the way.

One of the most extraordinary animals at the *Cape* is called by the *Dutch* Stinkbingssem, or Stinkbox; stinking being the grand defence nature has given this creature against all its enemies. It is shaped like a ferret, and is of the size of a middling dog. When its pursuer, whether man or beast, is come pretty near, it pours from its tail so horrid a stench, that it is impossible to endure it. A man is almost knocked down by it, before he can get away; and a dog, or other animal, is so strangely confounded by it, that he is obliged every

every minute to stop, to rub his nose in the grass, or against a tree. The Stinkbingssem having thus stopped his pursuer, gets a great way a-head of him before the chace can be renewed; and if he comes up with him a second time, he gives him another dose, and by that means escapes again. Thus he proceeds till his pursuer is stunk out of the field. This animal is sometimes shot by the *Europeans*, but they are obliged to suffer it to lie till it rots; for it is no sooner dead, than its body contracts all over so nauseous a smell, that if you do but touch it with your fingers, they retain a stench that you can neither endure, nor easily get off by any kind of washing.

Besides these there are many other quadrupeds at the *Cape*, some of which are well known in *Europe*; and the rest, which are common to other hot countries, have frequently been described by travellers.

There are in this country many of the birds common in *Europe*, as eagles, hawks, geese, pigeons, sparrows, swallows, black-birds, owls, pheasants, snipes, and a multitude of others. The Flamingos of the *Cape* are larger than swans, and their necks much longer. The bill is crooked, furnished with short sharp teeth, and is of a dark blue. The head and neck are white; but the lower parts of the wing feathers are black, and the upper parts of a flame colour. The legs, which are as long again as those of a stork, are of an orange colour, and the feet resemble those of a goose.

The flesh is well tasted, and the tongue, which is large and fat, eats like marrow.

Ostriches are so numerous, that a man can hardly walk a quarter of an hour in the country without seeing one or more of them. The feathers of some are black, and of others white. The head is very small in proportion to the body, which is the largest in the feathered world. The neck is long, the legs thick and of great strength; and the feet, which are cloven, resemble those of a goat. The weight of the ostrich's body prevents her being able to fly; but when she sees herself in danger she runs, and promotes her speed by clapping her wings, proceeding with such swiftness that a man must be well mounted to overtake her. If she finds she cannot escape her pursuer, she hides her head, and stands stock still, till she is shot or seized. Ostriches will swallow pebbles, or pieces of iron; but void them whole, without any remarkable change. They are early tamed, and their eggs are so large that one of them will give a pretty good meal to three or four persons. The ostriches at the *Cape* do not leave their eggs to be hatched in the sun; for the male and female sit upon them by turns. They lay them in the sand; but if any one touches them, even without doing them the least hurt, the ostrich will forsake them. The young ones are not able to walk till some time after they are out of the shell, and are therefore attended by the old one till they are in a condition to take care of themselves.

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The Edolio perfectly agrees with the *European* cuckoo, and is mostly seen in high trees and thickets. In fine weather it distinctly repeats, in a low melancholy tone, *Edolio, Edolio*; and this is all its song.

Among the Reptiles at the *Cape* there are several sorts of serpents, of which the Tree-Serpent seems one of the most singular. It is about two yards long, and three quarters of an inch thick. This serpent winds itself about the branches of trees in such a manner, as to be hardly distinguished from them. All the difference in point of colour is its being a little speckled. While persons are gazing at the tree, it darts its head in their faces, and sometimes wounds them. It immediately draws its head in again, and always endeavours to abandon the tree; but it descends so slowly, that it is easily killed before it comes to the ground.

The *Dipfas* or Thirst-Serpent is so called from its bite's causing a burning thirst. It is frequently to be met with in the *Cape* countries, and is about three quarters of a yard long.

The *Asp* is of an ash colour, speckled with red and yellow. The head and neck are very broad; the eyes are flat, and sunk in the head; and near each of them grows a fleshy protuberance. They are of various lengths, and some of them several yards long.

The *Cape* Hair-Serpent is about a yard long, and three quarters of an inch thick. It is more dangerous than any of the other serpents, its bite

bite causing immediate death, unless there be a remedy at hand.

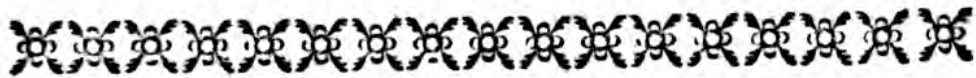
Scorpions are very numerous at the *Cape*, and harbour mostly among the stones; on which account the *Europeans* are very cautious of removing the stones with their hands, for fear of being stung. Their sting causes intolerable pain, and frequently endangers life. A *Cape* scorpion is from two and a half to three inches long, of a dark green speckled with black. It resembles a cray-fish, only its tail is longer and narrower.

Among the amphibious animals are the Sea-Cow and Turtle, which are esteemed great dainties.

They have Fish at the *Cape* in great plenty; whales, porpoises, pilot-fish, sharks, flying fish, pike, barbels, carp, eels, lobsters, crabs, oysters, and many other kinds.

There are several sorts of Sea Snails, among which the Pearl Snails are most worthy of notice. It is no small pleasure to observe them on the surface of the water in calm weather, when their shells serve them as boats. They erect their heads considerably above these natural vessels, and, spreading out a kind of sail with which nature has furnished them, move along in a manner very diverting to the spectator. If when they sail they find they are in danger, they draw themselves close into their shells, and sink out of sight. Many of these shells will hold near a quart, and are used at the *Cape* as drinking cups. The *Cape Europeans* put to them a foot of silver, ivory, or wood,

to the CAPE of GOOD HOPE. 117
wood, and some are curiously embellished with
ornaments engraved on the outside.



C H A P. VII.

*The Cape Town described. An Account of the
Dutch Government there, and of the Author's
Voyage to Europe.*

HAVING dispatched the history of the
Hottentots, I shall give an account of the
Cape Town, which extends from the sea-shore
to the valley, and is large and regularly built,
containing several spacious streets with hand-
some houses, which have large courts in the
front, and beautiful gardens behind them.
The streets, the court-yards, the houses, and
every thing in them, are extremely neat and
clean. The houses are of stone; but most of
them are only one story high, and none more
than two, on account of the violence of the
easterly wind; and for the same reason most of
them are only thatched.

Building at the *Cape* is very much encour-
aged by the *Dutch East-India* company: for if
any man has a mind to build a house, whether
contiguous to the town or in the country, he
has ground allotted him *gratis*, extensive enough
for a court-yard, out-houses, garden, &c.

The Castle is a very strong and stately edi-
fice, of a large extent, provided with all man-
ner of accommodations for the garrison, which
consists

consists of about 200 soldiers. It covers the harbour, and is an excellent fortrefs. The superior officers of the company have here very spacious and beautiful lodgings; and within it are the company's store-houses, which are large, handsome, and commodious.

The Church is a plain neat edifice, built of stone; but both the body and steeple are thatched. There is an Hospital in the town for the sick, situated near the company's garden, and large enough to accommodate several hundred patients. This is of excellent use, as scarcely any ship ever arrives at the *Cape*, either from *Europe* or the *Indies*, without having a considerable number of sick on board: and the vessel is no sooner at anchor than the diseased are conveyed to the hospital, where they are decently lodged, and supplied with vegetables, fresh provisions, and medicines. Those who are able to walk about have the liberty of the company's garden, from which the hospital is furnished with roots and herbs. This garden is perhaps the most extraordinary in the world, it containing all the rich fruits, the beautiful flowers, and most of the valuable plants that are produced in *Asia*, *Africa*, and *America*. There are many large and fine gardens about the town belonging to the inhabitants, which, as well as that of the company, are kept in excellent order. The millions of flowers in the *Cape* gardens replenish the air with the most delicious perfumes.

There is in the town a large building called the Lodge, for the use of the company's slaves,
who

who are mostly brought from *Madagascar*. It is divided into two wards, one for the lodging of each sex, and provided with convenient store-rooms, with a large room in which the slaves receive and eat their allowance, and a strong prison wherein the drunken and disobedient are confined and punished. It has decent apartments for the officers set over the slaves, and a school for the Negro children.

The company has also a very handsome range of stables, capable of containing several hundred horses; and a great number of fine *Persian* horses are kept there, for the service of the company and the use of the Governor, who has a master of the horse, an under master, a saddler, coachmen, and grooms. The Governor's body coachman is esteemed a considerable person.

The Government is conducted by the eight following Councils. First, the Grand Council of Policy, which consists of the Governor, who is President, and eight others, who are generally the next principal officers in the company's service. This Council has the care of trade and navigation, and corresponds not only with the Court of Directors in *Holland*, but with the *Dutch* Government at *Batavia* and *Ceylon*; and they have the management of every thing that relates to the safety and interest of the settlement.

The next is the College of Justice, which generally consists of the same members that compose the Grand Council. This Court hears and determines in all civil and criminal cases

of

of moment, that happen among the *Europeans* at the *Cape*. But if an *European* who is not in the company's service is either plaintiff or defendant, the three regent Burgomasters, who are magistrates annually chosen out of such as are not in the company's service, assist at the trial, to see that there is no partial judgment given on the side of the company's servant. Appeals lie from the decrees of this Court to the Supreme Court of Justice in *Batavia*, and also to the Supreme Court in *Holland*.

A third is a petty Court dependent on the last, for punishing breaches of the peace, and determining trespasses and small debts. It consists of a member of the Grand Council, three of the burghers, and four of the company's immediate servants. Copies of all the proceedings in this Court, and in the College of Justice, are, from time to time, transmitted to *Holland*.

The fourth is the Court of Marriages, which takes care that all contracts of marriage among the *Europeans* at the *Cape* are allowed by the parents or guardians of both parties, and that neither party is under any engagement or promise of marriage to another. This being proved, a warrant is granted to the pastor of the parish where the parties live, authorizing him to publish the bans of matrimony from his pulpit on the three following *Sundays*; and then, if no person appears to forbid the bans, to join the parties in marriage. This Court consists of the same members with the petty Court already mentioned.

The

The fifth is a Chamber of Orphans, which consists of the Vice-President of the Grand Council, three of the company's servants, and three burghers. Orphans of fortune cannot marry at the *Cape*, without the consent of this Chamber, till the age of twenty-five.

The sixth is the Ecclesiastical College, for the government of the Reformed Churches at the *Cape*, which are three in number, and for the proper application of the money given for the use of the poor. It consists of the three pastors, the two elders of each church, and twelve overseers of the poor, each parish having four. So careful is this Council in the application of the charitable collections, that not a beggar is to be seen in all the settlement.

In every colony at the *Cape* is a Court of Common Council, consisting of a certain number of the burghers of each. In the *Cape Town* this Council propose matters in favour of the burghers to the Grand Council, and collect the taxes. But in the colonies they hear and determine upon all debts and trespasses not exceeding an hundred and fifty florins; and also try and punish most crimes committed within their jurisdiction.

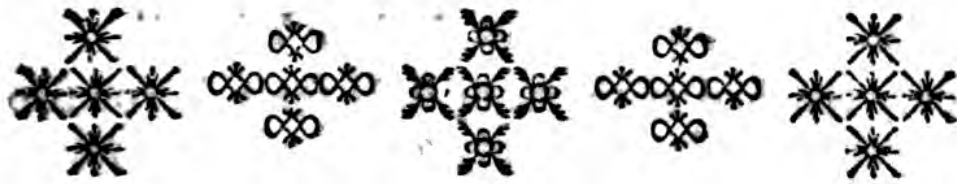
The eighth are the Boards of Militia, one for the *Cape Town*, and the other for the colonies.

I have now given an account of the most material circumstances relating to the nations of the *Hottentots*, and the *Dutch* settlement at the *Cape*; and shall therefore only add, that

122 PETER KOLBEN'S VOYAGE, &c.

on the 9th of *April*, 1730, I embarked on board the company's ship the *Stadtbouwse* for *Holland*, and after an agreeable voyage, in which nothing remarkable happened, arrived on the 22d of *May* at *Amsterdam*, from whence I had the pleasure of returning to my native country.





A
V O Y A G E
T O T H E
CAPE DE VERD Islands
B Y
Capt. GEORGE ROBERTS.



C H A P. I.

The Author sails from London to Virginia, and from thence to the Cape de Verd Islands, where he is taken by Pirates, but afterwards put on board his own Sloop without Provisions or Water. He is shipwrecked on the Island of St. John, where having remained near two Years, he builds a Vessel.

THIS voyage is inserted here purely for the sake of giving a more distinct account of the *Cape de Verd* Islands, than is to be met with in the voyages of those who have

only touched at them, or staid for a day or two to take in a fresh supply of wood and water. By giving this and the foregoing account of the *Cape of Good Hope*, we avoid numerous repetitions that would have swelled this work, and many erroneous accounts that would have rendered it inaccurate.

In the year 1721, Mr. *Roberts* agreed with several merchants of *London* to sail to *Virginia*, and there to take the command of a sloop, which he was to load with a cargo for the coast of *Guinea*; and having sold it, he was to purchase slaves, and return with them either to *Virginia* or *Barbadoes*, as he found it most for the interest of his employers; and when he had disposed of them, he was to take in a freight for *London*. He accordingly set sail, and on his arrival at *Virginia* purchased a sloop and proper cargo, with which he steered to the *Cape de Verd* Islands.

But soon this unhappy gentleman was involved in the deepest distress. Near *St. Nicholas*, one of these islands, he was taken by pirates, who had three ships. One of the commanders treated him with great civility, and extraordinary offers were made him to induce him to join them; but he resisted them with the utmost steadiness. They, however, at last consented to his going on board his own ship, when a proposal was even made to allow him some spare goods and necessaries; but refusing to drink the Pretender's health, one of the commanders, who had before opposed every favourable

favourable measure, attempted to shoot him through the head, and had afterwards the cruelty, having first insulted over him in the most inhuman manner, to put him on board his own vessel at midnight, without provisions, without water, without sails, or any hands but his two boys, one of whom was not more than eight years old. His condition was rendered still more dreadful by the want of candle, and his sloop being leaky, and having much water.

Mr. *Roberts* went on board with a mind composed and resigned. He first with great labour and fatigue, by the assistance of his biggest boy, pumped his sloop dry; and day-light no sooner appeared, than he rummaged to find if the barbarous wretches had left him any thing that might support life; but found only a few crumbs in the bread lockers, a little tobacco, ten gallons of rum, a small quantity of rice, a remnant of flour at the bottom of a cask, and about two quarts of water, which he carefully drained out of all the casks. He had also the happiness to find some old sail-cloth, with which in three days he patched up a kind of sail, during which he fed on raw flour and rice, drinking nothing but rum: but the heat of the climate, and the fatigues to which he and his boys were daily exposed, rendering other food necessary, he made cakes of dough, and his water was consumed. They now felt the extremes of parching thirst, which the rum would not assuage, and had the prospect of dying for want of water, when they were happily relieved by a shower of rain, of which they

saved about a gallon, besides what they drank while the precious drops were falling. They now made a kind of pap of flour and water, which hunger made them think a delicious food. They husbanded their provisions with the utmost care, and about a fortnight after caught a shark, on which they also fed, drying what was left in the sun.

About three weeks after their leaving the pirates, they, to their great joy, came in sight of the Island of *St. Anthony*; but having had, a day or two before, a fresh supply of water from the clouds, *Mr. Roberts* chose to steer for *St. Nicholas*, where he was known. It was late in the evening when he reached the anchoring place of that island, and almost dark before the boat could be got out; he therefore deferred landing till the next morning. But his scanty supply of water being now spent, the biggest boy earnestly pressed his master to let him scull the boat ashore and fill a cag. To this he consented, on his promising to return directly on board.

The boy was no sooner gone, than *Mr. Roberts*, overcome by his past fatigues, was taken ill, and, ordering the little boy to look out for the boat, went into his cabin, where he insensibly dropped asleep, and thus continued till midnight; when, returning on deck, he found the ship almost out of sight of the island. Astonished and afflicted at this misfortune, and finding that the vessel had made a great deal of water, he began to despair of his ever being able to make the land without the boy, or to
keep

keep the ship from sinking by labouring at the pump: her anchor too was out, and he apprehended that he should be unable to haul it up.

However, the danger of sinking being the most imminent, he applied to that, and in three or four hours sucked the pump dry. Afterwards, with much fatigue, he heaved the anchor on board. Parched with thirst, and without a drop of water, he remained for some time near the island, without being able to make it for want of hands; but at last found a sandy bay, where he cast anchor. The same evening seven Negroes came in a boat to his assistance, bringing with them 20 gallons of water; a seasonable supply, that raised his drooping spirits. These people came on board at the solicitations of the boy on shore: but Mr. Roberts could not prevail with them to stay till the next morning, before they attempted to steer the ship into the port of *Paragbesi*. They immediately weighed the anchor, and set sail; but in the night the main-sail split, which so daunted these negro sailors, who had got drunk with the rum they had found on board, that they betook themselves to their boat, and Mr. Roberts was once more left destitute in his leaky vessel, which he the next day endeavoured to steer to the land.

While he was thus employed, he, to his great surprise, heard the voices of three men in the hold, and on enquiry he found they had been left there dead drunk by their companions. One of these fellows offered to pilot the sloop either into *St. Jago's* or *St. John's*; but

but not being able to make the land so soon as they expected, they were all so discouraged, that they laid down in the hold, giving themselves up for lost, and would neither pump nor work the ship, till they heard Mr. *Roberts* instructing the boy at the helm, when they called out to know if he saw land, and being answered that he was sailing directly to *St. John's*, they came with the utmost alacrity on deck, and of their own accord pumped the vessel dry. One of them pretended to know the harbour, but when he came near the island, was utterly at a loss, and in this distress resolutely insisted on putting the sloop upon the rocks, till Mr. *Roberts* took up an old gun which had been left by the pirates, and threatened to shoot the first who attempted it; upon which the pretended pilot leaped overboard, and swam to land; and soon after Mr. *Roberts* hauled in so close to *Punto de Sal*, that they could almost leap on shore, on which he was left by the other Negroes.

It may here seem somewhat extraordinary that Mr. *Roberts* should be able to converse with the Negroes; but the wonder will cease when the reader is informed, that the language of the natives of all these islands is a dialect of that of the *Mandingo* Negroes, mixed with a corrupt *Portuguese*, of both which he had a tolerable smattering.

That night Mr. *Roberts* saw several of the natives on the top of the rocks, and the next morning three of them came down, swam to the ship, and welcomed him to their island; they

they offered to get him what he wanted, if he would go ashore with them; and on his telling them he could not swim, expressed their surprise, that a man should venture to sea without so necessary a qualification. These were soon followed by other Negroes, who brought him refreshments, and he having made a hearty meal of a pompion and boiled rice, three of them went to catch him some fish, while the others staid to work the ship dry. In short, after the dreadful fatigues he had suffered, and his being emaciated by abstinence and watching, he was kindly regaled with a dish of fish for his supper, and persuaded to take some repose, which he gladly accepted.

The next day the weather beginning to look very unpromising, Mr. *Roberts* was in some fear of being driven out to sea; and the Negroes having in vain endeavoured to fasten a rope to the rocks, they offered to swim with him and his boy to land; however, he did not chuse to leave the vessel while there was the least probability of saving her. But the following day proving very stormy, in spite of all his efforts she drove on the rocks, and beat a great hole in her bottom. The water now rising as high on the inside as without, the affrighted Negroes left him with the boy, but when the storm abated, kindly returned and swam ashore with the lad; and Mr. *Roberts* now consenting to leave the vessel, two of them took him one by each arm; bidding him not be afraid, but trust in *St. Anthony*; for they did not doubt of carrying him safe. However, when they had

had got about midway, the sea breaking over them, one of the Blacks dived down and let go his hold; but a third, who was behind, rose like a fish, and supplied his place; which the other who had forsook him seeing, he swam back to the vessel to save what he could; but he had hardly got ashore with a looking-glass and some old shoes, before the very form of the sloop was lost, her stern and part of the deck being driven away.

Thus was our Author happily delivered from the danger of a boisterous sea. Some of the natives who were on the tops of the rocks, but could not see whether he got on shore, came down to his relief; and finding him safe, swam to the wreck, and brought all the pieces of the vessel, and every thing else they could save, to the rocks, and deposited them in safety out of the reach of the sea. They made a fire to dry Mr. *Roberts's* cloaths; expressed their admiration at the wisdom of the white men, and their regard for the *English*; caught him fish, and dressed it for him. The Governor of the island sent several persons to him, with the most friendly offers of giving him all the assistance in his power. He was now supplied with milk and fruit; and the son of a person who had been formerly Governor came in the most obliging manner with several kinds of fruit, and a cake of bread made of bananas and maize. In short, every one strove who should most oblige him, without expecting or desiring any thing in return.

Mr.



*Captain Robert's deliverance from
Shipwreck.*



Mr. *Roberts's* situation was however still very uncomfortable. He had fixed himself upon a shelf of the rocks, under the covert of others which hung over his head. The rocks arose above to an amazing height, and it was not without great difficulty and danger, that the friendly natives descended these dreadful precipices to his assistance, which it was impossible for him to climb. They were forced to swim from thence not only to the fishing place, but to get fresh water, at a place where a spring ran from the rocks : they, however, spared no pains to serve him, and some of them made beds of leaves, and staid with him in the night ; while he lay upon his own bed, which they had found swimming in the sea, and had dried in the sun.

Mr. *Roberts* and the boy had been some days in this situation, when discoursing with the friendly natives, he observed a man who had light hair that was not woolly, and a very tawny complexion ; who instantly, to his great joy and surprise, spoke to him in *English*. This was a *Welchman* named *Charles Franklin*, who having been taken by some pirates, had escaped from them in the port of *Sierra Leona*, and after staying a considerable time in *Africa*, came to this island. His conversation afforded our Author the highest satisfaction ; and he had hopes of being soon delivered from his disagreeable situation among the rocks, by having the only boat in the island sent to take him round into the bay : this boat, however, not coming at the time expected, Mr. *Roberts*,

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contrary to the advice of all the Negroes, resolved to attempt to climb the rocks, and they, finding him resolute, lent him their assistance. With great difficulty he ascended half way up the first rock, when looking down his head grew dizzy, he trembled, and narrowly escaped falling at once to the bottom; but he was supported by the friendly Negroes. He then got to the first resting place, which is at least as high as *St. Paul's* cupola from the bottom. They had then a path about three feet broad, which seemed like a gallery, only wanting rails. Along that path they walked about three quarters of a mile, or more, sometimes descending, but mostly ascending; and in some places it was so narrow, that they were obliged to pass first, and to reach the end of their poles to him. At length, the ascent grew in a manner perpendicular, and two of the Negroes mounting before the rest, struck a crag of the rock, as was their custom, to try whether it would bear them, when a huge piece tumbled over them, and raised such a dust, that the air, as far as the sight could reach, seemed filled with smoke; and it made such a terrible noise, that *Mr. Roberts* thought all the rocks above them were falling on their heads. After all was quiet, and the dust laid, the two above, whom it was imagined had been dashed to pieces, came down to those who staid with *Mr. Roberts*, and rejoiced to find them all safe. The ascent for the rest of the way was now found too steep for so poor a climber as our Author; they therefore with great difficulty and danger de-

descended with him, and at last reached the bottom, without any accident.

But the excessive heat of the sun reflected by the rocks, and the fatigues our Author had endured in this excursion, threw him into a fever, that lasted near a month, during which he was attended with the utmost care and affection by these humane people, and on his recovery was taken in the boat to the harbour; and being now so weak as to be scarcely able to stand, was fastened upon the Governor's horse, and conducted to his house; the road to which was extremely rocky and uneven.

The Governor welcomed him with all the signs of joy imaginable, and would have persuaded him to lodge in his house; but this honour, as it was termed, had been earnestly solicited by *Singore Gumms*, the son of a former Governor, who frequently attended him while he was confined among the rocks, and had treated him with the utmost care and affection. Mr. *Roberts* therefore excused himself as handsomely as he was able, and after having staid some hours at the Governor's house, he was conducted to the cottage of his friend *Singore Gumms*, where he was received with joy, and provided for with the utmost care. Every day some of the inhabitants came to see him, bringing fowls, banana cakes, pompions, water melons, &c. He was also visited by the *Romish* priest of the island, who had likewise been very desirous of having him at his house. Mr. *Roberts* was no sooner able to walk abroad than he returned these visits; and on his recovering

his strength, he frequently went with the natives to hunt wild goats; but oftener attended them in fishing, on account of its being less fatiguing; on which occasion they carried with them calabashes of fresh water, with a number of pompions, bananas, and other fruit for food. Their fishing utensils were long canes for fishing-rods, cotton lines, and bent nails for hooks, which they generally baited with crabs. As to their hunting, the Governor having the sole privilege of killing the wild goats, none dare hunt without his consent. This was a law made by the *Portuguese* when they peopled these islands from the coast of *Africa*, in order to prevent the breed being entirely destroyed.

This is one of the principal privileges enjoyed by the Governor; who is also the only magistrate, and decides the little differences that sometimes happen among the people. Upon their not submitting to his decision, he confines them till they do, in an open place, walled round like a pound; but instead of a gate, they generally lay only a stick across the entrance, and those innocent people will stay there without attempting to get out, except when overcome with passion, they rush out in a rage; but these are soon caught again, tied hand and foot, and a sentinel set to watch them, till they agree with their antagonist, ask the Governor's pardon for breaking out of his prison, and have remained there as long as he thinks they have deserved. Nay, if one kills another, which hardly happens in an age,
the

the Governor can only confine him till he has pacified the relations of the deceased, by the mediation of his friends, who are bound for the criminal's appearance, in case a Judge should be ever sent from *Portugal* to execute justice: but imprisonment is here reckoned such a scandal, that it is as much dreaded as *Tyburn* is by the criminals in *England*.

When the Governor has a mind to make a general hunt, all the inhabitants are assembled, who do not exceed 200; and the hunting dogs, which are between a beagle and a greyhound, are called. At night, or when the Governor thinks proper to put an end to the sport, they all meet together, and he parts the goats flesh between them as he pleases, sending what he thinks proper to his own house, with all the skins; and after he comes home he sends pieces to those who are old, or were not out a hunting; and the skins he distributes among them as he thinks their necessities require, reserving the remainder of them for the Lord of the soil.

The natives, who are the most ignorant and superstitious, as well as the most innocent, harmless, and friendly of all the *Cape de Verd* Islands, wear in common only a little slip of cotton fastened to a string before, which passing between the thighs, is tied to the same string behind; but their full dress is also a piece of cotton cloth, which the men hang over their shoulders and wrap round their waists; while the women put it over their heads, and then wrap it about their bodies; and on both

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of them it extends to the calf of the leg or lower. This cloth they spin and weave themselves.

The Priest, who was a Negro and very ignorant, says mass, baptizes, and buries the dead; but the natives have intermixed with these rites some of their heathenish customs, as washing before baptism; adorning the bride with flowers and a garland on the day of marriage; stripping her of all at night, and putting earth on her head in token of subjection; sprinkling the graves of the dead with water, and sometimes with the juice of water melons.

This island, which is named *St. John's*, is situated in $15^{\circ}. 25'$. north latitude, and $7^{\circ}. 2'$. west from *Cape de Verd*; and though very high and rocky, yet lying near *St. Philip's*, appears in comparison of that to be low. It has more salt-petre than any of the *Cape de Verd* Islands; and the Governor offered to procure Mr. *Roberts* a cargo sufficient to load with it a larger sloop than that he had lost. It grows in several caves there, covering all the sides like a hoar frost, and in some hollow rocks like icicles, as thick as a man's thumb: our Author gives very strong reasons to believe that this island also abounds with copper and gold, and formerly great quantities of ambergrease were found floating in the sea.

Mr. *Roberts* endeavoured to persuade the Governor to let him repair his old boat, and go over with it to the Island of *St. Philip*; but he thinking it too small and crazy, denied his request: yet proposed his building another, and promised to assist him in the work by the labour

labour of all the men in the island, if he would make it large enough to sail in without danger. This proposal Mr. *Roberts* gladly accepted, and having saved a great number of nails and pieces of iron, while confined among the rocks, out of the pieces of the wreck brought ashore by the natives, the boat was begun. He dreaded that he should never be able to finish it; but having seen several built from first to last, his desire to return to *England* made him exert all his abilities; and the work was completed: for these friendly people hewed down the trees, and chopped them into boards and timbers: he afterwards caulked his little vessel with oakum, made of some pieces of old ropes, and with cotton and moss: he cased the bottom with tallow mixed with asses dung burnt to ashes; the Governor generously ordering a general hunting-match to procure him the fat of goats, and also killing a cow for that purpose: of an old piece of canvas he made a jib sail: the boat was launched by the assistance of the natives, and a small anchor and hawser were got up, which had been left with a buoy in the road by a *Portuguese* vessel, before his coming to the island.

Every thing being thus finished, he was plentifully supplied with beef, goats flesh, maize flour, and fruit; and having passed four or five days with the Governor and the inhabitants, who desired no other reward but that he would speak well of them to his countrymen, which might induce some *English* ships to

trade with them, he took his leave; and going on board with his boy, and two Negro mariners who came to the island in his sloop, and belonged to *St. Nicholas*, with three of the natives, he set sail, leaving *Mr. Franklin*, the *Welchman*, who chose to continue at *St. John's*.



C H A P. II.

Mr. Roberts sails to the Island of St. Philip, which is described, and returns from thence to St. John's, with some Negro Ship-Carpenters, who having rendered the Boat more commodious, he sails back to St. Philip's, trades with the other Islands, has his Boat staved to pieces, and enters on board an English Vessel.

THE same evening *Mr. Roberts* reached *St. Philip's*, and landing the next morning, was treated there too with great kindness. *Captain Thome Santee*, who had the title of *Procurador* of *St. John's*, wanted to go to that island, and informed him, that if he would have any thing done to his boat, there were two Negroes at *St. Philip's* who had been educated at the *French* factory at *Senegal*, and taken from thence to *Nants*, to learn the art of ship-building. These were sent for, and *Mr. Roberts* promising, that if he could find no other method of returning to *Europe*, he would set them on shore near the place of their birth on the coast of *Africa*, they joyfully agreed to
make

make some alterations, which it was thought would render the boat more commodious; and there being no timber at *St. Philip's* large enough for that purpose, they consented to return with him to *St. John's*. Captain *Thome* also prevailed on a smith to go with them, in order to lend his assistance. Besides these Mr. *Roberts* took in some other passengers, who paid him ten cotton cloths for their passage, such as they wear to cover them from head to foot, and of this cloth he made a foresail.

The Island of *St. Philip*, also called the Island of *Fogo*, or *Fire*, is about seven leagues from *St. John's*; it is situated in $15^{\circ}. 20'$. north latitude, and $6^{\circ}. 54'$. west from *Cape de Verd*, and received its name from its being discovered by the *Portuguese* on the first of *May*, the feast of *St. Philip* and *James*. It is much higher than any other of the *Cape de Verd* Islands, and appears like a continued mountain up to the top. In sailing by it no valleys are to be seen, they seeming only gutters made by the streams of rain running down the mountain; but when a man is on shore, and in one of these gutters, he finds that they are deep valleys, and that their banks are high mountains.

The Peak is a terrible volcano, which casts forth rocks of an amazing size to a vast height: these make such a noise by their fall, and their breaking and rolling down, that our Author has heard them in calm weather at eight or nine leagues distance; and when they are blown
up,

up, you may hear a report like a great gun, or rather thunder. In the night-time Mr. *Roberts* has seen the stones rolling down the Peak all of a flame; and he was told by the inhabitants, that flaming brimstone sometimes pours from the Peak like a torrent of water down a steep mountain; after which they can gather what quantity they please. Some pieces of it they shewed Mr. *Roberts*; it is like common brimstone, but of a much brighter colour, and on being burnt gives a clearer flame. At other times, this volcano casts forth such a quantity of ashes mixed with cinders, that the adjacent parts are covered, and some of the goats smothered by them.

This island has no running brooks, and in some places the inhabitants are obliged to go six or seven miles for fresh water: yet notwithstanding this, it produces great quantities of pompions, water melons, feshoons, and maize, but no bananas and plantains, and hardly any fruit-trees, except wild figs: however, in some of their gardens they have guava trees, oranges, lemons and limes. They have also some good vineyards, of which a small quantity of wine is made; but it is generally all drank before it has done fermenting.

The island was originally inhabited by the *Portuguese*, to whom the King gave the land. These brought Negro slaves with them, and stocked the country with cows, asses, horses, and hogs; the King sending goats, which run wild on the mountains. Hence the profit of their skins is reserved to the crown; and he
who

who has the management of this revenue is called Captain of the Mountains, none daring to kill any of them without his licence. It is customary here, and at all the other islands, for every person at his death to give freedom to his Blacks. These are now the principal inhabitants, there being an hundred Negroes on the island to one of the Whites. They make cotton cloths for cloathing, and breed mules, which they sell to other nations. All the inhabitants are *Roman-Catholics*, but mingle with that religion some Pagan superstitions. Most of the Whites live with the Governor in the town of *St. Philip*, and have at the same time country-houses on that part of their estates which they keep in their own hands, and manage by their slaves. These supply them with food, and the rents of the plantations let to the Blacks are paid them in cotton cloth.

The day after Mr. *Roberts* weighed from this island he landed at *St. John's*, to the great satisfaction of all the passengers, as well as the natives of that island, and especially those who accompanied him in the voyage: these did not fail to brag of it, more perhaps than an *English* raw sailor would of his first voyage to the *East Indies*. Mr. *Roberts* met with the same kind behaviour from the Governor and people as before; and the Negro carpenters being set to work, every one endeavoured to assist them.

In about two months the boat was completed, and rendered stronger and more commodious than before. Captain *Thome* had by that time finished his business there, and therefore

fore Mr. *Roberts* set sail with him, together with three inhabitants of *St. Philip's*, and the two carpenters; and having set them on shore on the last mentioned island, sailed to *St. Jago*; and afterwards traded for some time with the different islands, carrying provisions to *Mayo*, where the people suffered greatly by famine, and loading there and at *Bona Vista* with salt: till at length being at *St. Nicholas's*, his boat, while he was on shore, was staved to pieces on the rocks. He however met with a very kind treatment from the inhabitants, and sold the pieces of the boat that were saved for 12 dollars.

While Mr. *Roberts* was there an *English* vessel arrived, commanded by Mr. *Harfoot*, who proposed to trade among the islands for cloths, and then to proceed to *Barbadoes*. At that gentleman's desire our Author consented to assist him in this trade; and, in return, he very readily agreed to give him and his little boy, who had attended him from island to island, their passage. Having weighed from thence, they proceeded to *Bona Vista*, from thence to *Mayo*, and then steered to *Porto Praya* in the Island of *St. Jago*, where they found an *English* ship freighted by the *Portuguese* merchants, which had come laden with slaves, wax, and elephants teeth from the coast of *Guinea*; but had buried the greatest part of her crew, and was bound to *Lisbon*. This vessel, besides being weakly manned, was in a very crazy condition; whence Mr. *Durell*, the captain, who had just recovered from a dangerous fit of sickness,

ness, was very solicitous to persuade Mr. Roberts to sail with him, and assist him in taking care of the ship: and to this Mr. Roberts consented.



C H A P. III.

A Description of the other Cape de Verd Islands; St. Jago, Bona Vista, the Isle of Sal, Mayo, St. Nicholas, Brama, St. Lucia, and St. Antonio.

THE *Cape de Verd* Islands being first discovered and peopled by the *Portuguese*, were divided among the nobility of that Kingdom, except *St. Jago's* and *St. Philip's*, which are governed by men appointed by the King, who are generally *Portuguese* born, especially the former, who has the title of General Governor of all the *Cape de Verd* Islands, and the coast of *Guinea*, from the river *Senegal* to *Sierra Leona*. The Lords put a stock of cows and goats on their respective islands; and he who is constituted the Lord's steward is called Governor by the natives. Though his *Portuguese* Majesty has made *St. Jago* the clearing port for all that part of the coast of *Guinea* within the above limits, there are no fortifications on any of the islands, except the latter and *St. Philip's*, and none of them are of any strength, except at the city of *St. Jago*, and these are only defended by the natives.

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This island of *St. Jago*, or *St. James*, which took its name from its being discovered on the 1st of *May*, the festival of that saint, is situated in 15° . north latitude, and 6° . $5'$. longitude from *Cape de Verd*, and was not only the first of these islands inhabited by the *Portuguese*, but is the largest and most fruitful of them all. The inhabitants, who are about three Whites to 40 Blacks, pay no tax to the crown. This island has plenty of water, and many valleys; and as it affords good pasture, it abounds with cows, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, asses, and variety of fowl. It also produces oranges, lemons, pine-apples, guavas, custard-apples, bananas, tamarinds, plantains, cocoa-nuts, pompions, water and musk melons, mandyokes, sugar-canes, and grapes, though they are not allowed to make wine. The capital of the island is *Ribeira Grande*, where the Governor, Oviodore, and Bishop reside. Here also is a monastery, which is adorned with a large garden, and affords the finest prospect of any building about the city, except the cathedral. Most of the Priests among these islands, as also those sent to *Guinea*, are Negroes. There are four other towns in the island, which are *St. Jago*, *St. Domingo*, *St. Domingo Abaceu*, and *Praya*: this last is the most noted port in the island.

Bona Vista, or Good Sight, so named from its being the first of the *Cape de Verd* Islands discovered by the *Portuguese*, is situated in 16° . $10'$. north latitude, and in 5° . $14'$. west longitude from *Cape de Verd*. The island is mostly low land, with some rocky mountains and
sandy

fandy hills. It produces great quantities of indigo, and more cotton than all the *Cape de Verd* Islands besides, yet there is not one of them where there are fewer cotton cloths to be sold: for the inhabitants will neither gather the cotton till a ship is arrived to buy it; nor will the women spin till they want it. When our author was there, most of the cattle had died by a famine; the natives had however tame goats, and lived on their milk: they also fed on fish and turtle. And the *English*, who often came there to take in a lading of salt, hired asses and men to bring down the salt to the sea; for which they paid them in bisket, flour, or old cloaths. They used also to have a pretty good trade for horses and asses, which are the best of all that are upon the *Cape de Verd* Islands. Raw silk is much coveted by them, for working the bosoms of their shirts, shifts, caps, and womens waistcoats.

The men generally wear the *European* dress, and most of them have suits of cloaths bought of the *English*, and have learnt to make cotton cloths to imitate the *European* fashion. The women wear one, two, or three cotton cloths wrapped about them like petticoats, and tied on with a girdle above the hips, and sometimes without a girdle. Their shifts are made like a man's shirt, but so short as not to reach the girdle: the wristbands, collar, and neck of the young people of some rank, are wrought in figures, with needle-work of silk in several colours: but the old and the poor have

theirs worked with blue cotton thread. Over their shifts they wear a waistcoat, with sleeves to button at the arms, not above four inches deep in the back part, but long enough before to tie with strings under their breasts. Over all they wear a cotton cloth in the manner of a mantle: those of the married women are generally blue, and the darker the colour, the richer it is reckoned; but the maidens, and gay young wives or widows, wear blue and white, some spotted, and some figured. They however rather chuse, if they can get them, linen handkerchiefs wrought on the edges, and sometimes only on the corners, with red, green, and blue silk; the first being the colour they most admire. They wear neither shoes nor stockings, except on holidays; and, indeed, at other times the women generally wear only a small cotton cloth wrapped round their waist, and the men a ragged pair of breeches; to which if there be but a waistband, and a piece hanging to it before to hide what modesty teaches them to conceal, they think it sufficient. The people of *Bona Vista* are fond of the *English*, and most of them can speak a little of the *English* tongue.

The Isle of *Sal*, which is the windermost of all the *Cape de Verd* Islands, lies in 17°. north lat. and in 5°. 18'. west long. from the *Cape de Verd*. It is mostly low land, having only five hills. This island formerly abounded with goats, cows and asses, but was deserted for want of rain. There are abundance of land crabs

crabs about the island, and the sea abounds with many sorts of fish.

The Isle of *Mayo*, or *May*, took its name from its being discovered on the first of that month. There grows on this island, as well as on most of the others, and particularly at *Bona Vista*, a kind of vegetable stone, which shoots in stems, and forms something like the head of a colliflower. It is extremely porous, and of a greyish colour. The inhabitants, who amount to about 200, are not so well affected to the *English* as those of *Bona Vista*; but they have more cows, and these are generally the best and fattest on the *Cape de Verd* Islands: they have also most of them goats. They have more cotton than they can use, but are so lazy, that half of it is lost for want of gathering. Their habits are almost the same as those of *Bona Vista*; but few of them wear their shirts and waistcoats stitched in colours. The island affords fish, turtle, and wild fowl.

The Island of *St. Nicholas* is the longest of all the *Cape de Verd* Islands, except *St. Jago*, and is situated in 16°. 45'. north lat. and 6°. 52. west long. from *Cape de Verd*. The island is mostly high land. It is fruitful in maize, and produces the best feshoons in all these islands, as likewise plantains, bananas, pompions, water and musk melons, oranges, lemons, limes, some sugar canes; and the inhabitants have vineyards, of which they make a tartish sort of wine. There is here likewise the *Dragon tree*, from which flows gum dragon. The natives make the best cloths and cotton

quilts of all the islands: these are too good for the *Guinea* trade, but fit for that of *Brazil*. They make them up into cloaths as neatly as our common country taylors, and will make buttons to imitate almost any pattern you shew them: they knit cotton stockings, tan cow-hides, and goat-skins, and make tolerable good shoes. Their women are by far the most housewifely and ingenious with their needles of any of the islands; and she who does not appear with a worked cap, like those worn at *Bona Vista*, is thought very idle. The town of *St. Nicholas* is the most compact and populous of any on all the islands, though it is not so large as the city of *St. Jago*; but the houses, and even the church, are only covered with grass thatch. The inhabitants are the only people of the islands who build boats, with which they fish, and catch turtle. They have a number of horses, and there are few families that have not a stock of hogs and fowls. The people speak the best *Portuguese*, and are the exactest Roman Catholics of any of the islands.

The isle of *Branca* is only a high steep rock, where the *St. Nicholas* men come to catch fish.

St. Lucia is about three or four leagues to the westward of *St. Nicholas*; it has some goats and asses, but neither inhabitants nor water.

St. Vincent is also uninhabited, but on the north-west side is a good bay, called *Porto Grande*, where ships may have both wood and water, and also wild goats for taking the pains to shoot them.

them. Here also are many asses, and as great a plenty of nitre as in the Island of *St. John*. There are more turtle and fish caught at this island, than at all the other *Cape de Verd* Islands.

The Island of *St. Antonio* is situated in 17°. 19'. north lat. and 8°. 2'. west longitude from *Cape de Verd*. It is little inferior in height to *St. Philip's*, and considering the loftiness of the mountains, and the lowness of the valleys, it contains as much ground as *St. Jago*. It has many brooks of fresh water, that render the valleys through which they run as fertile as any of the *Cape de Verd* Islands in maize, bananas, plantains, pompions, musk and water melons, oranges, lemons, limes, and guavas; and has the greatest plenty of wine, though it is the worst and cheapest of all the islands. The inhabitants have a large stock of cows, hogs and asses. The mountains abound with goats, and on one of them is found a stone, called by the natives a topaz; but whether it be the true topaz or not, Mr. *Roberts* acknowledges that he was not a judge. In this island are likewise produced great quantities of gum dragon, and abundance of indigo, which is cultivated here with great care, as are also large plantations of cotton. The natives are almost as innocent and humane as those of *St. John's*. There are computed to be 2500 souls on the island, four fifths of which number are made up by the slaves; who, like the free Negroes, have plantations, houses and wives; and they cultivate some of the best places for cotton,
O 3 indigo,

indigo, &c. which are all worked up by these slaves, and managed by a steward placed there by a *Portuguese* Marquis, who is proprietor of the island.

It is now time to return to the voyage. Mr. *Roberts* set sail with Captain *Durell*; but they had hardly left *St. Jago*, when the leaks they had attempted to stop at that island broke out afresh, and were continually increasing: to add to this misfortune, the crew were a set of the most profligate fellows, that would scarcely submit to the least discipline, or obey any orders. Being in danger of sinking, and the trade winds not permitting them to return to the *Cape de Verd* Islands, it was at last resolved to steer to *Barbadoes*, and that island they happily reached, entering *Carlisle Bay* on *Christmas* day 1724, where the vessel being hove down, was sheathed. They staid about three months in that island, and then sailed to *Lisbon*, when Mr. *Roberts* took the first opportunity of a passage to *London*, where he arrived in the latter end of *June*, 1725.



THE
V O Y A G E

O F

Captain *THOMAS JAMES*

F O R T H E

DISCOVERY of a NORTH-WEST
PASSAGE to the SOUTH-SEAS.



C H A P. I.

Captain James sets sail from Bristol, and arrives on the Coast of Greenland, where he is in great Danger from the Ice. He lands in several Places; the Crew undergo dreadful Distresses, and the Ship being at length covered with Ice, and the Sails froze, the Crew prepare for spending the Winter near Charlton Island.

ABOUT the year 1630, several of the merchants of *Bristol* formed themselves into a company, for discovering a passage by the west to the *South-Sea*, and thence to *Japan*;

152. *Capt. JAMES'S VOYAGE for the
pan**; and as Captain *James* had been employed before in some northern voyages, and was justly esteemed both a man of integrity, and an old experienced sailor, he was thought the fittest person in the kingdom for attempting this long wished for discovery. His Majesty King *Charles I.* being informed of this design by Sir *Thomas Rowe*, who had many years before been sent on an embassy to *Indostan*, was pleased to make known his approbation of it, and to confirm the choice made of Captain *James*.

Mr. *James* desired only a single ship of 70 tons burden, which was built for this voyage. This vessel being manned with 22 men, and furnished with provisions and other necessaries for 18 months, fell down *Bristol* channel on the 3d of *May*, 1631; but meeting with a contrary wind, was obliged on the 8th to put into *Milford* Haven, where she remained till the 17th, when taking the advantage of a fair wind, Mr. *James* again set sail, and on the 4th of *June* came within sight of *Greenland*.

Early the next morning the ship was encompassed with ice, and the men endeavouring to clear themselves of it, were the more engaged, and the ship endangered by frequently striking upon it. They however made fast to a

* See some Account of former Voyages, made for the same Purpose, by Captain *Davis*, in Vol. IV. Chap. V. Page 41, and by Captain *Hudson*, and Captain *Button*, *ib.* Chap. XIII. Page 152.

large piece, and with poles laboured day and night in repelling the repeated attacks of the others; in which employment all their poles were broken. On the 6th the danger increased, prodigious pieces of ice coming down upon the ship with such violence, that she was in danger of being crushed to pieces; but by spreading her sails, she escaped this danger, yet run upon another piece of ice with such force, that the Captain was for a moment in doubt, whether she was not staved to pieces; and, indeed, this was actually the case with the shallop. Captain *James* now caused the long-boat to be hoisted out, by which the broken shallop was recovered and brought upon the deck; the Captain intending to rebuild her the first opportunity. All that day it blew a perfect storm, and it was not without very great difficulty, that he forced his way through these dangerous impediments, by making all the sail possible; and, though the ship was beat against the ice, those on board, to their great surprize and joy, brought her off without the least damage. On the 7th and 8th they endeavoured to double *Cape Farewell*. On the 10th the sea near the southernmost point of *Greenland* being very rough, and some pieces of ice swimming in sight, higher than the main-top-mast-head, the long-boat broke from the stern, but was with difficulty recovered and brought into the ship. About eight in the evening, they were off *Cape Resolution*, in 60°. north latitude. In this course they received many shocks from the mountains of ice: the sea was
filled

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filled with grampusses, and the weather was
foggy.

On the 17th at night the weather was dark, foggy, and so sharp that the sails and rigging were frozen: at the same time, from the hideous noise made by the waves, they judged themselves nigh the shore; but in the morning they found it was no more than a piece of ice, and at the same time they perceived the Island of *Resolution*, in the mouth of *Hudson's* Straights, and endeavoured to double the southern point, where they observed the tide run with great swiftness into the streight, and that the ebb was equally strong with the flood. As the fog cleared up, they saw that the entrance of the streight was filled with ice close wedged together, when endeavouring to proceed forwards, they were fast inclosed and driven to and fro with it. The fog was here so penetrating, as to render the compasses useless.

On the morning of the 20th they had doubled the southernmost point of the Island of *Resolution*, when the wind turning about to the west, drove both them and the ice towards the land, within two leagues of which they came into a strong eddy of the sea, that whirled both the ship and the ice about in a surprising manner. Prodigious pieces were aground in 40 fathoms water, and the ebb rushing from the broken grounds of the island, carried them round sometimes close by rocks, and at others so near to these lofty islands of ice, that they were afraid they would fall upon them. To prevent their being
driven

driven on shore, they fastened two large pieces of ice to the sides of the ship, with their kedger and grapnels: these pieces drew nine or ten fathoms, and these they imagined would be aground before them, if they should happen to be driven on shore. But this expedient not appearing sufficient to secure the vessel, the boat was hoisted out in search of a place of safety among the rocks. But she was instantly inclosed, and the men were obliged to haul her upon the ice, to prevent her being dashed to pieces, and to drag her from piece to piece. In the mean time the whirling of the ice broke the two floating pieces from the sides of the ship, and the kedger and grapnels were carried away. They then made signs to the boat to return, which she with great difficulty performed, and in the mean time they recovered their grapnels. The boat was, however, manned anew, and with difficulty recovered the kedger. It was with extraordinary joy they saw her return; for having dropped anchor in a shallow rocky bottom, they had lost sight of her, and supposed she was unfortunately sunk with one third of the crew. The ship had now only three fathoms water, and lay under the shelter of a large piece of ice that was aground, and kept off the floating ice, that would otherwise have driven upon her: but at the return of the tide was assaulted with pieces, that every half-hour threw the men into great distress, and obliged them to work continually to keep them off. At high water the great piece
of

of ice that was their buckler was afloat ; and, notwithstanding all their endeavours to stop it, got away from them, and left them in imminent danger from the ice that drove in upon them ; but at the return of ebb, this large piece came again aground, in so favourable a manner as to shelter them all the rest of the ebb. All night they worked hard in shifting their cables and hawsers, and making them fast aloft to the rocks, that the ice might the better pass under them ; but all day and night it snowed hard, and blew a storm at west, which drove in the ice out of the sea upon them ; in opposing which the hook of the kedger, two arms of the grapnels, and two hawsers were broken, and the shallop was much bruised. This tide the harbour was choaked up with ice, in such a manner, that it seemed firm and immoveable ; but at ebb, some large pieces came aground, altered the course of the other ice, and put the ship on the rocks.

The following tide the ship was driven upon a sharp rock, a part of which arose above the water, higher than the main-mast ; and as the water ebbed, she heeled so much to the seaward, that there was no standing in her ; and as it was apprehended that she would soon overset, the men got upon a piece of ice, and went to prayers ; but at the coming in of the tide, she began unexpectedly to come to rights, and they soon to their great joy saw her afloat. They now worked hard to change their situation, and to have as much of the ice as they could between them and the rocks. For this purpose

purpose, they with axes and bars of iron broke the corners of it, to make way for its passing by them, and to get as much of the softer kind of ice about them as possible. Captain *James* now went on shore, which he could easily do, the ice joining so as to form a continued footing to the land; and having erected a beacon of stones, he placed a cross upon it, and named it the *Harbour of God's Providence*. At low water those pieces that were aground broke with a thundering noise.

On the 23d, in the morning, the ice drove up with the flood among the broken grounds, and with the ebb flowed all out, except a large piece that came aground and settled near the ship. Captain *James* then took the boat, and went ashore on the east side of the island, and having climbed up a hill, to see if he could descry any place free from danger to which he might steer the ship, he observed one that seemed likely to answer his purpose; but while he was viewing it, he heard the great piece of ice split near the ship in four pieces. This made him apprehend the destruction of the vessel; on which he hastened to the boat, and thence to the ship, when to his great joy he found she had received no damage. He now sent the boat into the cove he had discovered, and at her return unmoored the ship, and with all possible speed warped her away from the ice; but they had not got a mile from it before it broke all to pieces in such a manner, that all on board were certain the ship would have been

funk had she continued a little longer in her former station.

Having entered the cove they made the ship fast to the rocks, which being done, Captain *James* went again on shore to see what he could discover. He found it all broken rocky ground, without so much as a tree, herb, or blade of grass upon it. As the ponds were still frozen, no fowls were as yet to be expected, and there was no sign of either deer or bears. However, he saw one or two foxes; and from a few fire-brands, bones of foxes, and whale bones, it appeared that some of the savages had been there some time before; yet it was not easy to imagine what could have invited them thither, as the soil was entirely barren, and the sea, at least at that time, void of fish. The Captain called this *Price's Cove*, from the name of the master of his ship: it is in latitude $61^{\circ}. 24'$. and from the high grounds they could see *Sir Thomas Button's Islands*.

A fresh gale springing up at east on the 24th in the morning, they steered between great pieces of ice that were aground in 40 fathoms, and twice as high as the top-mast head, when sailing out of the cove, he endeavoured to gain the north shore; but though for the space of a league they had clear water, the ice was wedged together in the offing as thick as possible, and notwithstanding it continued blowing hard from the east, they could make no way through it, the ice grating with such violence, that it was apprehended it would wrench the planks from the ship's sides. Thus they continued

tinued driving among the ice till the 26th, without their being able, even from the top-mast head, to discern as much open sea as amounted to half a quarter of a mile; but then the weather clearing up, they had calm sunshine: yet the nights still continued so cold that their rigging froze. They continued sailing till the 5th of July thro' those obstructions, with variable winds and fogs, and sometimes a calm, when having clear weather, they observed *Salisbury Island*, and soon after *Prince Charles's Cape* and *Mill Island*; but the sea to the north-north-west, and indeed all around them, appeared encumbered with ice, which gave Captain *James* much concern, from his finding it impossible that year to prosecute the discovery as he intended to the north-westward. The ship was still in the greatest danger, and the people on board were a thousand times under the apprehensions of her being beaten to pieces.

Hudson's Streights beginning at the island of *Resolution*, and ending at *Diggs's Island*, are about 120 leagues long. In the entrance they are generally about 15 leagues broad, and between *Diggs's Island* and *Cape Charles* are about the breadth of 20 leagues. The north shore is the straitest and clearest from ice, but there are many small low islands on its coast. Here is a certain tide, but no current.

Captain *James* being now convinced of the impossibility of doing any thing to the north-westward, steered on the 16th west-south-west towards *Mansfield Island*, which at three in the afternoon of the ensuing day he gained sight

of, the ship receiving in her course many dreadful shocks from the ice. Here the crew were put to half allowance of bread. In the evening she came to an anchor, when sending the boats to sound, it was found that the water flowed from the west-south-west, and the highest tides, as far as could be perceived, had not swelled above two fathoms. The ship stood off and on a good way down, but could find little or no drift wood or beasts on the island, nor any thing useful, except a few fowls, one of which they shot. *Mansfield* Island is low land, and has ponds of fresh water, but no grass, it being entirely barren.

The wind coming favourable on the 18th, they set sail, intending to fall in with the western land; but after steering for a short time, through what they began to hope was an open sea, they came to a firm range of ice: upon this they stood to the south-west; but at length fell in with thick frozen ruts, in which they were sometimes fast locked up, and at others were able to proceed forwards by the help of the wind, generally suffering the inconvenience of a very thick fog. At length they were inclosed with ice for three days together, and notwithstanding they hoisted all their sails, and it blew a hard gale of wind, the ship stirred no more than if she had been in a dry dock: the crew therefore went all out upon the ice to sport and recreate themselves; when some of the flat pieces being measured were found to be 1000 paces long.

This

This was the first day in which the men began to murmur, thinking it impossible to get either forwards or backwards, and dreading lest they should not be able to land in order to spend the winter. The Captain encouraged them as much as he was able, and to chase away these apprehensions, made them drink a health to his Majesty on the ice, the ship still continuing under all her sails without a single man on board. The Captain himself saw the justice of their fears, and apprehending that they should be frozen up in the sea, ordered that a fire should be made but once a day, and that with only a certain number of faggots which the steward was to deliver to the cook by tale, in order to prolong the fuel.

On the first of *August* they perceived the ice to heave and set a little, occasioned by a swelling sea that came from the south-west, which gave them great comfort, as it made them hope they should soon get out of the ice. On the third, they observed a little open water to the north-westward, and feeling a sea flow from thence were persuaded of there being an open sea to the westward. On the fifth, they saw the sea clear, but could by no means work themselves to it with their sails; therefore about six in the evening they let fall an anchor in 50 fathoms water, and stood with their poles and oars to push off the ice to the leeward, at which labour they continued all night. In the morning the wind coming up at north-west they weighed with much joy, and soon got

into an open sea to the southward in latitude $58^{\circ}. 28'$. On the 11th, they entered the bay called *Hubbart's Hope*, and in the night came to an anchor with the kedger; but afterwards attempting to weigh, had the misfortune to lose it, though they had not another on board. They then proceeded to the southward, and on the 13th in the afternoon, when it was somewhat hazy, saw some breakers ahead, and endeavouring to get clear of them suddenly struck upon the rocks; the ship being under her top-sails, fore-sail, and sprit-sail, with a fresh gale of wind. Upon this dreadful accident they immediately struck all their sails, and having providentially two or three good swelling seas, which heaved them over the rocks, they cast anchor, and soon found that the ship had received no damage, though she had three such terrible blows that all on board thought her masts would have shivered to pieces, and that she was certainly bulged.

On the 20th they came to an anchor off a point of land bending away to the southward. They called this the *New Principality of South Wales*, and drank to the health of *Charles* then Prince of *Wales*. At this time the weather was calm, but on the 21st at night the wind rose, and the ship drove in such a manner as made them imagine they had lost their anchor, upon which they attempted to weigh it by means of the capstan, in doing which they found it had hitched, and upon the chopping of the sea, threw the men with such force from the capstan, that they were dreadfully bruised,

bruised, and one of them had like to have lost his head, by its being entangled in the cable. *Mr. Price*, the master, narrowly avoided breaking his leg, and the gunner's foot was wrung off at the ankle; the flesh of his leg was also torn off, and the bone crushed to pieces, so that he was forced to have his whole leg cut off above the knee to prevent a mortification.

On the 27th in the morning coming to a high land, they stood towards it, and came to an anchor in five fathoms water, when *Capt. James* sent off the boat well manned and armed, with written instructions, and a strict charge to return before sun-set; but the evening came without his hearing any news of the boat, which gave him great uneasiness, especially when he found that his shot and false fires were spent in vain, whence he supposed that she was either lost, or that the people in her had fallen a prey to the savages; and this he had the greater reason to fear, as there was a fire upon the shore, though no returns were made to his false fires. The prospect of those on board the ship was now very dreadful, for they had not hands sufficient to weigh the anchor or manage the sails: but at length, to the inexpressible joy of all on board, the boat returned, when the men excused themselves, by declaring that upon their coming ashore, a sudden ebb had obliged them to wait the return of the tide. They reported that they had discovered the tracks of deer and bears, and saw many fowls, of which they had killed some: that a considerable quantity of
wood

wood was growing on the land, and that a good deal was thrown on shore by the waves, but they could discern no sign of inhabitants.

On the 29th in the morning a ship was discovered about four leagues to the leeward, which proved to be a king's ship commanded by Captain *Fox*, who exchanged the usual salutes with them. That evening Mr. *James* sent his boat aboard of her, and the next morning the Captain and some of his officers paid Mr. *James* a visit, and were received in the best manner his circumstances would permit. He staid aboard the ship till the evening, and the next morning stood away to the south-south-west. The month of *August* concluded with snow and hail, and the weather was as severe as it is commonly in *England* in the depth of winter.

On the third of *September* they stood in for the shore, and arriving at a cape named it *Henrietta Maria*, from her Majesty's name. On the fourth they had a violent storm; but though at noon the weather cleared up, yet in the evening there came a great rolling sea from the north-north-east, with a very high wind from the south-east, and a most dreadful tempest of wind, lightning, snow and rain, continued all night. The sea, which ran mountains high, washed over the deck, poured into the hold, and made its way into the bread room, where it spoiled almost all the provisions. This dreadful hurricane continued till the fifth in the evening, with such violence, that they had the
greatest

greatest difficulty to keep every thing fast in the hold.

On the 10th they made an island about eight or nine leagues long, in latitude $53^{\circ}. 5'$. which the Captain named *Lord Weston's* Island; after which they stood to the eastward, and on the 11th made an island in $52^{\circ}. 45'$. upon which the Captain went ashore in his boats, and afterwards sent some of the men to another part of it; but neither he nor they could find any vegetables, or so much as a little sorrel, scurvy-grass, or the least relief for the sick men.

On the 12th in the morning the wind blowing hard at south-east, the ship, through the negligence of those on the deck, ran upon the rocks, and a wreck seeming inevitable, the carpenter's tools, a barrel of powder, six musquets, fishing-hooks, lines, pitch and oakum, with a tinder-box and matches, were sent on shore. In the mean time they laid out an anchor to heave the ship astern, threw out all the coals, staved the water in the hold, and set the pump to work in order to lighten the ship, intending to have done the same with the beer; but at length, after continuing five hours striking in the most dreadful manner, she got over the rocks in a very leaky condition.

On the 13th they stood to the westward, but there being no anchoring ground that promised safety, it was resolved to steer to the northward towards the bottom of *Hudson's* Bay, in order to search for a passage into the river
of

of *Canada*, and if that failed, to winter on the main land, which would be preferable to their being placed among rocks or islands.

In the evening of the 14th a storm arose, when the shallop being towed a-stern, shipped a great sea, and was sunk with the keel upwards, so that she was inevitably lost. The ship had now only one boat left, and that in a crazy condition. The storm continuing all night with an over-grown sea, they began to prepare for death, but about noon the next day the weather cleared up, when they saw two islands, and running into an opening between them, found a good anchoring place, one side of which was formed by *Lord Weston's* Island. Here they remained till the 19th, during which it snowed and blew so violently, that they durst not put out their boat.

On the 19th the wind shifting to the north-north-east, they weighed and stood to the southward; but about noon the wind turning to the south, they came to an anchor under another island, upon which the captain went ashore, and named it the *Earl of Bristol's* Island. While the Captain wandered about, the carpenter repaired the boat. This island was so barren, that there was not any herb upon it, and Mr. *James* finding neither fowl nor fish, returned to the ship, and after steering about and frequently landing, at last came to *Charlton* Island, where they were on the 7th of *October*, when it snowed so violently, that they were forced to clear the deck with shovels, and the snow freezing over all parts of the ship, made her resemble

resemble a lump of ice; and though the sun shone out the following day, it had not the slightest effect upon it. The cold now increased to such a degree, that scarcely any thing could be preserved from freezing even by the fire side, and the sails being stiff and covered with ice were of no use. The boat with great difficulty went on shore, and the Captain seeing the winter come on so fast, sent the carpenter to cut wood, and others to carry it to the water side, whilst those in the boat brought it on board.



C H A P. III.

A House built on shore for the Sick. The Ship run aground to prevent her being driven to Sea, or dashed to pieces against the Rocks. The Manner in which they spent the Winter in that inhospitable Climate.

THE men having brought as much wood on board as could be conveniently stowed, the sick men desired to have a little house or hovel built on shore, wherein they might be better sheltered from the weather, in order to recover their health. Upon which Mr. *James* took the carpenter and other proper persons, and having chosen a place, they were immediately set to work. In the mean time Captain *James*, with some attendants, ranged the island in search of inhabitants, but found none, and returned much fatigued, the snow reaching up
to

to the middle of their legs. The sailors now took down the top-sails, and making great fires upon the hearth in the hatch-way, thawed and dried them, and then carefully laid them up between decks.

On the 12th the main-sail was taken down, and being thawed by the fire was carried on shore to cover the new-erected house.

On the 14th, some of the men being supplied with ammunition, went early in the morning to traverse the country, and search for some creek or cove for the ship, and on the 15th returned with a small lean deer, which they had cut into four quarters. They reported that they had seen a few more, but no sign of any other beast, though they had wandered 20 miles, and brought the deer above 12. In this excursion they lay in the woods, where they were almost perished with cold, nor could they recover themselves in three or four days after.

On the 19th the Lieutenant and five more of the men desired leave to try their fortune in travelling about the island; but though they wandered very far in the snow, staid out all night, and returned miserably disabled with cold, they took nothing; and what was still worse, lost one of their company; for *John Barton*, the gunner's mate, being very weary attempted to cross a pond, that was a quarter of a mile over, to save himself the trouble of going round; but when he was in the middle, the ice broke, closed upon him, and he was never seen more.

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It now began to blow and snow so hard that the boat could hardly get on shore, and the men were obliged to land from it by wading in the thick congealed water; and a barrel of beer being landed, froze firmly in the house in one night; but being thawed in a kettle over the fire was good for nothing. Those on shore then broke the ice of a neighbouring pond to come at water, but it having a loathsome smell, orders were given for none to touch it, lest it should be infectious. This disappointment induced them to sink a well near the house, where they found excellent water, which in their opinion tasted like milk. On the 10th the Captain set the carpenter to work to make a boat that might be carried over the ice, and used wherever there was water; the Captain also ordered the men to make traps to catch foxes, many of which were daily seen; some were black and white, whence it was concluded that there were some entirely black, whose skins the Captain told the men were of great value, and promised that whoever took one of them should have the skin for his reward. Upon this they made several traps, and walked thro' the snow, which was very deep, to place them in the woods. The same day the Captain took the latitude of the island, which he found to be 52 degrees. Thus, notwithstanding the dreadful severity of the climate, this inhospitable island is but thirty minutes farther north than *London*.

On the 12th their house took fire, but the flames were soon extinguished: however, as

they were obliged to keep an extraordinary fire night and day, this accident made the Captain order a constant watch to look after it. Mr. *James* continued on shore till the 17th, during which it snowed and froze extremely: the ship from the shore resembled a piece of ice in the form of a ship, the snow was all frozen about her, all her fore-part and sides were firm ice, and the cables were frozen in the hawse. The Captain now went on board, where he spent the nights in the most gloomy reflections, without the least hopes of saving the vessel, or the probable assurance of its being possible long to endure the extremities to which they were all reduced. The men were obliged every day to beat the ice off the cables, whilst some dug it out of the hawses with the carpenter's long caulking iron; in which work the water froze on their cloaths and hands, and so benumbed them, that they could hardly get into the ship without being heaved in with a rope.

On the 22d in the morning, the gunner, who had had his leg cut off, died, and was buried in the sea at a good distance from the ship. Some days before his death, he had desired that he might be allowed to drink nothing but sack, to which the Captain consented; but the bottle in which it was contained froze at his bed's head, as did the plaister at his wound, though he had a close boarded cabin in the gun-room, as many cloaths upon him as were convenient, and a pan of live coals kept constantly by him.

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On the evening of the 23d, just after watch was set, a large piece of ice came across the hawser, and four more followed after it, the least of which was a quarter of a mile over. The Captain and all on board were much terrified, imagining that these pieces of ice would drive the ship upon the rocks. They strained the cable considerably, and in this extremity the crew fired signals of distress, which were answered by those on shore, though they were unable to come to their assistance. However, this being newly congealed, only two inches thick, those on board broke through it, and by ten o'clock it was all gone.

In the morning the Captain sent for the men to come on board. They therefore shut up the house, and after being obliged to wade through the congealed water, with much pain reached the boat. When the whole crew were on board, it was resolved to run her aground, in order to preserve her as long as possible. This resolution being taken, they with great difficulty landed part of their bread, and a hog-head of beef: the bread that remained in the bread-room, with all the powder, was carried up into the great cabin. The ship being driven on shore, continued to beat violently, though she was bedded two feet deep in the sand, on which the Captain went with the carpenter into the hold, and bored a hole with an auger in her bottom, and in about six hours the water rose, broke into the powder and bread rooms, and damaged her between decks,

when it was every minute expected that she would open and break to pieces; but after having beat off her rudder, which was lost, she began to settle. At night they took to the boat; but the water was so thick with snow, that it was with great difficulty they reached the shore, by double manning four oars; and the Captain and his men, on their landing, were so altered in their habits and voices, and by their faces, hair, and apparel being frozen, that they scarcely knew each other.

Having hauled up the boat, they went in the dark along the beach side to the house, where having made a good fire, they eat some bread and drank melted water, after which they deliberated on their situation; the Captain ordering every one to speak his mind freely. The carpenter gave it as his opinion, that the ship was quite foundered, or at least rendered useless by the loss of her rudder; Mr. *James* however thought otherwise, and encouraged his people to keep up their spirits, by a very pious speech, in which he observed, that if it was their fortunes to end their days there, they were as near heaven as in *England*. He encouraged them to rely upon that Providence which supports those who confide in it, and that if it should happen that the ship was foundered, they might at the worst build a pinnace out of the wreck of the ship, in which, by the Divine assistance, they might once more be enabled to reach *Old England*. To this the carpenter answered, that no industry of his should be wanting to extricate them out of this place:

place: that if the crew would assist him, he imagined the island produced timber enough for building a pinnace, without meddling with the ship, which might by some good chance be again rendered more useful than now seemed probable: and all the men immediately replied, they would do their utmost to help forward whatever work he should undertake for the public good. The Captain thanked them all, and to encourage the carpenter, promised to give him immediately a piece of plate worth 10*l.* and that in case they went to *England* in the pinnace, he would freely give her to him, and also make him a present of 50*l.* in money; and that all the industrious should be liberally rewarded. Having thus concluded this consultation, they settled themselves close about the fire, and took their rest till day-light appeared.

Early the next morning the Captain desired the surgeon to cut off his hair short, and to shave off his beard, which became extremely troublesome from its being frequently frozen with large icicles; and all the rest having followed his example, prepared for work. The first thing they were to do was to get the cloaths and provisions on shore, and therefore the Captain divided the company; the master, and a proper number of men were to go on board to get things out of the hold; the cockswain, with his gang, were to bring the things on shore in the boat; and the Captain, with the rest of the people, were to carry them half a

mile through the snow, to a place where he intended to have a storehouse erected: but as for the heavier things, it was proposed to leave them on the beach. In the afternoon the wind being at south-south-west, and the water having ebbed so low that they thought something might be got out of the hold, they launched out the boat, and with their oars made way through the thick congealed water. It froze extremely hard, and the Captain stood on the shore with great uneasiness, thinking that the boat would be carried with the ebb into the sea; and if that should happen, they were all lost. However, they got safe to the ship, made a fire to signify their arrival on board, and falling to work, got something out of the hold upon the deck; but night approaching, they durst not venture back to shore, and therefore lay on the bed in the great cabin, where they were almost starved.

The 1st of *December* was so cold, that the Captain went over the ice to the ship, the same way in which the boat had gone the day before; and he, with the men, carried upon their backs 500 of their fish, and a great part of their bedding and cloaths, which they were obliged to dig out of the ice. The 2d was mild weather, and some of the men going over the ice, they fell in, and were with great difficulty saved; so that not being able to get to the ship, the Captain directed them to begin the storehouse on shore. The same evening the ice broke, and was driven by the wind out of the bay. On the 3d several large pieces of
ice

ice came across the ship; the men, however, found a way for the boat; but when she was laden she drew four feet water, and could not come within a slight shot of the shore: so that the men were forced to undergo the hardship of wading through the congealed water with loads upon their backs. In this cold evening they cut away as much ice from about the boat as they were able to pick out of her with handspikes, and endeavoured to hoist her into the ship, there being but little hopes of going backwards and forwards with her again: but their whole united strength being insufficient, they were obliged to leave her in the tackles by the ship's side.

The 4th, being *Sunday*, they rested, and spent their time in religious exercises. The two following days the weather being extremely cold, they made bags of their store shirts, in which they carried the loose bread to shore over the ice. They also dug their cloaths and new sails out of the ice with iron handspikes, and carrying them on shore, dried them by a large fire. The 7th was so excessively cold, that their noses, cheeks, and hands froze as white as paper; and though the two following days continued extremely cold, and there fell a great quantity of snow, yet they pursued their labour in carrying and rolling goods on shore.

The cold now increased to such a degree, that by the 19th they could get nothing more out of the hold, but were obliged to leave five barrels of beef and pork, all their beer, and
several

several other things, which were frozen so fast as not to be moved. The 21st was so cold that they could not go out of the house, but on the 23^d they went to get the boat on shore, having before dug her out of the ice. By ten in the morning there came so thick a fog, that it was as dark as night; upon which the Captain made them lay aside their work, and make what haste they could to the shore, which they had much ado to find without losing one another. At last, however, they met at the house, but in the most miserable frozen condition imaginable; for several of the men had blisters raised by the cold as big as walnuts, which it was thought proceeded from their too hastily approaching the fire.

Their well being now frozen up, they found that no water was to be had by digging ever so deep, and were therefore obliged to make use of snow water, both for drink and dressing of victuals. This they found to be very unwholesome, it giving them such a shortness of breath, that they were scarce able to speak. All their sack, vinegar, oil, and every thing else that was liquid, was now frozen as hard as a piece of wood, and they were forced to cut it with a hatchet; nay, the frost was so severe as to penetrate within a yard of the fire-side. About this time the Captain recollecting that on his first landing he had discovered a spring at the foot of a hill at a small distance, near which he had ordered some trees to be cut for marks to know the place, he sent three of the men that had been there with him, who
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at last found it, and shovelling away the snow, came to the very head, where they found it rise strongly, and to the Captain's great joy brought him a can of it. This discovery proved of vast service to the people; for the spring flowed the whole year, and was never frozen so hard, but that they could come at it by breaking the ice.

They now settled their bedding and provisions, and made preparations for keeping *Christmas Day* in as religious and chearful a manner as they were able. And now Captain *James* says, that instead of a *Christmas* tale he will describe the house they lived in, with others that were adjoining.

On his first resolving to build a house, he chose the warmest and most convenient situation, and one that was at the same time nearest the ship. It was among a thick tuft of trees, under a rising ground facing the south. This building they chose to erect, from their finding they could not dig into the earth to make a cave; which would certainly have been the the best way. The house was square, about 20 feet each way, which they began to erect by driving long stakes into the earth; and round these they wattled boughs as thick as possible, beating them down very close. This first work was six feet high on both sides, but at the ends it reached almost to the very top, where two holes were left to admit the light, and let out the smoke. They then cut down trees, which they proportioned into lengths of six feet: of these they made a pile on both sides

sides the house six feet thick and six feet high, but at both ends ten feet high and six feet thick. They left a little low door to creep in at, and a portal before that, to keep the wind from blowing into it. They next fastened a rough tree on the top, upon which they laid the rafters, and the main course over them, which covering the whole, reached from each side to the ground.

The inside they lined with their bonnet sails, then driving in stakes made bedstead-frames about three sides of the house, which doubled one under another, the lowermost being a foot from the ground. These they first filled with boughs, upon which they laid their spare sails, and then their bedding and cloaths. In the middle of the house they made a hearth for the fire, and round it placed some boards to stand upon, to prevent their being injured by the cold damps of the earth; and with their waste cloaths and small sails they made testers and curtains.

They built another house at not above 20 feet distance, which had the same sort of wattleing, but it was less. Instead of piles on the south side, all the chests were heaped up within; and indeed the reflection of the fire against them made it warmer than the mansion-house. Here they dressed their provisions, and the inferior part of the crew refreshed themselves in it all day.

The store-house, for fear of fire, was 29 paces distant. It was only a rough tree fastened aloft, with rafters laid from it to the ground,

ground, and covered with a new suit of sails. Within it were laid small trees, spread over with boughs, on which the bread and fish were stowed, at the distance of about two feet from the ground, in order to preserve them from damage; but other things lay more carelessly.

Long before *Christmas* the mansion-house was covered thick with snow almost to the very roof, as was also the second house; but the store-house was covered all over, on account of there being no fire in it. Thus they seemed to live in a wilderness of snow, which they were obliged to shovel away from their doors; and this being trampled upon served for the Captain's gallery and the sick men's walk, the surface of it being at least a yard above the ground.

The month of *January*, 1632, was extremely cold. The sea was firmly frozen, and no where to be seen. On the 21st the sun arose along the horizon of an oval figure, twice as long as it was broad; but as it got higher, it resumed its common form. On the 30th and 31st, in the beginning of the night Captain *James* observed more stars in the firmament by two thirds than he had ever seen before; but the moon rising about ten o'clock, three parts of them were eclipsed by her lustre. The wind was northerly and very cold the greatest part of the month; but when it was warmest, the men employed themselves in fetching wood, and working upon the pinnace.

During the month of *February* the cold was as extreme as it had been any time in the whole year.

year, and its dismal effects were bitterly felt by these unhappy people, some of whom had all their teeth loose, and their gums swelled and covered with rotten flesh. Others had pains in their heads and breasts; some a weakness in their backs: others aches in their thighs and knees, and others swellings in their legs: and by these disorders two thirds of the company were under the surgeon's hands.

To remedy these dreadful effects of the scurvy, the surgeon, who was a man of an amiable temper, exerted his utmost diligence, and rising early in the morning, picked their teeth and cut away the black rotten flesh from their gums, while their thighs, knees and legs were bathed in a tub of warm water. There was no tree, bud or herb, of which they did not make trial; and these being boiled in a kettle and put into a small tub and basons, they placed it under them, and by bathing the aggrieved parts, so mollified them that though when they rose out of their beds, they were so crippled as be scarce able to stand, yet after this had been done half an hour, they were able to walk, and were under the necessity of wading through the snow about business. By night however they were as bad as before, and then their mouths were again dressed, and their limbs bathed, before they went to bed. These dreadful distresses were aggravated by most of them having no shoes to secure their feet from the snow; for upon their coming out of the snow to the fire, they were scorched
upon

upon their feet, and the store shoes were all sunk in the ship. In this necessity they fastened clouts about their feet, and with this poor expedient endeavoured to perform their duty.

It may be necessary here to observe with respect to provisions, that, as there were no hopes of recruiting, the cook ordered them in the following manner. The beef which was to serve on *Sunday* night for supper, was boiled on *Saturday* night, for about an hour, in a kettle full of water, with a quart of oatmeal. The beef being then taken out, the rest was boiled to half the quantity, and the pottage they eat with bread as hot as they could. On *Sunday* they dined upon pork and peas, and at night the beef being boiled again, made more pottage; and thus they proceeded the rest of the week; but as many of the people fell sick after *Christmas*, and from the soreness of their mouths could neither eat beef, pork, salt fish nor pottage, some pounded bread in a mortar, and eat it after its being fried with a little oil, and others boiled peas to a soft paste.

In the whole winter they did not take above a dozen foxes, some of which were dead two or three days in the traps before they were found, when the blood being settled they were unwholesome; but when one of them was taken alive he was boiled to make broth for the weakest of the sick men, and the flesh being boiled soft, they also eat of it. Some white partridges were also killed, but these were very few.

Abroad the severity of the weather was scarce to be endured, no cloaths being proof against it, nor any motion sufficient to keep up their natural warmth. It froze the hair on their eye-lids so that the men could not see. The inside of the house hung with icicles, and even the bed-cloaths, though the beds were almost close to the fire, were covered with hoar frost, and the ground was frozen ten feet below the surface.

On the 15th of *March*, one of the men thinking he had seen a deer, engaged two or three others, with the captain's leave, to go in search of it; but they returned at night without success so disabled with cold, that they did not recover their former state till a fortnight after, their legs and the soles of their feet being covered with blisters as big as walnuts. On the 26th, three others also desired to go out, in order to try their fortunes, but returned even worse disabled, and almost perished with the cold.

The providing timber for fuel, as well as for making the pinnace, was attended with the utmost difficulty, for the axes and hatchets were all either broke in the blades, sockets or handles, yet these were the only instruments they had to cut down trees and form handles for these tools. It was besides extremely difficult to find wood fit for firing; that which was green almost suffocating them with smoke, and a kind of turpentine issuing from that which was dry, also caused a smoke, which
though

though not so intolerable as the other, covered them with foot.

The first of *April* being *Easter* day, they solemnized it in a religious manner; both that and the two following holidays were excessive cold, and now they all sat about the fire considering and reasoning on their present situation. The carpenter had some time before been so weak, that he had been led to his work, and was now with four other men not able to do any thing; the boatswain, and many more were very infirm, and there were but five who could eat their ordinary allowance. The season of the year on which all their hopes depended, came on apace, and yet the cold was very little abated: their pinnace was in an indifferent forwardness; but the carpenter, instead of giving hopes of his recovery, grew worse and worse, and the ship they imagined to be full of solid ice, the weight of which would be sufficient to open the seams of any new and sound vessel, and more especially of one that had lain so long upon the ground as she had done. In short, after laying open their miserable and helpless situation, and entering into many disputes, the Captain resolved, that notwithstanding it was more labour, and the men grew weaker and weaker, yet with the first warm weather they should begin to clear the ship; upon which they searched for the tools proper for digging the ice out of her, when it was found they had but two iron bars on shore, and one of them broken, the rest being sunk in the ship. With these bars, and four broken

shovels, they afterwards began to dig the ice, and to lay it about the ship in such a manner, as to form a barricado to prevent her being damaged when the ice should break in the bay, which it was to be feared might in her present crazy condition shatter her all to pieces.

The 16th being the most comfortable sunshiny day they had felt that year, they cleared the ship's deck of snow, and made a good fire to dry the great cabin, while others were ordered to dig through the ice for the anchor, which being in shoal-water, was discovered the next day and brought on board.

On the 19th, the master, and two others, desired they might lie on board, that they might withdraw themselves from the groans and lamentations of their companions, to which the Captain freely consented; for they had lain very incommodiouly all the winter, with sick bed-fellows.

The greatest part of this month was spent in stopping the holes bored in the ship to sink her, repairing her other damages, and freeing her from ice and snow, in performing which such of the hands as were able laboured with great alacrity, and by the 28th the cook had set free the pumps, by pouring boiling water into them, when they delivered water very well. On the 29th it rained all day, which gave them great joy, as it was a certain sign that winter was broke up, and though it hailed, snowed, and was very cold on the two following days, yet the rain had given them such spirits, that on *May* eve, they sat round a good fire and
diverted

diverted themselves by chusing their mistresses, and wearing their names in their caps.



C H A P. III.

The Weather grows extremely hot, and the Ice breaks. The green Leaves of Vetches discovered, which prove a wonderful Restorative. They find some useful Stores in the Hold. They float the Ship into the Sea. Take a formal Possession of these Territories for his Majesty's Use. The whole Island set on fire. The Captain fixes up an Account of his Adventures. A Description of the Island.

THE thaw now increased; but on the second of *May* the weather was so extremely sharp, that those who had any strength left durst not stir out of doors, and those who were sick in bed swooned, on being turned.

On the fourth, when the melted snow began to lie in plashes, some cranes and geese made their appearance; but though the Captain and surgeon went out with their guns to try if they could kill any of these fowl for their sick men, they were so shy, that after having spent above two hours to no purpose, they returned, not being able to endure any longer the fatigue of stalking through the snow, and with such pains in their limbs, that the Captain thought he should have lost his legs.

On the ninth, they heaved out of the hold four butts of beer and one of cyder, which, to their great joy, they found to be extremely good, it having lain under water all the winter. They also the same day got up five barrels of beef and pork. By the 12th they had cleared the hold of all the ice, and came at the store shoes. Upon which they were dried by the fire, and every man fitted himself with a pair. They also found a butt of wine, which was hard frozen.

They now fitted the ship, in which they could find no defect, and therefore hoped that she was staunch; but the carpenter was of a different opinion, and alledged, that now she lay on the ground, her defects were filled by the ice, which alone kept out the water.

On the 14th the boatswain, with some other hands, brought ashore the rest of the rigging, which was much spoiled by pecking it out of the ice; and this they began to refit, while the cooper, though very infirm, was employed in making up the casks. Mr. *James* intending if he could not get the ship otherwise easily off, to pass some cables under her, and buoy her up with casks. The same day that gentleman having made some shot with old pewter, and the aprons of his guns, for he would not touch the carpenter's sheet led, sent some other persons to see if they could kill some wild fowl for the sick, who now grew worse and worse, and the next day he dug up a little piece of ground that was free from snow,
and

and sowed it with peas, in hopes of having some that were green.

On the 18th died *William Cole* the carpenter, who was much beloved by all the men. He had nearly compleated the pinnace, which was a well proportioned vessel of about twelve or fourteen tons burden, and was twenty-seven feet by the keel. They were, however, in hopes of being able to finish her, in case the ship should prove unserviceable. The master of the ship returning from the funeral, observed the body of the gunner who died six months before, under the gun room ports, though he had been committed to the sea at a considerable distance from the ship. The next day the Captain ordered it to be dug out. He was fast in the ice, with his head downwards, and his only leg upwards; the plaister was yet on the stump of the other. It is remarkable, that he had no noisome smell, and that his flesh would slip up and down upon his bones like a glove. In the evening he was buried by the carpenter.

The snow was by this time pretty well wasted in the woods, and there being a high tree on the greatest eminence in the island, they named it the Watch Tower; from the top of it they had a view of the sea, but could yet perceive no appearance of the ice breaking. The 21st was the warmest sun-shiny day they had felt in the island. The Captain sent two men a fowling, and went himself with the master, surgeon, and another person, with their pieces and dogs, in order to search the woods,
for

for what they could find; but after having wandered eight miles from the house, they returned without the satisfaction of having discovered an herb or leaf that was eatable, and the fowlers had no better success. They found the snow partly evaporated in the woods, for it does not melt there with the sun or rain, and make land floods as in other climates; but is exhaled by the sun, and drawn full of holes like a honeycomb, without wetting the sand on which it lies.

They had now sometimes such hot weather, that they could not endure the heat of the sun-beams, and yet in the night it froze very hard. There was no sign of the ice breaking till the 24th, when it cracked all over the bay with a dreadful noise, and about three in the afternoon they could perceive it float with the ebb, and drive by the ship, when they found the advantage of the barricado of ice they had laid, which prevented her being dashed to pieces. The same day one of the men striking his lance down among the ice, happily struck upon the rudder, and brought it up, when others coming to his assistance it was heaved into the ship. In the mean time the ice began to rise and mount into high heaps against the shore and rocks; but in an hour's time it settled again. This was a joyful day, and all the men joined in returning thanks to God for the reviving hopes it afforded.

On the 28th the sea was pretty clear betwixt the ship and the shore. On the 29th being Prince *Charles's* birth-day, they kept holiday, and

and displayed his Majesty's colours both on land and aboard, and named their habitation *Charles Town*, by contraction *Charlton*, and the island *Charlton Island*. On the 30th they launched their boat, and passed in it to the ship, which was now a new employment. On the last day of the month they found some vetches, which were boiled for the sick; they also prepared their sails and rigging, and aired their provisions, there not being a man able to eat any thing salt, except the Captain and master. But the cold sometimes returned with great violence. However, by feeding on the green vetches they had so providentially discovered, the sick men gathered strength surprisingly; and those who had been so ill as to be unable to stir for two or three months, could endure the air and walk about the house. They gathered the leaves of the vetches soon after they appeared out of the ground, and having washed and boiled them, eat them with the oil and vinegar that had been frozen; and this was such a refreshing food, that most of the men eat nothing else. They also eat them raw with their bread, and bruised them and mixed the juice with their drink. By these means they recovered strength apace, and having pumped the water out of the ship, they hung on their rudder; heaved out all the balast, and carrying every thing on shore, rendered the ship as light as possible.

On the 16th of *June* there was some thunder and lightning, and the weather was so hot, that the men went into the ponds to swim, yet
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190 *Capt. JAMES'S VOYAGE for the*
the water was still very cool. There had lately appeared several sorts of flies, as butterflies, horse-flies, and an infinite number of musketoes, that tormented the men extremely. These the Captain supposes lie senseless in the old rotten wood all the winter, and are revived by the heat of summer. There were also a prodigious number of ants, and vast quantities of frogs in the ponds; but as they were speckled like toads, they durst not eat them; however, there were yet neither bears, foxes, nor fowl to be seen.

Having before dug the sand from the sides of the ship, and sufficiently lightened her, they took the advantage of some high tides, and got her into deep water.

On the 24th the Captain, who had before caused a very high tree to be cut down, and a cross to be made of it, now affixed to it the pictures of King *Charles I.* and his Queen well drawn, and close wrapped in lead, so that no air could possibly hurt them, and between these affixed his Majesty's titles, *viz. CHARLES King of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, also of Newfoundland, and the territories to the westward as far as Nova Albion, and to the northward to the latitude of eighty degrees, &c.* On the outside of the lead he nailed a shilling and a six-pence of King *Charles's* coin, and under it his Majesty's arms cut in lead, under which was the arms of the city of *Bristol*; and this being *Midsummer-Day*, *Capt. James* erected this cross thus ornamented, on the top of the hill where the men had buried their deceased
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Capt. James's escape from the Fire.

companions. By this ceremony he took possession of these territories for his Majesty's use.

On the 25th in the morning the boatswain, with some of the best hands, began to rig the ship, the rest fetching the provisions and other necessaries on board. About ten o'clock the Captain with a lance in his hand, attended by another person with a musket, went to the watch-tree, to make a fire on the highest part of the island, in expectation that if there had been any savages at sea, or in the neighbouring islands, they would have answered it by another signal, by which means he might have gone to them, and have obtained some useful intelligence. When he came to the tree he laid down his lance, as the sailor did his musket; and while he was climbing, the sailor unadvisedly set fire to some low trees that were to windward; so that the Captain had scarcely settled himself on the top of his watch-tree, when he perceived that the fire ran from tree to tree with surprising rapidity, all of them being dried by the heat of the weather; and the wind blowing towards him, he hastened down as fast as possible. But he had scarcely got half way before the fire seized on the bottom of the tree, and blazed so fiercely upward that he was obliged to leap off; and though he made what haste he could down a steep hill, the fire followed so close at his heels, that he with difficulty escaped being burnt to death. The moss on the ground was as dry as flax, and it ran like a train along the earth. The musket
and

and the lance were both burnt. The sailor at length overtook the Captain, and expressing great joy at seeing him alive, they went home together, leaving the fire every minute increasing, and burning most furiously. The Captain slept but little that night, and at break of day ordered all the powder and beef to be carried aboard; after which he went to the hills to observe the fire, where he saw it still spreading to the westward and northward. He left a person there to watch it, and immediately returning home, bid his people take down their new suit of sails from the houses, and carry them to the sea-side, in order to cast them in if necessary; and afterwards pull down the buildings with all possible expedition. About noon the wind shifted to the northward, when the sentinel came running home, bringing word that the fire followed him at his heels like a train of powder. There was now no occasion to bid them pull down and carry all to the sea-side. The fire came towards them with a most terrible rattling noise, being a full mile in breadth; and by the time they had uncovered their houses, and were going to carry away the last things, it came to their town, (as they termed it) and instantly burnt it to the ground. They however lost nothing of value, having carried all into a place of security. The wind then shifted towards the east, and the fire spread to the westward, consuming all before it. That night they all lay on board the ship, where they with great solemnity returned

turned thanks to heaven for their preservation.

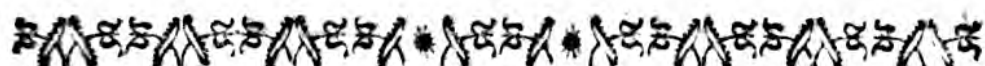
On the three following days they took their water and other things aboard. By this time the bay was quite clear of ice, it being all gone to the northward. The climate now appeared very unwholesome; for in the day-time the heat, being increased by the reflection of the sandy soil, was insupportable; yet at night the ponds froze an inch thick. But the greatest inconvenience they felt was from the stinging of the musketoës, against which there was no defending themselves; for though they made bags to put their heads in, out of an old flag, which they tore for that purpose, those troublesome insects made their way through it; so that their faces were filled with pimples, accompanied by a violent itching and smarting.

On the 1st of *July* they arose early, and the Captain caused the ship to be adorned in the best manner he was able, with the flag in the poop, and the King's colours in the main-top. He had provided a short account of all the events in this voyage, till that day; to which was added the state they were in at present, and how he intended to prosecute the discovery; which he concluded with a request, that any noble-minded traveller who should take it down, or come to the knowledge of it, would, in case they should perish, make their endeavours known to the King. With this paper they went on shore with their arms, colours, and drums, attended by the cook with his kettle, and marched up to the cross, near which

the fire could not come, on account of its being encompassed by a bare sandy ground. There they read morning prayers, and then walked about till dinner. After which they proceeded to the highest hills, in order to see which way the fire had spread, when they observed, it had extended 16 miles to the westward, and the whole breadth of the island. After evening prayers the Captain walking along the beach side, found an herb resembling scurvy-grass, of which he had some gathered, which was boiled with their meat for supper, when they found it a most agreeable food. They had therefore no sooner supped, than they went to search for more of it, and carried off about two bushels. The sun being now set, they assembled and went up to take the last view of the graves of their deceased companions, and having fastened the above paper, which was securely wrapped up in lead, to the cross, they took their boat, and departed with a view of never more setting their foot on the island.

The soil of this and all the other islands near it, as likewise that of the main, is a light white sand, covered over with a white moss; it is full of shrubs and low bushes, except some hills and other spots that are bare: in these places the sand drives with the wind like dust. This island was very full of trees, particularly spruce and juniper; but the biggest tree the Captain saw was only a foot and a half in diameter. They saw many foxes all the winter, and killed several, but they all went away in *May*. They had a view also of some other small

small beasts, and saw a few bears, but killed none of them. In *May* there came some fowl, as has already been observed, and particularly ducks and geese, of which they killed very few. They had also white partridges in small quantities.



C H A P. IV.

They sail to Danby Island, to take in more Wood: Again set sail, and are exposed to many Hardships, and the greatest Danger from Storms, Rocks, and Ice, till they begin to despair of returning. The Captain again prosecutes the intended Discovery; but being exposed to new Dangers, returns to England.

ON the 2d of *July* they cheerfully weighed anchor, and stood over for *Danby Island*, to take in more wood, and to be ready to seize the first opportunity of a fair wind. The ship was to all appearance free from damage, and able to last the intended voyage: the men were in tolerable health, and had still left a considerable quantity of the provisions they had brought from *England*.

On their arrival at *Danby Island* the Captain and some of his people went ashore, when several stakes were found driven into the ground about a foot and a half deep. They were of the thickness of a man's arm, and being pulled up, were found pointed by a hatchet or

some other edged tool ; and by them were fire-brands half burnt. This discovery increased Mr. *James's* desire to speak with some of the savages, by whom he hoped to be enabled to increase his knowledge of the situation of those parts ; and, perhaps, to start some commerce that might be of advantage to his country. But no inhabitants of any sort appeared.

About four in the afternoon he returned on board in the boat, which was loaded with wood ; but from the 5th to the 22d they made little way, being most dreadfully pestered and tormented with ice, and sometimes they were so blinded with the fogs, that they could not see about them, which occasioned their striking upon the ice with such violence, that the cook and others ran up to the deck, imagining the ship had been beaten to pieces : she hourly struck such blows, that the hatches were left open, to afford the men frequent opportunities of examining and repairing any damage, and twenty times in a day the men would run into the hold to see if she was bulged. At other times, when they had made her fast in the night to a large piece of ice, they had such violent storms that their fastening broke, and they were beat from piece to piece in a most dreadful manner. At other times again, they were fast inclosed among great pieces of ice as high as their poop. These large pieces were formed by one piece running upon another, which made them draw eight or ten fathoms water ; besides which, the lowermost would rise from underneath, and those of five, six, nay of eight
eight

eight tons, strike the ship under the bulge. Among these incessant dangers, the Captain over-heard the men complain, that those were happy who had been buried in the island, and that if they had a thousand pounds, they would give it to lie fairly by them, since they were destined to starve upon a piece of ice. The Captain listened to them with patience, and comforted them till he found them in a better humour.

On the 22d, after a stormy night and a thick fog in the morning, the weather cleared up, and they saw land, which they knew to be *Cape Henrietta Maria*, and instantly stood in for it. In the mean time they made a cross, to which they fastened the King's arms, and the arms of the city of *Bristol*. Coming to an anchor in six fathoms water within a mile of the shore, they hoisted out the boat, and taking their arms and dogs landed, and upon the highest eminence erected the cross. They soon after saw several deer, but though they stole towards them, and then set on their dogs, the deer ran off at pleasure; and after having tired both themselves and the dogs, they were obliged to leave off the chace, none of the deer coming within gun-shot; when having taken half a dozen young geese on the pools by wading, they returned to their boat, vexed at being tantalized with the view of refreshments which they were unable to obtain. As these greyhounds had been very troublesome and mischievous on board the ship, the Captain caused them to be left on shore. They

were a dog and a bitch of a very good breed, and the dog had a collar about his neck, in order that he might be known by future discoverers. In this island they observed no sign of any inhabitants.

In the evening they returned on board, and stood out to sea, in order to weather the Cape; and it proving a moon-light night, they proceeded among great pieces of ice; but at length finding many of them as dangerous as rocks, they let fall an anchor, and all the men were ordered upon deck to man the poles, to each of which there was a necessity of having four men, though it often over-powered their utmost efforts, and came with violent shocks against the ship's sides. However, at break of day, they weighed and sought all ways of clearing themselves of the ice.

In extremities of this kind they laboured some weeks, giving and receiving near 500 dreadful blows in a day; sometimes using their sails, and at others having recourse to their anchors, when they could get a little open water, in order to suffer the ice to drive to leeward. At other times they were inclosed among it, when it would break and rise in such a manner as made them every moment expect to be beaten to pieces; besides they had such storms in the dark nights as broke their moorings to those large pieces to which they fastened for their security in the night.

At length the ship became so very leaky, that they were obliged to pump every half watch, upon which the Captain called a council

eil, when it being the general opinion that it was impossible to proceed on account of the ice, the Captain resolved, that when the wind blew the ice off the south shore, he would then seek to get between the ice and the land. This he knew to be a desperate resolution, all the coast being shoal and foul ground, filled with rocks and stones; but the wind turning to the south, he soon put this project in execution.

On the 1st of *August* they were again forced to struggle with the ice, and the wind being contrary, were obliged to come to an anchor near the shore, where many pieces of ice were aground in shoal water, and few of them at a greater distance from the other than a cable's length. The next day they were inclosed with extraordinary large pieces, and it being a thick fog, they made the ship fast to one of them.

On the 3d, 4th, and 5th, they were still inclosed, and it blew such a storm of wind, that endeavouring to get forward to the westward, the ship struck such heavy blows as made all the fore-part crack. Upon this they left off working, when the ice broke and rose under them, which put them into as great danger as they were in before. The ship now made a ton of water every watch, which they pumped out before they engaged in any other employment. On the fifth at noon they were in 55° latitude, at 12 leagues distance from *Cape Henrietta Maria*, which was all they had gained since the 22d of *July*. All night it blew a violent

violent storm at west-north-west, and about midnight, the hawser, which they had fastened to a piece of ice, broke, and they lost four fathoms of it. The ship beat all night in a most dreadful manner, being tossed from piece to piece, because the Captain durst not venture to let his men go on the ice in the dark for fear of losing them. The storm continued all the next day, and again drove them with the ice almost to the Cape.

The seventh was the most comfortable day they had enjoyed since their leaving *Charlton Island*, for the wind turned to the east, and they at length got into open water. Their dangers were however far from being over. The wind soon shifted, and a range of ice drove towards them; but though they prevented its falling foul of them, they were in a little time surrounded by it, and all their hopes of safety destroyed. They no sooner recovered from this distress than they were involved in others: shoals of ice, storms, and fogs, still seeming to conspire their destruction, till on the 19th of *August* they had passed the imminent dangers, to which they had been exposed for six weeks together from the ice.

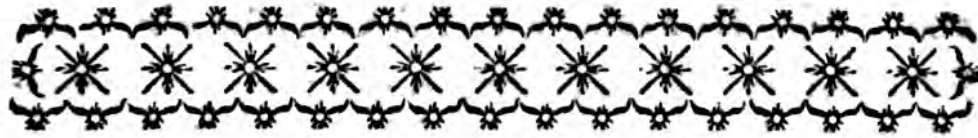
The Captain now resumed his design of attempting the discovery of a north-west passage; and therefore looked into *Cary's Swan's nest* and *Ne plus ultra*. On the 24th he made *Nottingham Island*; but at eight in the evening it began to blow a very stiff gale, and at nine they had a violent storm, which continued all night and the next day till the evening. On the 26th
by

by two in the morning they were suddenly got amongst the ice, when the moon shining, they perceived it, and would have stayed the ship; but it was so thick to the windward, and so near that they durst not. She therefore struck upon the ice with great violence, and in the morning they could see from the topmast-head a vast quantity of it to the north, the north-west, and round by the south to the east, which filling them all with great concern, the Captain called a consultation of his officers. Upon this they gave him their unanimous opinions in writing, that no advantage could be obtained by continuing longer in those seas, in consequence of which, he ordered the pilot to steer for *England*, and they pursued their course generally blinded with fogs, with snowy and frosty weather, among dispersed pieces of ice, many of which were higher than the top-mast-head, and on the 30th of this month were in the narrowest part of the strait.

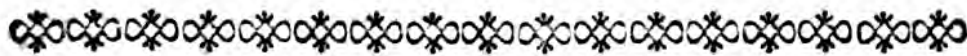
In the beginning of *September* they cleared the straits, after passing by mountains of ice of an incredible height, far exceeding any they had yet seen, and the cold so excessive, that it was with difficulty the men could take in the top and sprit-sails in an evening. On the 8th they had a tumbling sea, the wind coming in squalls, and the ship rolling to such a degree, that they were afraid she would have brought her masts by the board; besides, her seams gaped so much, that they all lay wet, and her leaks required a constant attention to the pump. However, after this day they saw no more ice,
and

and having a favourable wind, came to an anchor in *Bristol Road* on the 22d of *October*. The ship being brought into harbour, and put into a dry dock, it appeared miraculous that she had been able to perform her voyage, for she had lost 14 feet of her keel: all her cut-water, and great part of her sheathing were beaten and torn away; her bows were bruised and broken, many of her timbers cracked, and in one place the sharp rocks had cut through the sheathing, the planks, and an inch and half into one of the timbers.





THE
V O Y A G E
O F
HENRY ELLIS, Gent.
FOR THE
DISCOVERY of a NORTH-WEST
PASSAGE to the SOUTH-SEAS. *



C H A P. I.

An Account of the Expedition. The Dobbs Galley and California set sail. A Fire in the Powder Room. A particular Account of the Eskimaux Indians. Marble Island described.

THE nation was so alarmed at the misfortunes and distresses suffered by Captain *James* and his crew, that no attempts were made for the discovery of a north-west passage,

* *We have carefully compared this Gentleman's Descriptions of Places, Persons, and Things, with the Account published by the Clerk of the California; and where the latter has given Particulars that are very curious, omitted by the former, we have inserted them between Crotchets thus [].*

for

for upwards of 30 years : but at length many others took place ; tho' with equal ill success. At last a dispute arising between *Arthur Dobbs*, Esq; and Captain *Middleton*, in relation to a voyage made for the same purpose by the latter, many generous and public spirited persons opened a subscription for another trial, and for that purpose raised 10,000l. while the Legislature condescended to encourage the undertakers, by offering a reward of 20,000l. in case the discovery should be made.

For this purpose the *Dobbs* galley of 180 tons, commanded by Mr. *William Moor*, and the *California* of 140 tons burthen, under the command of Mr. *Francis Smith*, were fitted out and supplied with a sufficient quantity of provisions, military and naval stores ; also extraordinary wages agreed to be given to all concerned, and that no encouragement might be wanting, in case of success, the Captains were to have 500l. each mate 200l. and every other officer a reward suitable to his station.

At the time when the expedition was resolved to be undertaken, I (says Mr. *Ellis*) was in *Italy* ; and upon my return to *England*, had no intimation concerning it, till I was accidentally informed of it at *Hertford* ; when the concern I expressed upon this occasion, and the passion I shewed for an opportunity of exerting myself in so glorious a design, having reached the ears of some of the principal proprietors, I was sent for, and it was agreed that I should go the voyage in quality of agent for the Committee, without being under the command of
any

any officer on board, in order to make exact draughts of all the new discovered country, to mark the soundings, to examine the salt-ness of the water, to observe the variation of the compass, and to collect metals, minerals, and all kinds of natural curiosities; and so great was my eagerness to engage in this expedition, that in 18 hours from the time this affair was settled, I was actually on board at *Gravesend*.

Among the instructions given by the Committee, we were to avoid giving the least displeasure to the natives, and to bring none of them away by force; but if they should offer themselves voluntarily in exchange for others left in the country, they were to be brought to *England*, while such as stayed were to be allowed trifles to present to the natives, in order to conciliate their esteem; with seeds for garden-stuff and trees not found in those parts, and paper, pens and ink, to make observations on the country.

The ships sailed from *Gravesend* on the 20th of *May*, 1746; and steering by the east coast of *England*, passed by the Islands on the north of *Scotland*. Nothing occurred but the common circumstances of wind and weather, till the 21st at night, when a terrible fire broke out in the great cabin of the *Dobbs*, and quickly made its progress to the powder room, which was directly underneath it, where there were no less than thirty or forty barrels of powder, besides candles, spirits, matches, and other combustibles. It is impossible to express

the confusion and consternation of the whole crew: every one on board had the greatest reason to expect that moment, or the next at most, was his last. You might on this occasion hear all the varieties of sea eloquence; cries, prayers, curses, and scolding, mingled together; yet this did not prevent proper measures being taken to save the ship and our lives. Water in great abundance was properly applied, and every other method used by those who still preserved their reason. As to the crew in general, their apprehensions suggested a variety of expedients, which they one moment endeavoured to execute, and the next abandoned, through distraction and despair. Some were for hoisting out the boats, and accordingly the lashings were cut; but none had patience to hoist them out; others were for setting more sail to come up with the *California*, which was at a great distance ahead, that, if any should be alive after the ship's being blown up, they might have a chance of saving themselves on board. Chimerical as this was, the reefs were turned out of the top-sails, which were with great difficulty properly set. In the midst of all this hurry, the man at the helm, reflecting that the fire and powder were directly under him, was quite distracted, and thoughtless of his charge; so that imagination cannot paint a wilder scene than was now exhibited. The ship was ahead to the wind, the sails shaking with a noise like thunder; she then turned, and ran right before it, and continued rolling,
while

while every body waited in an agony for the blast that was to put an end to their fears and perplexities: but at length the fire was happily extinguished, to the inexpressible joy of all on board.

On the 27th we fell in with great quantities of low ice, and for some time after passed through abundance of drift wood, that is, pretty large timber floating at sea, and on the sixth of *July* began to fall in with those mountains of ice that are always met with near *Hudson's* Straights. This mountainous ice is of a prodigious bulk, and if I should say that it is sometimes five or six hundred yards thick, I am satisfied I should not exceed the truth. On the eighth of *July* we made the islands of *Resolution*, in the mouth of the straits, when the fogs suddenly clearing up, prevented our going on shore, and our vessels being broke to pieces upon the rocks.

At these islands three large and twenty-six small canoes full of *Eskimaux* Indians came on board to trade with us, bringing whale-bone and seal skins, in exchange for which we gave them hatchets, saws, gimblets, &c. We made a considerable profit by our dealing with them, and they were so well pleased with this traffic, that both the men and women were very eager in stripping themselves almost naked, that they might sell their cloaths, which they did for knives and pieces of iron.

The word *Eskimaux* is derived from an *Indian* term that signifies *an eater of raw flesh*, to which is added a *French* termination. In-

deed they are the only nation hitherto known that eat animal flesh absolutely raw, and this, with their having beards, which no other *Indians* have, makes them believed to be the same people with the *Greenlanders*. They are of a middle size, robust, and inclinable to be fat; their heads are large, and their faces round, flat, and swarthy; their eyes are black, small and sparkling; their noses flat, their lips thick, and their hair black and lank; their shoulders are broad, and their limbs proportionable; but their feet are extraordinary small. Their behaviour is chearful and sprightly; but they seem to be very subtle, cunning and deceitful, great flatterers, and much addicted to pilfer from strangers; easily rendered bold by encouragement, but as easily frightened. They are extremely attached to their own customs: some who have been taken prisoners by the southern *Indians* when they were boys, and brought to the factories, have for several years regretted their absence from their native country. One of them, after having been fed on *English* diet, being present when an *Englishman* was cutting up a seal, from which the train-oil ran very plentifully, licked up what he could save with his hands, crying, "Ah! commend me to my own dear country; where I could get my belly full of this."

The mens cloaths are of seal skins, and sometimes of the skins of land and sea fowl sewed together; each of their coats has a hood like a capuchin; it is close from the breast before like a shirt, and reaches no lower than the middle





The Habits of the Eskimauz.

middle of the thigh; the breeches are close before and behind, gathered like a purse, with a string, and tied about their waists: they have several pair of boots and socks, which they wear one over another, to keep them warm and dry. The difference between the dress of the men and the women is, that the latter have a narrow flap behind to their jackets that reaches to their heels. Their hoods are also larger and wider at the shoulders, for the sake of carrying their children in them at their backs; and their boots are a great deal wider, and commonly stuck out with whale-bone; because when they want to put a child out of their arms, they slip it into one of their boots till they can take it up again. Some few of them wear shifts of seals bladders sewed together, in nearly the same form with those in *Europe*. In general, their cloaths are sewed very neatly; this is performed with an ivory needle, and the sinews of deer split fine and used for thread. They discover a good deal of taste in adorning them with stripes of different coloured skins sewed in the manner of borders, cuffs and robings for their cloaths, which all together appear handsome, as well as convenient.

Their snow eyes, as they properly call them, are equally well contrived. These are bits of wood, or ivory, neatly formed, to cover the organs of sight, and tied at the back of the head: in each piece are two slits of the same length with the eyes, but narrow; through which they see very distinctly. This inven-

tion prevents snow-blindness, a very grievous and painful distemper, occasioned by the brightness of the light reflected by the snow upon the ice, more especially in the spring. Their use strengthens the sight prodigiously, and becomes so habitual, that when they would observe an object at a great distance, they commonly look through them, as we do through telescopes.

The same spirit of invention is seen in their instruments for fishing and fowling. Their darts and harpoons are well made, as are also their bows and arrows. They are very dexterous in the management of their canoes, which are of a construction very suitable to their occasions, easy of carriage, and quick in motion: their frames are made of wood or whalebone, covered all over with seal-skin parchment, except a hole in the middle, which has a rim of whalebone or wood round it, to prevent the water running in from the deck, affording only room for one man to sit in, his feet being stretched forward; and sometimes the skin is laced about his waist at the rim above mentioned, which effectually shuts out the water. They rub the seams with a kind of glue or pitch made of seals blubber. In these boats they carry their little conveniences, and their instruments for killing whales, sea horses, sea unicorns, seals, &c. They likewise carry slings and stones in their canoes, with which they can do execution at a great distance. Their harpoons are headed and pointed with sea horse teeth; the upper end
serves

serves to spear the whales, or other large animals, when they are struck, the more readily to dispatch them : the lower end is made use of to strike the fish, and introduce into his body a barb tipped with iron, which remains there, whilst the other part of the harpoon disengages itself readily, and comes out. To this barb is fastened a thong of sea horse hide, at the end of which is a seal skin blown up ; this serves as a buoy to shew where the whale is when he goes down, and prodigiously fatigues him in swimming. As soon as he expires, they with their canoes tow him ashore, and strip him of his fat, which serves them for food, and to burn in their lamps, during the winter.

Besides the above canoes for the men, which are sharp at each end, about twenty feet long, and two feet broad, they have boats much larger, that are open, and rowed by the women, and though made of the same materials as the former, will carry above twenty persons.

On the 17th the ice being very thick about us, we made fast to the largest piece we could find, with several ice anchors and ropes, and the crew of the *California*, as well as we in the *Dobbs* galley, filled our empty casks with fresh water, out of the ponds that are commonly found upon the ice. Two days after the ice opening, we got under an easy sail, and proceeding through vast quantities of it, at length reached *Marble Island*, from whence the long boats of each ship were sent, commanded by the chief mates, with whom I went to observe every circumstance relating to the tides, and what-

whatever might furnish any lights towards the discovery of a passage. We saw several considerable openings to the westward of this island, and found that the flood tide came from the north-east, the course of the coast. We returned and made our report on the 16th of *August*, on which a council being held, it was agreed to defer any farther attempt to make a discovery till the next summer, and to steer to *Port Nelson*, it being preferable to any other place in *Hudson's Bay*, on account of its being the soonest cleared of ice, and its abounding with wood, venison, and other game.

The centre of *Marble Island* lies in the latitude of $62^{\circ}. 55'$. north, and in 92° . west long. from *London*. It is situated near the eastern coast of *Hudson's Bay*, at the entrance of the *Welcome*: its greatest length from east to west is six leagues, and it is two or three miles in breadth. It is high at the west end, and low at the east. The land is one continued rock of an hard white kind of marble, interspersed in some places with spots of different coloured stone, as black, blue, and green. The tops of the hills are prodigiously rent and shattered, and numbers of huge rocks are confusedly huddled together, under which are deep caverns, whence issue a great noise resembling the rolling of waves. By the water that oozes out of the clefts, there seem to be mines of copper and other ores; for in one place it was green, and tasted like verdigrease, and in another perfectly red, dying the stones over which it passed of the same hue. In the valleys was
a shal-

a shallow soil of turf, and but little herbage; but in several pools of fresh water were swans and ducks, and hard by some deer grazing. The only harbour is at the south-west part of the island, the entrance of which is but narrow and shoal; but within, it is capacious enough to hold an hundred sail.



C H A P. II.

The Ships laid up in a Creek in Hayes's River, near the Bank of which they resolve to spend the Winter. A Description of the Log-tents, built for the common Men, and the House erected for the Officers. Of the Climate and natural Productions of the Country: the Dress, Habitations and Manners of the Natives. A Description of York Fort.

IN our passage from this island to port *Nelson* we had blustering weather, attended with snow, fleet, and thick fogs. We arrived in sight of the shoals of that river, which are very dangerous, on the 25th of *August*, and the next day the weather being fine and moderate, the boats of each ship were sent a-head to sound, and to erect a flag as a mark to sail over the flats at the mouth of the southern branch, or *Hayes's River*. The *California* got safe to an anchor, but the *Dobbs* came aground on the flats, and had it blown hard, must inevitably have been lost. The Governor under
the

214 Mr. ELLIS'S VOYAGE for the
the *Hudson's Bay* Company cruelly seized this opportunity to compleat our distress, and sent his boat and people to cut down the beacon, which was the only proper mark to guide us into a place of safety, if we should be so happy as to get the ship afloat, as we did the next day, when we got to an anchor near the *California*.

As we had intended to winter at *Port Nelson*, the boats of each ship were sent to examine that river, which is the finest in *Hudson's Bay*. It being navigable for many leagues, and having a communication with the great Lakes behind *Canada*; the most advantageous trade might be carried on upon it, provided settlements were made thirty leagues up, where the climate may be justly stiled temperate. This river lies in 57°. 30'. latitude; it is about two leagues wide at the entrance, with a very good channel about a mile broad. Its banks are low and covered with large woods, chiefly of spruce, fir, poplar, birch, larch and willow; and abound with deer, hares, rabbits, geese, ducks, swans, partridges, pheasants, plover, and many other fowl, in their proper seasons, as also variety of fish in great plenty. These advantages could not however tempt the Captains to repass the shoals and expose the ships to danger in entering the proper channel: we therefore ran three miles up *Hayes's River*, and then landed some of our stores to lighten the ships, and moored them in a safe creek five miles above *York Fort*.

We

We now turned our thoughts on the methods necessary for our preservation, and being sensible that the severity of the cold would render it impossible to live on board the ships, some of the people were employed in cutting fire wood, and others in building log-tents. This contrivance, I suppose, was borrowed from the natives; they were made of trees cut about sixteen feet long, raised close together, their ends lying one against another at the top, and extending at the bottom, in the form of the roof of a country house. The vacancies between these logs were stuffed with moss, and that being plaistered over with clay, made a warm hut: the door was low and small, there was a fire place in the middle, and a hole over it to let out the smoke.

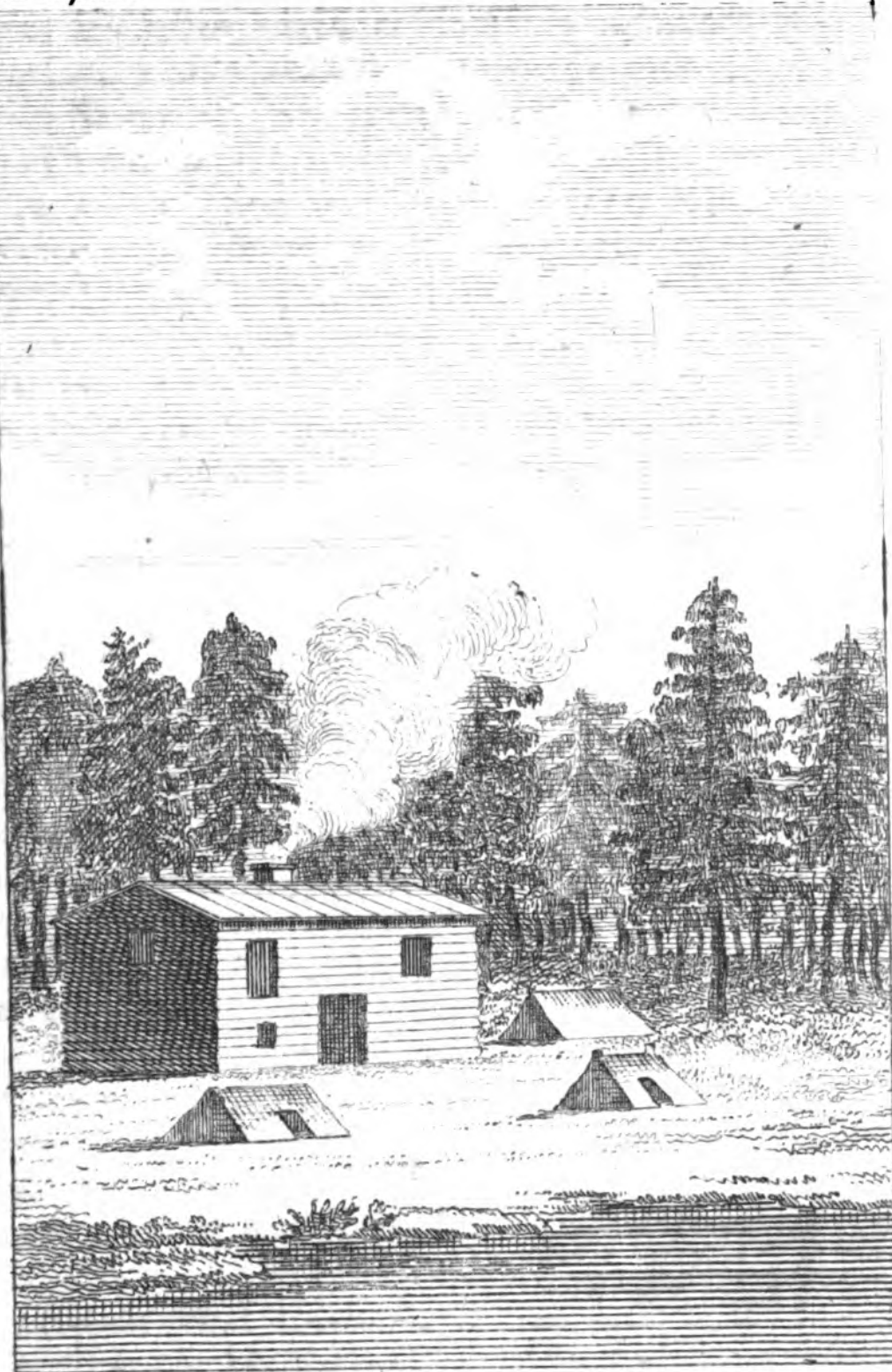
The grand business was building an house for the officers, and we chose a situation that was equally pleasant and convenient; it was on an eminence surrounded with trees; the main river was half a mile distant to the north-west; near the same distance was the creek where our ships lay; at about 150 yards from the front was a handsome basin of water, called the *Beaver Creek*, which in prospect looked like a grand canal; and we were protected from the north and north-east winds by thick and tall woods.

This situation being chosen, I drew a plan of our intended mansion, which was approved. The house was to be twenty-eight feet long, and eighteen broad; it was to have one story, the

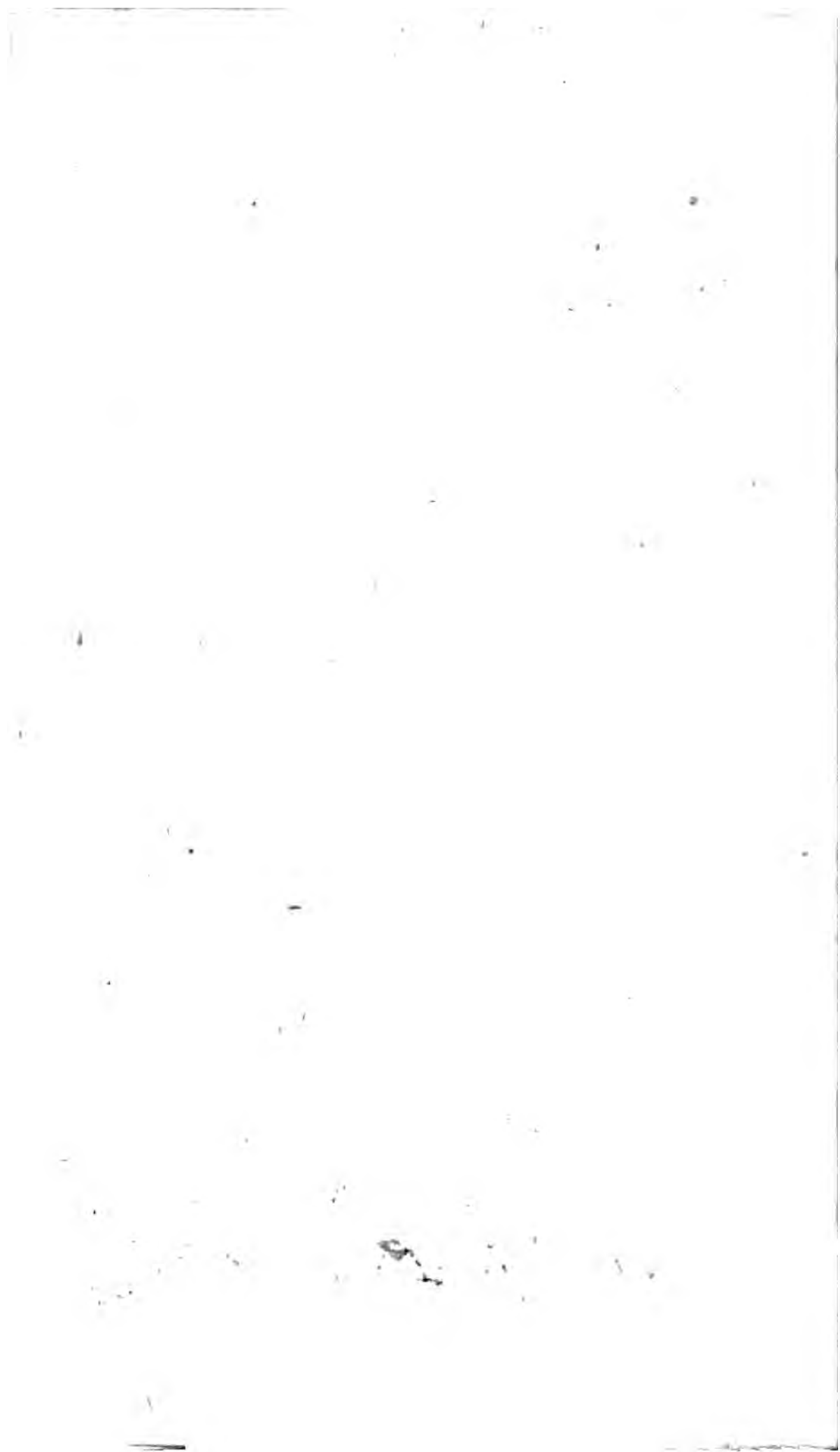
the lower rooms six, and the upper seven feet high; the Captains and some of the principal officers were to lie above, and the remainder below, with the subalterns and servants. The door was to be in the middle of the front, five feet high and three broad, with four small windows above stairs, and the stove was to be placed in the center, that every body might equally partake of its heat. These matters being thus adjusted, all hands were set to work; trees were cut down and hewed, planks sawed, and the walls begun by placing one log upon another, with moss between.

The weather was now excessive cold, and *Hayes's River* being frozen quite hard, we had some experience of what was to be expected from an *Hudson's Bay* winter. On the 2d of *November* we could not keep the ink from freezing at the fire. The next day all the bottled beer was froze solid, though packed up in tow, and near a good fire. On the 6th the cold becoming insupportable abroad, the sailors were distributed among the several huts, which were placed in the woods, and the Captains and officers, &c. went to live in their new house, which was christened in the sea way *Montague House*, in honour of his Grace the Duke of *Montague*, who was one of the subscribers to this expedition.

About this time we put on our winter dress, which consisted of a robe of beaver skins, that reached to our heels, and two waistcoats under it, a cap and mittens of the same, lined with flannel, a pair of *Indian* stockings
over



A View of Montague House



Over our yarn ones, made of broad-cloth or leather, which reaches up to the mid-thigh, with shoes of soft tanned moose or elk skin, under which we wore two or three pair of blanket or thick duffil socks; and a pair of snow shoes, about five feet long, and eighteen inches wide, to prevent our sinking in the snow, completed our dress. This is the garb of the *Indians*, who have taught it the *English*, and nothing can be better contrived both for convenience and use; for when thus equipped, we were able to stand almost the keenest cold that happened during the winter.

Our utmost skill and industry were now exerted in forming snares to catch rabbits, and in shooting partridges, which were so numerous that a good marksman might kill sixty or eighty in a day. The animals of the fur kind are caught in traps of different sorts, or in nets; and thus the beaver is most commonly taken: they spread and dry their skins in the sun, and eat the flesh, which is very fat and delicious.

Keen frosts continued all the month of *November*. When the wind was westerly or southerly, the cold was very supportable; but on its changing to the north-west or north-east, it immediately became excessive sharp, and often attended with a sort of snow like grains of sand, that drifted with the wind in clouds from every plain, and made it dangerous to be out upon the river, or any flat place; for this drift snow is commonly so thick that one can scarcely see twenty yards; every path is

levelled by it, and sometimes people have wandered in the utmost danger of being froze to death for hours together upon the ice of the river, within half a mile of the factory, without being able to find their way to it.

The severe cold was however felt only about four or five days in a month, and generally towards the full and change of the moon, which has a great influence on the weather in these parts. But at other times, tho' there is a continued hard frost, the weather is pleasant enough.

The men now began to fetch their provisions weekly from the ships; but used little in the beginning of the season, while there were plenty of rabbits; nay, they in a good measure supplied us at *Montague House* with them. What they carried backward or forward, they drew after them upon small sledges made of about a dozen thin staves joined together, four in breadth, and turned up at one end, the better to slide over the snow. One man could conveniently draw on such a sledge above an hundred weight fifteen or sixteen miles in one day. The dogs in this country are of the size of common mastiffs; they never bark, but growl when they are provoked; they are the only beasts of burden used by the *English* and the natives, and will draw much more, and to a greater distance, than the men. In long journeys the men generally go before them to beat a path with their snow-shoes: these dogs are soon accustomed to whatever they

they are taught, and being docile and tractable are very useful.

Besides these small sledges, we had others that were larger and stronger, for carrying great weights; they were of the same form as those before described; but ten or twelve feet long, and three wide, and required twenty or thirty men yoked to draw them.

In *Christmas* week, which was spent very merrily, Capt. *Moor* proposed to lengthen, raise, and deck our long-boat for the use of the discovery; and after some deliberation, it was resolved on by a majority. This was an excellent measure, since it would have been very dangerous to make so close a search as was necessary without it; for with such a vessel, we might go among rocks, and pass over shoals, where a vessel of any draught would strike: if she came aground, we could get her off, or if she was lost, the ships afforded a safe retreat.

This affair being settled, the boat was drawn on a high bank by the side of the creek, sheltered by trees, and a log-tent was built over her, and covered with sails, with a fire-place in the middle, that the carpenters might be able to work all the winter.

The coasts of this country extend from the latitude of about 51° . to 58° . north, having *Hudson's Bay* to the east, and *Canada* to the south; but its boundaries to the west and north are yet undiscovered. In the southern parts, and where we wintered, the soil is fertile; the surface being a loose dark mould, under which

are layers of different-coloured clay. Near the shore the land is low and marshy, covered with trees of various sorts: within land there are large plains with little herbage except moss, interspersed with tufts of trees, and some lakes. In the country are a great variety of shrubs and plants, and many of those known in *Europe*, as the gooseberry, currant and cranberry. There are shrubs that bear red and black berries, on which the partridges feed. The plant by the *Indians* called Wizzekapukka is used both by them and the *English* as a medicine, in nervous and scorbutic disorders. Here are also to be met with strawberries, angelica, nettles, butterflowers, wild auriculas, favine, many of the *Lapland* plants, and others that are unknown to us. There are great quantities of wild rice by the sides of the lakes and rivers; there is also long grass, and good meadow ground; and at the factories are tolerable gardens, especially at *York Fort, Albany* and *Moose River*, where most kinds of *English* garden-stuff grow very well, such as beans, pease, cabbages, turnips, and many kinds of fallads. Farther within land the country is much more fruitful than at these places; for the summers are warmer, and the winters shorter and less severe.

There are undoubtedly many sorts of minerals here. I have met with iron ore; lead ore is said to be found in plenty on the surface of the earth at *Churchill*, and the northern *Indians* frequently bring pieces of copper to that factory. There are also a great variety
of

of talcs, spars, and rock crystals of different colours, as red and white, the former resembling rubies, and the latter very transparent, and shooting into pentangular prisms. In the northern parts a substance resembling coal is found, which burns; the asbestos, or stone-flax, is common here; and also a stone of a black, smooth, and shining surface, that easily separates into thin transparent leaves, which the natives use as looking-glasses. The country likewise abounds in various sorts of marble, some perfectly white, and others speckled with red, green and blue.

There are here frequently seen *parhelia* or mock suns, and *halos* about the sun and moon, which are very luminous, and beautifully tinged with all the colours of the rainbow. I have seen six of these parhelia at a time. The true sun also rises and sets with a large cone of yellow light perpendicular to it, and no sooner does it disappear than the *Aurora Borealis* spreads a thousand different lights and colours over the whole concave of the sky, with such resplendent beauty that even the full moon does not efface their lustre, though they are more apparent when she does not shine; for then one may distinctly read by them, and the shadows of objects are seen upon the snow tending to the south-east. The stars seem to burn with a fiery red, especially those near the horizon.

But to return to the climate, and the methods we took to secure ourselves from the cold: we usually put at least an horse-load of

wood at a time into our stove, which was built of bricks six feet long, two wide and three high. When the wood was near burnt we beat off the embers, and threw out the brands, and then stopped up the top of the chimney. This caused a sulphureous, suffocating smell, and so great a heat, that notwithstanding the rigour of the weather, we often sweat: the difference between the cold without and the heat within was so extreme, that our people frequently fainted on entering the house, and remained for some time lifeless. If a door or window was but opened, the cold air rushed in with great fury, and turned the inclosed vapours into small snow: nor could all the heat we could raise keep the windows, the sides and ceiling free from ice: those whose bedcloaths touched the walls were generally froze fast to them in the morning, and our breath settled in a white hoar frost upon the blankets. This happened soon after the fire went out: as the house cooled, the sap that had been thawed in the timbers with the heat, froze, splitting the wood in cracks, with a noise resembling the report of a musket.

No liquid can withstand the cold; strong brine, brandy, and even spirits of wine froze, but the latter only to a consistence like oil. All liquors under the proof of common spirits became perfectly solid, and burst the vessels that contained them, whether of wood, tin, or even copper. The ice in the river was above eight feet thick. We could keep our provisions sweet as long as we pleased, without the assistance

sistance of salt; for our game froze the instant it was killed, and some remained so from *October* till *April*, when it began to grow moist.

The hares, rabbits and partridges, which in summer are brown and grey, change in winter to white. Every animal is here furnished by nature with extraordinary furs to resist the cold, which fall off as the warm weather returns; and even this is the case with the dogs and cats brought thither from *Europe*.

If we touched iron, or any other smooth solid surface in the winter, our fingers were froze fast to it; if in drinking a dram of brandy out of a glass, one's tongue or lips touched it, in pulling them away the skin was left upon it. One of our people carrying a bottle of spirits from the house to his log-tent, and not having a cork, stopped it with his finger; but it soon froze so fast, that he was obliged to lose a part of it, to make the cure practicable. All solid bodies, as iron, glass, and the like, acquired so intense a degree of cold, as to resist the effects of a strong heat for a considerable time. I have brought an axe, that has been exposed to the frost without doors, and held it within half a foot of a good fire, when pouring water upon it, it has been instantly formed into a cake of ice, and thus remained for some time.

We buried our beer twelve feet deep in the ground on a bed of willow and grass, both under and over it, and then covered it twelve feet deep with a soapy earth, yet some of the
casks

casks of small beer next the sides were froze, and the strong iron-bound casks burst; tho' the spirituous part remained fluid in the heart of the ice, and was strong, but the ice on being melted tasted quite vapid: other casks were not burst, nor were their contents half congealed; the watery parts having time to thaw, and mix with the spirituous, the beer was very good, and we fancied better than if it had never been froze.

One would imagine from this account of the severity of the winter in this country, that it must be the most uncomfortable in the world, and its inhabitants the most unhappy; but this is far from being the case; for though the weather is cold, they have abundance of furs to cloath them, and many other conveniencies, that, in some measure, put them on a level with those who live in a milder climate: but what is still more extraordinary, there are *Europeans* who have lived here for some years, and prefer it to all other places.

The natives are of the middle size, and of a copper colour: they have black eyes, and long lank hair of the same colour; but their features vary as in *Europe*. They are of a chearful disposition, good natured, affable, friendly and honest in their dealings.

The men are cloathed in summer in a loose coat made of blanket, which they buy either from the *French* or *English* settled in their neighbourhood; they have a pair of leather stockings, which reach so high as to serve also for breeches; they make their shoes of the same materials.

materials. The cloaths of the women differ from those of the men only in their generally wearing a petticoat, that in winter comes a little lower than their knees. Their ordinary apparel is made of the skins of deer, otters, or beaver, with the hair or fur on them; the sleeves of their upper habit are generally tied on with strings at the shoulders, so that their armpits, even in the depth of winter, are exposed to the cold, which in their opinion contributes to their health: indeed their diseases are but few, and those chiefly arising from colds caught after drinking spirituous liquors, which they buy of the *English*; for the *French* are so prudent as to sell them none. Those *Indians* who live in places contiguous to the *Hudson's Bay* company's settlements are by drunkenness become meagre, small, and indolent, and are hardly equal to the hardships of the country; while those who are near the *French* settlements are hardy, vigorous, and active, and there is no comparison in the number of furs that the one and the other bring into trade.

They live in tents covered with moose and deer-skins sewed together. [These are of a circular form, probably as that is the most capacious, and convenient for their sitting round the fire, which is in the middle. They are formed of poles set to lean one against the other, so as they meet at the top, and are extended below; an opening is left where the poles meet to admit the light, and let out the smoke. They strew the bottom with the tops
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of pine trees, and lie with their feet to the fire, and their heads to the sides of the tent. The entrance of the tent is generally on the south-west side, and you go in by lifting up a part of the skins, to which is fastened a piece of stick to make it flap close. These are generally placed in a bottom, by the side of a creek or river,] and as the natives chiefly spend their time in hunting, fowling, and fishing; they change their habitations according to the plenty or scarcity of the game. For this reason also they do not live in any great numbers together. They are influenced in their behaviour by a natural rectitude, that restrains them from all acts of violence and injustice, as effectually as the most rigorous laws. The chiefs of every family or tribe, who are generally chosen from among the most antient of the people, commonly for their skill in hunting, experience in trade, and their valour in the wars they often wage with the *Eskimaux*, direct those who reside with them in their different employments; but their advice is rather followed through deference than obligation.

They have no dependence for subsistence on the fruits of the earth; but live entirely on the animals they take in hunting, or catch in traps, at which they are very dexterous. They every season make a prodigious slaughter among the deer, from the absurd notion, that the more they destroy, the greater plenty will succeed; hence they sometimes leave three or four hundred dead on the plains, taking out of them only their tongues, and leaving their carcasses

carcasses either to rot or to be devoured by the wild beasts. At other times they attack them in the water, and kill great numbers, which they bring down on floats to the factories.

The *Indians* also live on birds of passage, as plover, swans, wild geese, ducks, and many others that fly to the northward in the spring to breed, and return to the southward in autumn. They likewise feed on eagles, hawks, partridges, pheasants, crows, and owls, which stay in the winter. They generally boil their flesh, and eat it by itself, drinking the water it is boiled in, which they esteem very wholesome. In the same manner they dress their fish, which are very good.

Up the rivers and lakes they have large sturgeon, pike and trout, and two very delicious kinds of fish, the one called Titymag, the other resembling an eel, spotted with yellow and white, and called by the natives Muthoy: these are reckoned fattest in winter; when they are caught by making holes in the ice, and letting down a baited hook, at which the fish greedily bites. At the mouths of the rivers, especially those more to the north, are plenty of fine salmon, trout, and a tolerable good fish called a Sucker, which resembles a carp. There comes in with the flood tide great numbers of white whales, which might easily be taken. Seals also frequent these coasts.

To return to the *Indians*. It is thought a great offence for a woman to stride over the legs of a man when he sits on the ground, and they

they even think it beneath them to drink out of the same vessel with their wives. They have a custom which must appear shocking to every humane mind: when their parents grow so old as to be unable to support themselves by their own labour, they require their children to strangle them, and their performing this is esteemed an act of duty. It is done in the following manner. The old person's grave being dug, he goes into it, and after having conversed, and smoked a pipe, or perhaps drank a dram or two with his children, he lets them know that he is ready; upon which two of them put a thong about his neck, one standing on one side, and the other opposite to him, pull violently, till he is strangled; they then cover him with earth, and over that erect a kind of rough monument of stones. Such old people as have no children require this office of their friends; but in this last case, it is not always complied with*. They have a very strange maxim of policy, which is obliging their women to procure frequent abortions, by the use of a certain herb common in that country, in order to ease themselves of the heavy burthen of an helpless family; but this is however less barbarous than the custom still used in *China* of exposing their children. These dif-

* *The Hottentots cruelly expose their Parents when grown helpless with Age, to perish with Hunger, or to be devoured by wild Beasts; and also expose their Children. See Kolben's Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, Chap. IV.*

fer from almost all other nations in their manner of making their urine, for here the men always squat down, and the women stand upright.

They acknowledge a being of infinite goodness whom they stile *Ukkeuma*, which in their language signifies the Great Chief; they consider him as the author of all the blessings they enjoy, and speak of him with reverence. They sing a kind of hymns to his praise, in a grave and solemn tone, that is not altogether disagreeable; yet their religious sentiments are very confused. They also acknowledge another being whom they call *Wittikka*, whom they represent as the author of all evil, and of him they are much afraid; but we know of no methods used by them to appease him.

The situation of these poor people is indeed very melancholy, though they do not seem much sensible of it. Notwithstanding the best part of their lives is spent in procuring necessaries, they having little notion of providing against the distresses to which they are sure to be exposed every winter: from their natural generosity they are very free of their provisions when they have plenty, and, except drying a little venison and fish, take no care to lay up supplies for a time of scarcity. The *Indians* who come in the summer to trade at the factories, sometimes missing of the succours they expected, have been obliged to singe off the fur from thousands of beaver skins, to feed upon the leather: but when thus reduced to the greatest extremities, they undergo them with

a kind of habitual and steady patience, which it is much easier to admire than to imitate. It is common with them to travel 2 or 300 miles even in the depth of winter, through a wide open country without meeting with any house to receive, or carrying any tent to protect them. When night approaches they make a little kind of fence with brush-wood, by the side of which they kindle a fire, and after clearing away the snow, they lie down upon the ground, and sleep between the fire and the fence: but when they happen to be benighted upon a wild plain where no wood can be had, they are forced to lie down under the snow, which in some measure shelters them from the cold. This is also practised by those who live in the extremities of *Siberia*.

But the hardships they suffer in these long journeys from the difficulty of procuring provisions are sometimes much greater, than those that result merely from the cold. A story which is related at the factories, and known to be true, affords a most shocking and dreadful proof of this. An *Indian* coming with his family to trade from a place at a very great distance, had the misfortune to meet with but little game by the way, and was soon, with his wife and children, reduced to the last extremity. They plucked the fur from their cloaths, and, as long as they were able, preserved life by feeding on the skins, and even those they wore; but this wretched resource soon failing them, these poor unhappy creatures supported themselves by feeding on the flesh of two of their poor children.

children. On their arrival at the factory, the distracted *Indian*, whose heart overflowed with grief, told his melancholy story with all its affecting circumstances to the *English* Governor, when to the disgrace of our nation, and even of the human race, it was received with a loud laugh. On which the unhappy parent, with a look of amazement, cried in broken *English*, "This is no laughing talk!" and instantly went away, no doubt highly edified at such Christian morals.

To return to our own affairs. The bringing two casks of brandy, as already mentioned, to make merry with at *Christmas*, was attended with fatal consequences. The men, who before this season of mirth had been very healthy, now indulging themselves too freely in the use of spirituous liquors, were soon invaded by the scurvy. Those medicines, which in other countries are generally used with good success in this foul and fatal disease, here proved entirely ineffectual, and the only powerful and prevailing medicine was tar-water, by the steady use of which many were saved, even after the distemper was far advanced. Those *English* who constantly reside here are little, if at all, exposed to this cruel disease; which they attribute to the constant use of spruce beer, by the plentiful drinking of which the people of the four factories of *Churchill*, *York Fort*, *Albany*, and *Moose River*, enjoy so good a state of health, that though in number above an hundred, seven years have sometimes passed without their burying a single man.

The whole month of *January* wore the settled face of winter ; and the partridges and rabbits, which had hitherto been pretty plentiful, began now to grow very scarce. In the middle of *February* the weather grew something milder, and toward the latter end of that month orders were given to cut the ice from about the ships, which was performed with chissels and pickaxes, at which the people now worked every day. The guns, and every thing of considerable weight, were landed, that the ships might be lighter when the ice broke up. In *March* we had a specimen of every kind of weather ; the snow melted whenever it was exposed to the sun, and towards the end of the month some herbage began to peep out on the banks that fronted the south. The rivers and plains were by this time covered with water, and we were apprehensive that the ice would break up suddenly, and with violence : to prevent the ill consequences with which this might be attended, orders were given for getting every thing in the ships ready, and after they had been well warmed with fires, a sufficient number of men, with proper officers, were put on board. But *April* opened in such a manner, as in a good measure freed us from the terrors we were under about the breaking of the ice, and its driving against the ships. In the latter end of this month the fowls proper to the country began to visit us, and with them abundance of wild fowl of all the sorts common in the northern parts of *Europe*. We had likewise a great flight of small birds, most-ly

ly of a dark unpleasing colour ; but the sweetness of their notes compensated for whatever was disagreeable in their plumage.

After this, was a short return of winter, attended with bleak winds, hard frosts, much snow, with very stormy and tempestuous weather, which lasted till about the sixth of *May*, when the warm weather returning, the creek where the ships lay became imperceptibly clear of ice ; but the river being still froze, the fish resorted to the creek, where we caught plenty of them with our nets. The long-boat, to which was given the name of the *Resolution*, being soon compleatly finished, was launched, and on the ninth of *June* the ships got down the river, as far as the factory of *York Fort*, where we took in our naval stores and provisions, in order to put to sea, and to prosecute the discovery.

York Fort is situated on the southern branch of *Port Nelson River*, which is called *Hayes's River*, within five miles of its fall into the sea ; in $57^{\circ}. 20'$. north latitude, and in $93^{\circ}. 58'$. west longitude from the meridian of *London*. [This fort and the factory is in a clear space, surrounded on three sides by the woods, with an open front to the water. On the south-east is a dock for building or repairing sloops or boats ; between which and the battery is a piece of land called the *Plantation*, where the *Indians*, who come to the factory, pitch their tents ; and there is generally a tent or two of old infirm *Indians*, both men and women, who

are maintained by the factory; from which this place is separated by two rows of high palisades: between these are store-houses, the kitchen, and some work-shops, low built. Within the inner palisades are small spots sowed with turnips, colworts, fallads, and other garden stuff, belonging to the Governor and Officers. From the first entrance of the palisades to the factory is a wooden platform. The factory is a square fort, built of wood, and flanked with four small bastions. Before it is a spacious area. In the upper story of the south-east bastion is the Governor's apartment, to which there is a handsome flight of stairs out of the area. It consists of four rooms, with a fire-place in the largest; all of them wainscotted, and neatly fitted up. Under the Governor's apartment is the common room for the Deputy Governor, the ship and house carpenter, and others who compose the Governor's mess; in which is a large brick stove, erected for warming both this and the Governor's apartment. By the side of it are several small lodging rooms. In the lower part of the north-east bastion is a common room, with a stove of brick for the warming the apartments; and in this bastion are lodged the steward and cook, and all others, except the surgeon, who are not of the Governor's mess. The other two bastions, and the curtains, are divided into store-houses, a trading room, a magazine, &c. The buildings have but a mean appearance on the outside; but they are warm and convenient, and from the platform on the top is an extensive

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five prospect over the woods of the hills to the south-east, at about 20 miles distance.] There are three small pattereroes placed on each of the curtains; the battery, on which are mounted pretty large guns, commands the river; it is defended by a small breast-work, and in time of war, the number of the people who reside at the factory amount to 33, or thereabouts. Thus, however formidable *York Fort* may appear to the savages, it is incapable of defence, if it should happen to be attacked by an *European* army.



C H A P. III.

They sail again on the Discovery. An Account of the Eskimaux on the North-West Side of Hudson's Bay. Several Attempts to discover a Passage to the Great Western Ocean, particularly in the Inlets called Wager's Streight, which is at last found to be a Bay. The Tide tried in several Places, and every where found to proceed from the North: The Dobbs and California return to England.

ON the 24th of *June* we weighed anchor, and, passing the shoals, stood with a fair wind to the northward. The next day we failed through much broken ice; but avoided the thickest part of it by standing in close to the shore: though a great deal continued in sight till we got to the northward of *Cape Churchill,*

Churchill, where we had a clear sea, and proceeded without difficulty till we made *Centry Island* in $61^{\circ}. 40'$. north latitude.

The next day the *Resolution* came along-side the *Dobbs*, and took in provisions and stores sufficient for the use of ten men for two months, when Captain *Moor*, with eight hands and myself, went aboard in order to examine the coasts. That gentleman ordering the *Dobbs* to proceed to *Marble Island*, and to wait there till we joined her, the ships sailed to the northward, and we stood in for the shore, where we grappled for that night. The next day we continued to sail along the shore northward through a great deal of broken ice. The *Eskimaux*, who inhabit the sea-coasts to the northward of the company's settlement, appeared in small bodies on the eminences, and made signals for us to approach; but we sailed on without minding them, till we arrived at *Knight's Island*, in the latitude of $62^{\circ}. 2'$. north, where we anchored.

We soon weighed from thence, and endeavoured to stand in with the west shore, where a large opening appeared; but the weather growing tempestuous, and the ice driving about in large pieces, we found it necessary to return to *Knight's Island*, where we took shelter till the 5th, when the sea was much clearer. Here two canoes of *Eskimaux* came off to us from the west coast, and upon our letting them know we wanted whalebone, they left us; but quickly returned with a considerable quantity of that, and a large parcel of bladders
filled

filled with train-oil. We purchased the whalebone with small hatchets, knives, bits of iron hoops, and the like; but did not care to encumber ourselves with the oil, though they would no doubt have offered us a good bargain; for they were very pressing to have us go to some islands that lay in sight to the westward, where they intimated that they had considerable quantities of both; but this, as our business was not trade, we thought fit to decline. Here we saw great numbers of seals and white whales.

There happened a circumstance which filled us with astonishment: in sailing through the ice and among these islands, the needles of our compasses lost their magnetic quality: this evil we strove to remedy, by retouching them with an artificial magnet, but to very little purpose; for if they recovered their powers by this means, they presently lost them again. This occasioned much speculation, in order to account for this strange phenomenon; but upon carrying the compasses to a warm place, the needles speedily resumed their activity and pointed as usual.

On the 5th we stood over to the south side of *Sir Biby's* Island, in hopes of being able to enter the opening we had attempted before; but the ice driving in and out in very large pieces, we were again obliged to desist.

Here six canoes, full of *Eskimaux*, came on board with a large parcel of whalebone, which we purchased upon terms as much to their satisfaction, as to our profit. We then steered

to the north-west, and after passing over several shoals, and running between many low islands, entered *Newill's Bay*, the same we attempted at the south end of *Sir Biby's Island*, which in a manner covers it, it lying at the distance of about five leagues to the south-east. When one is in it, it appears a very capacious harbour, well sheltered from the sea; and in the bottom of it is a pretty large river running westward. The main land about it chiefly consists of a smooth rock covered with moss, with here and there a few small plants. On repassing the shoals with an intention to coast to the northward, the tide swept us upon a ridge of stones, where our vessel narrowly escaped being staved to pieces. While we were in this hazardous situation, six canoes of *Eskimaux* came off to us with whalebone, which we bought of them. They were very sensible of our distress; but so far from taking advantage of it, that they were not only extremely civil, but highly serviceable; for when the tide of flood floated us off, an old man, who seemed better acquainted with the place than the rest, paddled before us, pointed out the shoals, and kept in deep water: thus it was in some measure by his assistance, that the *Resolution* escaped being lost, and was even saved from suffering the least damage. Whatever therefore other authors may say to their prejudice, it is but justice to own, that they behaved not only with humanity, but with great kindness and friendship.

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I could not help admiring the industry and ingenuity of these people, who, for want of iron, are frequently obliged to make, not only the barbs of their harpoons, but also their hatchets and knives of stones, sea-horse teeth, and sea-unicorns horns; and it is difficult to conceive the dexterous use they make of materials that seem so very improper for the purpose to which they employ them. Their needles are also made of the same, and yet their cloaths are perfectly well sewed, in the same manner as those of the people we meet with in *Hudson's* Streights. From hence, as well as from the conformity between them in their language, persons, and customs, we conclude, that they were originally one people; but these are more affable and friendly, and also more accomplished artists. The borders of their habits are commonly fringed with cut leather, and are sometimes hung with fawns teeth. The women do not, like those of the other *Esquimaux*, stick out the sides of their boots with whalebone; and they differ from those already described, in wearing a cap made of the skin of a buffalo's tail, which, though it has an horrid appearance, is very useful in keeping off the musketoes, which are here excessively troublesome. Indeed the hair hanging over their faces, somewhat obstructs their sight; however, it is easily removed with their hands, and was it not for this defence, those insects would be here insupportable. For this purpose their children wear them, while they hang at their mothers backs; and as thus dressed they make
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a most dismal figure, it is apt to raise a shocking idea of the barbarity of these people, though they are very harmless and inoffensive.

On their going to sea, in order to catch fish, they commonly take in their boats a bladder full of train oil, as our people do a dram-bottle, and seem to drink the contents with the same relish; nay, when their stock is out, we have sometimes seen them draw the bladder through their teeth, with much seeming satisfaction. They are probably convinced by experience of the salutary effects of this coarse kind of oil in this rigorous climate, which makes them so fond of it. Thus the inhabitants of *St. Kilda*, a rocky island on the coast of *Scotland*, are as much pleased with the oil they make from the fat of *Soland* geese, which must be very near as rancid. The *Éskimaux* also use this oil for their lamps, which are made of stone, hollowed out as artificially as can well be expected, considering their tools: but instead of cotton they have no other wick but dried goose dung.

Their manner of kindling a fire appears very extraordinary: they prepare two pieces of dry wood, and making a small hole in each, fit into them a little cylindrical piece of wood, round which a thong is put; they then, by pulling the ends of this thong, whirl the cylindrical piece about with such velocity, that the motion sets the wood on fire, when lighting a little dry moss, which serves for tinder, they make as large a fire as they please; but as the
little



The Eskimauz's making Fire.



little timber they have is drift wood, this fails them in the winter, and they are obliged to make use of their lamps for the supply of their family occasions.

It must not be omitted, that these poor creatures were so far from being jealous of their wives, that they would willingly have prostituted them to us, from a notion that our children by them would have been in every respect as much superior to those of their nation as they took us to be ; for they imagine, that, in the most literal sense, every man begets his like, and that the son of a Captain must infallibly be a Captain.

On the 9th of *July* we anchored at *Sea-Horse Island*, which is very properly named, prodigious numbers of those creatures resorting thither ; and this being their season of propagation, they were extremely furious, and roared in a terrible manner ; many of them flouncing about upon the beach, and still greater numbers in the sea that washes its coasts. This island is also frequented by vast flocks of sea-fowls.

The next day we stood along-shore, among many small islands and pieces of floating ice, till we arrived at *Whale Cove*, in the latitude of 62°. 30'. north. To the westward of this place, we discovered a bay, in which were many islands, from whence we were visited by a few savages ; for it is observable, that in the summer season they always fix themselves on the most desolate islands, for the convenience of fishing. Upon one of these Captain *Moor*

thought proper to land in the little boat we made use of upon such occasions; in which I accompanied him, together with two of the men. We were no sooner on shore, than we were met by about twenty *Eskimaux*; most of them women and children; for the men were gone a fishing; but we soon left them in order to take a view of the place; and having gained the highest part of the island, looked out for some considerable opening, but in vain: for this reason, and because we observed the tide of flood coming in from the eastward, we returned on board the *Resolution*.

The following day we arrived at a point, from whence we discovered a large opening running to the westward, to which I gave the name of *Corbet's Inlet*: but we did not enter it, because the tide of flood came in from the eastward, and because Captain *Moor* thought he saw the end of it; so that after some short intercourse with the *Eskimaux*, who were there pretty numerous, and supplying ourselves with fresh water, great plenty of which we found in the cavities of the rocks, occasioned by the melting of the snow, we resolved to return again to the ships, which we accordingly did, and found them both lying at anchor in a tolerable good road between *Marble Island* and the Main.

In our absence, the *Dobbs* galley had been exposed to a great deal of danger from the ice driving down upon her out of *Rankin's Inlet*, situated about four leagues to the westward, where about that time the ice had broke
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up. Into this place Captain *Smith* had sent his chief and second mate to examine it; but after failing about thirty leagues upon different courses, it was found to terminate in a bay. According to the accounts given of this inlet by the second mate before this search was made, there seemed to be some probability of a passage, which induced Captain *Smith* to attempt entering it with his ship; but being soon embarrassed by dangerous rocks and shoals, he desisted, and returned to *Marble Island*.

On the morning that we returned on board the *Dobbs* galley, Captain *Smith*, of the *California*, had sent his long-boat with his second mate, to search all the coast between Cape *Jalabert* and Cape *Fullerton*. While we remained here, there arrived six *Eskimaux*, from whom we bought the flesh of four seals to make train oil, and then dismissed them, firing one of our great guns at their departure; but the sound being echoed from all the neighbouring rocks, made such a terrible noise that they were extremely frightened, and never after came near us.

On the 14th we weighed, and in company with the *California* steered to the northward, dispatching, at the same time, the *Resolution*, under the command of the chief mate, to make the same tour that had been proposed for the *California's* long-boat, with instructions to join us again about Cape *Fullerton*. All the next day we sailed through very thick shoals of ice, which at length grew impassable, so that we and the *California* were obliged to

grapple to a very large field, as the seamen in that part of the world term it, till its separation allowed us a safe passage: while we lay thus, we saw a vast number of seals and sea-horses lie basking upon the ice-field; but we did not give them much disturbance.

Two days after the ice parted, and we stood in for the shore, where we soon got pretty clear of it. As the boats did not join us so soon as we expected, we began to grow impatient and uneasy, and it was at length agreed, that the ships should separate, in order to go in quest of them. Accordingly the *California* stood to the south, and we to the north. In the mean time I went ashore with the pinnace, to a head-land in the latitude of $64^{\circ} 32'$. to which we gave the name of *Cape Fry*, in honour of *Rowland Fry*, Esq; one of the Committee. In our passage we saw several whales sporting near the shore; and upon trying the tide, we found it came from the north. The coast was of an easy ascent, but rose pretty high; the hills at a distance from the shore were of a red-coloured rock, very smooth, and intirely bare: in the valleys between them, the soil is covered with a kind of turf, with pretty long grass, and here and there some plants bearing yellow flowers; as also a kind of vetch then in bloom, which bore blue and red flowers; there were great plenty of these near the ponds, of which we found many. We saw several herds of deer browsing on the sides of the hills; but we had not time to chase them, because the *Dobbs* galley waited
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for us in the offing. The sea-weed near the shore grows to an extraordinary size, some to the length of thirty feet; which seems the more surprizing, as, from the severity of the climate, there are but few vegetables on shore.

On the 21st, we sailed in search of our boats; and the next day fell in with the *California*; when upon mature consideration, it was resolved to wait no longer than the 28th, and that the *California* should steer to the latitude of 64° . and the *Debbs* to that of 65° . north. We also took the necessary precautions to prevent any accident that might happen, by the boats passing by while we were thus employed. A pole was erected with a flag flying at Cape Fry, at the foot of which a letter was buried, to give them instructions how to act, and information where we were gone. Lest they should not observe this, a large cask was moored about a mile and half from shore, where we judged they would pass, and upon this also was fixed a small flag, with an intimation that they should repair to Cape Fry for farther intelligence.

We now sailed to the northward, and having reached the latitude of 65° . $5'$. I went in the pinnace with the second mate and six hands, on the west coast of the *Welcome*, in order to try the tide, and found the flood still coming from the northward. The country differed little from that about Cape Fry, except that it appeared somewhat higher; we also here observed great herds of deer feeding. In our passage we took notice of several black whales,

and considering the numbers we saw upon this coast, it is highly probable that a most advantageous fishery might be carried on here from the factories.

On the 26th we sailed back to Cape *Fry*, where we had the pleasure of meeting with the *California*, in company with the two boats. The officers on board them reported, that they found an inlet in 64°. north latitude, which was three or four leagues wide at the entrance; but upon their sailing eight leagues, it increased to six or seven leagues wide; that ten leagues higher it grew narrower by degrees, till it became only four leagues wide; but though they could perceive the shores open again, they were discouraged from proceeding farther, by observing that the water grew thicker, fresher, and shallower. They met in their passage with many of the *Eskimaux*, who, at a small expence, supplied them with a considerable quantity of fresh venison, and would have procured them more, as well as train oil, if they could have stayed for them. It is however highly probable, that this inlet may have some communication with the great lake within land, which may perhaps have another outlet into the *Western Ocean*. What gives weight to this conjecture is, that the stream of ebb runs faster by one half than in the *Thames* for ten hours in twelve, though it is above twelve miles broad. At first sight the freshness of the water may seem conclusive against a passage; but if it had been quite fresh upon the surface, it would have been far from being so; because

as this was the season when the snows were melting and draining off the land, that might have been expected, and would have been no more than what is found in the *Baltick*, and on the west coast of *Africa* after the rainy months. It may be proper also to remark, that though the tide of flood coming from the west would have been a proof of its being a passage to another sea, yet a flood from the east is by no means a direct proof of the contrary; for it is well known, that in the streights of *Magellan* the tides from the two oceans meet, and it is probable, that whenever a discovery is made of a north-west passage, this will be the case there.

Being near *Wager's* Streight, and absolutely certain the tide in the *Welcome* came from the north, the Captains were of opinion, that considering the warm dispute about it between *Arthur Dobbs*, Esq; and Captain *Middleton*, and the great expectations this dispute had raised, it was necessary now to try whether it was really a Streight into the *Western* Ocean, as the former of those Gentlemen had, from very probable reasons, concluded; or a fresh-water river, as the Captain had asserted.

Wager's Streight, as it was then called, is in $65^{\circ}. 33'$ north latitude, and in 88° west longitude from *London*; having *Cape Montague* on the north, and *Cape Dobbs* on the south; the narrowest part is about five leagues to the westward of the last-mentioned cape, or scarce so much, and there the tide flows like a sluice, the spring tides running at the rate of eight or
nine

nine miles an hour. While the ships were in this place we had very little command of them ; for the rapidity of the current carried the *California* four or five times round, notwithstanding the utmost endeavours of her crew to prevent it. There could not be a more surprizing spectacle than the view of the water, which raged, foamed, boiled and whirled about like a great torrent, broken by many rocks : this seems to have no other cause than the narrowness of the channel, in proportion to the vast body of water that passes through it. Many pieces of stragglng ice came in with us from the *Welcome*, and though we went at a great rate, yet by the force of the irregular current, they sometimes ran ahead of us, and then fell astern of us again. We were about three hours in this situation ; but having passed *Savage Sound*, where the channel grew broader, and the tide less rapid, we found we were more at our ease, and in greater safety. This sound is formed by a chain of small islands that extend at some distance from the north shore, behind which Captain *Middleton* lay, when formerly in this place. On the 30th, we found ourselves off *Deer Sound*, about eight or ten leagues higher up, and soon after discovered a very good place for securing the ships, in a manner surrounded with high rocky islands that sheltered it from almost every wind : to this place we gave the name of *Douglas Harbour*, in honour of *James* and *Henry Douglas*, Esqrs. After mooring our ships, a council was held aboard the *Dobbs* galley, in which it was unani-

unanimously agreed, that the ships should remain in their present station, while the boats of each should proceed up the strait as far as possible, to determine whether it was a passage to the Western Ocean of *America* or not; and it was resolved, to prevent the ships being detained by waiting for the boats, that if they did not return by the 25th of *August*, both ships should set sail for *England*.

In pursuance of these resolutions, the Captains sailed with proper officers, and a sufficient number of hands, in the boats belonging to their respective ships, upon the last day of the month, with a fine gale, and continued a westerly course till the strait diminished in breadth from ten leagues to scarce one. It was now almost night, when we were alarmed by a very loud noise, resembling the sound of a vast cataract; but not being able to discover from whence it came, it was thought necessary to come immediately to an anchor, that some of us might go on the eminences on shore to see what discoveries we could make. This was accordingly done; but the shore proving excessively rocky and steep, it was dark before we could get to the top, and we were obliged to return to our boat very weary, and no wiser than when we went. In ascending these rocky mountains, we had at once as great, as gloomy, and as awful a prospect as perhaps was ever beheld by mortal eyes. While we walked along the beach, the ragged rocks above seemed pendent over our heads: in some places were falls of water, dashing from cliff
to

to cliff; from others hung rows of prodigious icicles, one behind another, like the pipes of a vast organ; but the most tremendous part of the scene were the shattered crags that lay at our feet, and plainly appeared to have been torn from the mountain tops, through the expansive power of the rigorous frosts, and rolled down the sides, till they reached the places where they now lay.

The reader will easily believe, that we spent the night with no great satisfaction. Early in the morning we went ashore, where we soon discovered that the astonishing noise we had heard was occasioned by the tide's being confined in a passage about sixty yards wide: both the body of the water and its rapidity were exceeding great; and though we were above 150 miles from the entrance of the streight, its colour was perfectly bright, its taste was very salt, and the tide commonly rose fourteen feet and a half at the full and change of the moon.

Observing that the streight opened beyond this fall to five or six miles wide, and ran several leagues to the westward, we were still in hopes of a passage: our greatest difficulty was how to pass the fall; but this was much easier than we had apprehended, for I passed it in a little boat when it was in its full fury, and we soon found that it might be crossed without the least hazard at half flood, when the water below the fall was upon a level with that above.

While we lay here, three *Indians* came to us in their canoes, and appeared from their manners

ners to be the same sort of people as those we met with in other parts of this coast, but much lower in stature; for it is observable, that in sailing north of *York Fort* every thing dwindles, so that in 61° . trees shrink into brush-wood, and beyond the latitude of 67° . none of the human species appear. These *Indians* at first seemed a little timorous, we being probably the first *Europeans* they had ever seen; but upon our making signs of friendship, they grew bolder, and came to converse with us; when letting them know we wanted *tuktoa*, which in their language signifies venison, they went ashore and brought us some, that had been cured after their manner by drying, with some pieces of buffalo's flesh that appeared to have been lately killed. These we bought at an easy rate, and they went away highly satisfied.

We passed the fall on the 2d of *August*, and above it the tide rose only four feet; the shores on both sides were very steep, and no ground was to be felt with a line of 140 fathoms. We still saw seals and white whales; yet, notwithstanding this, most of the company were a good deal discouraged at finding the water almost fresh; but being of opinion that this freshness was only on the surface, I let down a bottle strongly corked, to the depth of 30 fathoms, where the cork was forced in, and the bottle came up full of water, of the same degree of saltness with that in the *Atlantic Ocean*. This revived our hopes; but this gleam of success proved of short continuance, for on the 3d of *August* in the evening the wa-
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ter became unexpectedly shoal, upon which we anchored. At day-break the next morning we went ashore; and from the hills, that were not far from the coast, we had the mortification to see, that our hitherto imagined streight ended in two small unnavigable rivers, one of which plainly fell from a large lake that lay some miles distance to the south-west.

During the stay we made here, six canoes came off to us, and we purchased of them a small quantity of deer and buffaloes flesh, and some dried salmon. We made signs to them that we wanted more, which they readily apprehended, and soon brought us a much larger quantity; which we not only purchased, but bought out of mere curiosity some of their cloaths, their bows, and whatever else they were inclined to part with. From these people I endeavoured to obtain some intelligence with respect to another sea, which I strove to suggest to them might lie to the westward; and to make them comprehend what I meant, I chalked out a kind of rude draught of the coast, in hopes they would have continued it; but they did not seem in the least to understand me, and this was a considerable addition to the disappointment we had lately met with. Among these *Indians* came a person whose dress and language were the same with theirs, yet from his complexion, which was much fairer, and from his being entirely unacquainted with the management of a canoe, he manifestly appeared to be of another nation, and only brought by them to see us. Our Captain,
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imagining that he might be a slave, and observing how ready they were to part with any thing they had, thought it might not be impossible to purchase him: he therefore sent Mr. *Thompson*, the surgeon, on shore with a parcel of goods, to try what he could do; but the *Indians* rejected the offer, in a manner that plainly shewed their dislike.

On the 4th both the boats weighed, and we began to make the best of our way back to the ships; but the wind being high and against us, we were obliged in the evening to take shelter in a cove under the south shore; however, towards midnight, the wind shifting in our favour, we got under sail, and had not proceeded far, before we were hailed by the people of the *California's* boat, to inform us that they had lost a man, who had the misfortune to be knocked overboard by the main-sail's suddenly shifting from one side to the other; but the boat making great way, and the night being very dark, they heard no more of him. We repassed the fall on the 6th, and grappled that night under an island eight or ten leagues below it. Having from thence a strong gale of wind, with much sleet and snow, we soon arrived at the ships.

A council was immediately held for receiving our report, and Mr. *Thompson*, the surgeon, intimating some doubts that as the sea ran high, and we were at a considerable distance from the north shore in our return, we might possibly have passed some opening unobserved, which he was the rather inclined to apprehend, as he

thought the land looked both high and double, with very large breaks between the mountains ; he proposed to take a review, in order to obtain full satisfaction. I readily seconded his motion, from the consideration of the extraordinary tides we had observed at *Douglas Harbour*, where they rose 16 feet and a half perpendicular ; and it was resolved, that the *Resolution* should immediately proceed to obtain full satisfaction.

Mr. *Thompson*, the chief mate, and myself, went upon this expedition. In our passage we saw many black whales, and a prodigious number of seals ; but about midnight finding ourselves inclosed by the coast and the islands that lay before it, we sounded, and felt ground at 30 fathoms ; and the depth continuing to diminish, we came to an anchor. In the morning we landed, and discovered from an eminence, that this opening ran several leagues towards the south-west ; but that it would be impossible to proceed much farther, on account of several ridges of stones, that ran quite across it, and were very visible at low-water. We also discovered to the northward of this, another opening, which likewise terminated about three leagues from its entrance, much in the same manner. All hopes of finding a passage in this place being now lost, we returned to the ships as speedily as possible, and reached them on the 14th ; so that we had been absent on this service only one day.

On the 15th of *August*, we weighed from *Douglas Harbour*, in company with the *California*.

fornia. We were met in the *Narrows* entering the *Wager*, by a flood tide, which detained us several hours. On the 17th the weather being very fair and moderate, and the sky clear, we being now in the *Welcome*, it was proposed that as we lay within three or four leagues of the *Low Breach*, we should go thither to try the tide. Accordingly in the evening I went with our second mate for that purpose; but before we could reach the shore it was dark, and past the time of high-water, which made it necessary for us to stay till it was high-water again, in order to execute our commission with certainty. In the mean time the *Dobbs* lay to in the offing, and fired guns every half hour; but either the wind, or the ebb tide, driving her several leagues to the northward, she was soon at too great a distance for us to hear her guns, and by morning was out of sight. At day-break we finished the business for which we came, finding that the tide flowed from the northward, and arose to the height of 15 feet; and that it was high-water somewhat earlier than upon the opposite coast. Our business being now over, it was next to be considered how we should get on board, which seemed attended with difficulties, cloathed with such circumstances of terror, as could not fail of making the strongest impression on our minds. The ship, as I have observed, was out of sight, and it was impossible for us to know which way to follow her; the wind grew very high, and the weather thick, attended with snow; the boat was small and deep, most of the hands

were land-men, and those much indisposed ; so that, every thing considered, we were in a deplorable situation. I endeavoured to encourage the people, by representing, that, let the event be what it would, it was better for us to go to sea in search of the ship, than to remain on that inhospitable coast, where there was not the least track of man or beast, no shelter to be had, or so much as a drop of fresh water ; and where it was impossible to prolong our lives, as we had hardly one day's provisions on board. Influenced by these reasons, the people agreed to put to sea ; which we accordingly did. The wind increasing, and the sea running very high, we took in a great deal of water, and much of our time and labour were employed in throwing it out ; so that it was impossible we should have held it much longer. However, when we were about 12 leagues from shore, we, to our great joy, observed the ships ; and this giving us fresh spirits, we redoubled our efforts, and soon got safe on board. Happy was it for us that we did so ; otherwise we must inevitably have perished : for the wind and sea soon rose much higher, and the weather became so thick and dark, that it would have been impossible to have discerned either the ships or the shore.

On the 19th, the wind, which had been southerly, shifting, we took the advantage of sailing ; but the *Resolution* being a great hindrance, it was judged expedient to take every thing out of her, and turn her adrift ; and the weather growing very indifferent, it was agreed

to bear away for *England*. We entered *Hudson's* Streights on the 29th, and had very pleasant and warm weather till the 3d of *September*, when it grew foul again. On the 5th we fell in with two of the *Hudson's* Bay company's ships. The uncomfortable weather we now had, chiefly occasioned by the thick and noisome fogs, made many of our people relapse into their old distemper the scurvy; which was the more unfortunate, as we were then in the most dangerous navigation of all those seas, owing to the narrowness of the Streights, the want of soundings, the huge mountains of ice, which might well be compared to floating rocks, and the dismal dark weather that rendered it very difficult to avoid them. Frightful and shocking as these circumstances were, they soon became so familiar as not much to affect us: and here the danger is so far lessened by keeping a constant watch, and proper discipline among the seamen, that a melancholy accident seldom happens, and the *Hudson's* Bay company's ships return year after year without suffering any disaster.

On the 9th of *September* we fell into a prodigious strong rippling, the sea breaking over us on all sides, occasioned by the tide setting strongly against a pretty brisk wind; and from hence we judged ourselves to be near the *Islands of Resolution*. There were now several large mountains of ice floating in sight; but we soon left them behind us, as we began to enter into a warmer climate. On the night of the 12th we had a most terrible storm, in which
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we suffered considerably in our rigging; but our masts escaped beyond expectation. During this storm the *California* was separated from us: the weather however cleared up, and lasted favourable for about ten days; and on the 28th we cast anchor at *Carstown*, in the Island of *Pomona*, where, to our great joy, the *California* arrived the day after, from whom we had been separated about a fortnight. In this harbour we continued about a week, and on the 6th of *October* sailed from thence in company with the *California* and four *Hudson's Bay* ships, under the convoy of his Majesty's ship the *Mercury*, and arrived safely in *Yarmouth* Road on the 14th of the same month, after being one year, four months, and seventeen days from our leaving ~~that~~ that road. Thus ended a voyage which had raised the expectations of all the maritime countries in *Europe*, without success; and yet with clearer and fuller proof of the probability of such a passage, than had ever before been given.

The End of the Tenth Volume.



