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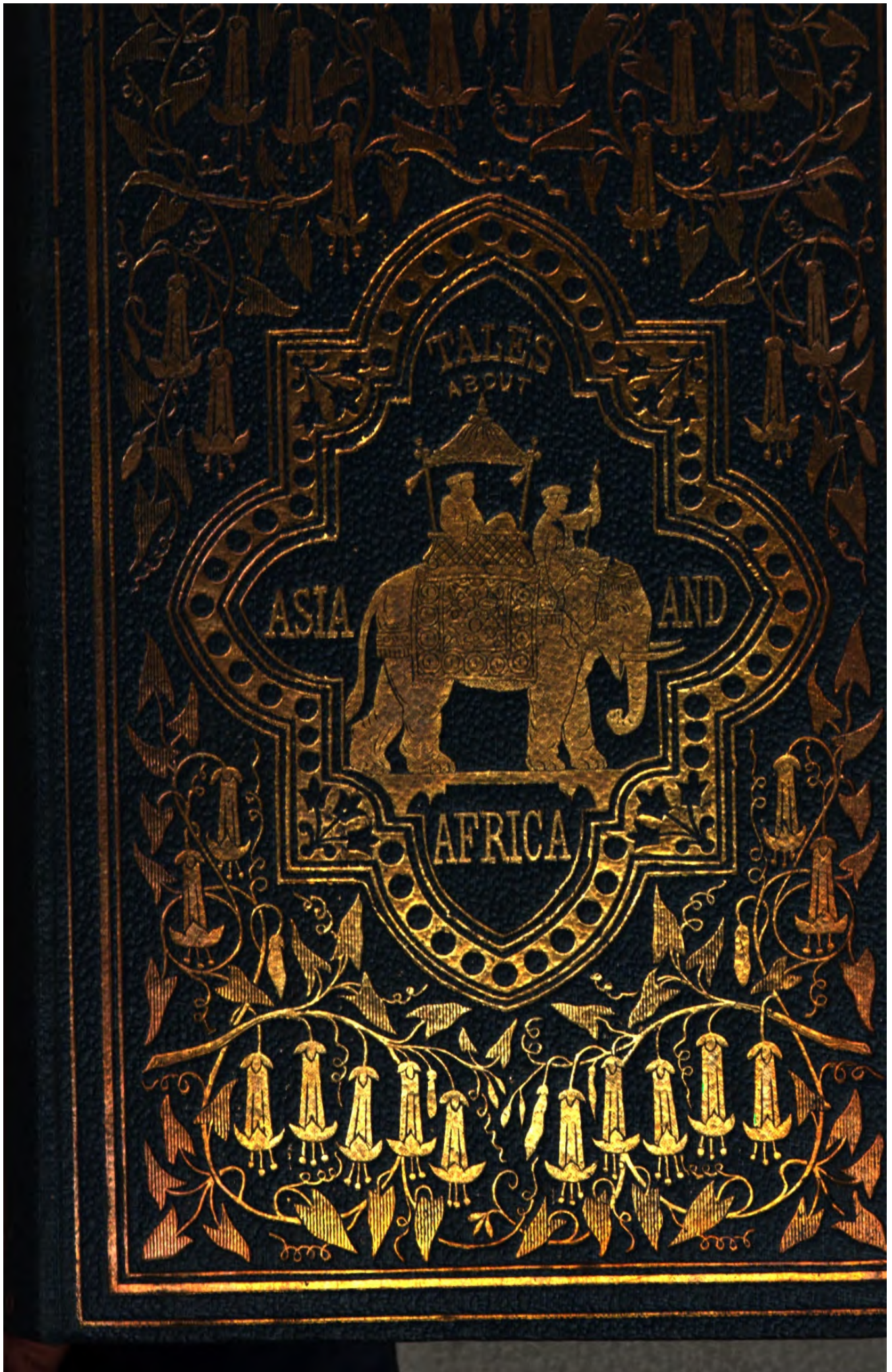
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TALES
ABOUT

ASIA

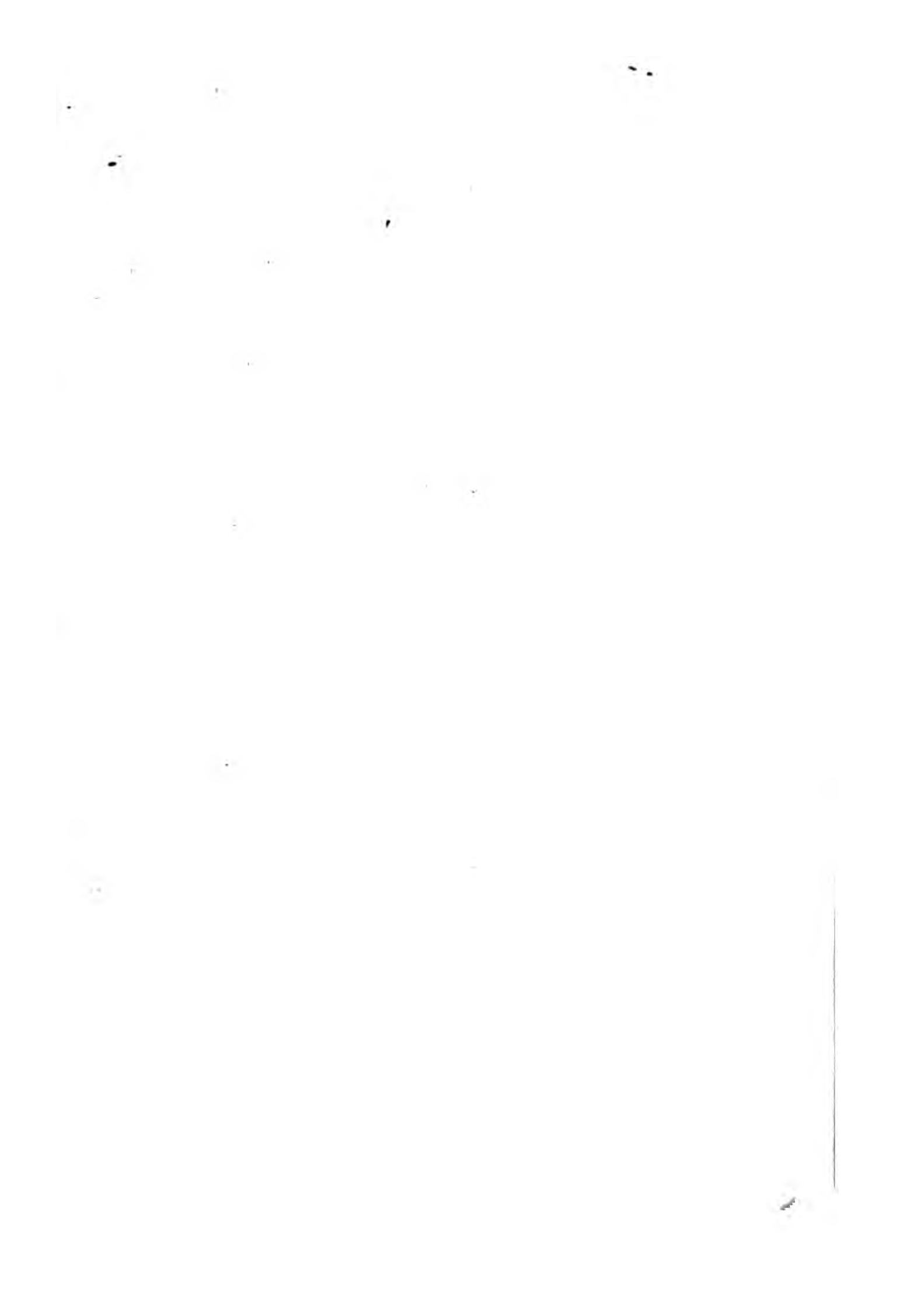
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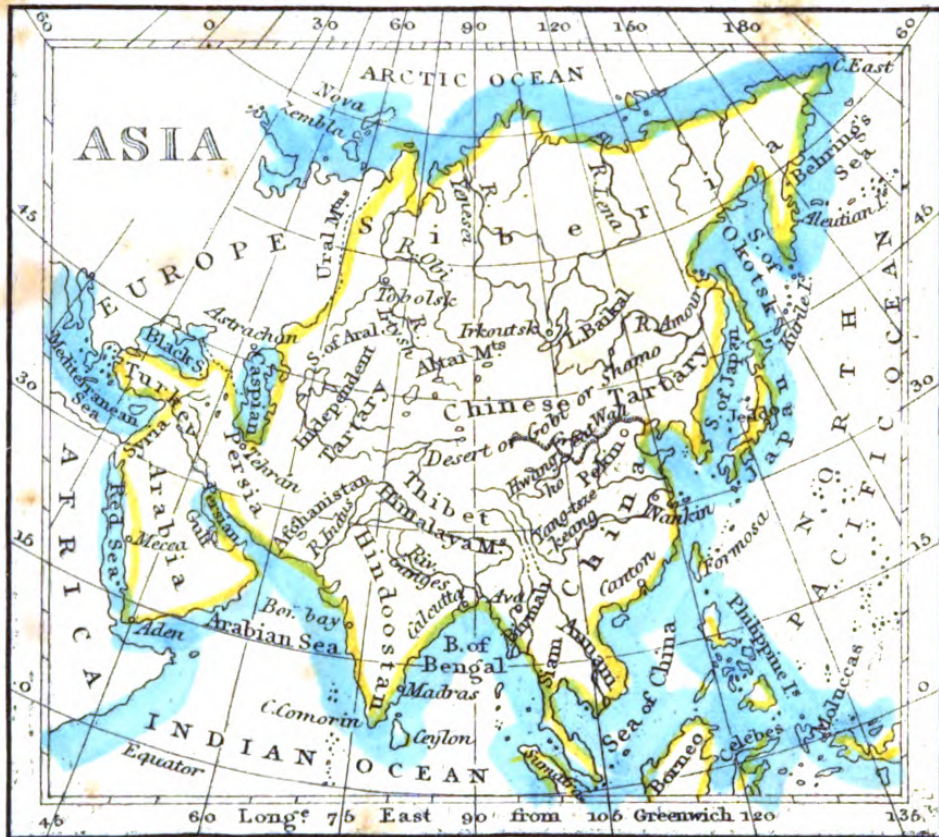
AFRICA











W. Hughes

CASSELL, PETER & GALPIN.

TALES
ABOUT
ASIA AND AFRICA.

BY
PETER PARLEY.

A New Edition,
BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PRESENT TIME.

REVISED BY
THE REV. T. WILSON.

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TALES
ABOUT
ASIA AND AFRICA.



CHAPTER I.

PARLEY'S ARRIVAL—TELLS OF A GREAT
ACT OF HUMANITY IN A CAPTAIN—
AND OF A RESCUE.

“ HERE comes Peter Parley again, here he comes !”

“ Yes, here I come, you see ; I have come out for a short stroll, to which the freshness of the morning air has in-

vited me ; but I cannot move about so briskly, nor walk so far as I used to do. I am now much fatigued, therefore I will sit down under the shade of yon spreading beech tree, and tell you some stories about Asia and Africa.

“ I have visited many foreign countries, and have seen many strange sights, as you no doubt recollect, from what I have told you in my ‘Tales of Europe.’

“ I began when I was quite as young as any of you, to accustom myself to observe narrowly every thing which passed before me ; and from the habit I soon acquired of constantly reflecting, I not only enriched my mind with much useful knowledge, but also cultivated my memory, so that I can remember almost every thing I have ever seen or heard.

“ The memory,” continued Peter Parley “ is one of the most important faculties of the mind, and should be cultivated with great care ; and if you accustom yourself to reflect, it may be strengthened to an almost incredible degree. But I must not forget my promise.

Asia is one of the three great divisions of that part of the globe, formerly styled the Old World, to distinguish it from the continent of America, which was called the New World. It comprehends extensive territories and mighty empires, nor is it less in importance than vast in extent.

“ Most of the events recorded in the Bible took place in Asia. Noah and his family settled there after the Deluge, and thence their descendants dispersed themselves over every part of the globe. It was in Asia that the Jews dwelt, and that the revelations of heaven were delivered by the prophets. Asia was the quarter of the globe in which our blessed Saviour was born, the scene of his ministry and mighty miracles, and the spot in which he accomplished his merciful work of human redemption. Here the first edifices were raised, the first cities built, and the first nations founded, while as yet the other parts of the world were inhabited only by wild beasts.

“ We will look on the map of the world : let us examine how Asia is situated with

respect to the other countries. You see it is bounded on the north by the Frozen Ocean, on the east by the North Pacific, on the south by the Indian Ocean, and on the west by Europe, from which it is separated by a lofty chain of mountains, called the Uralian Chain.

“The first time I quitted home to visit the shores of Asia, I was full of the buoyancy of youth, and my thirst to view new scenes and other countries, moderated my regret at leaving my native land and friends behind.

“I sailed in a trim-built English vessel, under the command of one of the best hearted men that ever walked a deck, a good seaman, and, what is but too rarely met with among sailors, a pious man. You may form some idea of his character from the following circumstance, which happened as we were doubling Cape Horn, the passage round which is always a time of anxiety, on account of the frequent and sudden squalls, and the tempestuous weather which are here met with.

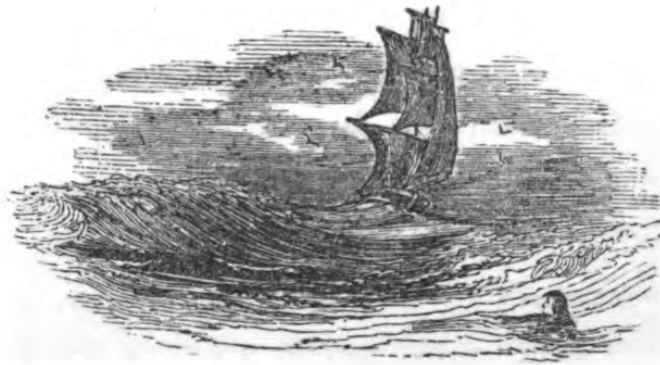
“ It was about mid-day, and we were scudding, all sail set, before a strong wind at twelve knots an hour. On a sudden the cry of ‘a man overboard’ was heard, and re-echoed through the ship. Our captain sprang upon deck, followed by all hands on board; but the poor fellow was already tossing about, so far astern, as scarcely to be visible. No sooner did the captain perceive him floating on the billowy surge, than, following the wishes of his generous heart, and unmindful of consequences, he called out to the helmsman to put the ship about.

“ The mate and seamen entreated him to reflect upon the danger of such a step; there was no time then to furl the sails—and to put about while the wind was blowing so stiff a gale, and with so much canvas spread, would probably carry away both mast and rigging, and endanger the lives of the whole crew, for the mere chance of saving a man, who could scarcely outlive the time that must elapse ere they could reach him.

“ ‘ He is a good swimmer,’ replied the captain, ‘and I will not thus abandon a

man without one effort to save him.' So saying, he cast his eyes imploringly to heaven for protection, then seized the helm to carry his humane design into execution.

"A loud huzza burst spontaneously from the delighted crew—the boat is lowered and



manned, and a long pull and a strong pull soon restored their companion to safety.

"I need not tell you how much this act endeared the captain to his crew. His orders were with cheerfulness and promptitude obeyed, though ever unaccompanied by an oath, for he had learned in early youth to shun both swearing and intemperance, the two besetting sins into which sailors so readily fall. As the story he used to tell of the

manner in which he first saw their dangerous tendency, is interesting, I will relate it to you.

STORY OF THE CAPTAIN.

“ ‘ It happened early in my career at sea,’ he used to say, ‘ that the vessel in which I sailed was bound for Norway, whither we were sailing with a brisk wind, when the captain ordered that the vessel should be kept on a certain tack for the next four hours.

“ It was the mate’s watch upon deck, and the captain had retired to his cabin to enjoy his favourite pastime, drinking and smoking, when the former, upon looking at the chart, discovered we were running directly for the Maelstroom, a dangerous whirlpool on the coast of Norway, (of which I have told in my Tales about Europe).

“ He sent to apprise the captain of the situation of the vessel; but the latter was a man of too much pride to acknowledge himself in the wrong, and feeling offended at

being set right by an inferior officer, instead of directing the helmsman to change the course, he flew into a violent passion. He then rushed upon deck with a pistol in his hand, swearing that he would shoot the first man who should dare to disobey his orders.

“The mate endeavoured to calm his impetuosity by gentle persuasion, but the captain's mind was so much affected by liquor and passion, that he was alike deaf to remonstrance and entreaty; and retiring to his cabin, very much out of humour, he sat musing till he fortunately fell asleep.

“The mate was a man of great nautical skill, and to him the sailors turned for protection. They implored him to seize the command of the vessel, and extricate them from their perilous situation, in which death seemed to be staring them in the face.

“He then again examined the chart, and finding the vessel might safely run two hours upon that tack, he promised that if at the end of that time the captain should still refuse to alter the course, he would, as a last

resource, accede to their request. In the meanwhile the sailors, relying with confidence upon his judgment, held themselves ready to obey his commands should danger appear.

“ Never were the passing minutes watched with greater anxiety and impatience, and the



vessel still continued on her course; when, just before the expiration of the four hours

the look-out from the mast head descried certain indications of their approach to the dreaded spot.

“Consternation was now depicted in every face, and fear had almost robbed them of their powers; but the calm composure and undisturbed serenity of the mate re-assured their sinking hearts.

“The mate then with modesty descended to the captain's cabin, and arousing him from his slumber, he demanded if he was ready to resign himself with courage to that death he had so madly run to meet? And whether he felt himself prepared to answer at the bar of the Omnipotent, whither he was about to rush, for his own sins and the lives of the crew he was about to sacrifice; ‘for,’ added he, ‘a few minutes more will carry us beyond the hope of safety,—the Maelstrom is *now* in sight.’

“A guilty fear now took possession of his frame, and again he rushed upon deck, but with very different feelings to those which occupied his breast two hours before. His thoughts of proud superiority were gone,—

he saw the eddy circles of the whirlpool, and shrinking at the sight of impending destruction, he exclaimed in the bitterness of his anguish,—‘ For God’s sake save me from this danger, and I will never lead you into such another.’

“ He then consigned the vessel to the care of the mate, who, by the blessing of God, not only saved the vessel, but reclaimed the captain of two detestable vices, swearing and intemperance.”



CHAPTER II.

PARLEY TELLS OF SIBERIA AND CHINA.

“THE most northern country of Asia is Siberia. It belongs to Russia, and is a cold, inhospitable region, covered with snow the greater part of the year.

“It is about 4,000 miles long, but it is very thinly peopled. It is used as a place of transportation for Russian criminals.

“The inhabitants are principally occupied in hunting small animals for their fur skins, which form one of the principal sources of Siberian traffic.

“Great quantities of these skins are annually sent to Tobolsk; but from the avidity with which the small animals are hunted, they are now becoming rather scarce.

“Fur skins answer the purpose of money among the poor natives, their articles of

purchase being generally estimated at a certain number of skins of a particular sort.

“Of the animals yielding fur, the most precious is the sable. The black fox ranks next in value, and after it the ermine, marten, and different species of squirrel.

“Some of the bears found in this region attain to a very large size, and are very fierce; hunting them forms a favourite, though dangerous sport.

“The rein-deer is here found in herds, and is much used in travelling. They graze in perfect security upon the vast plains, called steppes, with which this country abounds. Some of these steppes are so extensive, that you may travel some hundreds of miles in every direction, and see nothing but one extended plain, covered here and there with moss, and occasional patches of long rank grass, without a single tree or shrub to relieve the eye.

“To this inclement region many a brave and noble Pole, whose early days were spent in luxury and ease, is now condemned to

eternal exile, and to drag on a life of misery and wretchedness, whose only crime was that of drawing his sword in defence of his country, his family, his liberty, and home.



“Ah! happy children of happy England! could you but hear the desolating tale of all the horrors which devastating war and tyrants’ lust of rule have heaped upon unhappy Poland, the tears of soft compassion, big, bright, and fast, would trickle down your little cheeks, and you would thank kind Providence that you were born in England, where tyranny is not allowed to reign.

“To the south of Siberia lies a country of great extent, comprehending under the ge-

neral name of Tartary, three different states, called Russian Tartary, Chinese Tartary, and Independent Tartary.

“The Tartars are in general a robust people, capable of undergoing great fatigue, very dexterous in handling their sabres, and uncommonly expert in the use of the bow and arrow. They are a wandering people, living in tents, and keeping large herds of cattle. They delight in hunting and warlike exercises, and are very excellent horsemen. Their horses are very beautiful, well trained, and exceedingly fleet.

“To the southern part of Asia lies the Chinese empire; it is of great extent, and comprehends Chinese Tartary in the north, China, properly so called, in the south, and Thibet on the southernmost side.

“China is the most populous country in the world, and is considered the most favoured under heaven, in possessing the most happy climate, and the best watered soil upon the face of the globe.

“The Chinese have works which, by their immensity, surpass those of the Romans,

and remind us of those of the Egyptians, with whom this people has other traits of analogy. Amazing bridges, magnificent highways, telegraphs and canals without number, are among their chief works of antiquity. Many of their canals are very commodious, of great depth, and more than 1,000 miles in length: that of Canton to Peking is nearly 2,000.

“The Chinese are a singular people. Their dress, manners, customs, and habitations differ materially from those of any other nation; and from the care they have ever employed to prevent strangers from settling among them, their language has remained unchanged through a period of more than 3,000 years: whereas that of every other nation has been so much altered by intercourse, as scarcely to be intelligible to those living in later times.

“The Chinese are mostly pagans: and although missionaries have laboured in this country nearly, if not more than, a century, they appear to have converted very few to the Christian faith.

“The Chinese nobles or Mandarins dress very elegantly in silks, and the common people in the southern provinces use cotton, of which this country furnishes abundance. The article called nankeen is formed of a cotton which grows here, and is the natural colour of the material.



“When a Chinese invites any person of distinction to dinner, the mark of esteem in which the stranger is held, is shown by the number of dishes placed before him. These are piled up on small tables, of which each

guest has one to himself, and they are so placed, that one may be taken without disturbing the rest. What is not eaten is generally carried away by the guests in bags provided for that purpose.

“They do not use forks, as we do, to raise the food to their mouths, but employ two sticks, called chopsticks, for that purpose; and with these, small portions such as single grains of rice are conveyed to the mouth with surprising dexterity.

“Rice and vegetables, with the occasional use of the flesh of the hog and the duck, form the substance of their diet. Beef and mutton appear only on the tables of the wealthy; the reason of this is, that almost all the land of the empire being devoted to rice, grain, or vegetables, there is no means of affording pasture for cattle; whereas the hog and duck may be reared anywhere, without any sacrifice of cultivated ground.

“Having told you something about China, I will now tell you the way to go to it; and if you look on the map for the different places which I mention, you will improve your knowledge of geography.

“Ships which go from England to China or the East Indies, sail across the Atlantic Ocean in a southerly direction. The first land they come to after quitting the Continental coast, is the island of Madeira, in about 33° north latitude; they next come to the Canaries, and then the Cape Verd Islands, all which you will find off the western coast of Africa. Proceeding thence in a southerly course, inclining a little eastward for about 2,500 miles, you will come to the island of St. Helena, where British merchant ships usually stop to take in fresh water; because there cannot be sufficient room spared from the stowage to carry the quantity necessary for so long a voyage.

“This island has become celebrated by being the prison and for some time the tomb of that renowned warrior, Napoleon Buonaparte, whose name will long live in the annals of history. The remains of this great man were, however, subsequently removed to Paris, and buried in a magnificent mausoleum, prepared for the purpose.

Sailing thence in a south-easterly direction between two and three thousand miles more, you will arrive at the Cape of Good Hope, the most southern point of Africa, and having doubled this cape, that is, passed round it, you will enter the Indian Ocean, which is about three thousand miles wide. Pursuing a north-easterly course you will come to some large islands, and passing between these and taking a northerly direction, you will soon come to China.

“I once sailed across the Indian Ocean on a voyage to China, and one day, as we were sailing in the ship, Kien Long, we saw a very remarkable object before us in the sea. At first it appeared like the back of a huge elephant; and then it bore the resemblance of a dark thunder cloud. As we came nearer, however we discovered that it was an island, covered with mountainous peaks, so black and rugged as to wear a truly frightful appearance. I was told that volcanoes once existed in these mountains, and that earthquakes are still very common.

“To the south-east of Asia are a great

number of islands, some of which are very large. They contain a great many inhabitants, and produce many valuable articles of commerce, such as nutmegs, pepper, cloves, camphor, and other things much prized by Europeans.

“One of the largest of these islands is Sumatra, which is above a thousand miles in length, having a chain of lofty mountains running through its whole extent. This island, from the shelter of its vast woods, abounds in wild animals, some of them very ferocious and destructive. The tiger grows in this island to a most prodigious size and strength. The number of inhabitants who are killed by these animals exceeds belief, whole villages being sometimes depopulated by them. Elephants are common here, and sometimes traverse the country in large troops, proving highly destructive to the plantations of the inhabitants. The hippopotamus haunts most of its rivers, and the rhinoceros, both the single and double horned species, is a native of the woods. The bears of this place are small and black ;

they climb the cocoa-nut trees with surprising agility in order to feed upon the tender part or cabbage as it is called. Monkeys, squirrels, civet cats, porcupines, and alligators, a species of crocodile, are likewise found here.

“Many species of beautiful serpents are to be met with in this island; and the boa constrictor grows here to a large size, and measures sometimes as much as thirty feet in length. There is also in this island a bird called the Sumatran pheasant, whose plumage is very beautiful, and little inferior to that of the bird of Paradise, several of which latter birds may be seen in the various museums of England.”

TALE OF THE TIGER AND CROCODILE.

“I will now tell you a story about a tiger and a crocodile; but I must first describe these animals, as I suppose you have never seen either of them. The tiger is a wild, cruel animal, shaped like a cat, but much larger than the largest dog.

“A crocodile is a large creature, with

a prodigious mouth, a long tail, and a hard shell-like covering. It lives in rivers, and can sink to the bottom or rise to the top with great ease. It is very swift in the water, but on land it crawls about with much difficulty.

“Now it happened once that a ship was sailing by the mouth of one of these rivers, and the crew being in want of fresh water, for the water of the sea is salt and cannot be drunk, a party from the vessel were dispatched in a boat to fill their casks.

“One of the sailors, charmed with the prospect of the surrounding country, wandered from the rest, and strayed to a considerable distance along the bank of the river. At length he came to a delightful spot, and sat down to rest himself. While he was sitting upon the bank of the river, enjoying the cool refreshing breeze, he suddenly heard a slight noise in the water, and turning round, he distinctly saw a large crocodile rising to the surface of the glossy stream, and making towards him. The huge animal was already close to him, and the man could

see his projecting eye-balls fixed upon him.

“ Scarcely had he time to spring upon his feet, before the open jaws of the crocodile



were raised above the water, ready to receive their prey. The man, however, instantly leaped upon a rock that was near him, with that quickness which fear supplies, and was preparing to fly from the spot, when a new object of terror met his eye. Directly before him a large tiger lay crouched

in the thicket. The eye of the animal, in fierce and savage wildness, was fixed upon the man, and, as if sure of his victim, he was waving his tail triumphantly in the air.

“ For a single moment the sailor looked with speechless amazement upon the tiger, that lay crouching and collecting his whole force to dart upon his prey. He dared not advance, and there was no possibility of retreat. Presently, with the agility of a cat, the tiger bounded from the thicket, and with his eyes flashing and his jaws expanded, he sprang towards his intended victim, uttering a hideous scream. The sailor at the same instant leaped aside in the faint hope of escape, and having passed a little beyond his reach, the tiger missed his aim, and leaping over his head, plunged into the very jaws of the crocodile.

“ The two monsters now closed with each other in deadly struggle. The crocodile drew the tiger under the water, and here the conflict was terrible, each striving for the victory. They alternately rose and sank

in the river ; the waves bubbled and swelled around them, and the water to a considerable distance was tinged with blood. At length the tiger rose to the surface, apparently exhausted, and uttering a thrilling cry, he sank in the stream. The water settled quietly over him, and no more was seen of these fearful monsters.

“ The sailor who had witnessed this scene paused for a moment, then falling on his knees, he thanked heaven for his remarkable deliverance, and returning to his companions, told them his strange story.

“ To the east of the island of Sumatra lies that of Java, which, though much smaller, is very similar to the former in the nature of its productions, and the wild beasts with which the forests abound.

“ Between the islands Sumatra and Java lie the Straits of Sunda, through which our ship passed in her way to China, whence sailing northward, we reached Borneo, which, before the discovery of New Holland, was reputed to be the largest island in the world.

“ Borneo produces nearly the same articles of commerce as Sumatra, but, in addition to them, diamonds of considerable size are found here.

“ That wonderful animal the ourang outang is a native of Borneo; several have, at different times, been brought to Europe, but none have hitherto been able to bear the



change of climate. The beautiful bird of paradise is also common in this island.

“ Quitting Borneo we entered the Chinese sea, and sailed in a northerly direction till we came to the mouth of a very large river. There was a multitude of islands, and we found it difficult to navigate our ship between them.

“ We came at length to Macao, which is situated on an island. It was built by the Portuguese many years ago, and was once a place of great importance; but it is now only a small town, the Portuguese having entirely lost the maritime and commercial ascendancy which they formerly enjoyed.

“ We continued to sail up the river Pekin, or Canton as it is called by the English. We found it to be very broad, and studded with innumerable small islands that intercept the course of its waters, and diversify the animated scene which this river presents.

“ By and bye we began to approach Canton. The banks of the river were beautifully cultivated; the plains, the slopes, and the very hills which hung over the water, were covered with many kinds of fruit, grain, and vegetables. The whole landscape on

both sides of the river seemed like one extensive garden, displaying all the rich varieties of luxuriant vegetation.

“The surface of the water was covered with boats of various forms and sizes, and very differently fashioned to the English boats. Most of them were painted with two eyes on the fore part, and ornamented with figures of birds, beasts, and serpents, on the stern, or hinder part.

“The number of these boats was really countless: some of them lay motionless on the stream; other were moving forward with slow and heavy progress, being tracked along by poles; while others were shooting rapidly over the waves, like birds which skim in their flight the surface of the water.

“At first it all appeared to me a dream. The houses, which were only one story high, were unlike any I had seen before; and the modes of cultivating the land, the plants, and trees, were all equally singular. The fashion of the boats was strange; the dress, complexion, and features of the people were all new.

“ There is something exceedingly imposing in the first sight of a strange land. I was indeed delighted with the scene, and stood upon the deck feasting my eyes upon the objects around me. While I was thus quietly gazing, a loud cry burst from the boats near us, and a crash and screams of distress were presently heard. I looked over the side, and discovered that our vessel had upset one of their boats, with three men and two women in it. These people were immediately carried under the ship, and I supposed that they must certainly be drowned ; but I presently saw them amid the agitated waves at the stern of the vessel, swimming like ducks, and tossing up and down like corks. They were presently picked up by the surrounding boats.

“ We now arrived at Whampoa, which is about thirteen miles from Canton. Here our vessel was compelled to stop, foreign vessels not being permitted to proceed further up the river towards Canton. At this place the ships are unladen, and the goods carried in boats to the city, and the vessels are

obliged to remain here till the merchandize with which they are to be freighted is brought from the city in the same manner.

PARLEY DESCRIBES CANTON.

“A short time after my arrival at Whampoa, I made an excursion up the river in a boat to Canton, which is, in many respects, one of the most remarkable cities in the world. It is nearly square, and surrounded by strong walls, within which no foreigner is allowed to enter, and contains twice as many inhabitants as Liverpool or New York.

“The streets are always swarming with foot passengers, for there are neither coaches, carriages, nor trucks. All sorts of burdens are carried about by porters, of which vast numbers are constantly running to and fro; and even men and women, who are too rich or too indolent to walk, are carried about by porters in a species of sedan chair.

“These porters wear a kind of short frock, and their hair, which is coarse, black, and more than a yard long, is braided, and

hangs in a long cue down their backs. They do not wear any kind of covering for their legs and feet.



“It was until very recently the custom and the rule in China to exclude all foreigners from Canton. Since the last war, however, with the Chinese, Canton has been freely entered, and foreigners are no longer compelled to remain in the suburbs. The English and French soldiers were not long in forcing an entrance to the city when hostilities gave them the opportunity, and all the boasted valour of the Chinese and the defences of

which they talked so proudly were as nothing before our English soldiers and their gallant allies.

“The Chinese consider themselves superior to every other nation. They call their country the Celestial Empire, and consider the people of every other country as barbarians, however much they may be before them in civilization, and in the arts and sciences. It is not, therefore, to be wondered at, that they should think the entertainment good enough even for English gentlemen.

“About three miles from the city of Canton, there is a place called the Boat Town. This consists of about forty thousand boats, which cover the river, and form a kind of floating city. All these boats touch one another, and are ranged so as to form streets. The people who reside in them have no other dwelling, and are prohibited by the laws from settling on shore. Each boat lodges a family, including grandparents and grandchildren. The number of inhabitants contained in this floating city amounts probably to one hundred thousand.

“I was one day much amused during a heavy shower of rain, on seeing several men on board these boats, slip over their heads a kind of jacket, made of flexible reeds, and then with the utmost unconcern allow the rain, which was pouring in torrents, to continue pattering upon them while they pursued their work. And I was not a little surprised to observe, when the storm abated, that on removing these jackets their clothing appeared to have entirely escaped the effects of the rain.

“The great article of export is tea; of which forty millions of pounds are sent away every year. The management of the trade is committed to a council, consisting of twelve or fourteen of the richest merchants, called the Hong. The merchants of China are very honourable in their dealings, though owing to the dishonesty of their servants, they have been sometimes suspected of great roguery.

“Some friends of mine had a present of a chest of tea, which was brought on purpose for them from China. On opening it they

found a quantity of saw-dust in the middle ; this must have been put in instead of tea, by the servants employed to convey it to the ship ; and they would doubtless have been severely punished for the fraud, if they had been found out. The supply of tea in China has been for some time past rapidly decreasing, in consequence both of the war with the English, and the ravages committed by the rebels—for you must know that there has been, and still is, a rebellion in China which threatens, more than any foreign invasion, to bring the Empire to an end. Just, however, as tea is failing us in China, and cotton in America, our Indian Empire offers to supply both ; so it seems we shall not want for cotton goods, nor lack the “ cup which cheers but not inebriates.”

OF THE EMPEROR AND THE CITIES PEKIN
AND NANKIN, WITH SOMETHING MORE
ABOUT CHINA.

“The whole country of China is about two-thirds as large as the United States of North America. The accounts of the num-

ber of inhabitants most to be relied upon, state the population to amount to the astonishing number of one hundred and fifty millions.

The Chinese, in the history and description of their own country, state that China contains more than four thousand cities; that the sea-coast is defended by 439 castles, and that the villages scattered over the country are innumerable.

“The wall of China, already noticed, ranks among its greatest curiosities, and is a most stupendous work. It is built of stone, and carried over mountains and valleys to the amazing distance of 1500 miles. It is generally from 25 to 30 feet high, and so broad that six horsemen can ride abreast upon the top of it.

“This wall which now forms the northern boundary line of China, was built many years ago to prevent the frequent incursions of the Tartars. This is, unquestionably, the greatest human structure on the face of the globe, and clearly attests the great energy, patience, and industry of the Chinese.

“The Emperor resides at Peking, which is one of the largest cities in the world; it is surrounded by high walls, and is exactly square. All the streets of Peking are straight, and some of the principal of them are three miles in length.

“There is something very melancholy associated with Peking—to the English, at all events—for there some of our brave countrymen suffered inhuman tortures, and some of them lost their lives.”



“The concourse of people, and the number of camels, horses, and mules, which

throng the streets of Peking, is truly astonishing. It is, however, very remarkable, that amidst this assemblage of living and moving things no women are to be seen.

“The women in China are kept in a state of the greatest ignorance and subjection, and their treatment by their husbands is in most cases brutal. The male children are fostered with the greatest care, but the females are left almost to shift for themselves. A wife receives no honour while she is young, nor from her husband; but should she live to see her sons grown up, her state becomes completely changed, and she is almost idolized by them. This arises from the nature of the Chinese laws, which inculcates implicit obedience to parents as an indispensable duty.

“The emperor's palace, which is in this city, covers an extent of ground four miles and a half in circumference. It presents an assemblage of vast buildings, extensive courts, magnificent gardens, and is surrounded on all sides by a double wall.

“Nankin is another famous city in China,

and was once the largest in the empire ; but since the removal of the Emperor and the court from thence to Peking, its splendor has been declining. Its walls are sixteen miles in circumference. The city still abounds in manufactories of silk, and also of the yellowish cotton goods called nankin, after the place of its fabrication.

“ In this city there stood until recently that remarkable curiosity the Tower, built of porcelain, which was nearly 200 feet high. It was divided into nine stories, and was ascended by 884 steps. In the corners of all the galleries were hung innumerable bells, which, when agitated by the wind, produced clear and delightfully harmonious sounds.

PARLEY TELLS ABOUT THE PEOPLE
OF CHINA.

“ Having given you rather a lengthened account of the country of China, I will now, in conclusion, tell you something about the people. Kien Long was one of the most celebrated emperors of China. He lived to

the age of 86, and abdicated the throne in the year 1795. The ship in which I sailed was named after this emperor.

“In China the will of the sovereign is absolute throughout his dominions, and he can take away the life or the property of any individual; for there is no law to restrain him, if he is wickedly disposed, from committing the most barbarous and cruel acts.

“The present Emperor of China is a mere child. His mother and another wife of the late Emperor are the joint regents during his minority. Great opposition was offered to this arrangement by some of the late Emperor's Ministers, but the Queen acted with prompt vigour, and seized the throne for the child. They acted afterwards very mercifully towards those who opposed them, and did not put them to death, as they might readily have done.

“The common people are mostly worshippers of a deity whom they call FO. They have many temples filled with gigantic images, to which they attribute great virtues. The priests, called Bonzes, have a complete

influence over this ignorant and superstitious people, who are fond of processions and religious ceremonies, but entirely neglect the worship of the only true and living God.

“Some time since, those who are known as the rebels, professed to be Christians; but their Christianity is so mixed up with heathenism, as to be little better than the old pagan creed.

“The English missionaries have made some successful attempts to introduce the Christian religion to the idolatrous inhabitants of many of the settlements in the islands of the Indian ocean. The Chinese are much encouraged to emigrate to these islands, in order to relieve their own country from its overwhelming mass of inhabitants. In a village in one of these islands is a street nearly a mile long, inhabited solely by Chinese. The missionaries have given us the following account of it:—

“‘We called,’ say they, ‘at several of their houses, and found in each an idol of some kind; but that which most surprised us was a French engraving of Napoleon

Buonaparte, in a gilt frame, before which incense was burning, while the old man to whom it belonged was paying divine honours



to it, by bowing himself in various grotesque attitudes, and fervently supplicating that blessings might attend him and his family. When we asked him why he worshipped that as a god, which came from Europe, instead of one from his own country, he frankly replied, 'Oh, we worship anything.'

“The fashions of dress never change. The emperor and his family are alone permitted to wear yellow clothes. The common people are allowed to wear only blue or black, and white is the colour for mourning.

“The Chinese, in their theatres, perform many wonderful feats of strength and agility. I will describe one of them for your amusement.

“Four men stood as closely together as they could, making a kind of solid square, and upon their shoulders two men climbed up and stood upright, while another man climbing up still higher, stood upon them, making a kind of pyramid.

“You will, perhaps, wonder how the uppermost man could stand where he did and how the men at the bottom could bear the weight they had to sustain; but this is not all. Another man then mounted a ladder, and got upon the shoulders of the highest, being thus raised high in the air, and in this situation received another man from the top of the scenes, whom he grasped firmly by the waist, and held up over his head for

some time. He then stood upon one leg, still holding the man above his head, and lastly threw his burden carelessly head over heels among the actors on the ground, who caught him in their arms. At the same time he made a summerset on the opposite side, and disappeared among the crowd.

“ During the time that this feat was performing, the stage was as light as at noon-day, so that there appeared no opportunity of deceiving the spectators.

“ I have now concluded my description of China, one of the most extensive and populous countries in the world. It is considered the most favoured under heaven, as to the fertility of its soil, the salubrity of its climate, and other boons which nature has lavished upon it ; yet it is painful to contemplate it. However beautiful the aspect of a country may be, if the people are in religious darkness, and degraded by the influence of a despotic government, the country cannot fail to be unhappy.

“ Now, however, that the ports of China have been opened, and intercourse with

strangers freely allowed, it is hoped that a change for the better may come over the social, political, and, above all, the religious condition of this extraordinary people.



CHAPTER III.

PARLEY TELLS ABOUT TARTARY AND
THE TARTARS.

“ MY account of China has been rather long, but I hope not tedious. I have extended my description of that interesting country, because the means of obtaining information respecting it, are far less numerous than those derived from countries with which we have almost constant communication.

“ I will now tell you of another country, the people of which you will no doubt think equally singular with the Chinese. To the north and west of China is a country called Tartary. It is often called central Asia, being situated nearly in the middle of it.

“ This region, which is in general very elevated and surrounded by mountains,

spreads out to an immense extent, and includes a territory of more than twice the extent of the United States. It is very thinly inhabited by various wandering tribes, who are known under the general name of Tartars. There are, however, nations of them: as the Mantchoo Tartars, who live near China, the Mogul Tartars, and the Calmucs.

“ The people, in their personal appearance, bear a strong resemblance to the native American Indians, though they are somewhat shorter. Nor are their modes of life less similar to this people. They do not settle in towns, and pursue various kinds of business, as we do here; but on the contrary, lead a wandering life, and, as I have already told you, look with contempt upon those who live in fixed habitations, and pursue regular employments.

“ The Tartars keep many horses of a fine breed, which are exceedingly fleet and very highly trained. They are such excellent horsemen, have such complete command over the animal, and are so constantly mounted, that report states them to eat,

drink, and sleep on horseback ; but this is only a traveller's story.

“ These people are very expert in the use of the lance, a weapon twice the length of a man's body, with an iron point at one end. They employ them in war and in hunting wild animals, and throw them with such skill and force, as to send them entirely through the body of a man or deer at the distance of many yards.

“ The Mahomedan religion is generally professed throughout Tartary, but other creeds have place among them. The Tartars have many curious customs peculiar to themselves, among which is that of burying with a deceased person his best horse, and such other articles as he possessed of the greatest value. They do this in the vain imagination that these things will be useful to him in the other world. This practice, though ridiculous, proves that they believe in the immortality of the soul.

“ They have a very singular practice in connection with religious worship, namely, that of placing a written prayer on a wheel,

which is rapidly made to revolve : they suppose that every time the wheel turns round, the prayer is heard in heaven.

PARLEY GIVES SOME ACCOUNT OF
THIBET.

“Thibet is another remarkable country that is subject to China; its surface is greatly diversified by lofty mountains and deep valleys, and it abounds in rocky precipices, roaring cataracts, and peaks, whose tall summits are covered with eternal snow. On the southern boundary of this country are the loftiest mountains in the world, upon the cloud-capped tops of which human feet have never perhaps yet trodden. These are called the Himmaleh mountains, and were annexed to the territory of British India in 1826. This region has lately created considerable interest, in consequence of the failure of the tea supply in China. From the researches of travellers, it has long been known that the tea-tree is indigenous to the soil. This bids fair to be of vast importance to

the commerce of Great Britain ; for if the cultivation of the plant be promoted, it may one day render us completely independent of China for a constant supply of the article tea, which has now become an indispensable beverage to almost every inhabitant of England.

“ A quantity of this article, under the title of Assam tea, has already been sold in the English market at a very advanced price, a circumstance which is alone sufficient to stimulate the enterprising to an attention to this profitable source of traffic.

“ The interior of Thibet is little known ; for few travellers have ever penetrated into these wild regions. The inhabitants appear to be of the same race as the Mongolian Tartars. The Thibetians have a species of goat which, under their coarse hair, produce a kind of fine down. This down is carried to Cashmere, in Northern India, and there made into shawls of costly price.

“ The cashmere shawls are so highly prized in Europe and America, that they sometimes sell for two or three hundred

pounds each. These, it is said, are generally second-hand articles, having been first worn by the Hindoos on their heads for turbans; and after their beauty is in some degree lost, they are dressed over, and sent to this country, where they find a ready market.

“ The people of Thibet describe the object of their devotion to be a man into whose body the spirit of the Deity had entered. When he dies, his soul is not supposed to leave this world, but to animate another person, who is carefully sought after by the inferior lamas or priests. When discovered, he is generally a child. Thus, they say, their Deity renders himself perpetually visible to his creatures.

“ The man that has, as they suppose, thus become their Deity, sits cross-legged upon a throne, and in this manner receives the homage of his worshippers, who pretend that a divine odour is constantly exhaling from his body, rendering it peculiarly delightful to be in his presence. They also say that flowers spring up beneath his feet,

and bud and blossom ; and that rivers burst forth from the rocks, and flow at his command. All this, the worshippers of the Grand Lama profess to believe, and likewise that his power can save them from misery on earth, and bestow upon them happiness hereafter.

“ We who are blessed with a knowledge of the true religion, cannot but look with wonder upon the superstition of these ignorant and deluded Thibetians. Let us therefore recollect, that we are indebted to that good God, who has ordered all things well, for the superior advantages we enjoy, and let us resolve so to employ the talent committed to our care, that we may be called good and faithful servants, and enter into the joy of our Lord. To us has been given much, and of us much will assuredly be required.”

PETER PARLEY GIVES AN ACCOUNT
OF JAPAN.

“ Japan is an extensive empire, situated at

the eastern extremity of Asia, and consists of three large and a number of small islands. The three principal are Nippon, Sikokf, and Kin-sin. The large island of Jesso, immediately north of Nippon, has been colonized and governed by Japan; but it is scarcely considered as a part of the empire.

“ I found that the most of Japan is very rocky and precipitous; and that there are few parts that can be approached with safety, on account of the numerous shallows and whirlpools.

“ While I was there, several earthquakes were felt in different parts of the empire, and sometimes to a desolating extent. The fertile parts of the country consist chiefly of narrow valleys; while extensive tracts are naturally so barren, that they are only compelled, by unremitting industry, to afford a scanty subsistence.

“ Turnips, carrots, melons, and cucumbers, grow here without cultivation. Many other vegetables are common, but the most

remarkable production is the Varnish tree, with the juice of which the natives varnish, or, as we call it, japan their furniture.

“The industry of the Japanese agriculturists exceeds that of every other nation; every spot that can be rendered productive being cultivated with the greatest assiduity. The duty of cultivating the soil is considered so sacred, that the law has provided that he who omits it, even for one year, shall forfeit the land so neglected.

“In a country where every inch of ground is employed in raising food for men, the number of quadrupeds must necessarily be small. The sheep, goat, camel, ass, mule, elephant, and hog, are almost unknown; and even when introduced by foreigners, the breed is discontinued, being considered not only as useless but prejudicial. Oxen and cows are reared merely for labour; and horses are only employed in the retinues of the great.

“Japan, like China, has been for a long period closed against all intercourse with

foreigners. No strangers have been permitted to settle in the empire ; no native has been allowed to leave it with the chance of returning home. It must, however, be acknowledged that for some time the Japanese were far less exclusive than the Chinese ; they not only permitted the residence of strangers amongst them, but they allowed them freely to exercise their religious faith. An Englishman was promoted to high offices of state, and received especial marks of favour from the Imperial ruler.

“ But the Jesuits attempted to raise an insurrection and overturn the throne, and the result of this was a frightful massacre of the Christians, and the closing of the ports against all intercourse with foreign nations. These restrictions have within a very recent period been removed. Japan has been visited by many intelligent travellers, all of whom have agreed in expressing their admiration as well as astonishment at the civilization of the people. The arts are in a very flourishing condition, and the social habits of the people appear highly commendable.

PARLEY DESCRIBES HINDOSTAN.

“ Of all the countries on the Asiatic continent, India, from the earliest antiquity, has excited the greatest interest, and enjoyed the highest celebrity. It has ever appeared to the Western world as adorned with whatever is most splendid and gorgeous, glittering as it were with gold and gems, and redolent with fragrant and delicious odours. The diversity of its surface, the varied grandeur of its scenery, and the rich and copious productions of its soil, are unequalled in any other country.

“ The two most remarkable quadrupeds are the elephant and tiger. The elephant, of a species distinct from that of Africa, is here not merely pursued as game, but being caught alive, is trained for the purposes of the state, for hunting, and for war. The tiger, the formidable tenant of the Bengal

jungle, supplies the place of the lion, and though not quite equal to the latter animal in strength and agility, it is still more fierce and destructive.

“ These two mighty animals are brought into conflict in the Indian hunt. The elephant is then used as an instrument for attacking his fiercer, but less powerful, antagonist.

“ A short digression to describe one of these hunts, at which I was present, will, no doubt, prove acceptable to my young friends.

THE TIGER HUNT.

“ The tiger is, with justice, esteemed the most cruel and rapacious animal in the creation; and in India, where it attains to a very large size, it does considerable mischief. It is so strong that it carries off cattle and horses, and not unfrequently lies in wait in the jungles contiguous to the public roads, whence it springs upon the unwary traveller, ere he has time to fire, even if he is armed for self-defence.

“ During my stay at the house of a friend,

who resided but a few miles from Calcutta, news was brought that some large tigers had formed a lair in an extensive jungle, on the banks of the Ganges, at no great distance from a neighbouring village. They had already committed so many depredations as to excite universal terror and alarm. A resolution was therefore speedily formed of uniting to destroy their common enemies, or at least to dislodge them from their present haunt.

“ On the day preceding that appointed for the hunt, a party of armed Indians was dispatched to pitch a tent about a mile and a half from the jungle, in which the animals were said to be concealed. The jungle was described as being very dense, and containing thickets of long grass and reeds from fifteen to twenty feet high.

“ These preliminary arrangements having been made, a troop of thirty elephants was sent off on the following morning at one o'clock, with servants and refreshments of all kinds, and at two the party followed in fly palanquins.

“ On reaching the scene of action, we formed a line of considerable extent, and entered a small detached jungle. My elephant, sorely against my wish, passed through the centre; for this there was no remedy, as my driver was a keen sportsman, and he and I spoke no common language. Happily, however, no tiger had at that hour nestled there. As we passed through, the bed of one appeared to have been just left. There was still lying there a half-devoured bullock, with a heap of bones, some bleached and some still red with gore.

“ We had not proceeded five hundred yards beyond the jungle, when we heard on our left a general cry of *Baugh! Baugh! Baugh!* On hearing this exclamation of *Tiger!* we wheeled round, and forming the line anew, entered the great jungle. The spot where a single tiger lay having been pointed out, on the discharge of the first gun a scene presented itself, declared by all the experienced tiger hunters present, to be the finest they had ever seen. Five full-grown royal tigers sprang at the same in-

stant from the spot where they had been crouching together. They ran in different directions, but crouched again in new covers within the same jungle, each of which was marked. We followed, having formed the line into a crescent, so as to embrace the two



extremities of the jungle: in the centre was the Houdar or State Elephant, with the ladies, and the marksmen, to comfort and encourage them. The gentlemen of the party had each an elephant to himself, and formed the wings of the crescent.

“ We slowly and warily approached the spot where the first tiger lay. He stirred not until we were just upon him, when uttering a roar, that resembled thunder, he rushed upon us. The elephants wheeled round at once, and shuffled off, if I may be allowed the term to express their motions, which cannot be described by that of any quadruped with which we are acquainted. After a flight of about fifty yards they returned, and as they approached the skirts of the jungle, where the tiger had lodged himself, he rushed forth, and springing at the side of an elephant, upon which three of the natives were mounted, at one stroke of his paw he tore off a portion of the pad from under them, and one of the riders, panic struck, fell off. The tiger, seeing his enemies close upon him returned slowly and indignantly into his shelter, towards which place a heavy and well-directed fire was poured in by the principal marksmen. In a few minutes we pushed in, and saw him lie growling and foaming in the agonies of death.

“We marked the spot, by fixing a long spear, and tying the muslin of a turban to the end of it, and then proceeded to seek the rest. We roused three others in close succession, and with little variation killed two of them.

“While the fate of the last and largest of these was depending, more shots were fired than in the three other attacks; he escaped four several assaults, and taking post in different parts of the jungle, rushed upon us with rekindled rage at each wound he received, and as often put the whole line to flight. In one pursuit, he singled out an elephant, upon which was seated a lady of distinction, when, rising upon his hind feet, and distending his enormous jaws, he was just in the act of springing upon her as she cleared the jungle. At another time he sprang at the leg of one of the elephants, and clinging round it, was inflicting the most fearful gashes with his talons; while the latter animal, bellowing with the pain, had but feeble means of resistance by pushing at the tiger's head with his trunk. At

this fearful crisis, it fortunately happened that one of the boldest of the hunters, who was near, plunged a long spear into the neck of the tiger. This forced him to quit his hold, and falling to the ground, he was presently crushed beneath the feet of the enraged elephant. The fifth, which appeared to be the oldest and most ferocious of the family, had early in the conflict quitted the scene of action, and wisely escaped to another part of the country.

“The chase being over, we returned in triumph to our encampment, and were followed by the spoils of the morning, and by a great number of peasants from the neighbouring villages, who pressed round the open tent, in which we sat at breakfast, vying with each other in offering congratulations and in calling down blessings upon our heads.

“The four tigers were laid in the front of the tent, and round them stood a crowd of natives, who appeared to view them still with terror, and many shed tears. Among the spectators, was an old woman of sickly

aspect, and a countenance that bespoke her inward grief. She remained some time looking at the largest tiger, then pointing to his tusks and lifting up one of his fore-paws, and viewing his talons, she commenced in broken and doleful tones to narrate something to the little circle by whom she was



surrounded, composed of three Brahmins, and a young woman with a child in her arms. Her aged cheeks streamed with tears, and her voice assumed a tone so piteous and plaintive, that I was considerably affected,

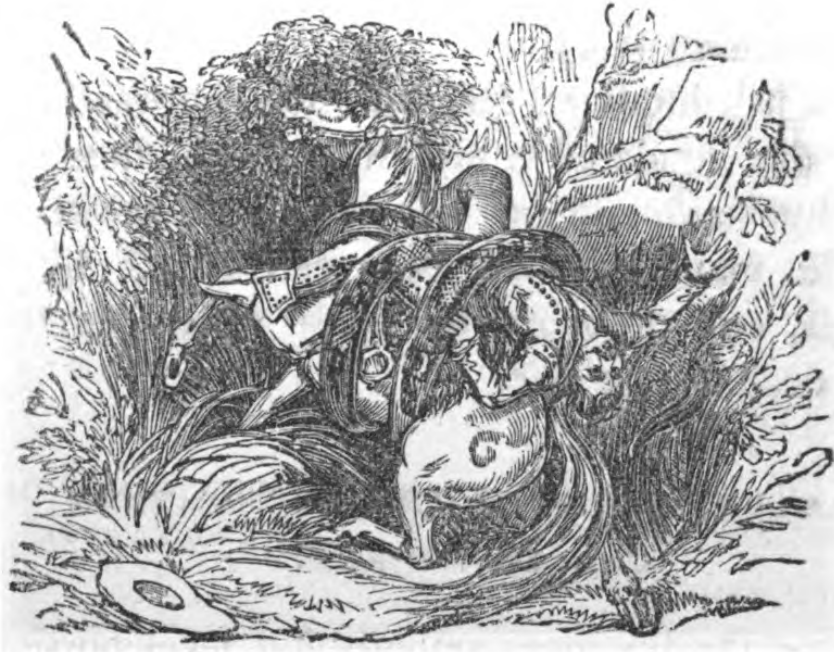
though her language was unknown to me. Her tale of misery had no effect upon the apathy of the Brahmins, nor was a feature of their countenances softened; but horror, anxiety, and fear, were alternately depicted upon the female's face, and from her clasping, at times, her child more closely to her breast, I readily divined the subject of the old woman's story.

“Upon inquiry I learned that she was in one day rendered a widow, and childless; her husband, and her two sons, both grown up to manhood, had been carried off by tigers, and probably by those which now lay dead before her.

PARLEY DESCRIBES THE PHENOMENON
CALLED MIRAGE.

“On the more smooth and level portions of the dreary tract about Poogul, the traveller is tantalized by the phenomenon called Sirab, or Mirage, producing before him the appearance of immense lakes, that even reflect the surrounding objects; and

the illusion continues till he has almost touched the watery semblance, and finds it consists of the same arid soil as the rest of the desert.



CHAPTER IV.

PARLEY TELLS ABOUT THE IMMENSE
WEALTH OF INDIA.

“It is scarcely possible to form a just idea of the wealth which India once contained, and of the booty borne off by the conquerors in the Indian wars. I shall give a few instances only, which will convey some notion of the extent of its treasures.

“Hyder Ali is said to have carried off, at the sacking of Bednore, a booty estimated at twelve millions sterling.

“The Persian monarch, Narid Shah, is reported to have continued, during thirty-five days, to ransack that splendid capital, Delhi; and historians hesitate not to affirm, that he and his officers seized a spoil of more than thirty-two millions sterling. Of this, at

least, one half was in diamonds and other jewels, which the Mogul Emperors, since the first accession of their dynasty, had been indefatigable in collecting from every quarter.

“Mahmoud, the Mohammedan conqueror, in his expeditions into India, plundered several of the richest temples which that country contained, and among others, the antique shrine of Sumnaut, a temple consisting of a majestic hall, supported by fifty-six columns, and entirely encircled by Hindoo deities. Sumnaut himself, a figure whose dimensions are variously reported, towered gigantic above them all. On first beholding this idol, Mahmoud, fired with wrathful zeal, struck off his nose, and gave orders that the whole of the figure should be forthwith reduced to fragments. The attendant Brahmins, fearing the entire destruction of this object of their profoundest veneration, fell upon their knees and proffered an immense sum to save what still remained; but the king indignantly rejected the idea of becoming the seller of idols.

The work of demolition continued, and, on reaching the interior, there was disclosed a treasure in pearls, rubies, and diamonds,



almost beyond conception, and very far surpassing the immense sum tendered for its redemption. The amount has never been

ascertained, but it is generally admitted to have greatly exceeded that of any former capture.

“ From the shrine of Bime he is said to have carried away more gold, silver, and precious stones, than had ever been found in the possession of any one prince upon earth. Thus he continued to plunder the shrines, one after another, till he made himself master of treasure, the accumulated value of which, the utmost stretch of the imagination falls short of conceiving.

“ But of all the temples of India, that of Muttra or Mathura, sacred to the Hindoo deity Krishna, contained shrines eclipsing all others even in this wealthy state. These shrines, splendid beyond comparison, were filled with gigantic idols of pure gold, with eyes of rubies. At the plunder of this temple, Mahmoud is said to have possessed himself of gold and silver estimated at half a million sterling, with jewels and pearls exceeding all calculation.



THE TEMPLE OF ELEPHANTA.

Of the wonderful structures in India, the most celebrated is Elephanta, situated about half way up the declivity of a hill, in a small wooded island near Bombay. Three entrances are afforded between four rows of massive columns, and the principal avenue is 220 feet long and 150 broad. The most conspicuous object, placed in the centre, is a triple head of colossal dimensions, being a figure of Siva, to whom the temple is dedicated, and with whose images it is filled.

THE STRUCTURES OF ELLORA.

Near the antient city of Deoghir and the modern Dowlatabad, are the wondrous structures of Ellora. Here a lofty hill is completely cut out into a range of temples, and its surface covered with sculpture and ornaments that display considerable taste, and bespeak for its founders a degree of civilization, to which the modern Hindoos have not the slightest pretensions.

THE ISLAND PALACE OF JUGMUNDER.

The palaces of many of the Indian princes are of a highly beautiful character, and that of Jugmunder ranks among the most superb. This edifice is composed entirely of marble, and is situated upon the border of an extensive lake, which reflects the majestic and polished towers in the fair bosom of its lovely waters. The surrounding scene is of the most enchanting description, and fills the mind of the beholder with the most de-

lightful sensations. A great part of the floor is inlaid with rich mosaic, the effect of which is greatly heightened by the light passing through variously tinted glass.

The character of some of the Indian chiefs is not less remarkable than the country they inhabit, and deserves to be especially noticed. I will relate an anecdote or two, to give you an example of them.

NAHUR KHAN.

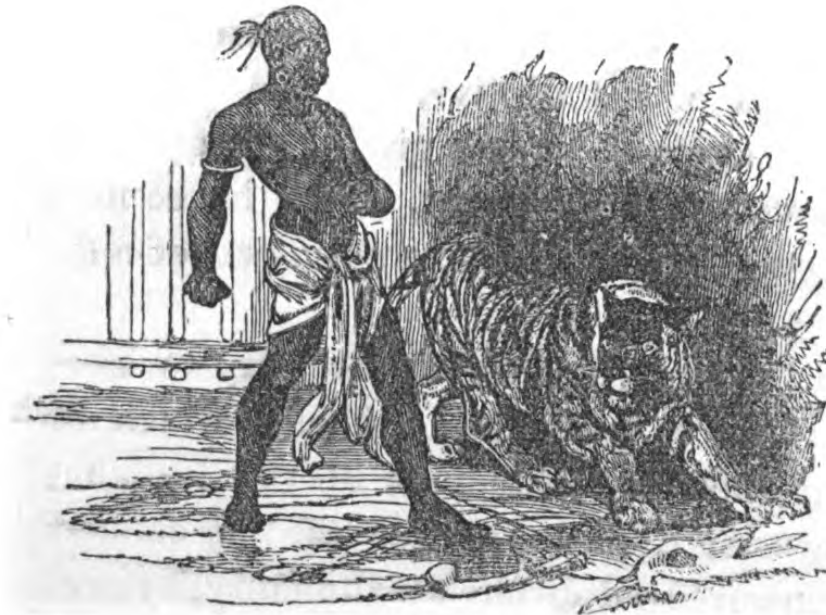
Nahur Khan, the Tiger Lord, was the fierce, the brave, and faithful adherent of Jesswint Singh, chief of Marware. He was a commander, who, both in serving and opposing the Mogul Emperor Aurenzebe, showed himself to be one of the greatest that India can boast. Nahur led the van in all Jesswint's battles, and widely spread the terror of his master's name. He acquired the epithet of Faithful of the Faithful, by his generous promptitude even to submit to the loss of life, on an occasion of the grossest superstition, in order to serve his master.

“ Jesswint, through the pressure of deep remorse, had become subject to temporary alienation of mind, imputed by the magicians to the operation of an evil spirit. The spirit being exorcised, was said to declare, that the chief could only be restored by some one suffering death as a voluntary sacrifice. Nahur Khan instantly offered himself as the victim; but the magicians saved him, by pretending that the spirit had descended into a vessel of water, which, being swallowed by Nahur, caused the reason of his illustrious master to resume its seat.

“ On another occasion, when employed against Soortan, also one of the most gallant of these chieftains, Nahur, with a chosen band, surprised the chief in the dead of night, and having bound him to his pallet with his own turban, he sounded the alarm, that the surrounding clansmen might see their master carried off in triumph, without daring to attempt his rescue.

“ At another time Jesswint, in a fit of rage, ordered his faithful chief to be thrown into the den of a tiger, and there unarmed

to contend for his life. But Nahur presented to the monster so firm an aspect, that it turned away; whereupon the brave chief observed, that honour forbade him to attack an adversary that dared not look him in the face.



**CUNNING STRATAGEM OF THE CHIEF
SOORTAN.**

“ Jesswint, having become master of the person of Soortan, conveyed his captive to the Mogul court, in order to introduce him to the Emperor Aurenzebe.

“ Soortan was accordingly instructed in regard to those prostrations required of all who were ushered into the presence of the great ruler of India. But Soortan proudly observed: ‘ My life is in the king’s hands, my honour in my own ;’ adding at the same time, ‘ I have never yet bowed down the head to mortal man, and never will.’

“ Jesswint, knowing the determined resolution of his captive, became considerably embarrassed, having given him a promise of honourable treatment, which he could now scarcely expect to have the power of redeeming.

“ It was, therefore, necessary to have recourse to stratagem, a faculty which forms no inconsiderable part of the Indian character ; and the master of the ceremonies endeavoured to obviate the difficulty, by preparing for the chief’s entrance into the presence hall, a species of wicket, raised a little from the ground, and so low, that it was thought he could not pass through it, except in such a position as might be interpreted into an expression of homage. But the

same subtlety of stratagem, which in the one had suggested the means of obviating the difficulty, was by the other employed in defeating their designs; for Soortan effected his entry by advancing his feet first, by which means his head appeared last, and his body in a position the very reverse of that he was desired to assume.



“Aurenzebe, who was a man of lofty sentiment and great discernment, was much pleased with Soortan’s noble bearing, and at the same time so amused with his ingenious contrivance, to avoid doing constrained homage, that he offered him a gift of lands, to

attach him to his service. But Soortan replied, that no boon which the Emperor could bestow, would be so agreeable to him, as the simple permission to return to the wild hills that surrounded his castle of Aboo ; and his wish was immediately granted.

“ Hindostan is unquestionably one of the fairest and most fertile countries on the surface of the globe, yielding every thing in abundance ; yet it must not be denied that it is sometimes visited by scourges of famine for want of rain, pestilence from the heat of the climate, and sometimes by those devastating hurricanes which carry all before them, laying the ground waste in one extended plain of universal ruin. As we have no hurricanes in this country, I will describe one.

“ They generally follow a perfect calm, when the air is serene, and all is still and tranquil. The birds are quietly reposing amid the thick branches of the trees, and the cattle stretched at length, sleeping in thoughtless security in the shade. The sun shines brightly over the landscape, and all nature seems hushed in sweet repose.

“ But presently a small cloud is seen in the distance. It rapidly approaches, and increases in size till it stretches far across the wide expanse of the heavens. The cloud seems in great agitation, and a rushing sound is heard on the distant hills. It moves onward, whirling and roaring like the waters beneath a cataract, and covers the sky as with a sable veil. All around is dark as blackest night, excepting now and then the lightning’s vivid flash illumines the sky with awful blaze, and crashing thunder follows peal on peal, rolling along the vaulted arch of heaven with a sound so horrid, that even the stoutest hearts must quail.

“ The storm proceeds, the grass and grain, and all the tender plants, are levelled with the ground. The roar of the raging tempest fills the ear ; and fragments of the wreck of other places over which the storm has passed, are borne upon the wind and fall around with fearful noise. The houses tremble, and with horrid crash fall down in ruin on the affrighted inmates. Mighty fragments of the topmost rocks come rolling

down the mountain side, bearing away with devastating sweep whatever opposes them.

“The roaring of the wind becomes fainter and fainter, and at length stillness succeeds the dreadful uproar. The cloud is seen hurrying away over the hills, carrying with it to other places the same destruction it has left behind. The terrified inhabitants come forth and witness the ruin that is spread around them. Many of their dwellings are lying in heaps of rubbish, perhaps burying beneath them, the tender wife of their bosom, or child of their affection. Their crops are cut off, and their cattle are either killed or hurried away before the gale, so that they never recover them.

CHAPTER V.

PARLEY DESCRIBES THE EASTERN PENINSULA, OR INDIA BEYOND THE GANGES.

“It is highly important that the various names under which this peninsula is known, be thoroughly impressed upon the memory, to prevent the confusion which must necessarily arise in the mind from a multiplicity of names being given to one place.

“It is called Indo-China, Chin-India, India without, and India beyond the Ganges, It comprises the Burman empire, the empire of Tonquin, and the kingdoms of Assam, Siam, and Malacca; but the principal of them is the Burman empire, recently formed by the union of several small kingdoms subdued by the Burmans.

THE BURMESE EMPIRE.

“The capital of the Burman empire is Ummerapoorra, about four miles from Ava, the former capital, which is now in ruins, the most splendid part of the materials having been carried thence to form the present capital. The city is called the Golden City, and the emperor styled his Golden Majesty. Though absolute in power, and very despotic, he is nevertheless almost wholly under the influence of the court astrologers, since nothing of importance is undertaken without consulting them as to the propitious time for its performance.

“The people are very superstitious, inso-much that an unusual grunt from the white elephant, which they highly venerate, is at all times sufficient to interrupt the most important affairs, and cause the most solemn engagements to be broken off.

The principal feature in the Burmese worship is that of building pagodas, of which

great numbers are found in every part of the kingdom.

**THE SHOEDAGON, OR GOLDEN PAGODA
AT RANGOON.**

“The lofty Shoedagon stands on the summit of an abruptly rising eminence, situated about two miles and a half from Rangoon, from whence it is seen rising in splendour and magnificence above every other object. There are two roads leading to it from the town, and each of them crowded with numerous pagodas, varying in size and richness, according to the wealth or zeal of the pious architects. These pagodas are all private property, every Burman, who can afford it, building one as an offering to Ghandma. They are not temples, for no worship is performed in them; and when once built, little care is afterwards taken of them, it being considered more meritorious to build a new one than to repair the old.

“The Burmese are said to be given to lying, pilfering, and dissimulation; and the

character is but too justly merited by the government functionaries. But the poor people, by far the better part of the nation, are represented as frank and hospitable, and by no means deficient in qualities that would do honour to more civilized communities. They are acute, intelligent, and observing, and very generally can read and write. A writer of acknowledged veracity, who spent some time in their country, sums up their character in the following remarkable words:—‘Their virtues are their own; their faults and vices, the effect of education and the pernicious influence of a cruel and despotic government.’

STORY OF MR. AND MRS. JUDSON.

“The truths of Christianity were some years ago attempted to be disseminated among the Burmese, by Mr. and Mrs. Judson, American missionaries. They met with very little success; for, being suspected by the Emperor of being secret friends of the English, who were then waging war against

the Burmese, they were thrown into prison, and endured very great hardships.

“While Mr. and Mrs. Judson were settled at Ava, at that time the capital of the Burmese empire, the Emperor and his family came to reside at his palace in that city, which is a



most splendid edifice. They were attended by an immense procession of Viceroys, dressed in their robes of state, officers and soldiers, horses and carriages, hundreds of elephants with trappings and decorations of the most brilliant and costly description.

To these were added an interminable concourse of people, many of whom were carrying flags and banners, waving in the air.

“Among the chief objects of the procession was a beautiful white elephant, with the most superb ornaments, and attended by persons in the most gorgeous and sumptuous attire. This elephant was an object of the most profound respect, and so revered by the populace, that they prostrated themselves and fell on their faces as it passed along. Mr. and Mrs. Judson were at that time in favour, and obtained a seat in the beautiful garden, where a rich banquet was prepared for the king and queen, and the principal nobles. The spectacle was brilliant in the extreme, and far surpassed any thing the missionaries had hitherto seen.

“Mr. and Mrs. Judson had been some time at Ava, when news arrived that the English had taken Rangoon, a large town of the Burman empire, situated at the mouth of the Irrawaddy, where it empties itself into the Bay of Bengal.

“The Emperor suspecting Mr. Judson to

be the secret agent of the English, ordered him to be seized and thrown into prison. The merciless minions of the government, therefore, rushed into Mr. Judson's house,



seized him, threw him on the floor, and having bound him strongly with cords, they dragged him away in the most barbarous and cruel manner. While he was being thus brutally hurried away, the cords around his body became so tightly drawn that he could scarcely breathe; and in this miserable state he was thrust into the death prison.

“An officer was afterwards sent to Mrs. Judson, and after asking her a great number of questions, he placed a guard of ten men around the house and went away. Mrs. Judson now took her children into an inner room and barred the door; while the men from without were threatening in the most violent manner to break it open, if she did not let them in. On her persisting to keep the door closed against them, they took two of her servants and treated them very roughly. At length she pacified them by a promise of presents.

“The next morning she learned the distressing situation of her husband, and after many entreaties, she obtained permission of the governor to visit him. He was lying on the floor, in a damp, gloomy place, heavily loaded with chains, which prevented him from standing upright. During the few minutes the pitiless keepers allowed them to be together, he gave her instructions as to the means she should employ to obtain his release.

“With a zeal prompted by affection for

her husband, and with a heart devoured by the anguish she felt at the thoughts of his sufferings, she endeavoured to incline the queen to intercede with the king for his release.

“ But alas ! all her efforts were useless ; the queen, though affected at Mrs. Judson’s entreaties, refused to interfere in the affair, and she returned to her house in the utmost consternation and alarm for his safety. The government officers came and took away what money and other valuables they could find in the house, and left her in a state of anguish and distress, better to be conceived than described.

“ Month after month rolled away, and Mr. Judson still continued in prison, shut up with about one hundred others, The poor prisoners suffered great distress during the summer months from the excessive heat of the climate, and the want of fresh air ; for the place of their confinement was not only small but badly ventilated ; while the weight of their chains galled their limbs in the most frightful manner.

“Mrs. Judson used every means she could devise to procure relief for her husband and his fellow sufferers. She went to the different officers, and assuring them of his innocence, she implored them to moderate the rigor of his confinement, but all was useless; neither her tears, her prayers, nor her entreaties were of any avail. At length poor Mrs. Judson, worn out with anxiety and disappointment, fell sick and was confined to the house. During this period the prisoners suffered extremely, having been thrust into an inner prison, and loaded with five pairs of chains each. Some fell victims to the cruel treatment they received, and Mr. Judson caught a fever, from which he seemed little likely to recover. His wife, on her recovery, went to the governor, and implored, that her husband might, at least, be placed in a less unwholesome situation. This was at first refused, till at length tired of her importunities and entreaties, the governor permitted him to be removed to another part of the prison, which, though wretched in the

extreme, procured them many happy moments, as she was allowed to visit him, and attend him in his sickness.

“ But these moments of consolation were too soon to be exchanged for hours of the most bitter anguish. Mr. Judson and the surviving prisoners, were marched away, and that so privately, that his wife could not even learn the direction of the route they had taken. Her grief was now indescribable; she had every reason to conclude, that her husband had been hurried away to execution, and she never expected to see him more. Her situation was at this time truly distressing; she was quite alone in a strange land, surrounded by a cruel people, without money, without friends, without protection, and had an infant only three months old, that now claimed from her a double share of tenderness. But she drew consolation from religion, in this her hour of sorrow, and received strength from that unseen friend of the distressed, to whom she appealed for help.

“ Shortly after Mr. Judson’s removal, she discovered that he was still living, and with the rest of the prisoners had been removed to a town at a considerable distance, whither she resolved to follow them. She proceeded part of the way in a boat, and part of the way in a cart, and at length reached the place, where she found her husband and the rest of the prisoners in a most deplorable condition; not only from the fatigue of the journey, but from the cruel treatment they had received on the way.

“ It was near night when she arrived, and she found considerable difficulty in procuring shelter. At length the jailor permitted her to occupy a small miserable room in his house.

“ Mrs. Judson’s personal sufferings were now greatly increased. She had under her care two Burmese children, whose parents had given them to her. One of them was taken with the small pox, and shortly after the other also, and from these her own infant caught the infection. Her anxiety and fatigue were now extremely great, and in

addition, Mr. Judson's feet were so much blistered and torn by his journey from Ava, that he could neither walk nor stand.

“She supported for some time the accumulated load of affliction under which she laboured; but at length she fell sick herself. Yet even in this situation she resolved to go to Ava to fetch some medicines which she had there.

“She accomplished the journey and returned in a few days; but in a state of such extreme exhaustion, that she was scarcely able to stand. She was incapable of further exertion, and sank in a state of insensibility upon a mat, for she had no bed; and there remained for two months. She had no food for her infant, and there was no milk to be obtained for it in the village.

“It seemed that the poor babe must certainly die for want of nourishment; but at length the jailor permitted Mr. Judson to leave the prison for short periods, during which he carried the child to such of the women as had children, and would permit the little starving nurseling to partake of

nourishment designed for their own offspring.

“ After having been a prisoner in this place for six months, Mr. Judson was released, and sent by the Burman government to a considerable distance, for the purpose of



translating some state papers : Mrs. Judson was seized with the spotted fever, and brought so low, that it was thought she was dead ; but, as if by a miracle, she recovered. Shortly after this she had the happiness of

having her husband restored to her by his being set at liberty.

“The British soldiers, who, as I have told you, had captured Rangoon, prosecuted their march towards the Burmese capital. They were repeatedly attacked by overpowering numbers; but the determined valour and great superiority of the British over the Burmese troops, enabled the former constantly to triumph. Place after place was taken by the British, and the Burmese were driven from one post to another, till the former had arrived within a few miles of the capital. The people were now in the utmost consternation at their sad reverse of fortune. Their arms, hitherto deemed invincible, having been uniformly victorious in the wars with the neighbouring powers, by which the empire had acquired its present greatness, were now destined to be worsted in every encounter.

“The Emperor, who had hitherto proudly refused to make peace with the English, began to entertain serious fears for his capital, and sent for Mr. Judson. At length through

his influence, and that of some other individuals, peace was finally concluded, and the British army departed.

“Mr. and Mrs. Judson also left Ava, and settled at Rangoon, where they commenced preparations for prosecuting their grand design, that of introducing Christianity among the ignorant and superstitious inhabitants of northern India.

“But Mrs. Judson’s health visibly declined; and the long train of sufferings she had endured impaired her constitution so much, that she was seized with a fever. Her enfeebled frame could not withstand the shock, and whilst her husband was upon a journey of three or four months, she died, leaving behind her a name that will never perish. I have never known a more beautiful example of piety, tenderness, and fidelity, blended with heroic fortitude and christian resignation, than is afforded by the life of this admirable woman.”

WHICH TELLS OF THE MUTINY AND
THE FAMINE.

“ BUT I must not close my remarks on India without particularly calling your attention to some of the recent events which have there taken place.

“ In 1857 a mutiny broke out among the Sepoys—that is to say, the native troops. The alleged cause of the mutiny was some supposed insult offered to their creed, but the actual reason was, no doubt, bitter enmity to the English. The mutiny spread with terrible rapidity, and was everywhere marked by scenes of the most fearful butchery. The English were put to cruel tortures—exposed to every ignominy, and murdered in cold blood. At Cawnpore a dreadful massacre took place of ladies and children, the bodies of the unfortunate victims being flung into a well to the number of more than two hundred. At Delhi also, and other places, the savage fury of the mutineers expended itself on helpless women and unoffending children; and it was not before a considerable time had

elapsed that a sufficiently strong military force could be obtained to put down the rebellion. This was at length happily effected; the old form of government was abolished, the native troops disbanded, and Queen Victoria proclaimed Empress of India.

“A very heavy calamity fell upon the poorer classes in India during the years 1860 and 1861. In consequence of a long continuance of dry weather, the rice fields bore no harvest, the staple food of the people was thus cut off, and famine, with all its attendant horrors, fell upon the Hindoos. Some people might fancy that the English, who had recently suffered so much from the Hindoos, would rejoice at the calamity, and do nothing to relieve it; but such people would harshly misjudge the English character. We are Christians, and our religion teaches us to forgive—to do good to them that hate us—if our enemy hunger, to feed him—if he thirst, to give him drink. And this is what was done in the case of the famine. Very large subscriptions were raised, ample funds provided to save the Hindoos from starvation;

and thus a calamity which might have swept away two-thirds of the people was rendered comparatively light.

“ It is probable that the Indian Empire will now become more valuable to us than it has ever been before. The people are more reconciled to our rule. Increasing prosperity is showing itself all over the face of the country. Public works are being rapidly extended; and the fertility of the soil will readily yield what America and China may fail to give us—namely, cotton and tea.

CHAPTER VI

A WATER-SPOUT—JAMES JENKINS.

“BEFORE I proceed to tell you about the other countries of Asia, I will give you some account of what I saw in the latitude of the West Indies. It was a waterspout, which was one of the strangest sights I had ever witnessed; and as the account cannot fail to be interesting, I will describe it.

“At no great distance a-head of us, we saw an immense cloud, composed of dense dark masses, that, rolling over each other in rapid succession, seemed to be gradually falling into the ocean below. As it approached nearer to the surface of the sea, the waters immediately beneath became more and more agitated, boiling, foaming, and occasionally throwing up a vast column of water, which, after reaching an enormous height, fell down with a tremendous noise into the abyss below, causing the waters to be violently agitated.

“The rolling cloud continued to descend, until at length it came so near the sea, that the waves, which now ran mountains high, were within the sphere of its attraction; when catching up one of them as it arose, the thirsty cloud continued to suck up, in one unbroken stream, a mighty column of water, forming the phenomenon usually termed a waterspout. The upper part of the column, which was joined to the cloud, spread out into a circle of considerable dimensions, while that part of it which touched

the sea was very narrow. On the whole it was truly an astonishing spectacle.

“Our captain greatly feared that we should become involved in this waterspout; and that when it burst, it would fall upon our ship and sink it. He, therefore, changed his course, and by this means averted the danger. We continued our voyage and happily arrived safe at Boston, without anything that is worth relating having occurred during the remainder of the voyage.

“Several years had elapsed since my departure from my native shores, and you may well conceive my joy on landing was very great.

“Well, once more I found myself at home, and I returned my thanks to the great Ruler of the Universe, for the protection he had afforded me through so many dangers.

“During my absence, many changes had taken place among my friends. Some were no more, others had quitted the spot for a distant part of the country. Some whom I had left in the bloom and pride of youth

were now reposing in the silent tomb ; while others were married, and surrounded by a little troop of prattling, sportive children.

“There was one circumstance which greatly abated the joy I felt at my safe return ; this related to the sad news I had heard respecting my friend Jenkins, to whom I was sincerely attached. He sailed as mate of a vessel bound for Bombay, a city situated on the western shore of Hindostan, about the same period that I embarked for the Mediterranean.

“Some years had elapsed, and no other tidings of the vessel had been received, except the rumour that it had been lost during a storm in the Indian Ocean, and that all hands on board had perished. The general opinion was, that the crew had found a watery grave ; and I was reluctantly compelled to believe, that my long-trying friend James Jenkins lay shrouded in the deep, and to console myself under the idea of never seeing his honest face again.

“One evening, a few weeks after my return, I was sitting alone by my fire-side.

It was in the month of December, and a storm of drifting snow had just set in; while a bleak north-easterly wind was blowing violently in gushes and sudden squalls, that every now and then seemed to threaten destruction to the windows.

“Sometimes the wind whistled shrilly as it blew by the corner of the house, and at others it sounded like distant thunder, as it rushed over the adjacent hills. The recollection of the storms I had experienced at sea flashed across my brain, and the heaving billows and the rolling waves were strongly pictured to my mind. I thought upon the many perils I had passed, and particularly of those in which the honest Jenkins had borne a part. I recalled to mind our companionship in different parts of the globe, which we had visited together, and a host of ideas, in which he was fondly associated, crowded themselves on my imagination. Such musings make the heart tender, and thoughts and sentiments, of which Jenkins was the theme, took possession of my mind. We seldom forget those who have been com-

panions of our toil, and have been partakers of our joy and sorrow.

“Whilst I was thus ruminating on the events of my past life, some one rapped smartly at the door. It was presently opened,



and a tall, stout man walked in. I rose to meet him as he entered. He first stamped on the floor to knock off the snow, then unbuttoning his shaggy pea-jacket, he took it off, threw it carelessly on a chair, and stood silently before me.

“My mind was still half occupied with its train of thoughts, and I continued looking at him for some time. He had on a low-crowned shining hat, a blue jacket, and loose trousers. The collar of his checked shirt was unbuttoned, and turned over upon his broad shoulders, and around his neck he wore a natty silk handkerchief, the ends of which, reeved through a small bright ring, hung negligently down in front upon his manly bosom.

“I placed my hand mechanically within his, as he exclaimed with emphasis,— ‘What, Parley! Don’t you know me?’ This appeal, in well-known accents, accompanied by the rude clench of his hard hand, aroused me from my reverie; and the tones of that remembered voice, as they reached my ear, descended to my heart, and whispering said—this is no common friend.

“I cast a glance upon his weather-beaten face, which, though much altered by toils and hardships he had endured, still portrayed the lineaments of my lost friend Jen-

kins. At first, I thought it must be all a dream; but soon the deep, though cheerful tones of his familiar voice, convinced me that the scene was real, and down we sat to join in mutual conversation.

JENKINS RELATES HIS ADVENTURES.

“In a few words he then told me his adventures, and at another time related them to me more minutely. They contain many interesting incidents, therefore I will give you some account of them.

“He had nearly completed his voyage, and was within a few days’ sail of Bombay, when his vessel was struck by a sudden squall. The sails were all set, and such was the prodigious force of the wind, that the ship was instantly capsized, that is, thrown over on her side.

“The masts were cut away, and she righted. The vessel now lay nearly motionless, like a mere log upon the water, when, just as they were preparing jury-masts and temporary sails, that they might continue

their journey, a tremendous hurricane began to blow, and the vessel was tossed so violently upon the waves, that in a little time she sprung a leak.

“Two days and two nights the storm continued. The men laboured incessantly at the pumps, and by constant exertion she was kept afloat; but in spite of all their efforts, the water continued to gain on them, and the ship was gradually filling. At length, worn out with fatigue, watching, and anxiety, the seamen could no longer keep the water under; and she filled so fast, that there was no alternative but to abandon or go down with her.

“No resource was now left but the long-boat. This, therefore, was immediately lowered, and into it were placed such necessities as the confusion on the vessel and the distracted state of their feelings allowed the crew to collect. When all things were prepared, the captain and seamen consigned themselves, in this frail bark, to the care of a superintending and gracious Providence, and to the mercy of the waves. They had

not long betaken themselves to the boat, when they saw their once goodly ship fill by a mighty wave breaking over it, and down it went into the bosom of the unfathomable deep.

“It was nearly dark when they left the ship. The storm continued through the night, and their little boat was tossing up and down upon the heaving billows; sometimes riding mountains high upon the topmost wave, and sometimes engulfed, as it were, in a deep abyss, and encircled by a watery wall on every side. The danger of their situation was rendered more awful, by the faint glimmerings of the moon, and occasional flashes of vivid lightning, which only served to show them the extent of their peril, so that they dared not even hope to outlive the night.

“Morn slowly came, and with it an abatement of the storm, but it abstracted nothing from the horror of their helpless situation. Nought appeared around but the ocean’s wide expanse, bounded on every side by the horizon’s verge; and, to add to their des-



pair, their compass during the night had been washed overboard.

“ I suppose you have heard of the mariner's compass. It is a curious instrument, formed by a piece of magnetized steel, called a needle, which, being nicely balanced upon a fine pivot, and at liberty to move freely, always points north and south within a trifle, which is called the variation. This property of the magnetic needle is invaluable in navigation. It is many years since it was stated to have been first discovered; but it appears to have been known to the Chinese above a century before this period. It is probable, however, that the two discoveries were independent of each other; for the Chinese chose the south pole of the needle as the cardinal point, whereas other nations adopt the north.

“ The situation of Jenkins and his companions was now truly forlorn and distressing. Their compass gone; no means of knowing where they were, or whither to direct their course; no helm to guide the prow, or mast or sail to take advantage of the breeze; the

only means they had to urge their little bark, the oars they pulled with their exhausted arms, impelling them, perhaps, still farther from, than nearer the desired shore. For seven times the sun arose and day declined, but yet no land appeared, nor welcome ship had met the eye. Their provisions were already exhausted; for more than two days they had been entirely destitute of water, and even hope, which bade them look for better times, and gave them courage to endure the present, was sinking fast in their distracted minds; when they discovered by the green sea-weed which floated on the waves, that they were at length approaching land.

“ This filled their bosoms with delight, and gave them strength to renew their trial. They plied the oars with all their might, and by and by they reached a shore, but the appearance was so barren, drear, and desolate, that their very hearts now sunk within them. There was no human habitation in sight, nor any trace of the vicinity of man. A few ostriches, the only living things

that met the eye, fled affrighted across the desert; and these but served to kindle hopes that were to end in disappointment. They landed and searched the scorching sands, in hopes of finding some ostriche's eggs, these birds being known to lay them in the burning sands, which in these hot climes is sufficient to hatch them; but their search was fruitless.

“Faint and weary, parched with thirst and famishing for want of food, they re-entered their boat, and coasting along shore, they landed from time to time; but all bore the same dry, barren, and desolate aspect. At length they landed again, resolved to divide themselves into parties to go in search of water. Four were so exhausted, that they could proceed no further, and laying themselves down on the sand, they resigned themselves to their fate. The rest departed in various directions.

“Jenkins and one of the sailors went by themselves, and proceeded a considerable distance, but found no water. The heat now became almost insupportable, and the

sand over which they were walking, so hot as to blister their feet. The air was suffocating, but not a drop of water could be found.

“The poor sailor who accompanied Jenkins could go no farther. His lips were cracked, his mouth parched, and his tongue so swollen, that he could not speak. He looked up at Jenkins with a countenance full of piteous expression, and made signs for him to proceed and leave him to his fate; but this Jenkins refused to do. He sat down by the poor fellow, and did all he could to alleviate his distress.

“Jenkins continued for some time occupied in these humane, though unavailing efforts, when, happening to look up, he saw a man in a strange dress standing by his side, and a camel laden with merchandize at a short distance from him.

“Jenkins at once perceived that the man was an Arab. He begged him by signs to give him some water. The Arab comprehended him, and handed him a leathern bottle, containing several gallons. He ap-

plied it to the lips of the dying man, but it was too late; with a feeble groan, he stretched himself upon the sand and breathed no more.



“Jenkins having refreshed himself with a draught of water from the bottle, was about to set out with it to his companions, but the Arab would not permit it. He endeavoured to make the Arab understand that he had friends at no great distance, who were dying for want of water; but his efforts were fruitless—the Arab was inflexible.

“While this was going on, about a dozen more Arabs, with their camels, came up. They instantly seized Jenkins, tied his hands behind him, and placed him on one of the camels. For several days the party continued their route across the desert, and at length came to a tribe consisting of several hundred Arabs. They were living in tents, and subsisted chiefly upon the milk of their camels, of which they kept a great number. They had also immense flocks of cattle, which they turned out to graze upon the plains of luxuriant grass, that ask not the culture of the human hand, but grow luxuriantly in the fertile parts of the country.

They had remarkably fleet and beautiful horses, of which they were extremely fond. They fed them with the greatest care, kept them sheltered beneath the same tent where they themselves slept, and caressed them as if they were their dearest companions. These animals are so extremely docile, that they will come from their pastures at the call of their master, allow him to mount, and then with the velocity of an arrow in its flight,

bound with their riders over the sandy plain, and in an instant vanish from the sight.

“Jenkins had no difficulty in discovering that he was in Arabia, and that he was among one of those wandering tribes which inhabit the vast deserts of this country. Here he soon found his situation to be a very unpleasant one. He was in fact reduced to slavery, and made to perform every species of drudgery ; and the Arabs, being Mohammedans, and finding Jenkins to be a Christian, looked upon him with the greatest contempt, and seemed to delight in rendering his situation disagreeable. But all this he bore with patience, resolving to seize the first opportunity of making his escape, well knowing that a seeming appearance of content would the better lull any suspicions of his intentions. I will now leave Jenkins with the Arabs, while I give you some account of their country.

CHAPTER VII.

PETER PARLEY GIVES AN ACCOUNT
OF ARABIA.

“THE history of Arabia may be considered as a key with which to unlock the treasures contained in numerous parts of the holy Bible, many portions of which can only really be understood in proportion as they are compared with the country, which was the theatre of their performance.

“In different ages it became the theatre of many of the awful and extraordinary events recorded in the history of the Jews. In Stony Arabia stands the sacred eminence, Mount Sinai, on whose cloudy summit the Deity held converse with the Jewish law-giver, Moses, and delivered to him the Ten Commandments. Here also is situated Horeb,

with its burning bush—the cave where Elijah took shelter from the persecution of Jezebel—the pastures in which Moses kept the flocks of Jethro—the rock, which, when smitten by the rod of Moses, yielded water to the parched Israelites—the land of Uz, the scene of the prosperity of Job, of the trial of his patience and the triumph of his faith. In the southern part, bordering on the Red Sea, dwelt the Queen of the South, the celebrated Queen Sheba, who came to bring gifts to Solomon, and hear his wisdom.

“The antiquity of Arabia is more remote than that of any other country. It now appears from facts recently brought to light, that Petra, the antient capital of Idumæa, must have been coeval with the birth of commerce; and there is indubitable evidence to prove, that this city was a flourishing emporium 3,500 years ago. It was here that the first merchants of the world stored the precious commodities of the east; and this city, from its situation, became the great mart between Palestine, Syria, and Egypt.

There is, indeed, little reason to doubt, that the company of Ishmaelites to whom Joseph was sold, formed the regular caravan of merchants, who, with their camels bearing spices, balm, and myrrh, were regular traders in the markets of Petra.

“ Arabia is bounded by very natural limits, viz. Syria on the north, the Red Sea on the west, the Persian Gulph on the east, and the Indian Ocean on the south. The interior is covered with vast plains of barren sands, intersected by ranges of mountains and fertile valleys. Its surface, therefore, unites, as it were, the extremes of sterility and abundance, and creates a variety of climate, that gives at once all the advantages of the torrid zone and temperate regions. Here, within the space of a few miles, flourish in equal perfection the productions of climes the most distant and different from each other.

“ The Arabs are of middle stature, brown complexion, and grave aspect. They are divided into two grand classes, each very strongly marked in character, habits, and

genealogical descent. Of these, the one class occupying the parts of the country bordering upon the sea, dwell in towns, and live by tillage and commerce; the other, consisting of the Bedouin and wandering tribes, follow a pastoral and predatory life. They dwell in tents, and hold in contempt the peaceful and mechanical arts.

“Through all antiquity this distinction has remained inviolate, and continues at this day as full in force as it was three or four thousand years ago. The manners and habits of the Bedouins are extremely simple, and they make it their boast that little is required to maintain a man who lives after their fashion. Their chief nourishment is dates and milk; the former being one of the spontaneous productions of their country, and the latter bountifully supplied by their numerous flocks which constitute their chief wealth.

“Their horses are among the fleetest in the world, and are highly prized by them, while the camel, the most valuable of all their possessions, is of itself a complete storehouse

of useful commodities ; it is a beast of burden of far greater strength than the horse, and, from its capability of travelling a long time without water, is peculiarly adapted for journeying across those sandy deserts.

THE ADVENTURES OF JENKINS
CONTINUED.

“ It will be recollected, that we left Jenkins to endure among the Arabs the most mortifying treatment, and to perform the most humiliating offices. All this he resolved to bear in silence, and although he ardently sighed for his liberty, he endeavoured to wear an appearance of contentment, the better to deceive the vigilance of the Arabs, should the opportunity of escape occur ; but nearly six months elapsed before any chance of this kind presented itself.

“ At length, the cattle having consumed all the herbage around the spot where the Arabs were encamped, they resolved to remove, and immediately commenced making

the preparations for carrying their resolution into effect. In a very short space of time the tents were taken down, rolled up, and with the few articles of furniture they possessed, packed upon the backs of camels. All things being in readiness for their departure, the women and children were soon



mounted on the back of camels, and the party commenced their march across the desert. The weather being intensely hot and sultry, they travelled chiefly by night.

“ One day Jenkins observed the whole company to be panic-struck by some sudden cause of fear; when, looking round for the

cause of the alarm, he perceived a thick cloud of sand, resembling a huge mountain, coming straight towards them, and threatening to overwhelm them. Men, women, and children fell on their faces, and lay flat on the ground; the camels also knelt down, and placed their noses close to the earth.



Jenkins almost instinctively imitated the rest, and in this manner they awaited the passage of the cloud, which, rolling onward, at length passed over them, and left them partially buried beneath the sand, which had fallen where they were lying. The air was hot and oppressive, and

so charged with particles of fine sand, that respiration was difficult, and a sense of suffocation felt. In a short time the storm had passed by, when the people, rising from the ground, shook off the sand, and resumed their journey.

“Whirlwinds and clouds of moving sand are very common in these deserts, and sometimes bury travellers deep beneath them.

“There is also the Sirab, or Mirage, as it is more commonly called, to delude the weary traveller in these solitary regions. By this vapour every object is greatly magnified to the eye, so that a shrub appears a tree, and a flock of birds might be mistaken for a herd of camels. Another singular property of this vapour is its power of reflection. Objects are seen by it as from the surface of a lake, as I explained to you when speaking of India, and their figures, as you gaze upon them, are sometimes changed into the most fantastic shapes.

“Two or three days after this a hot wind, called the Simoom, began to blow, producing effects so terrible, that all nature seemed

to languish and droop before its pernicious breath. The leaves of the stunted shrubs which were thinly scattered around, and the tall rank grass that grew in patches here and there, withered almost instantly away, as if scorched by fire. The horses put out their tongues as if in the greatest distress; and the camels, although capable of enduring thirst to an extraordinary degree, suffered so severely, that many of them died. The people, also, were seriously affected by the suffocating and poisonous quality of the atmosphere, and a great number became very ill. For two days the Simoom continued to blow with desolating fury, after which its noxious properties became gradually less apparent, and as soon as it had passed away, the travellers resumed their journey.

“ They continued to travel for several days across the desert, when one night there was a sudden halt of the whole party. From the repeated communications with one another, and the hurried manner in which they began to make certain preparations, Jenkins easily perceived that something was going

forward, though he could not divine what it could be.

“About thirty of the men, mounted upon their fleetest coursers, rode off in different directions. As soon as they were gone, Jenkins learned upon inquiry, that there was a caravan at no great distance. It consisted of about fifty people, chiefly merchants, and about one hundred camels, laden with a considerable quantity of valuable merchandize.

“The thirty Arabs, though they set off in different directions, contrived suddenly to unite, and, surrounding the caravan, fell upon the astonished merchants at the same instant. Little or no resistance was offered, and the Arabs began their plunder, by seizing upon the most valuable articles, with which they speedily loaded their horses, and leaving the caravan to pursue its route, they returned to their tribe enriched with spoil.

“At length the tribe arrived at a tolerably fertile spot in the desert, where the Arabs resolved to remain. The camels were unloaded, the furniture unpacked, and, with a

celerity that was truly surprising, the tents were pitched, and the Arab community as much at home as though they had never dwelt in any other spot.



“ One night, as soon as the Arabs had retired to rest, and all was silent around, Jenkins collected the little stock of necessaries he had prepared, and, favoured by a sky obscured by clouds, he left the tribe. With a hasty step and a palpitating heart, he set out in an easterly direction, and travelled the whole night with the utmost possible speed.

“ As soon as day began to dawn, he concealed himself under some thorny bushes,

lest the Arabs should set out in pursuit of him. Here he slept the greater part of the day, and towards evening, finding himself unpursued, he again cautiously set out, and travelled with the utmost diligence till morning.

“ He subsisted upon some dried camel's flesh which he had brought with him, and being so fortunate as to find some brackish water, he was recruited to continue his journey. Thus for four successive nights he pursued his solitary way, sleeping during the heat of the day under any shelter he could find. On the fifth day his situation was very distressing, and he began to despair of effecting his escape: his meat had been some time exhausted, and he was now suffering the extreme of hunger without the slightest chance of finding any thing upon the arid plain on which he stood. He looked around, but nought on either side presented itself but the same barren, sandy soil, bounded only by the horizon's verge. His water too was gone, and his strength fast failing him.

“Jenkins had escaped in many an hour of peril. His God had never forsaken him, then why, thought he, should he forsake his God? The thought was hardly breathed within his breast, than down he sank upon his knees. His prayer was short, but it was from his heart. ‘Father,’ cried the Christian suppliant, ‘Thy will be done. Give me but strength that I may endure unto the end.’

“That God, who never fails to hear and answer prayer, poured balm into his heart; and Jenkins rose to resume his journey, encouraged by the spiritual strength for which he prayed. He continued to walk for several hours, while a happy serenity, and a calm resignation reigned within his breast, that were not of this world.

“At length he sat down to rest, and presently perceived a young ostrich at a short distance. He cautiously approached it, and from behind a bush shot it with a pistol. Then gathering a few dried branches and leaves of the acacia, a prickly shrub which produces the gum arabic, he ignited them

by a flash from his pistol, and by the fire roasted a piece of the ostrich, which he found to be not only good, but palatable.

“Scarcely had he finished his meal, than he perceived a man on horseback, coming rapidly towards him. He was no doubt attracted by the smoke, which is a signal that may be seen in an open country, for many miles in every direction. The horseman soon approached, and began to ride round him in a wide circle, coming nearer and nearer each turn he made. When sufficiently close, that Jenkins could perceive his features, he recognized him as one of the Arabs whose tribe he had left.

“The horseman having ridden several times round him, darted suddenly like an arrow from a bow towards him, at the same time flourishing his sabre fearfully over his head. As he passed Jenkins he made a desperate cut at his head, which, had it taken effect, would have cleft it asunder; but it fortunately passed at a little distance from him, and left him unharmed. The Arab escaped not quite so well; for Jenkins

was a man of great strength and activity, and when he saw the Arab coming towards him, stood prepared with a drawn sword in one hand and his pistol in the other. At the moment that the horseman aimed at Jenkins with his sabre, the latter discharged



his pistol, which, although it did not take effect, so affrighted the horse, that it started aside suddenly and threw his rider on the ground. The Arab sprang upon his feet with surprising agility, and ran towards his horse, which was making off at full speed ;

but as soon as he heard the call of his master, the trusty animal turned round, pricked up his ears and came trotting up to him with the strongest tokens of interest and affection. The Arab instantly leaped upon his back, and galloping over the plain, was soon out of sight.

“ Jenkins, finding that his route was discovered, anticipated that he should be immediately pursued by several of the tribe; he therefore determined to prosecute his journey with the utmost expedition. All that day and the succeeding night he continued to travel, and with the dawn of the following day, perceived that the aspect of the country was beginning to change materially. The landscape now became diversified by gentle undulations of hill and dale; while in the distance the mountain scenery assumed a bolder character, and the vegetation a more luxuriant appearance than he had hitherto witnessed in that country. Dates, palms, and other trees, of beautiful bright foliage, were scattered here and there, and greatly relieved the eye from the monotonous ap-

pearance he had recently been so much accustomed to.

“ Shortly afterwards he discovered the sea in the distance, and in a few hours reached the shore. Here he found a few huts which looked like a village. They were partly in ruins, which seemed to indicate that the inhabitants had deserted them. He wandered about, vainly searching for some person who might give him food; but, alas! there did not appear to be a single inhabitant left. After having reflected some time upon his desolate situation, he resolved to take up his abode in one of the huts near the coast, and endeavour to subsist till some friendly vessel might come and bear him from this dreary shore.

“ Here he remained for several days, living upon dates and a few small fish, which he caught with his hands. At length a small vessel hove in sight, and was making towards the shore. He, therefore, ascended one of the loftiest rocks and made a fire, the smoke of which being perceived by the crew, they cautiously approached the place. Jenkins

went to meet them; but how great was his disappointment to find, that they were people with dark skins and a savage aspect.

“He made signs imploring them to take him on board; for they could not understand each other's language. They received him into their vessel, and after two days' sailing they came to land. They went ashore, and after travelling a small distance up the country, they came to a little village of small mud huts.

JENKINS IS RE-CAPTURED.

“If you examine the map of Asia, you will perceive that the north-eastern coast of Arabia is separated by the Gulph of Ormus, from a country called Beloochistan. Into this country Jenkins had been carried across the gulph just mentioned.

“The inhabitants of this extensive region consist of various tribes, most of whom are in a very savage and barbarous state, and many of them live entirely by plunder.

Mounted on fleet camels, they attack the neighbouring villages by night, and carry off the inhabitants for slaves. They generally blindfold their unfortunate victims, lest they should see the direction in which they are carried away, and thus have the means of finding their way back to their own country.

“It was by some of these people, called Beloochees, that Jenkins was captured. I have not time to give you all the details of his captivity, and can therefore only tell you, in general terms, what happened to him.

“In the first place he was taken across a sandy desert to Kelat, the capital of Beloochistan, where he was sold as a slave to the khan or king. The Belooches or Beloochistans, for they are called by both names, are reputed to be excellent horsemen, and marksmen so exceedingly skilful, that it is said, they can when on full gallop send a bullet from a matchlock through the body of a flying bird.

“From Cabul Jenkins went with his master to Ispahan, a city of Persia, once

celebrated for its magnificence ; but it has



now lost much of its ancient splendour.

Here he fell in with an English gentleman, whom he persuaded to pay his ransom to the Cabul merchant; and in order to recompense the Englishman for his liberality, Jenkins agreed to accompany him as a servant.



“They soon set out for Teheran, another city of Persia, the residence of the court, one hundred miles to the south of the Caspian Sea. It is a place of little importance and extremely unhealthy. The Persian monarchs continue to make it their resi-

dence, notwithstanding its numerous disadvantages, on account of its vicinity to the frontier occupied by the Russians, upon whose increasing power they look with an eye of suspicion and inquietude.

“The Persians are the most polite, gay, and learned of all the Asiatics. They are fond of poetry, delight in music, and are much addicted to dress. Their language is so soft and harmonious as to be called the Italian of the East. They bear a great resemblance to the French, and are as fond of amusements as the people of Paris.

“They next proceeded to the city of Jerusalem, where they remained a long time. It is a small city, about two miles and a half in circumference. The streets are straight and well paved, but narrow. The houses, though well built of stone, have no windows in the lower stories, so that a person in the street might well imagine himself to be immured within a prison.

“After remaining several weeks at Jerusalem, Jenkins took leave of his generous deliverer, the English traveller. The latter

was going to Mecca, in Arabia, to visit the famous temple of Mohamed, while the former was anxious to return to his native country. With this view he embarked at a small port in the Mediterranean, and sailed for Smyrna, where he found a vessel homeward bound. On board this vessel he took a passage, and arrived home a few weeks after me, as I have already related.

“ I have now told you something about most of the countries in Asia, and, if time permitted, could tell you many more, of which the relation would be no less agreeable to me than entertaining to you. But this is too extensive a field for me to enter upon, I must refer you to the particular histories of the several countries, which you will find replete with interesting and useful information.

“ I should have been glad to give you a more detailed account of Siberia; but very few travellers have visited that cold, inhospitable region, and we find our curiosity excited in proportion to the difficulty of gratifying it.

“ Along the southern part, bordering upon Tartary, the Siberians resemble the people of that country. Along the northern parts, the people are very short, not being higher than the shoulders of an American or a European. They, like the Laplanders, depend chiefly upon reindeer for their subsistence, and for most of their comforts.

“ At the north-eastern extremity of Asia, is a great peninsula, called Kamtschatka. The Kamtschadales live partly beneath the earth, in mud cabins, and subsist to a great extent upon the products of the sea. They travel in sledges drawn by dogs, after the manner of the Laplanders.

“ Near the termination of this peninsula are some of the most sublime mountains in the world. They rise suddenly from the plains, to the height of nearly four miles.

“ I must now bid you farewell; but before we part, let me beg of you to reflect on what I have told you about Asia, and in a short time I will see you again, and will then give you an account of Africa. Farewell.

TALES ABOUT AFRICA.

CHAPTER I.

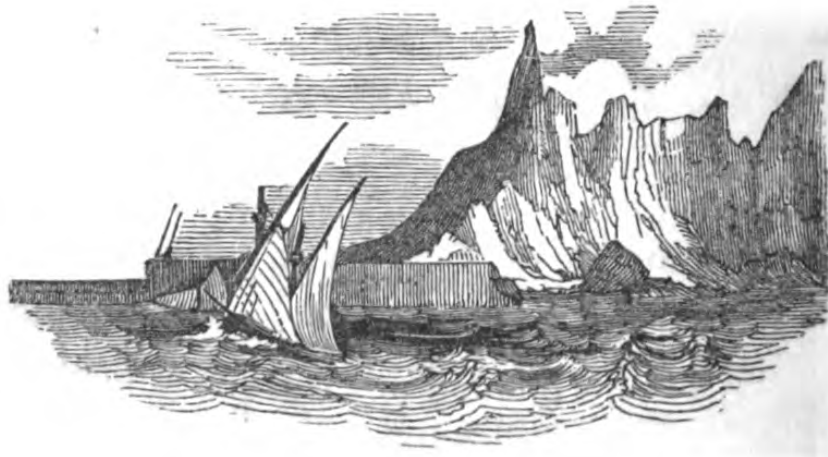
A VOYAGE TO AFRICA AND AN ENCOUNTER WITH CORSAIRS.

“IT is now about thirty years ago that I was in Africa. I sailed in a vessel up the Mediterranean, a large inland sea, which separates the continents of Europe and Africa; the former lying to the north, and the latter to the south, as will be seen by the map now lying on the table.

“I sailed as second mate on board the ship Swan. Every vessel has one or more mates, whose duty it is to assist in navigating the ship, and who, in case of any accident happening to the captain, should be competent to conduct the vessel safely home, from whatever part of the world it might happen to be.

“As we approached the African coast we saw some of the Canary Islands, from which the birds come that bear that name.

“All the coasts of these islands are high, the rocks rising frequently in the form of



castles. Humboldt, a very celebrated traveller, mentions, that his captain actually

mistook one of them for a fort, and sent a boat on shore with a message for the governor!

“Our voyage had been hitherto prosperous, and neither storms nor adverse winds impeded our progress; but now we were visited by one of the most violent storms I had ever witnessed. The wind blew great guns, as the sailors say, and the heaving of the sea was really terrible. Our ship was heavily laden, and in a few hours two of our masts were broken off, and fell into the sea. The vessel then became unmanageable, and, from the violence with which she was tossed about, her timbers gave way, and she sprung a leak. All hands were now called to the pump; yet, notwithstanding all our exertions, the water continued rapidly to increase. Orders were given to lighten the vessel, and a great part of the stores were thrown overboard.

“Our captain was a brave man, and steadily exerted himself to save the ship. He spoke cheerily to his men, and encouraged them, by assisting with his own hands. But all was vain; despair, with a settled gloom,

had taken possession of each heart. An awful darkness, that inspired terror, sat brooding on the deep. The glare of the vivid lightning, which flash on flash followed in quick succession, served only to show the horror of our situation ; while loud claps of thunder, with appalling crash, broke over our heads, and seemed to threaten us with instant destruction. The lightning struck the ship and set the sails on fire. A heavy sea, which broke over the ship, fortunately extinguished the destructive element, but it swept away the greater part of our men ; for out of twenty men, there were but five left in the ship. For myself, I never expected to see the light of another morning ; but another morning came, and hope, which lingers to the last, revived.

“In this desperate situation we saw a vessel approaching us ; but the sight, instead of affording us consolation, only rendered our despair still greater. We knew it to be one of those roving corsairs which infest those seas, and whose crew enrich themselves by plundering other vessels.

“ At length the vessel, which was but small, though well manned, came alongside, when, hastily throwing irons on board of us, the two vessels were speedily united. Five or six men immediately jumped on board our



ship, of whom three were instantly thrown overboard between the vessels. But others quickly followed from the corsair. We struggled with them for some time, but we were at length overpowered by numbers. Our captain received a pistol shot in his

breast, I was stunned by a blow upon the head, and the remainder of our men, unable to resist, yielded to their fate.

PARLEY IS CARRIED TO TRIPOLI, WHERE HE IS IMPRISONED, AND MEETS WITH STRANGE ADVENTURES.

“ We were carried into Tripoli, a considerable country on the north coast of Africa, of which the principal town is also called Tripoli. The people are a most barbarous and cruel race, and at the time of which I am speaking, were extensively engaged in piracy, plundering all vessels which were unable to resist their furious attacks.

“ In a few days we arrived at the city of Tripoli, where we were treated with the greatest cruelty, and our captain especially, who was suffering severely from his wounds. We were taken on shore, under an escort of soldiers, with dark skins and strange dresses, and confined in a dark room in a large building, a kind of castle. Here we remained four days, with no other food than

bread and water, and that most scantily supplied.

“ We were at length taken from this prison, and marched through the town, attended by a guard of soldiers. Everything wore a strange appearance; the inhabitants were as dark as American Indians; their dress was singular; the streets narrow and the houses very flat.

“ We arrived at another prison, where I was again shut up by myself in an obscure chamber. I knew nothing of the fate of my companions, and shut out from communication with the world; for the jailor who brought me my daily ration of bread and water, understood not my language, nor I his. Day after day, and week after week rolled away, without the least change in my situation. How heavy were the hours of thought and dread! I had no books to cheer my aching heart, and I had reason to fear that I should be put to death; but I became so weary of confinement, that even death itself would sometimes seem a welcome change.

“ One night, however, about a fortnight after, I perceived a noise at my door, and distinctly heard the key put into the lock and slowly turned. The bolts also were quietly and cautiously drawn. My heart beat violently, and my bosom heaved in doubt and dread of being assassinated. The massive iron door swung slowly open, grating upon its rusty hinges. I heard no step but a hand was laid upon me, and some one said to me in a whisper, ‘ Follow me, and make no noise.’

“ I was very much surprised ; but the tone of sympathy with which these words were uttered, at once hushed my fears, and I hesitated not to follow. We passed out, the door was locked behind us, and we were on the point of leaving the spot, when a man, who had been sleeping upon the floor, sprang suddenly up, and lifted his sword to strike my conductor. The latter, with the rapidity of lightning, struck the man over the head with a stick, and stretched him senseless on the floor.

I followed my guide in profound silence

through several narrow passages, till we came to an open court, surrounded by high walls. He mounted the walls by means of a rope-ladder; I followed, and drawing the ladder up, we descended by the same means



into the street. Scarcely had we cleared the wall than a noise was heard behind us; and, from the glancing of lights upon the buildings, we perceived that my escape had been discovered and the alarm given. My guide quickened his steps, and by means of turn-

ing and winding through the narrow streets, we eluded our pursuers, and at length came to a house, which we entered. I was taken to a remote part of it, and told by my guide to remain there until I received farther instructions. He then left me.

“For several hours we remained in total darkness, and in a state of most perplexing uncertainty. Where I was I knew not; who had delivered me, or for what purpose I had been taken from my dungeon, I could not guess. At length a woman came to my room with a light, and addressed me first in the language of the country, but I could not understand her. She then spoke to me in Italian; but of this I scarcely knew sufficient to comprehend, from what she said, that I must remain quiet, and might assure myself that no harm was intended me.

“In the morning this woman again visited me, and provided me with food. She told me that it was absolutely necessary for my safety, and that of my deliverer, that I should not by any means attempt to leave my room; and that in a few days he would

return and explain what must for the present be involved in mystery.

“ I had now remained more than two months shut up in the house, to which I had been taken, and had as yet seen nothing of the stranger who had rescued me from prison. I was totally at a loss to conceive who my deliverer might be ; and the woman, who attended me, would give me no hint, which in the least satisfied my curiosity, to know who had thus interposed in my behalf, and had undertaken an enterprise of so much hazard.

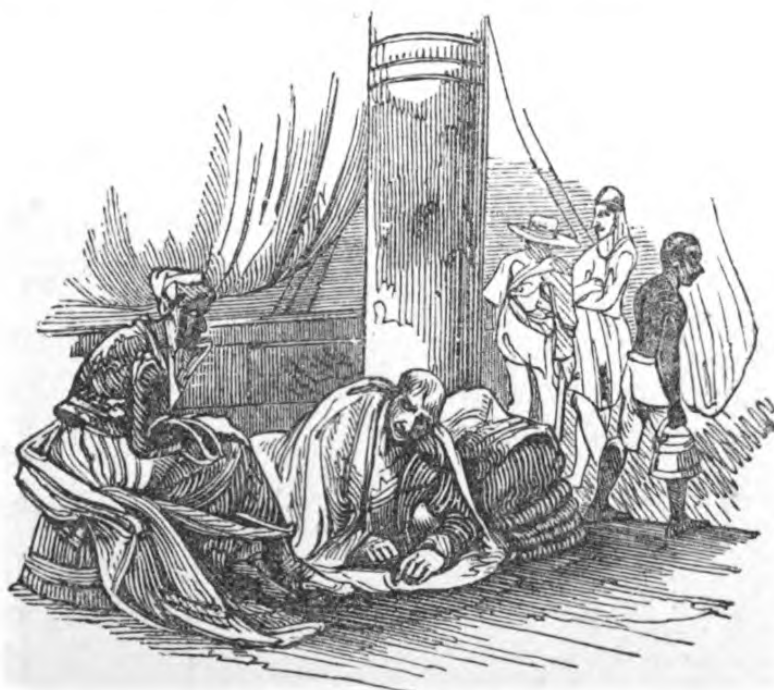
“ At length the time came when my doubts were to be removed. I was one night awakened by a man dressed in a cloak, who bade me dress myself immediately and accompany him. I obeyed in silence, and followed him through several narrow winding avenues which led to one of the gates of the city. Here my conductor had some conversation with the keeper, who, after a time, allowed us to pass through a narrow door at the side of the gate, and we soon found ourselves upon the wharf.

“ My guide now gave a signal, by flashing some powder in a pistol, when in a few minutes a boat came stealing towards us. This we entered, and immediately rowed out into the harbour; and having four oars-men, we skimmed over the water with great swiftness. We proceeded in perfect silence for about three miles, and then approached a small schooner, which seemed to be waiting for us. We were no sooner on board than the sails were hoisted and we put out to sea. The night was clear, the wind blew fresh, and the schooner, which was a fast sailor, glanced with rapidity over the rippling waves.

“ Nothing had been said to me which enabled me to form an idea who my companions were. I laid myself down upon the deck, and in the midst of a thousand conjectures, I fell into a profound sleep, from which I did not awake till sunrise. On opening my eyes, they fell upon a man of a swarthy complexion, whose features seemed familiar to me: but when or where I had seen them, I could not imagine. At length he spoke, and I at once recognized in the

stranger, the Italian captain, Leo, whose life I had saved on my voyage to Europe.

“The last time I had seen him was in the mountains of Switzerland, at the head of a troop of daring robbers, as related in my



Tales about Europe. Knowing his desperate character, I immediately conjectured he was upon some nefarious enterprise. I had, however, no fear for myself. He was evidently my deliverer, and I felt convinced that a grateful recollection of my having once

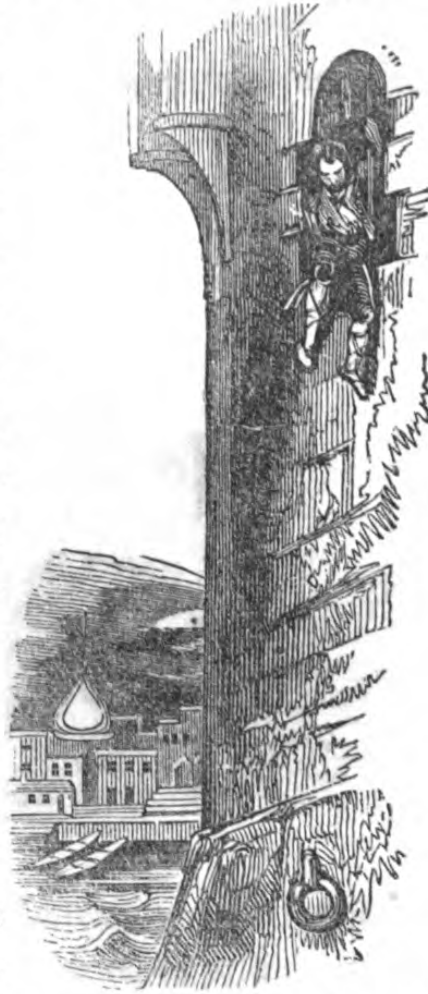
saved his life, was the cause of his generous conduct towards me then.

“ After some mutual inquiries, the captain informed me, that his band became gradually broken up, and he himself was taken prisoner, and carried to Venice, when he was tried and sentenced to be shot. The sequel of his story you shall have in his own words :

“ ‘ I was confined in a prison on the edge of the sea, and made many fruitless attempts to effect my escape. Day after day passed away, and at length, that arrived which was to be the last of my sad career. From my barred casement I watched the sun go down, and as he descended behind the distant mountains, I felt an agony of thought. I sat in my dark cell reflecting on my past life, and that in a few short hours I was to be led forth, and shot by a file of soldiers.

“ ‘ I determined to make one effort more for my escape ; then springing up, I seized one of the iron bars of my dungeon window, and straining with desperate strength, it suddenly broke, and I fell on the floor with

the iron bar in my hands. I feared lest the noise should have awakened the guard ; and I listened, but all continued silent except the rippling of the water beneath my dungeon window. Encouraged by success, I seized another bar, and wrenching with the vigour of a lion, this also yielded, and left me space sufficient to creep through. I looked down, and by the light of the moon, which occasionally peeped from behind a cloud, I saw that the water was at least forty feet below me. I did not, however, hesitate, but let myself fall from the window. I plunged into the water, and being a good swimmer, I soon rose, and swam to a wharf at a consi-



derable distance. Here I seized a boat which I happened to find, and stretched my way upon the sea.

“ ‘I was afraid to show myself in Italy, therefore determined to quit my native



country. After various adventures, I took passage in a ship which I met with in the Gulph of Venice, and sailed for Egypt, where I entered into the service of the Pacha, as a mameluke.

“ ‘It was about two years before my late

return to Tripoli, and while I was yet in Egypt, that Hamet Bashaw, second son of the late bashaw of Tripoli, came there. Joseph, Hamet's younger brother, had caused his father and eldest brother to be put to death; and in order to prevent any dispute to his succession to the sovereignty he had usurped, he meditated upon taking away the life of Hamet also.

“ ‘ Hamet, having heard of his intentions, fled to Egypt, where he was kindly received, and some schemes set on foot to dethrone the usurper, and place him at the head of the government of Tripoli.

“ ‘ About six months since I came secretly to Tripoli, to promote these schemes. I happened to be upon the wharf when you were brought on shore, and knew you instantly. From that moment I determined if possible, to liberate you, and, after much labour, I found out the place of your confinement.

“ ‘ Three nights in succession I contrived to scale the walls of your prison by means of rope-ladders, and came to your narrow win-

dow, in order to contrive means for your escape. Finding that I could not attract your attention, and that nothing could be done in this way, I one night took advantage of the gaoler being asleep, turned the key, and, as you remember, liberated you. I then placed you under the care of a woman of my own country, in whom I could place confidence.

“ ‘After this I was absent nearly two months, engaged in the pursuits that brought me to Tripoli. My business being completed, I took you from the place of your concealment, and brought you on board this vessel, which was waiting for you. When the vessel arrives at Egypt, whither we are bound, you can take a passage in some vessel and return to your own country, where I hope you will be happy.’

HOW DECATUR AND TWENTY AMERICANS BURNED THE PHILADELPHIA.

“ During our voyage Leo told me many things which interested me very much, one

of which I will relate to you :—One day an American ship of war, called the Philadelphia, under the command of Captain Bainbridge, was chasing a corsair, when unfortunately she ran aground, and was unable to move. Escape was impossible, and the vessel fell a prey to the Tripolitans, who made themselves masters of it, and took the crew prisoners.

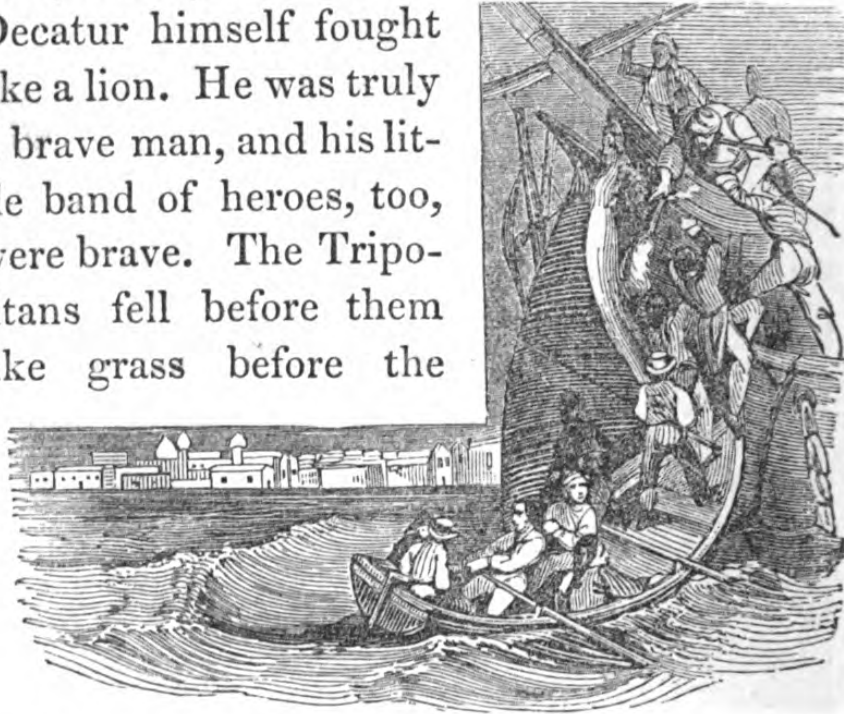
“ There was another American vessel off the coast, called the Enterprise, the captain of which, named Decatur, was a most daring and enterprising young officer. He conceived the idea of setting fire to the Philadelphia, and thus prevent her being useful to the Tripolitans.

“ Decatur waited till night, and took with him twenty of his most resolute men, and having concealed them in the bottom of the boat, sailed towards the Philadelphia. The Tripolitans on board saw the little boat approach, but suspecting no danger, they allowed her to come close alongside.

“ Suddenly Decatur, with his twenty brave companions, leaped upon the deck of the

Philadelphia, on board which were fifty Tripolitans. The two parties closed with each other in deadly struggle, and neither party gave or expected quarter. The astonished Tripolitans fought desperately with their sabres, and having the advantage of numbers, victory seemed to incline to their side.

Decatur himself fought like a lion. He was truly a brave man, and his little band of heroes, too, were brave. The Tripolitans fell before them like grass before the



scythe, and victory declared itself in their favour, for not one of the fifty reached the shore to tell the tale of slaughter.

“Decatur set the ship on fire, and as he returned in triumph to his vessel, the flames

rose from the ship, and lighted up the harbour far and wide. The people from the city looked on in fear and wild dismay, unable to account for the sad catastrophe.

PARLEY ARRIVES IN EGYPT, AND GOES
WITH GENERAL EATON'S EXPEDITION
ACROSS THE DESERT.

“On my arrival at Alexandria, I found General Eaton there, and also several American seamen, who, in a few days, were to start on a proposed expedition, to make an attack upon the dominions of the Bashaw of Tripoli. I determined to accompany them, and in less than a week we commenced our march. As our route lay across the desert General Eaton hired more than 100 camels to carry the baggage. The whole number of persons in the expedition was about 400; some were on horseback, but the greater part were on foot. There were very few Americans, but principally Arabs and Moors, headed by Hamet Bashaw.

“We marched two hundred miles over

an uneven plain, consisting of barren heaps of sand. Over this whole distance we met with not a single human habitation, nor any change of scene to relieve the eye.

“ At length we became short of provision ; and to add to our distress we were in the midst of a wide desert that scarcely produced anything. We were surrounded by no other people than the wandering tribes of Arabs, who kept out of sight during the day, and at night stole into our camp, and robbed us of our horses.

“ Our men were now dispatched in various directions in search of herbs and roots for food. I, like the rest, had wandered to a considerable distance seeking something to eat, when I happened to espy between the hills a small low spot where some shrubs were growing, and in the centre of which was a little pond.

“ I no sooner saw this inviting spot, than I ran thither, expecting to find something that might serve for food. What was my surprise to see four men start, like beasts of prey, from the bushes ; they immediately sur-

rounded me; I was alone and unarmed, therefore I had no means of defending myself. They were Arabs, and instantly fell upon me, and began to strip me with surprising quickness. They had taken off my



hat and coat, and were proceeding to rob me of my other garments, when three or four of our horsemen accidentally appeared in sight.

“ The Arabs became alarmed, and throwing down my hat and coat, they sprang to their horses, which were at a little distance among the shrubs. They mounted them at a single leap, and galloping over the sand hills, disappeared as quickly as birds in the air.

“ Notwithstanding our researches, we

were still short of food, and were compelled to kill one of our camels, which we found to be excellent meat. We continued our march, and in two months had proceeded six hundred miles across the desert. We now arrived at a tolerably fertile country, and soon reached the city of Derne.

“It may be well here to inform you that the journey across the desert is not now made as it used to be. There is a line of railway from Alexandria to Cairo, and the journey is accomplished in a few hours. The steam horse has taken the place of the camel and the dromedary, and a train of London-built carriages, drawn by a splendid locomotive engine, is to be seen, instead of the old-fashioned caravan. I told you something a little while ago about India. The route of the Overland Mail to India, which is performed twice or three times every month, is made across the desert per rail.

‘One of the most interesting sights of the desert is the pyramids. These are a constant source of attraction to English and other visitors. A little while ago, His Royal

Highness the Prince of Wales, on his way to the Holy Land, visited the pyramids, and astonished the Arabs by the agility with which he climbed to the summit of one of the pyramids without assistance. 'Why does the young Governor,' they wonderingly asked, 'go on alone?'

CHAPTER II.

A VOYAGE TO CHINA.

“Instead, therefore, of setting out for home, as I intended, I sailed in a few days on board the *Kein Long* for China. We passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, and stretched to the west along the northern coast of Africa. We passed the Canary Isles, and at length came near Cape Blanco, on the western coast of Africa. It was on the coast near this Cape that Captain Riley and his crew were shipwrecked about ten

years afterwards, in 1815. Captain Riley published the history of his shipwreck and sufferings; and as the account is interesting, I will give you a brief sketch thereof.

CAPTAIN RILEY'S ADVENTURES.

“The morning after Captain Riley and his seamen were wrecked, they were surprised to discover some strange looking persons coming towards them. These were a



hideous old man, two frightful old women, and several children. They were almost naked, and had a most wild and savage appearance.

“The shore was strewn with a variety of

articles which had floated from the ship ; and upon these the Arabs, for such these people were, commenced their plunder. They ripped open a feather bed, and appeared amazingly diverted at seeing the feathers fly about in all directions. They opened some



boxes of silk handkerchiefs and lace veils. These they tied about their heads, arms, and legs, and at length went away.

“ The next day the Arabs returned again, in company with several more. The Arabs had brought a number of camels with them.

These they loaded with the spoil, and destroyed whatever they could not carry away. They stripped Captain Riley and his men of their clothes, and divided them among the chiefs, to whom they became slaves.

“The Arabs proceeded towards the interior of the desert. Captain Riley and his men were placed upon camels, but being destitute of clothing, and the heat excessive, they suffered exceedingly. At length, Captain Riley and four of his men were bought by two Arab merchants, whom they met in the desert.

“These merchants were on their way to Morocco, where they intended to sell their captives, who suffered the greatest miseries on their way from the hunger, thirst, and fatigue which they endured.

“At length, however, they reached Morocco, and were ransomed by an English gentleman, who treated them with great kindness. The generous treatment they received at the hands of their deliverer, soon restored them to health and strength.

PARLEY RESUMES THE STORY OF HIS
VOYAGE, AND TELLS OF PARK.

“ We continued to sail along the coast of Africa till we came near Cape Verd, a little to the west of which are the Cape Verd Islands, sixteen in number; but many of them are only barren rocks. St. Jago is the principal island. We next passed the mouth of the river Gambia, which you will see laid down in the map. It is a large muddy stream, and abounds with crocodiles. The hippopotamus, or river-horse, is also frequently seen here; while the banks are the resort of thousands of monkeys.

“ About forty years ago, a famous Scotch traveller, named Mungo Park, went up this river into the interior of the country, to discover what sort of people lived there. Before that time little was known of this part of Africa. Many bold adventurers had attempted to explore the country, but they were obliged to return without success, or were killed in the attempt.

“ Mr. Park travelled a great way into the country, and met with many curious adventures. One day he went to see the negro king of Bondou, to whom he gave an umbrella, and several other things, with which the king was very much pleased. The king



cast a longing eye upon Mr. Park's blue coat and shining buttons, and after praising it very much, he concluded by asking Mr. Park to give it him, promising to wear it on all public occasions; so Mr. Park took off his coat, and laid it at the feet of the king.

“ Park made a remark, that reflects much honour upon the character of the negro women, viz., that although men had been very cruel to him, he had never appealed to a woman without meeting with kindness; and the following instance, which he gives, serves to corroborate his remark.

“ At the close of a wearisome day's travel, after having been refused shelter by several natives, he was about to pass the night in the open air. He turned his horse loose to graze, and was about to climb a tree and sleep among the branches, in order to protect himself from the wild beasts, a caution absolutely necessary in almost every part of the African interior.

“ At this juncture an old woman, returning from the labours of the field, cast upon him a look of compassion, and directed him to follow her. She led him to her little hut, where she left him, while she went out to procure a fish, which she broiled for his supper. After he had refreshed himself, she spread a mat for him to repose upon.

“ The old woman desired her maidens to

resume their tasks, which they continued to do with great cheerfulness during the greater part of the night. They cheered their labours with a song, which must have been composed extemporaneously, since Mr. Park



discovered, with deep emotion, that he himself was the subject. It was expressed in a strain of the most affecting simplicity, and was as follows:—

“The winds warred and the rain fell. The poor white man, faint and weary, came and

sat under our tree. He has no mother to bring him milk, no wife to grind his corn.

“ Chorus.—Let us pity the white man: no mother has he to bring him milk, no wife to grind his corn.

“ Park was very much affected at those genuine marks of tender compassion, and could not depart next morning, without requesting his benevolent landlady's acceptance of the only gift he had left, two of the four brass buttons that still remained upon his waistcoat.

CAPE TOWN—SOME ACCOUNT OF AFRICA—
LIVINGSTONE'S DISCOVERIES—CHAILLU
AND THE GORILLA—CONCLUSION.

“ Our vessel continued on her voyage, and for some time skimmed gaily over the waters before a fair wind. The weather was particularly fine during the whole of the voyage, and in a few weeks we reached the Cape of Good Hope. Here we supplied ourselves with masts and other necessary articles to keep the ship in complete trim. While at Cape Town, I learned many things

about the southern parts of Africa, which I will now tell you, with some particulars likewise of Africa in general.

“Cape Town was built many years ago by some Dutch settlers, who, finding the country to be inhabited by a race of tall, slender negroes, of a very gentle temper, called Hottentots, took away their lands without ceremony, enslaved many of the inhabitants, and drove the rest of them higher up the country.

“Near Cape Town is a remarkable elevation, called the Table Mountain. It is perfectly flat on the top, and one of its sides is cut down, so as to form an almost perpendicular face. This mountain is 4,000 feet high.

“To the north of Cape Colony the country is inhabited by various tribes of Hottentots. Some of them are wild and savage; but for the most part they are gentle and kind-hearted.

“The inhabitants have many adventures with lions, and often when the wagon of the traveller stops for the night in the dreary

desert, it is attacked by these dangerous animals. They will frequently let a man pass without molesting him ; but if very hungry, they will attack almost anything. I have heard of a Dutchman, named Lucas, who saw a lion at a little distance, as he was riding through the country. Lucas expected that the lion would let him pass ; but instead of this, he sprang from his ambush, and



came upon the horse and his rider like a thunderbolt. The claws of the lion were fastened into the horse's side, and with his mouth he seized the throat of the animal, which instantly fell to the ground.

How poor Lucas escaped he could not tell ; but he scrambled out of the fray, and running off with all his might, concealed himself in a house at no great distance,

while the rapacious lion was busily engaged with the horse.

“ On the eastern coast of Africa, near to Cape Colony, is the land of the Caffres. They are a numerous people, inhabit a fertile country, and are reckoned the most pastoral people in the world. They are said to be the handsomest of the negro race. They live in villages, in small half-round huts, covered with coarse mats. Several of these huts together constitute a Kraal. They delight in hunting, and, like many of the other negro tribes, are particularly fond of dancing.

“ The continent of Africa extends about 4,150 miles in breadth, and in length about 4,300. It contains many independent states, and an immense number of inhabitants. The first kingdom on the western side immediately below the Straits of Gibraltar, is Fez, and to the south of it is Morocco, but united into one kingdom under the emperor of Morocco.

“ Eastward of Fez lie Algiers, Tunis, and Tripoli. The coast from Fez to Tripoli is

called the Barbary coast. These states have long subsisted by piracy, to the great terror of Christendom ; but Algiers was, in 1830, taken by the French, and still remains in their possession. Below the Barbary coast is the Sahara, a desert of immense and unexplored extent ; and below it is Senegambia, so called from the rivers Senegal and Gambia. Near the coast are Foulahs and Jaloffs ; and in the interior various uncivilized kingdoms of negro chiefs, first made known to us by the great African traveller, Mungo Park.

“The general features of Africa are dreary, desolate, and gloomy in the extreme degree ; but there exist, in the midst of the most frightful wastes, spots of great luxuriance and beauty. I recollect meeting with more than one little oasis, or verdant islet, among the sandy wastes of that country over which I passed. When I reviewed these scenes of soft and pastoral beauty, whose verdure seemed not to belong to our globe ; and when I contrasted their extreme fertility with the barren tract by which they were inclosed,

and their gay and pleasing colours with the universal blank around, I felt a kind of charm steal over me, and no longer seemed to be among the abodes of men, but in some fairy seat of blissful retirement.



“The central parts of Africa have not been much explored by modern travellers; a great part of the interior is, therefore, but very imperfectly known. The dense forests

and extensive deserts it contains, seems to present insuperable obstacles to our ever becoming thoroughly acquainted with the geography of this interesting country.

“ Africa is thought to contain 40 millions of inhabitants, consisting principally of two races of men, Arabs and Negroes, formerly known under the name of Ethiopians. These races have now become very intimately blended together in many parts of this vast continent.

“ Africa seems to have been selected by nature as the scene of her most extraordinary productions: beasts of prey—the monkey tribes—birds of the most brilliant plumage—and all manner of animals, from the huge elephant, down to the insect race, that often darken the air by their numbers, and lay whole districts bare, not leaving a single leaf or blade of grass.

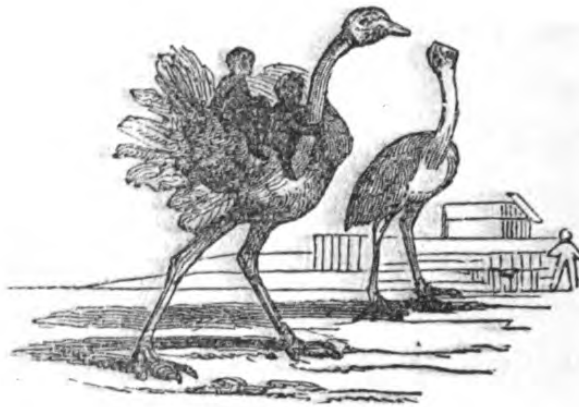
“ The camelopard, or giraffe, as it is sometimes called, is a most singularly formed animal. The great length of its neck is well adapted for the particular kind of food it lives upon. Instead of feeding upon the herbs and

verdure at its feet, it stretches out its long neck and browses on the foliage of lofty trees.



“ Of birds, the ostrich deserves to be mentioned, as being one of the most remarkable ; and as its habits are somewhat singular, I will relate an anecdote, told by Adanson the

traveller, of two ostriches which had been kept at Podor, a French factory on the banks of the Niger. They had been at the factory, at the time he saw them, about two years, and, though young, had nearly attained their full size.



“They were exceedingly tame, and one day for a frolic, two little blacks mounted together on the back of the larger. No sooner did the bird feel their weight, than he began to run with amazing swiftness, and carried them several times round the village, and it was found impossible to stop it otherwise than by obstructing its passage. The motion of the ostrich perfectly resembles that of the partridge, which, it is well known,

runs so swiftly, that no man can overtake it. Adanson states, that he is quite convinced, those he saw would have distanced the fleetest race horses that were bred in England, though he thinks it probable they would not have been able to hold out so long as that noble animal.

A large amount of interest has recently been awakened and widely extended in regard to Africa. The character of its surface, its diversified tribes, its plants, and its animals, and the remarkable circumstances under which, after long concealment, they have been gradually disclosed to our view, render this quarter of the world particularly attractive. Foremost among African explorers is Dr. Livingstone.

On the 1st of June, 1849, Dr. Livingstone—an English missionary—left the Mission Station at Kolobeng, accompanied by Messrs. Oswell and Murray. His object was to explore the district reaching to and extending around the lake Ngami. This locality had never before been explored by Europeans. The track to it led through the

Kalahari desert, chiefly inhabited by Bushmen and the Kalahari. Pursuing this route in a northerly direction for a distance of about 300 miles, Livingstone and his companions underwent severe privations, especially the want of water. On arriving on the banks of the Zonga—a noble river, richly bordered with trees—the natives gave them a hearty welcome, and informed them that this river flowed out of the lake of which they were in search. Engaging a small native canoe, Livingstone resolved to attempt the navigation of the stream.

The people in the lake district bore no enviable reputation. It was hinted that they were the worst of cannibals—it was gravely stated that they were one-eyed—that one eye being placed in the centre of the forehead; it was affirmed that many of them were of such gigantic measures, and of such voracious appetite, as to swallow a baby whole! The explorers, however, found them to be a quiet, inoffensive race, in the enjoyment of a beautifully fertile country, which, without manual labour, yielded both the

necessaries and luxuries of life, and which was capable of extensive and profitable cultivation.

Lake Ngami Dr. Livingstone discovered to be about sixty miles in length, and nearly 3,000 feet above the sea level. He learned that it was merely a reservoir for the surplus waters of a much larger lake, containing numerous islands.

The explorations of Dr. Livingstone were subsequently extended to the Zambese river, a magnificent stream, from 900 to 1,500 feet in width. The splendour of the vegetation, the extraordinary fertility of the soil, the amiable character of the people, all served to impress the visitors more and more with the importance of the discoveries which had been made—discoveries which opened, as it were, a new world to the trade, commerce, civilization, and, best of all, the Christianity of England.

Before I conclude my notice of Africa, I must say a word or two about an animal, of which, I have no doubt, you have frequently heard of late. I mean the Gorilla. This

animal is a sort of large monkey. Some of them are larger than a man, and they appear to possess extraordinary strength and remarkable instinct. M. de Chaillu has recently written a book about his adventures with the Gorillas in Africa. Some of his statements have been called in question, but there seems no reason to doubt the general authenticity of his account, and from beginning to end it is full of lively descriptions and startling adventures. On one occasion, M. de Chaillu tells us, that in the sombre forests of the mountainous district he followed for two hours the track of a Gorilla, and was suddenly startled by its roar, as the beast lifted itself erect, and made towards him, beating its chest and displaying its enormous teeth. Its strongly marked features, its large, deeply sunk eye-balls, gave it an appearance of intense ferocity. M. de Chaillu allowed it to approach so near, that its arms were raised to grasp him. "Now," said he to himself, "if you want to see your friends again, you will take good aim." He did so, and the beast, pierced by the bullet,

fell groaning on its face, and died in intense agony. M. de Chaillu states that one of his companions unfortunately missed his aim, and was torn to pieces by the Gorilla, who even crushed his gun with his powerful tusks.

“I have now told you so much about Africa, that you are perhaps weary of the subject; but to me it is an interesting part of the world. Formerly, the accounts given us of the people of Africa, represented the negroes as being the most stupid and debased portion of the human family; but modern travellers, more worthy of credit, give favourable sketches of their character. Denham and Clapperton found the negroes of Central Africa more intelligent and civilized than the world had been led to believe; and the Caffres and Hottentots are now known to be superior in every respect to what their Dutch neighbours represented them.

“After a stay of four weeks at Cape Town, our vessel was ready to proceed on her voyage. We therefore hoisted our sails, and bidding adieu to Africa, stretched our way

to the eastward across the great Indian Ocean, and, without farther accident, arrived at China, the country to which our ship was bound.

I must now, my young friends, take my leave of you till I come to tell you my tales about America. And in bidding you farewell, let me advise you never to lose any opportunity of acquiring knowledge, especially such as will make you acquainted with men and manners, and by teaching you to discover between right and wrong, good and evil, will conduct you in the paths of virtue, from which I hope you will never deviate.

THE END.



