

Bysh's Edition  
OF  
**LA PEROUSE.**

*Embellished with Eight Coloured Engravings.*



London :

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FOR J. BYSH, 8, CLOTH FAIR, WEST SMITHFIELD.

PRICE SIXPENCE.







Perouse in the Boat after the loss of the Ship.



Perouse discovered by the Indians.

**Bysh's Edition**  
OF THE  
VOYAGES AND ADVENTURES  
OF  
**LA PEROUSE.**

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TO WHICH IS ADDED  
THE  
**LIFE**  
**OF HATEM TAI,**  
OR THE  
GENEROSITY  
OF AN  
**ARABIAN PRINCE,**

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JOHN Francis Galoupe de la Perouse was the son of a respectable merchant in Toulon, where he was born on the 3rd of May, 1760. From his earliest years he manifested a spirit of enterprise, and an inclination to go to sea; which induced his father to give him such an education as might facilitate his advancement in the navy.

Having studied navigation and nautical tactics, under the best masters, at the marine school at Toulon, our hero, in his eighteenth year was entered a midshipman on board *La Belle Poule*, a frigate of thirty-two guns. In 1779, this vessel, in consequence of the captain's refusal to salute the British flag, was attacked and captured by one of our frigates, after an obstinate engagement, in which La Perouse distinguished himself by his activity and courage. He was brought to England and continued a prisoner of war for eighteen months; during which time, he made a tolerable proficiency in the study of the English language.

On an exchange of prisoners he returned to his native country, and entered on board the *Ville de Paris*, the French admiral's flag-ship, in which he was again captured on the memorable twelfth of April, 1782.

These vicissitudes, though they retarded his promotion, yet they inured the mind of La Perouse to adversity, and invigorated his fortitude. At the conclusion of the war, he was appointed captain of a trader to India, by a company of merchants; and on his return, he was married, in 1784, to Leonora Montmorenci, the daughter of a rich banker, in Toulon. He received a large fortune with his wife, whose beauty and accomplishments, though of the first order, could not prevail on her husband to relinquish his maritime pursuits.

About this time the French government, being desirous to enlarge the sphere of their commerce, and make further discoveries respecting natural history and geography, fitted out two frigates, named the *Boussole* and *Astrolabe*, and gave the command of them to La Perouse, and M. de Clonard, who officiated as second captain.

Abundance of provisions and other necessaries were shipped on board these frigates; and astronomers, botanists, and other scientific men were sent on this voyage of discovery. Accordingly, our hero, after bidding an affectionate adieu to his wife and friends, set sail from Brest, on the 1st of August, 1785.

Our hero experienced a voyage of nearly three years, during which period he combated a variety

of difficulties in navigating his vessels in unknown seas, and exploring many islands hitherto not discovered. On the 17th of January, 1788, the frigates made the island of Tongataboo, so accurately described by Cook. All intercourse with the inhabitants of this place was confined to a single visit. La Perouse received a few refreshments from the Indians; and made some astronomical observations, which tended to confirm Cook's; but all the provisions obtained were scarcely adequate to the consumption of one week, which induced our hero to proceed to Botany Bay.

On the 24th of January, 1788, the frigates came in sight of an English fleet at anchor, with their colours and pendants flying. Europeans are all fellow-country-men at such a distance from home; and the moment La Perouse's ship entered the harbour, an English lieutenant and a midshipman were sent on board by Captain Hunter, of the English frigate *Lirius*, to offer him all the services in their power. Those officers informed La Perouse, that the fleet was commanded by Commodore Philips, who had arrived but five days before, and was gone further northward in the *Spy* sloop, to choose a more convenient place for the settlement.

La Perouse then proceeded to the northward, where he found a convenient harbour, and received a supply of provisions from the Indians, in exchange for toys, hatchets, &c. On the 10th of February he again stood to sea, and steered for the Isle of France, where he arrived on the 20th of March.

After taking on board a sufficient supply of necessaries, our hero, according to his directions, sailed from the Isle of France, to make discoveries on the northern coast of Japan. The weather was inconstant, but generally stormy, and the frigates very leaky; insomuch that the pumps were almost constantly kept going. A very severe storm, which had bandied them about for several days, at length subsided into a perfect calm, accompanied with fogs.

Several birds, which from time to time alighted on the rigging, sufficiently indicated that land was near; but the fog was so impenetrably thick, as to preclude the possibility of seeing the shore, even at the distance of only half a mile.

On sounding, the depth was found to be only nine fathoms; on which La Perouse gave directions to cast anchor; but before this could be accomplished, both vessels stuck upon a ridge of rocks.

Consternation took possession of the sailors; La Perouse, however, with a few of his officers and men, preserved their fortitude, and launched the boats, into which provisions and arms were thrown and as the ship was expected to go to pieces every moment, they left her, and put off, in hopes of reaching some hospitable shore.

All the crew and the passengers of both ships now proceeded cautiously among the breakers that appeared on each side; but, alas! after several hours of fatigue in rowing, night surrounded them in this deplorable situation; and the darkness was

so intense, that there was no other means left of eluding danger, but on resting on their oars till the return of morning.

When day-light appeared, the long boat, which contained La Perouse, with his first lieutenant and ten men only remained ; all the other boats had either been dashed to pieces upon the rocks by the breakers, or overwhelmed in whirlpools.

La Perouse looked around in vain for his comrades: they were gone for ever! He called through a speaking trumpet, but no friendly voice answered.

Meanwhile the fog slowly dispersing, he found himself within half a league of land. Thither he steered, with the expectation that some of the boats had reached it before him. On his approach however, he was convinced that it must have been impossible for them to live in the swelling surf which chafed the black rocks of the shore. About noon, he put into a small creek, and landed, together with his mournful companions. They carried their arms and provisions ashore, and found the place desolate and barren. After searching in vain for any trace of human beings, they were obliged to take shelter in a cavern near the shore. Yet, even in this wretched place, and secluded from the cheerful haunts of men, the survivors consoled each other with the hope that some ship would appear off the coast, which they might reach in their boat, and return to their native country.

These natural but delusive hopes were soon succeeded by another calamity. It was now about

the middle of May; and one morning, about sunrise, La Perouse and his companions were roused by the sound of several voices. They ran for their arms, and prepared to act on the defensive if necessary; but while they were deliberating, an Indian came in sight, who no sooner beheld them at the entrance of the cavern, than he set up a yell similar to the north american war-hoop.

Unwilling to be surrounded, La Perouse led his men to the extremity of the defile: and on his arrival there, he beheld two hundred Indians, armed with bows and arrows, marching rapidly to the attack.

He made signs of peace and friendship, similar to those he had formerly seen used by the Japanese, on which the Indians halted, and after viewing him and his little party, one of the chiefs gave him to understand by signs, that he must lay down his arms. On La Perouse's refusal he was assailed by a shower of arrows, which his little party instantly returned by a discharge of musketry.—The conflict was dreadful; but after acting with all the energy that exremity could rouse in brave minds, the French were overpowered, and all killed, except our hero and a seaman, whom the savages dragged away prisoners, with yells of triumph.

La Perouse and his fellow-sufferer were taken to the shore; where they found upwards of fifty canoes belonging to the Indians, who immediately put to sea; and after sailing round a promontory they came in sight of another island, where they landed about sun-set.

Thus perished the unfortunate but brave companions of La Perouse, while only himself and another remained of those enterprising adventurers who had braved every danger in the pursuit of knowledge.

Our hero was wounded in several parts of the body; his clothes were sprinkled with blood; and in this state he was dragged to a large village, and exhibited to the barbarous inhabitants. Nor was the situation of his unfortunate companion better; he also was wounded, and ready to faint at every step, through loss of blood.

The chief of the village and the women viewed the prisoners with attention, but without any appearance of pity, except a young Indian female, who, from the moment she beheld La Perouse, became interested in his fate. This young woman was the chief Indian's daughter; and, happily for our hero, her influence over the mind of her father was unlimited.

By the direction of the Indian chief, the prisoners were bound to two trees, to be shot. Ten young Indians were selected, and stood with their bows bent, awaiting the signal of death.

At this moment of suspense, Aura, the daughter of the Indian chief, rushed forward, threw herself on her knees before her father, and interceded in favour of La Perouse. Her request was reluctantly granted; and our hero was unbound, at the very moment that his less fortunate countryman was shot before his eyes.

La Perouse was led forward by his preserver,

her protection proved a safeguard against any outrage. The Indians now considered the stranger as one of their own tribe; he was formally adopted, and entertained with rice-bread and fish.

The island was called Miona; and in fertility formed a remarkable contrast with the rocky and desolate isle where La Perouse had landed after the shipwreck. The population of Miona was about five thousand, including women and children. The persons, manners, and dress of the inhabitants were similar to those of the Chinese, excepting that a degree of ferocity marked the character of the islanders, in contradiction to the gentle manners of the natives of the continent.

Their form of government was a kind of aristocracy, with one supreme head. This chief was the father of the female whose compassionate interference had saved the life of our hero.

Aura was in the flower of youth; her countenance was pleasing, her complexion olive, and her stature was above the middle size: her dress was composed of fine ermine, and ornamented with trinkets. Her demeanour was majestic; and she was not only the most beautiful female in Miona, but her father's authority obtained her a particular degree of respect from the whole tribe.

A young warrior, who had often distinguished himself against the tribes of other islands, was the only man who aspired to the hand of Aura; nor was she averse to his suit, till the appearance of La Perouse in chains. From that moment,

pity, admiration, and love, took possession of her bosom, in favour of the stranger; and Verado, the Indian warrior, was neglected.

As love is ever accompanied with a degree of jealousy, which renders it vigilant and quick-sighted, the discontented Verado soon discovered an innocent rival in the person of our hero, whom he now secretly doomed to destruction. Meanwhile, by the tender attention and care of Aura, the wounds which La Prouse had received were gradually healed; and as he began to understand the common phrases of the Indian language, he was able to hold some conversation with his beautiful preserver. He presented her his watch, which she received with a look that sufficiently evinced her affection; but the mind of our hero was too fully occupied with his misfortunes, and grief at the idea of an eternal separation from his country, his wife and friends, to permit him to meet the advances of the Indian.

Chagrined at his neglect, Aura resolved to withdraw that protection, which had preserved him from the ferocity of the Indians since his arrival amongst them. Accordingly, she removed him from the comfortable hut where she had ordered him to be accommodated, to a most wretched hovel, at the extremity of the village.

Disconsolate, forsaken, and alone, La Prouse did not find security even in this miserable place; for the moment that the sanguinary Verado heard of his disgrace, he flew to the spot where our solitary adventurer sat, and without the least notice

the savage pierced him with an arrow, and left him weltering in his blood.

In this deplorable state, he was found by the inhabitants of the adjacent cabin, who touched with compassion, applied a healing leaf to his wound, and administered to him the milk of a cocoa-nut.

When Aura was informed of this circumstance, her tenderness revived. She hastened to the cabin where he lay, bathed him with her tears, and attended him till his recovery was no longer doubtful.

When his health was re-established, Aura again pressed him to become her husband; when apprehensive of further misery if he persisted in his refusal, he yielded to necessity, and was married to her according to the Oriental custom.

It might be concluded, that he was now perfectly safe; but Aura, who well knew the inexorable disposition of her countrymen, resolved to remove, with her husband, to the desolate island, where he had at first landed, and where there would be less danger from the enmity of Verado.

She obtained her father's consent, who provided a canoe, well stored with provisions, in which she and our hero embarked, and were rowed by four Indians to the very creek where La Perouse had formerly landed.

They took possession of the cavern, which, in a short time was rendered more commodious. They were occasionally visited by Aura's father, who sent a regular supply of provisions for their



Aura interceding in favour of Perouse.



Perouse shot by Verado.



Amor et pietas in honore di Tiberii.



Tiberius abbat by Verbo.

support; and gave orders that they should not be molested. He also commanded Verado, on pain of death, not to land on the desolate isle; and with these precautions, our hero and his Indian wife lived in a state of tolerable security, and enjoyed as much happiness as their secluded situation would permit.

About a year after their marriage, Aura was delivered of a son, whom she called Orion, in honour of the sun; but though the birth of this child, in some degree, endeared her to La Perouse, yet in the recollection of his happiness in the refined society of his former spouse, excited the most unpleasant emotions.

Let the reader for a moment contemplate the hopeless situation of our hero. Detached from civilized society, with all his prospects of advancement and fame obscured, and confined to an intercourse with barbarians—what must have been his feelings! Did not impatience, bordering on frenzy, sometimes torment his mind? Yet even in this state, isolated from the busy world, the rich cordial of female tenderness served as an anodyne to alleviate his sorrows. The affection of Aura daily increased: and the innocent prattle of their son, served to amuse his parents. While La Perouse was thus confined to an island in the eastern regions, his countrymen were not forgetful of his services; and his name was often mentioned with respectful regret by the lovers of science. As there was but little probability of his being alive, he was neglected during the vol-

canic concussions of the French Revolution; but when the government of that country became established on a firmer basis, the attention of the legislature was roused, to make inquiries respecting a man whose genius was an honour to his country.

Accordingly, in the year 1799, a stout vessel was fitted out, by order of the French government, and sent on a voyage of discovery; and particular instructions were given to M. Montaign, the captain, to make all possible inquiry respecting the fate of La Perouse, and his fellow-adventurers. Madame La Perouse, whose tenderness for her long-lost husband, continued undiminished, was determined to brave all the dangers of the winds and waves, and the vicissitudes of climates, in search of our hero; nor could all the entreaties of her friends dissuade her from this resolution. The magnanimous woman, therefore, accompanied by her son Henry, and a male servant, embarked on board the ship, which was called the *Intrepid*.

After a voyage of several months, the ship arrived at Manilla; but Madame La Perouse received no farther intelligence respecting the object of her search, than such as he had sent to France, from that place several years before.

On the 19th of April, 1800, the *Intrepid* sailed from Manilla, and proceeded towards the Chinese coast. Chinese vessels passed within musket-shot, but when hailed by the French, they returned no answer. At length, a fishing-smack

ventured to approach, and the men on board bartered their fish for some European toys.

As the *Intrepid* approached the Chinese coast, the men on board saw several fires; and in coasting to the northward, about two days afterwards, they came in sight of a Chinese fleet at the mouth of a large river. The French cast anchor abreast this river, but found it impossible to count the number of ships, many of which were under sail, others at anchor on the coast, and a great number of them lay in the river.

The admiral's flag-ship was distinctly visible, and decorated with various coloured ribbons and pendants. Madame La Perouse, her son, and indeed all the people on board the *Intrepid*, were much gratified with this novel and unexpected scene; but could not help laughing at the vain-glorious shew of arms, exhibited by a nation so remarkable for their timidity.

In the beginning of June, the *Intrepid* was becalmed near the dangerous island of Quelpart; and the captain, though apprized of the characteristic ferocity of the inhabitants, sent a party of armed men on shore. When they landed, they found at least a thousand men armed, and ready to attack them: in consequence of which they re-embarked with precipitation. The hostile islanders dispatched a number of canoes, filled with armed men, in pursuit of the French; but a few volleys of musketry obliged them to return.

Leaving this inhospitable shore, the *Intrepid* entered the channel of Japan; and after coasting

for several days, the man at the mast head descried a sail, which, on nearer approach, proved to be a French merchantman, homeward-bound from China.

The joy of this unexpected meeting between countrymen in this remote region, may be easily conceived. The captain of the *Intrepid*, accompanied by Madame La Perouse and her son, went on board the merchant ship, to make inquiries concerning our hero; but they could obtain at least no satisfactory intelligence on that point.

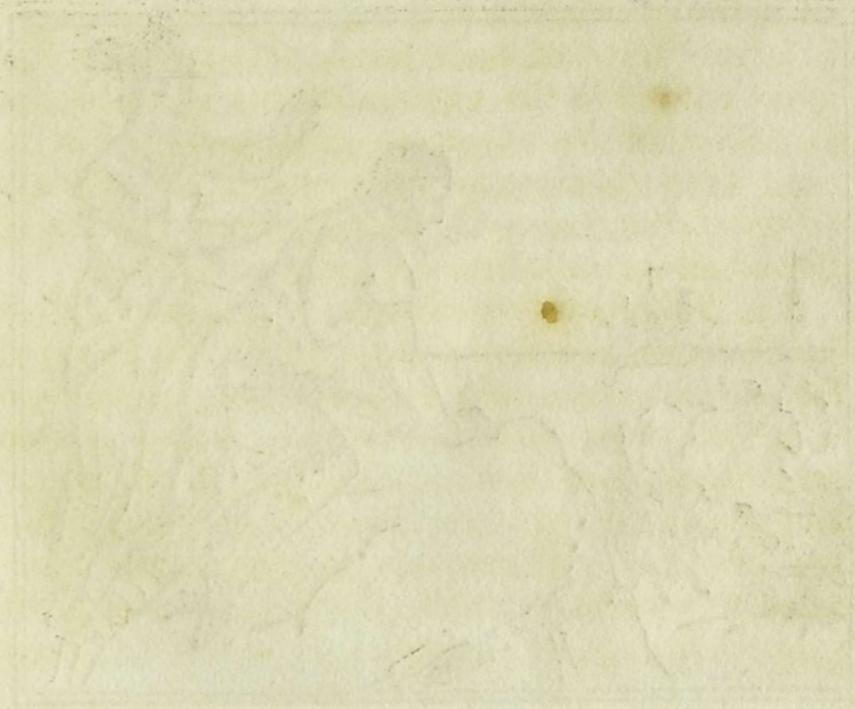
There were various reports in circulation at China, respecting his fate; but the general opinion was, that he had either been cast away or destroyed in a contest with the people of some of the islands which lay scattered along the northern coast of Japan.

In this state of uncertainty, Madame La Perouse entreated the captain of the *Intrepid* not to relinquish the object of their search, but to send a boat a-shore at every island. Accordingly he touched at several, and bartered articles of European manufacture for fruits and fish.

The French merchantman, which was called *La Nymphe*, sailed in company with the *Intrepid* for several days, not only for the satisfaction which the crew derived from an amicable intercourse, but in order to obtain wood, water, and provisions, at some island, which they could the more easily accomplish in conjunction; besides, the perils to which Europeans, who navigate those seas, are exposed, from the treachery



Sketch of a group of people in a boat.



Sketch of a person sitting on a horse.



Madame Perouse embarks in search of her Husband.



Aura & Perouse discover the French & Indians fighting.



Madame Perouse faints in the arms of her husband.



Perouse persuades Aura to leave him.



both vessels continued their course along the coast; and on the 21st of June, in the evening, they came in sight of the very island that contained our hero.

Madame La Perouse being desirous to visit this bleak and barren spot, notwithstanding its forbidden appearance, the ship cast anchor within a league of the shore; and, early next morning, a boat, well manned and armed, was sent from each ship. Our fair adventurer, who felt a presentiment of something extraordinary, went in the boat of the Intrepid, accompanied by her son and M. La Roche, the first lieutenant.

They landed at the creek, where the shipwrecked La Perouse, had formerly escaped a watery grave, and proceeded cautiously along the black and sharp rocks.

By a strange circumstance, it happened that a large party of the Indians of Miona had landed on the opposite part of the island; and just as the French had reached the summit of an eminence, they beheld these fierce islanders who immediately advanced with bows bent as if to attack. M. La Roche placed Madame La Perouse under the protection of two armed seamen, with directions to re-conduct her to the boat; but they had not proceeded twenty paces, when the whole party, consisting of only twenty, were surrounded by three hundred hostile savages.

The Frenchmen evinced their pacific intentions by a variety of signs; but the Indians, unmindful of their gestures, discharged their arrows, which

killed one man, and wounded two others of the party. Repeated discharges of musketry did terrible execution among the savages, killing or wounding upwards of forty men, while the bayonets prevented them from pressing too closely.

Meanwhile, Madame La Perouse, and her son Henry, were obliged to stand exposed to surrounding dangers, till overcome by the sight of blood, the dying, and the dead, she fell into a fit, and continued in that helpless state, unattended, except by her son, during the remainder of the battle. So great was the emergency, and so powerful the voice of self-preservation, that the men who had been appointed as her protectors, were irresistibly compelled by their feelings to stand to their arms, and assist their countrymen.

Just as the little party had exhausted their ammunition, Aura and La Perouse, who had been alarmed at the sound of fire-arms appeared, and, by their timely interference, prevented farther carnage. The Indians and their opponents desisted: but how great was the astonishment of M. La Roche, and his brother sailors, to find the object of their search, in the person of their deliverer!—They could scarcely believe their senses; but the sobs and tears of La Perouse ascertained the fact.

The Indians returned, murmuring; and the attention of the Frenchmen was now turned to Madame La Perouse, who was supported by Aura and her husband to their adjacent cavern. On

her recovery, her features were recognized by La Perouse, who stood before her in fixed amazement, and unable to articulate a syllable. As he was dressed in the Indian habit, and his features much changed by the lapse of years, and the variety of hardships he had suffered since his departure from France, he was as effectually disguised as if he had appeared in masquerade. His voice, however, excited a tumultuous and strange emotion in the bosom of his faithful and amiable wife. La Perouse retired for a moment to change his dress; and on his return, she started up, uttered a feeble scream, and fainted in his arms; while Henry gazed on his parents with mute astonishment!

Strong emotions sometimes operate so powerfully as to destroy the vital principle; but happily, in this case, nature was relieved by a sudden flow of tears. The lovely adventurer gradually revived and found herself in the embrace of that long-lost husband, for whom she had undergone such a variety of dangers. Henry sympathized in his mother's joy, though almost unconscious of the cause. The venerable name of father had never before been addressed by him to any other being; and for the first time he knelt and received the blessing of his delighted parent.

The sudden entrance of Aura, leading in his son Orion, interrupted the full flow of joy which arose spontaneously in the bosoms of La Perouse and his consort. Aura too soon discovered the truth; and found that she must relinquish

the object of her fondest regard to a stranger!— No words can describe the agony of her mind; she raved, execrated herself and La Perouse, and attempted to stab the intruder on her happiness. M. La Roche, who was a witness to this interesting scene, sprung forward, and arrested the arm of the exasperated Indian; who, seizing the hand of her child, rushed with him out of the cavern, hastened to the shore, and embarked with her countrymen for her native land.

Meanwhile, the French sailors carried their wounded companions into their boat, leaving four men as a guard at the entrance of the cavern. M. La Roche took his leave of our hero and Madame La Perouse, with a promise to send a strong guard for their protection; as the shock which the lady had suffered, rendered it impracticable to remove her to the ship, without the manifest hazard of her life.

Accordingly, two boats, with forty men, well armed, were sent from the *Intrepid*, and landed under the command of the second lieutenant. The party pitched their tents in the vicinity of the cavern; and several cordials and other necessaries were brought, by the direction of the surgeon, for the use of Madame La Perouse.

Cheered by the presence and endearments of her husband and son, she slowly regained her health; but as feverish symptoms continued, it was thought expedient to continue her on shore for a few days.

While our hero was providentially restored to

the prayers of his friends, the vindictive Aura, whose love was now changed into the most implacable hatred, used all her influence to rouse her countrymen to revenge. Verado was particularly active on this occasion; his passion for Aura was not yet extinguished; and her presence and entreaties were powerful incentives to his enterprising mind. He collected a body of two hundred Indians, all well armed with bows and arrows, and embarked them in twenty war canoes. The fierce and jealous Aura herself accompanied them on this expedition, and with arms in her hands, and vows of revenge on her tongue, she led the van, in the largest canoe, accompanied by Verado.

The enterprise was conducted with such secrecy and address, that the Indians doubled the promontory, and after coasting the barren isle, disembarked during the night, without being perceived by the French sentinels. The attack commenced with the dawn; and Verado who led the vanguard displayed such courage and skill in his arrangement, as evinced a superior mind.

He detached small parties, with orders to conceal themselves among the rocks, and, soon after the attack was begun, to fall on the rear of the enemy; above all things, he gave directions to take the cavern by surprise, and put La Perouse, his wife, and child, to death, without delay.

As the Indians approached the encampment, the French sentinels gave the alarm, and their party turned out with such alacrity, as prevented the enemy from obtaining any advantage. The

superiority of fire-arms over bows and arrows soon rendered the defeat of the Indians inevitable ; but while the Europeans were engaged in pursuit of the enemy in front, they found themselves assailed in the rear by showers of arrows, which killed and wounded several men. Disconcerted by this unexpected manœuvre, they retreated in turn, and rallied at the entrance of the cavern.

This critical movement saved the lives of the devoted victims of Aura's jealousy. Impatient, and stimulated by various passions, she rushed forward precipitately at the head of a detachment, and entered the cavern with a kind of dagger in her hand, a few moments before the French party returned.

A lamp enlightened the cavern ; and as she advanced to destroy the objects of her vengeance, she found them guarded by four soldiers, who, with fixed bayonets, prevented her sanguinary purpose.

The Indians were disconcerted at the appearance of this opposition, and begun to retreat ; but Aura in a voice of anger and despair, commanded them to assist her in the destruction of her enemies.

La Perouse who was also armed with a musket and bayonet, entreated his guard not to injure Aura. He then besought her to retire, and not to persevere in her sanguinary desire to destroy him ; he expostulated with her on the necessity of her return to her native island ; mentioned his prior engagement to Madame La Perouse ; and assured her of his grateful sense of all her favours.— While he continued speaking, the mind of the

forsaken Indian was agonized with contending passions; and at the conclusion of his pathetic address, all the woman overpowered her bosom; she uttered a deep sigh, the dagger dropt from her nerveless hand, and she fainted away!

La Perouse carried her to a couch; and while he was busied in effecting her recovery, the detachment of Indians retreated to the entrance of the cavern, where they were intercepted by the French party, and made prisoners.

The victory was now complete, and the Indians were pursued to their canoes by the conquering Europeans. Meanwhile Aura continued in the cavern in a state of stupefaction: medical aid at length restored her to the use of her reason; but her grief returned with renewed violence, when she found herself at the mercy of the Europeans, and all her hopes frustrated.

By degrees, however, she became more calm, and consented to return to her native island—She parted from La Perouse never to see him more; and was accompanied in her canoe by several armed sailors, and two boats full of armed men had directions to land her in safety. The boats set out early in the morning, and about noon landed the disconsolate Aura, who cast a reproachful look on her conductors and turned away.

The sailors observed a considerable number of people on the shore, who hastily came to meet Aura, and conducted her to the village.

Madame La Perouse, who had suffered a relapse in consequence of the fright occasioned by

the Indian enterprise, still continued in a very doubtful state; and her husband employed his time in drawing up an account of his misfortune, in order to publish it on his return to his native country.

The tedious interval of Madame La Perouse's indisposition, was employed by the two ships, in exploring the coast, which they found intersected with several bays, and bordered with islands.

In their cruise northward, they came in sight of an island, which on account of the appearance of its verdant fields and woods was particularly inviting.

The captain of the *Intrepid* and *La Nymphe* both went on shore, attended by a guard of forty men well armed. As they proceeded towards the interior of the island, they were delighted with the flourishing state of several fields of rice, which were laid out with the greatest regularity, and covered the fertile valleys; while numerous palm and cocoa trees flourished on the intermediate eminences. They also observed several herds of black cattle, and flocks of sheep, remarkably large feeding on the pastures, but their attention was soon afterwards engaged by more interesting subjects.

A large village built on an eminence, and adorned with a spire, excited the curiosity of the Europeans. They approached, and found it inhabited by a people, whose neatness of dress, and cleanliness of person, was equal to the most polished nation.

The Indians came to their doors to view the armed strangers, and betrayed some emotions of fear on contemplating this armed force. The Frenchmen, on the other hand, were delighted with the simple but neat style of architecture which adorned the houses; and on arriving at the centre of the village, they came in sight of an edifice with a turret, a spire, a sun-dial, and a clock! Their astonishment was inconceivable.—While they stood gazing at these objects, a middle-aged man, of a very dignified appearance, came forward attended by a number of young Indians. He accosted the strangers in the English language; and when the captain of the *Intrepid* replied, he continued the conversation in the French; and informed him, that he was an Englishman, who had been shipwrecked on that island in the year 1779. The natives, he said, had given him a hospitable reception, and he, in return, had directed them in the construction of their houses and other buildings, the culture of their fields, and those improvements in their dress and manners, which rendered them so much superior to the people of the other islands, who were gradually imitating them in these refinements.

This extraordinary man (whose name was Thomas Windhams) then invited the party to dinner, and conducted them to a large and cleanly cottage, the court-yard of which was adorned with flowers and evergreens.—Mr. Windham introduced his wife, who was the queen of the Indians, and had chosen him for her husband, as a reward for his instructing her people in the useful arts.

During an elegant repast, the company were gratified with several pleasing airs, played on the German flute, by a youth whom Mr. Windham had taught. To the ingenuity of this remarkable personage, the Indians were also indebted for the sun-dial and clock, which were both of his workmanship.

After dinner, he accompanied the French to his granary, and offered them any quantity of rice they required, together with live stock and other provisions necessary for their sea-store. They accepted his generous offer; and a number of Indians were collected by Mr. Windham, to assist in shipping the provisions. The alacrity and zeal with which they obeyed the commands of the benefactor, and the reverential awe with which they seemed to attend his motions, sufficiently demonstrated the ascendancy of his superior genius over their grateful minds.—Mr. Windham appeared perfectly happy, and expressed no wish to return to his native country.

The Frenchmen were enchanted with his courtsey, and presented him with two muskets, a quantity of ammunition, several spades, hoes, and other implements of husbandry, in return for his munificence.

Mr. Windham saw his visitors on board their boats, and returned with his attendants, while the French ship again steered for the barren island.

On our arrival there, they found La Perouse, his family, and guard, all in perfect security.—

Madame La Perouse was considerably recovered from her indisposition, but not sufficiently to bear the fatigue of a voyage.

Meanwhile, the captain of the *Nymphe* reluctantly urged the necessity of his proceeding to Europe as fast as possible; and as, of course, he should arrive some time before the *Intrepid*, he prevailed on La Perouse to entrust him with his dispatches. These documents, which formed the basis of the foregoing narrative, were transmitted to the French government, immediately on the arrival of the *Nymphe* at Bordeaux.

END OF LA PEROUSE.

GENEROSITY  
OF AN  
ARABIAN PRINCE.

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HATEM-TAI was esteemed so liberal, that the most powerful monarchs were jealous of his great reputation. The sultan of Damascus, being very desirous to have some positive information if what Fame had published of that Arab was true, dispatched one of his officers with presents for Hatem, and with orders to ask of him twenty camels with red hair and black eyes.

To answer this demand, Hatem forthwith had a general search made in the desert for all camels with black eyes and red hair, promising to each proprietor the double of their value. The Arabs, who placed in Hatem the greatest confidence, soon mustered together a hundred camels such as he required. Hatem sent them to the king, and heaped presents on the officer.

The sovereign of Damascus, quite astonished at this magnificence, endeavoured to surpass it. The same camels he loaded with the most precious stuffs, and sent them back to Hatem; when all those who had brought these animals were by him immediately complimented with them, and the burthen they carried. At this news the king of Damacus acknowledged himself conquered.

Hatem's reputation soon reached Europe. The emperor of Constantinople, vexed that a chief of

the Arabs should stand in competition, in point of liberality, with the greatest monarchs, wanted also to put his generosity to the test.

Among the great number of horses Hatem kept, there was one so extraordinary, that he prized it more than all his wealth; and it surpassed in running the fleetest stags.

The emperor, who knew how much Hatem loved his horse, resolved to ask it of him; believing, by so doing, he should put his generosity to the severest trial. He sent to him a lord of his court. The monarch's officer arrived at Hatem's habitation in a dark stormy night, and at a time when all the Arabian horses were out at grass. He was received by the most magnificent of men, as the emperor's envoy ought to be. After supper, Hatem conducted his guest into a very rich tent.

The next day, the envoy delivered to Hatem his master's presents, with a letter from that prince. Hatem, on reading it, seemed to be under some affliction,—“If you had informed me yesterday,” said he to the officer, “of the object of your mission, I should not now be under so vexatious an embarrassment; and would have given the emperor that feeble testimony of my obedience: but the horse he desires is no more. All our animals at this season feed in the meadow, and it is customary with us to keep but one horse at home; this was the horse I kept. Surprised by your coming, and having nothing to treat you withal, I had him slain; and he was served up for supper. The darkness and bad wea-

ther hindered me from sending for some of my sheep, which are now in far distant pastures." Hatem then gave orders for bringing to him his finest horses, which he begged the ambassador to present to his master. That prince could not help admiring Hatem's extraordinary generosity; and owned that he truly deserved the title of the most liberal of all men.

It was Hatem's ill fate to give umbrage to all monarch's. Numan, king of the Happy Arabia, conceived a violent jealousy against him.—“Is it possible,” cried he, “that an Arab, who has neither sceptre nor crown, and who wanders about in the deserts, should be compared with me?” His jealousy continually increasing, he believed it easier to destroy than surpass him.

The king made choice of one of his courtiers, as the instrument of his diabolical design. “Go,” said he, “deliver me from a man whom I abhor, and depend on a reward equal to the service.”

The venal courtier wings his flight, and arrives in the desert where the Arabs were encamped. Espying at a distance their tents, he recollects that he had never seen Hatem; and then meditates how he shall know him, without hazarding the discovery of his design. Full of these vile thoughts, he was acosted by a man of amiable figure, who invited him into his tent. He accepted the invitation, and was charmed with his reception. After a splendid supper, he rose to take leave of his host; but the Arab prayed him to tarry with him for some days. — ‘Thou generous

man,' said the king's officer to him, 'I cannot sufficiently thank you for the good treatment I have met with : but an affair of the last importance obliges me to leave you.' 'Can you,' replied the Arab, 'communicate to me this affair? You are a stranger in these parts and I may, perhaps, be of service to you.' The courtier, reflecting himself, that he should not be able alone to accomplish his enterprise, resolved to profit of the good offers of service made him by his host.

'You shall judge,' said he, 'of the confidence I place in you, from the importance of the secret I am going to reveal to you. Know, that Hatem has been devoted to death by Numan, King of Arabia. That prince made choice of me, to be the minister of his vengeance; but how shall his orders be executed by one who has never seen Hatem? Shew me the man, and add that benefit to those you have already heaped on me.' 'I promised to serve you,' answered the Arab, 'you shall see if I am punctual to my word: I am Hatem! and strike,' added he, laying naked his bosom: 'shed my blood, and may my death keep in peace your prince who desires it. It is, however, necessary to acquaint you, that time is precious, and therefore you must not delay. The darkness of the night will screen you from the vengeance of my friends and relations. If to-morrow's day-light surprises you in these quarters, destruction will pour down on your head.'

These words were as a thunder-bolt to the courtier. Astonished at the blackness of his crime

and the magnanimity of him who spoke to him, he fell at his feet, 'God forbid,' cried he, 'that I should lay on you a sacrilegious hand! Though I were to incur the disgrace of my prince, though he should even put me to death.' At these words; he resumed the route of the unhappy Arabia.

The cruel monarch asking his favorite for Hatem's head, he related all that happened. Numan, astonished, cried—'It is with justice, O Hatem, that thou art so revered.'

Generosity and greatness of soul were almost hereditary in Hatem-Tai's family.

Hatem-Tai being asked if he had ever in his life met with a man more magnificent than himself, 'Yes,' answered he, 'being once on a journey, I passed near the tent of a poor Arab, who offered me hospitality. I saw some pigeons flying about his tent, and was surprised to find a plate served with one of these pigeons.

'I was getting ready to set out the next morning, when I saw him come to me with ten other pigeons in his hands, and he begged me to accept them as the only thing he had in his power. I took with me the present, and as soon as I reached home, I sent that poor man three hundred camels and five hundred sheep.' 'What say you of generosity?' said his friends to him: 'you were more generous than that Arab.'

THE END.

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