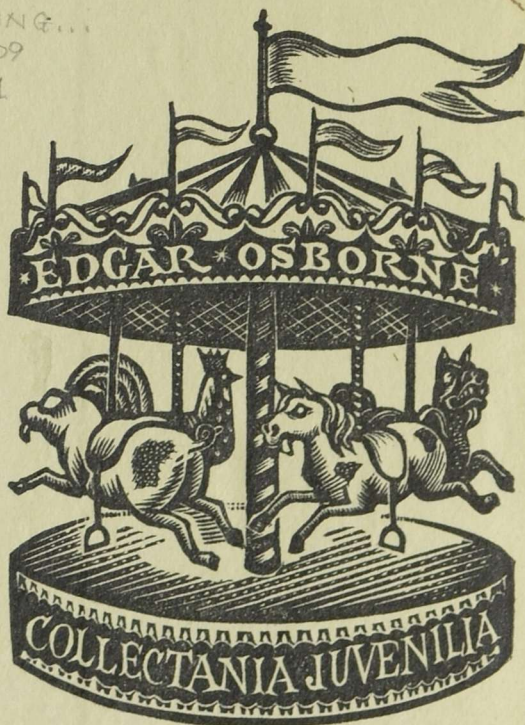




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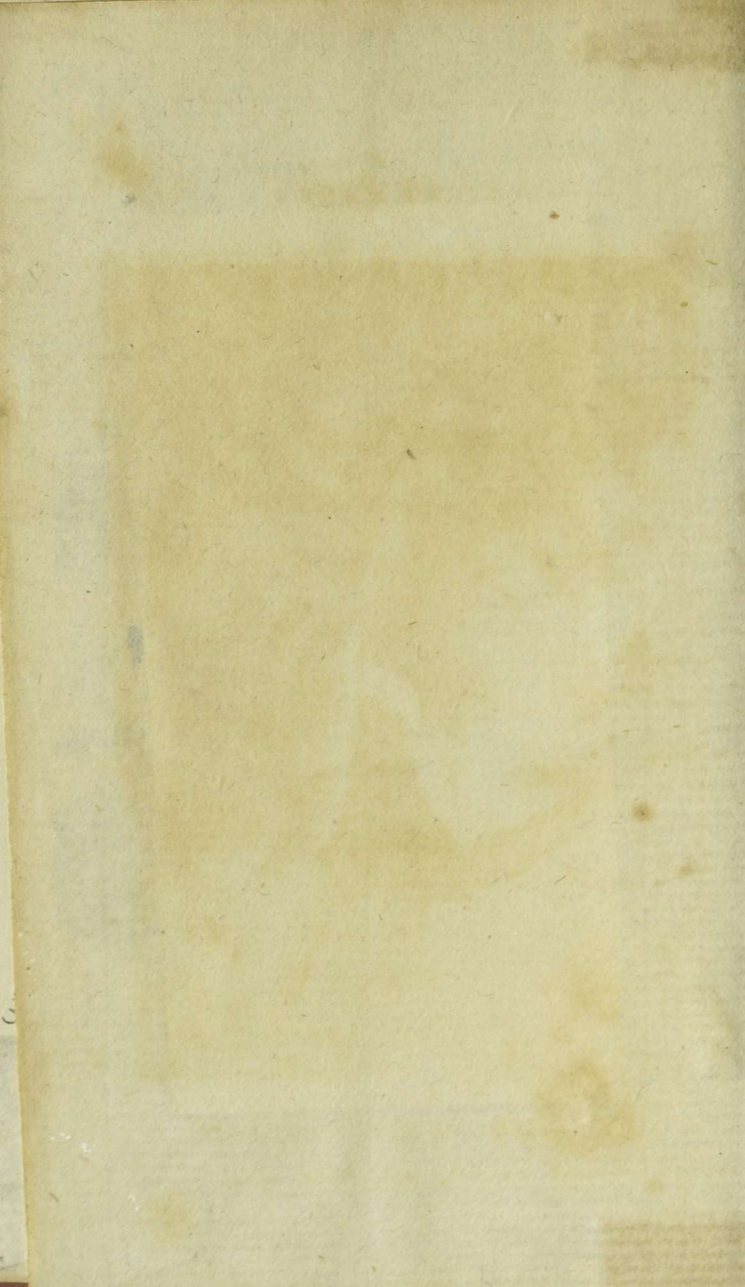
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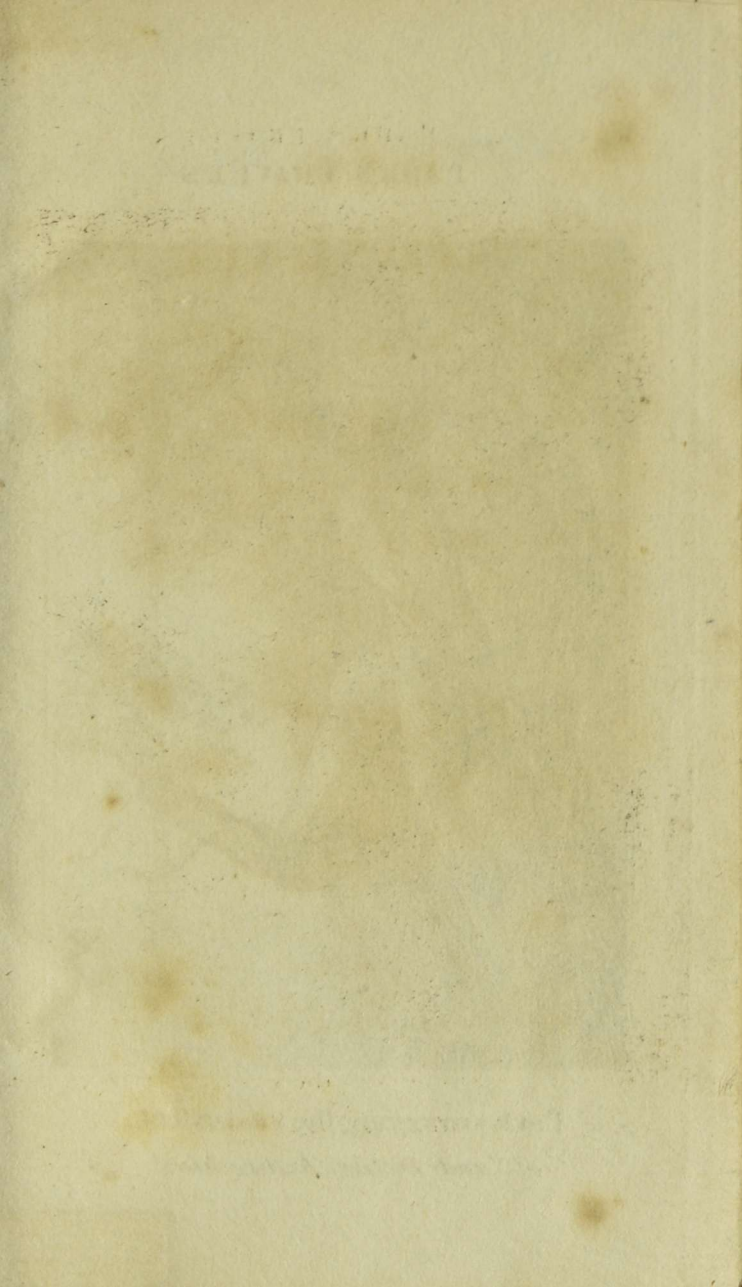


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PARKS TRAVELS



Park surveying the vast extent
of Sandy Desert before him

John *W. Milford*
THE 1814

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PARK'S TRAVELS

IN

AFRICA.



MR PARK travelled for the purpose of making discoveries in Africa, and has written a very interesting account of what befell him in his journey. He went many hundred miles, over unknown regions, for the most part on foot and alone. He passed through different tribes of negroes, and was a long time detained among the Moors, and was variously treated according to the dispositions of the people through whose country he went. The Moors used him with great cruelty; so much so, that he hardly escaped with his life. The Negroes were more humane, and his wants and distresses were often relieved through their compassion. Sometimes his

way lay over a burning sandy wilderness, where he found little to alleviate either his hunger or his thirst. Sometimes he travelled among woods, and across rivers and marshes, exposed to wild beasts, and without any path to guide him. He had the happiness, however, to return in safety to his native country, having penetrated further than any former traveller into the interior of Africa, and having increased considerably our knowledge of that country.

We shall add, in his own words, an account of some of the detached incidents which occurred.

The chiefs through whose territories he passed, generally exacted a tribute from him so long as he had any thing to give, and indeed they often, under that plea, robbed him of his goods. One of these chiefs, by name Batcheri, was exceedingly rapacious. On entering his territories, Mr Park, after losing the half of the few things which he possessed, found it necessary to conceal the rest, lest he should be plundered of them likewise. He could

not even venture to purchase provisions, as Batcheri probably would have taken all his money from him, if he had known that he had any.

“ We resolved therefore,” says Mr Park, “ to combat hunger for the day, and wait some favourable opportunity of purchasing or begging provisions. Towards evening, as I was sitting upon the bentang, or market place, chewing straws, an old female slave passing by with a basket on her head, asked me *if I had got my dinner*. As I thought she only laughed at me, I made her no answer, but my boy, who was sitting close by, answered for me, and told her, that the king’s people had robbed me of all my money. On hearing this, the good old woman, with a look of unaffected benevolence, immediately took the basket from her head, and showing me that it contained ground-nuts, asked me if I could eat them; being answered in the affirmative, she presented me with a few handfuls, and walked away before I had time to thank her for this seasonable supply. This trifling circumstance gave me peculiar satisfaction. I reflected with

pleasure on the conduct of this poor untutored slave, who, without examining into my character or circumstances, listened implicitly to the dictates of her own heart. Experience had taught her that hunger was painful, and her own distresses made her commiserate those of others."—Next morning Mr Park was enabled to leave the territories of this inhospitable chief.

The following circumstance occurred at one of the Negro towns where he happened to stop for a few days.

"About two o'clock," says Mr Park, "as I was lying asleep upon a bullock's hide, behind the door of a hut, I was awakened by the screams of women, and a general clamour and confusion among the inhabitants. Observing my boy on one of the huts, I called to him to know what was the matter. He informed me that the Moors were come to steal the cattle, and that they were now close to the town. I mounted the roof of the hut, and observed a large herd of bullocks coming towards the town, followed by five Moors on

horseback, who drove the cattle forward with their muskets. When they had reached the wells, which are close to the town, the Moors selected from the herd sixteen of the finest beasts, and drove them off at full gallop. During this transaction, the town's people, to the number of five hundred, stood collected close to the walls of the town; and when the Moors drove the cattle away, the inhabitants scarcely made a shew of resistance. I only saw four muskets fired, which being loaded with gun-powder of the Negroes' own manufacture, did no execution. Shortly after this I observed a number of people supporting a young man on horseback, and conducting him slowly towards the town. This was one of the herdsmen, who, attempting to throw his spear, had been wounded by a shot from one of the Moors. His mother walked on before, quite frantic with grief, clapping her hands, and enumerating the good qualities of her son. *He never told a lie*, said the disconsolate mother, as her wounded son was carried in at the gate, *He never told a lie, no never*. When they

had conveyed him to his hut, and laid him on a mat, all the spectators joined in lamenting his fate, by screaming and howling in the most piteous manner. The poor youth died the same evening."

The author having now occasion to pass through the country of the Moors, was kept as a prisoner by these fierce people. They robbed him of the few articles that were still in his possession, and insulted and oppressed him with the most wanton cruelty. "I was a stranger," says he, "I was unprotected, and I was a Christian; each of these circumstances is sufficient to drive every spark of humanity from the heart of a Moor; but when all of them, as in my case, were combined in the same person, and a suspicion prevailed withal that I had come as a spy into the country, the reader will easily imagine that in such a situation I had every thing to fear. Anxious, however, to conciliate favour, and if possible to afford the Moors no pretence for ill-treating me, I readily complied with every command, and patiently bore every insult. But never did

any period of my life pass away so heavily. From sun-rise to sun-set was I obliged to bear, with an unruffled countenance, the insults of the rudest savages upon earth."

He at length made his escape from these barbarians, and the following is the account which he gives of his feelings and situation immediately after this deliverance.

"It is impossible to describe the joy that arose in my mind when I looked around, and concluded that I was out of danger. I felt like one recovered from sickness. I breathed freer; I found unusual lightness in my limbs; even the desert looked pleasant; and I dreaded nothing so much as falling in with some wandering parties of the Moors, who might convey me back to the land of thieves and murderers, from which I had just escaped.

A little before sun-set, having reached the top of a gentle rising, I climbed a high tree, from the topmost branches of which I cast a melancholy look over the barren wilderness, but without discovering the most distant trace of a human dwelling. A dismal uniformity of

shrubs and sand every where presented itself, and the horizon was as level and uninterrupted as that of the sea.

Descending from the tree, I found my horse devouring the stubble and brushwood with great avidity ; and as I was too faint to attempt walking, and my horse too much fatigued to carry me, I thought it but an act of humanity, and perhaps the last I should ever have it in my power to perform, to take off his bridle and let him shift for himself ; in doing which I was suddenly affected with sickness and giddiness ; and falling upon the sand, felt as if the hour of death was fast approaching. Here then, thought I, after a short but ineffectual struggle, terminate all my hopes of being useful in my day and generation ; here must the short span of my life come to an end. I cast, as I believed, a last look on the surrounding scene, and whilst I reflected on the awful change that was about to take place, this world, with its enjoyments, seemed to vanish from my recollection. Nature, however, at length resumed its functions ; and on recover-

ing my senses, I found myself stretched upon the sand, with the bridle still in my hand, and the sun just sinking behind the trees. I now summoned all my resolution, and determined to make another effort to prolong my existence. And as the evening was somewhat cool, I resolved to travel as far as my limbs could carry me, in hopes of reaching my only resource, a watering-place. With this view, I put the bridle on my horse, and driving him before me, went slowly along for about an hour, when I perceived some lightning from the north-east ; a most delightful sight, for it promised rain. The darkness and lightning increased very rapidly ; and in less than an hour I heard the wind roaring among the bushes. I had already opened my mouth to receive the refreshing drops which I expected, but I was instantly covered with a cloud of sand, driven with such force by the wind, as to give a very disagreeable sensation to my face and arms, and I was obliged to mount my horse, and stop under a bush, to avoid being suffocated. The sand continued to fly in

amazing quantities for near an hour, after which I again set forward, and travelled with difficulty till ten o'clock. About this time I was agreeably surprised by some vivid flashes of lightning, followed by a few heavy drops of rain. In a little time the sand ceased to fly, and I alighted and spread all my clean clothes to collect the rain, which at length I saw would certainly fall. For more than an hour it rained plentifully, and I quenched my thirst by wringing and sucking my clothes.

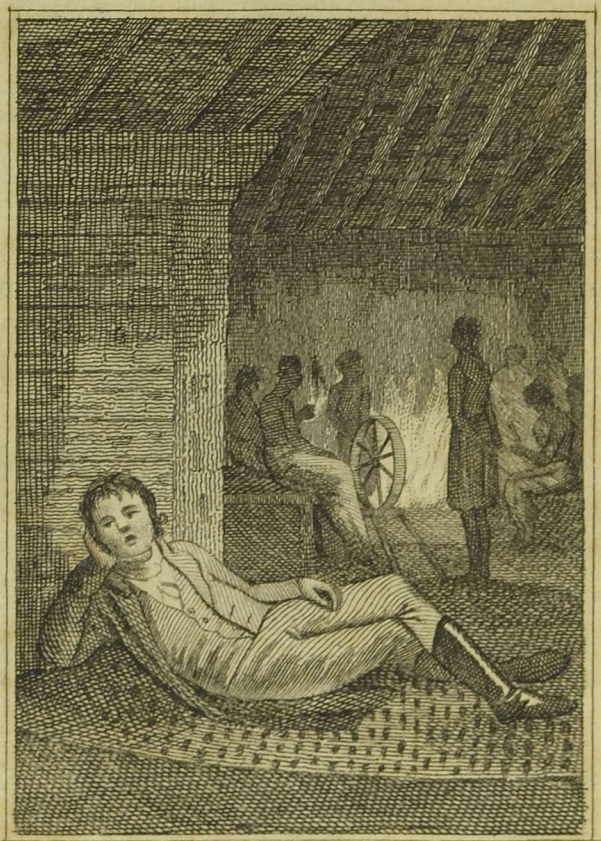
There being no moon, it was remarkably dark, so that I was obliged to lead my horse, and direct my way by the compass, which the lightning enabled me to observe. In this manner I travelled with tolerable expedition until past midnight, when the lightning becoming more distant, I was under the necessity of groping along, to the no small danger of my hands and eyes. About two o'clock my horse started at something, and looking round, I was not a little surprised to see a light at a short distance among the trees, and supposing it to be a town, I groped along the sand, in hopes

of finding corn stalks, cotton, or other appearances of cultivation, but found none. As I approached, I perceived a number of other lights in different places, and began to suspect that I had fallen in with a party of Moors. However, in my present situation, I was resolved to see who they were, if I could do it with safety. I accordingly led my horse cautiously towards the light, and heard by the lowing of the cattle, and the clamorous tongues of the herdsmen, that it was a watering-place, and most likely belonged to the Moors. Delightful as the sound of the human voice was to me, I resolved once more to strike into the woods, and rather run the risk of perishing with hunger, than trust myself again in their hands; but being still thirsty, and dreading the approach of the burning day, I thought it prudent to search for the wells, which I expected to find at no great distance. In this pursuit, I inadvertently approached so near to one of the tents, as to be perceived by a woman, who immediately screamed out. Two people came running to her assistance from

some of the neighbouring tents, and passed so very near to me, that I thought I was discovered, and hastened again into the woods.

About a mile from this place, I heard a loud and confused noise somewhere to the right of my course, and in a short time was happy to find that it was the croaking of frogs, which was heavenly music to my ears. I followed the sound, and at day-break arrived at some shallow muddy pools, so full of frogs that it was difficult to discern the water. The noise they made frightened my horse, and I was obliged to keep them quiet, by beating the water with a branch, until he had drank. Having quenched my thirst, I ascended a tree, and the morning being calm, I soon perceived the smoke of the watering-place which I had passed in the night, and observed another pillar of smoke distant 12 or 14 miles. Towards this I directed my route, and reached the cultivated ground a little before eleven o'clock, where seeing a number of Negroes at work, planting corn, I inquired the name of the town, and was informed it was a village called Shrilla, be-

PARKS TRAVELS



Park sheltered by the
Hospitable Africans

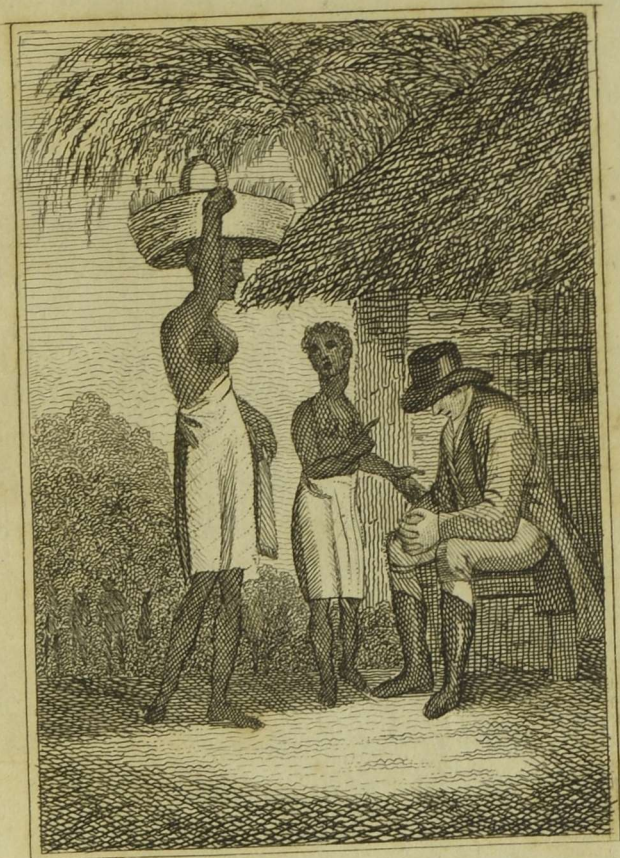
longing to the king of the Moors. I had now some doubts about entering it; but my horse being very much fatigued, and the day growing hot, not to mention the pangs of hunger which began to assail me, I resolved to venture, and accordingly rode up to the chief magistrate's house, where I was unfortunately denied admittance, and could not obtain a handful of corn, either for myself or for my horse. Turning from this inhospitable door, I rode slowly out of the town, and perceiving some low scattered huts without the walls, I directed my route towards them, knowing that in Africa, as well as in Europe, hospitality does not always prefer the highest dwellings. At the door of one of these huts, an old motherly looking woman sat spinning cotton. I made signs to her that I was hungry, and inquired if she had any victuals with her in the hut. She immediately laid down her distaff, and desired me in Arabic to come in. When I had seated myself upon the floor, she set before me a dish of boiled corn, that had been left the preceding night, of which I made a

tolerable meal ; and in return for this kindness I gave her one of my pocket handkerchiefs, begging at the same time a little corn for my horse, which she readily brought me.

“ Overcome with joy at so unexpected a deliverance, I lifted up my eyes to heaven, and while my heart swelled with gratitude, I returned thanks to that gracious and bountiful Being, whose power had supported me under so many dangers, and had now spread for me a table in the wilderness.”

Our author continued his journey from hence towards the great river Niger, to explore the course of which was one object of his travels. He passed part of the way through a very beautiful country, and was so fortunate as to be accompanied by some Negroes, who were travelling the same road, and who showed him great kindness. He at length came in sight of the Niger, glittering in the morning sun, and flowing slowly to the eastward. “ I hastened to the brink,” says Mr Park, “ and having drank of the water, lifted up my fervent thanks in prayer to the Great Ruler of

PARKS TRAVELS



Park relieved by the
Negro Woman

all things, for having thus far crowned my endeavours with success.

“ Being arrived at Sego, the capital of the kingdom of Bambarra, situated on the banks of the Niger, I wished to pass over to that part of the town in which the king resides ; but, from the number of persons eager to obtain a passage, I was under the necessity of waiting two hours. During this time, the people who had crossed the river carried information to Mansong, the king, that a white man was sitting for a passage, and was coming to see him. He immediately sent over one of his chief men, who informed me that the king could not possibly see me, until he knew what had brought me into his country ; and that I must not presume to cross the river without the king’s permission. He therefore advised me to lodge for that night at a distant village, to which he pointed ; and said that, in the morning, he would give me further instructions how to conduct myself. This was very discouraging. However, as there was no remedy, I set off for the village ; where I found, to my

great mortification, that no person would admit me into his house. From prejudices infused into their minds, I was regarded with astonishment and fear, and was obliged to sit the whole day without victuals, in the shade of a tree.

“ The night threatened to be very uncomfortable ; for the wind rose, and there was great appearance of a heavy rain : the wild beasts too were so numerous in the neighbourhood, that I should have been under the necessity of climbing up the tree, and resting among the branches. About sun-set, however, as I was preparing to pass the night in this manner, and had turned my horse loose, that he might graze at liberty, a Negro woman, returning from the labours of the field, stopped to observe me : and perceiving that I was weary and dejected, inquired into my situation. I briefly explained it to her ; after which, with looks of great compassion, she took up my saddle and bridle, and told me to follow her. Having conducted me into her hut, she lighted a lamp, spread a mat on the floor, and told

me I might remain there for the night. Finding that I was very hungry, she went out to procure me something to eat, and returned in a short time with a very fine fish ; which, having caused to be half broiled upon some embers, she gave me for supper. The rites of hospitality being thus performed towards a stranger in distress, my worthy benefactress (pointing to the mat, and telling me I might sleep there without apprehension) called to the female part of her family; who had stood gazing on me all the while in fixed astonishment, to resume their task of spinning cotton ; in which they continued to employ themselves great part of the night.

“ They lightened their labour by songs, one of which was composed extempore, for I was myself the subject of it. It was sung by one of the young women, the rest joining in a sort of chorus. The air was sweet and plaintive, and the words, literally translated, were these : ‘ The winds roared, and the rains 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.' Trifling as these events may appear to the reader, they were to me affecting in the highest degree. I was oppressed with such unexpected kindness, and sleep fled from my eyes. In the morning I presented my compassionate landlady with two of the four brass buttons which remained on my waistcoat; the only recompence it was in my power to make her."

From Sego, Mr Park proceeded down the Niger, and passed through some other large and populous towns, the last of which was named Silla. He there found it quite impossible to go any farther into the interior of the country. His means of subsistence were almost entirely gone; the rainy season was approaching, which rendered travelling in a great measure impracticable; and he found himself again drawing near a country inhabited by the Moors, by whom he had every reason to fear that he would be destroyed.

On his return, the following incident occurred. He was encountered by a party of armed men, who said that the king of the Foulahs had sent them on purpose, to bring his horse, and every thing that belonged to him, to Fooladoo; and that therefore he must turn back, and go along with them. "Without hesitating," says Mr Park, "I turned round and followed them, and we travelled together near a quarter of a mile, without exchanging a word; when coming to a dark place of the wood, one of them said in the Mandingoe language, this place will do, and immediately snatched my hat from my head. Though I was by no means free from apprehension, yet I resolved to shew as few signs of fear as possible; and therefore told them, that unless my hat was returned to me I would proceed no farther: but before I had time to receive any answer, another drew his knife, and seizing on a metal button which remained upon my waistcoat, cut it off, and put it into his pocket. Their intention was now obvious; and I thought that the easier they were permitted to

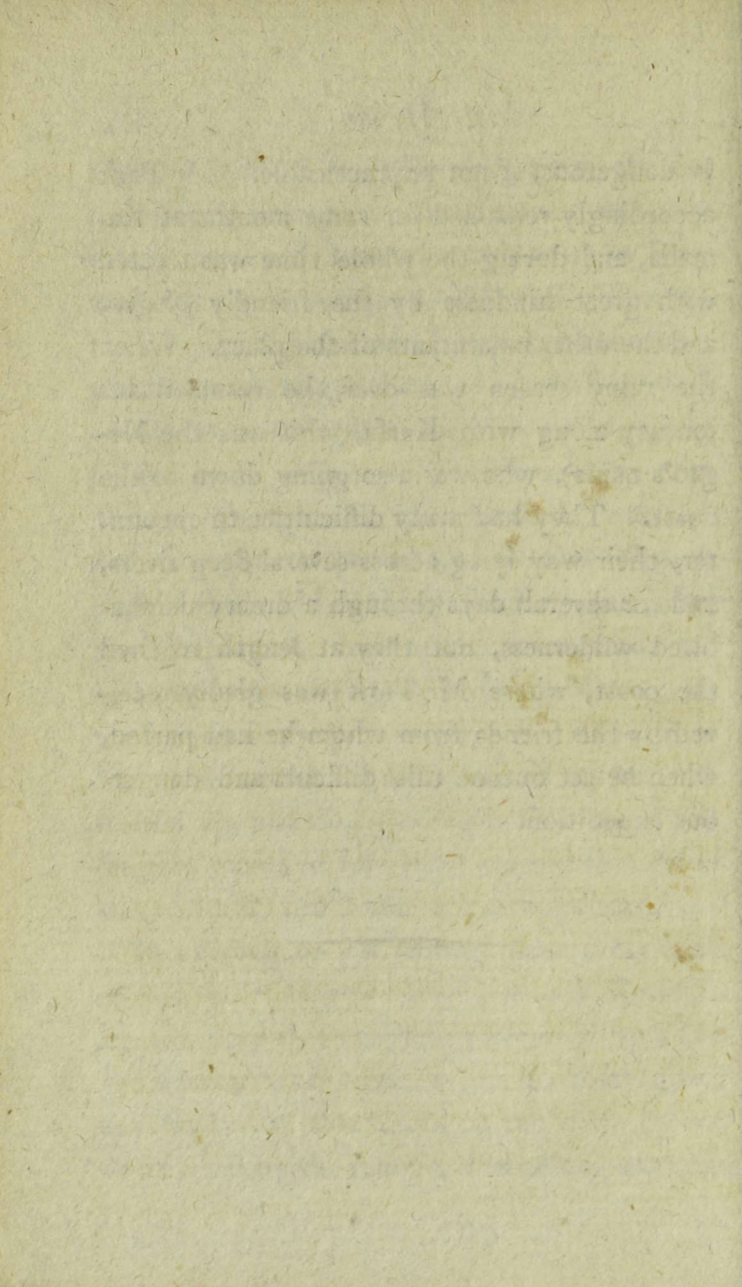
rob me of every thing, the less I had to fear. I therefore allowed them to search my pockets without resistance, and examine every part of my apparel, which they did with the most scrupulous exactness. But observing that I had one waistcoat under another, they insisted that I should cast them off; and at last, to make sure work, they stripped me quite naked. Even my half-boots, though the sole of one of them was tied on to my foot with a broken bridle-rein, were minutely inspected. Whilst they were examining the plunder, I begged them to return my pocket-compass; but when I pointed it out to them, as it was lying on the ground, one of the banditti, thinking I was about to take it up, cocked his musket, and swore that he would shoot me dead on the spot, if I presumed to put my hand on it. After this, some of them went away with my horse, and the remainder stood considering whether they should leave me quite naked, or allow me something to shelter me from the heat of the sun. Humanity at last prevailed; they returned me the worst of the two shirts, and a

pair of trowsers, and as they went away, one of them threw back my hat, in the crown of which I kept my memorandums; and this was probably the reason they did not wish to keep it. After they were gone, I sat for some time, looking around me with amazement and terror. Whichever way I turned, nothing appeared but danger and difficulty. I saw myself in the midst of a vast wilderness, in the depth of the rainy season, naked and alone, surrounded by savage animals, and by men still more savage. I was five hundred miles from the nearest European settlement. All these circumstances crowded at once on my recollection; and, I confess, my spirits began to fail me. I considered my fate as certain, and that I had no alternative but to lie down and die. The influence of religion, however, aided and supported me. I reflected that no human prudence or foresight could possibly have averted my present sufferings. I was indeed a stranger in a strange land, yet I was still under the protecting eye of that Providence who has condescended to call himself the stranger's friend. At this mo-

ment, painful as my reflections were, the extraordinary beauty of a small moss irresistibly caught my eye. I mention this to show from what trifling circumstances the mind will sometimes derive consolation; for though the whole plant was not larger than one of my fingers, I could not contemplate the delicate structure of its parts without admiration.—Can that BEING, thought I, who planted, watered, and brought to perfection, in this obscure part of the world, a thing which appears of so small importance, look with unconcern on the situation and sufferings of creatures formed after his own image? surely not. Reflections like these would not allow me to despair. I started up, and disregarding both hunger and fatigue, travelled forwards, assured that relief was at hand, and I was not disappointed.”

Proceeding on his journey home, Mr Park arrived at a Negro village, named Kamalia. He was here very hospitably received by a Negro trader, who advised him to delay going any farther at that time, as the country was overflowed by the rains, and travelling extreme-

ly dangerous, if not impracticable. Mr Park accordingly remained for some months at Kamalia, and during the whole time was treated with great kindness by the friendly Negro, and the other inhabitants of the place. When the rainy season was over, he resumed his journey along with Karfa, (this was the Negro's name), who was also going down to the coast. They had many difficulties to encounter, their way lying across several deep rivers, and for several days through a dreary uninhabited wilderness, but they at length reached the coast, where Mr Park was gladly received by the friends from whom he had parted, when he set out on this difficult and dangerous expedition.



MEMOIRS
OF
ANTHONY BENEZET.

ANTHONY BENEZET was born in France, in the year 1713. The persecution on account of religious opinions, which then existed in that country, induced his parents to leave France. After a residence of many years in London, they and their son, the subject of this memoir, went to America, and settled in Philadelphia. He was a man of sound understanding, of great piety, humility, and self-denial, and of a very benevolent disposition. Being desirous of spending his life in a manner the most useful to his fellow-creatures, he devoted himself to the education of youth. In this arduous but truly honourable employment,

he passed about forty years ; and acquitted himself very much to the satisfaction of parents and children. His great object was to imbue the minds of his pupils with reverence for religion, and to train them up in a course of virtue. Pecuniary advantages were of small moment in his estimation, of which he gave many striking proofs. A short time before his decease, he declared, in a letter to a friend, that though leisure and retirement would be very agreeable to him, he was well satisfied to remain in his occupation ; and that he knew no other, whatever might be its advantages, for which he would exchange his employment, unless it were a commission to preach and propagate, as a minister, the gospel of Christ.

When the school established in Philadelphia, for the instruction of black people and their offspring, was suspended, on account of the indisposition of their teacher, he voluntarily surrendered his own school to other competent persons, and undertook the education of those people, though in a pecuniary respect he lost considerably by the change. His hu-

mility, and his sympathy with that unhappy race of men, disposed him to think no condescensions degrading, by which he could be peculiarly useful to them: and he was greatly desirous, that they might be so improved in their minds, as to render the freedom which they had lately recovered, a real blessing to themselves, and a benefit to the state.

He was a friend to the poor and the distressed of every description, and laboured most earnestly for their relief and welfare. It may, indeed, be said of him, that his whole life was spent in going about doing good to men. He appeared to do every thing as if the words of his Saviour were continually sounding in his ears: *Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* He was, as Dr Rush observed, a man of a truly catholic spirit; one who loved piety and virtue in others, wherever he found them, and who respected all sincere worshippers of God, in whatever manner that worship was performed.

The miseries of the enslaved Africans, and the great injustice done to them, very deeply af-

fect his compassionate heart. He published many tracts on the subject ; supported an extensive correspondence with persons in Europe and America who were likely to aid his benevolent views ; and exerted himself to the utmost, to ameliorate the condition of the Negroes, and to procure the entire abolition of the trade.

About a year before his decease, his health became much impaired ; but being of a lively disposition, very temperate, and zealously concerned to occupy his talents to the last, he supported his school till he was quite disabled from performing the duties of it. But his charity and beneficence continued with life. The last time he walked across his room, was to take from his desk six dollars, which he gave to a poor widow whom he had long assisted to maintain. Three hours before his death he delivered to his executors a number of tracts, in sheets, on religious subjects, with directions for their being bound and dispersed. He devised nearly the whole of his estate, after the decease of his

wife, to trustees for the support and benefit of the Negro school, of which he had been the tutor. And thus having lived a most useful and exemplary life, he was well prepared for the approach of death. He endured his pains with much patience, and, with Christian composure of mind, resigned this mortal life in the firm expectation of a happy immortality.

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TRAVELS

ACROSS

THE ISTHMUS OF DARIEN.



MR LIONEL WAFER, the author of the following narrative, served as surgeon with the famous Dampier, on board a fleet of privateers in the South Sea, under Captain Sharp. But after some time spent in those seas, the company divided ; one part continued cruising in the Pacific Ocean, and the other landing on the 1st of May 1681, near Cape Lorenzo, determined to march by land across the Isthmus of Darien. This company consisted of forty-four white men, one Spanish and two Muskito Indians. About three in the afternoon, they began their march towards the north-

east, till they reached the foot of a hill, where they built several large huts, in which they lay all night, it raining excessively till twelve o'clock.

The second day they left their huts early in the morning, and ascended the hill, where they perceived a small Indian path, which they followed for some time ; but fearing it declined too far to the eastward, they climbed some of the lofty trees on the hill, and thence discovered a few houses in a valley on the north side. They therefore followed the path, which led them to an Indian village, where they procured some provisions and excellent corn drink. After supper they agreed with one of the Indians to guide them a day's march to the northward.

Accordingly they set out early in the morning, and marched through several old plantations. At twelve they reached the house of an Indian, who lived on the bank of the river Congo, and spoke the Spanish language perfectly well. He seemed at first unwilling to enter into discourse with them, and

gave very impertinent answers to their questions. He told them he knew no way to the north side of the Isthmus; but could carry them either to Cheapo, or Santa Maria, which they knew to be Spanish garrisons. They tried several methods to gain him over to their interest, but all in vain; he continued speaking in the same angry tone, which sufficiently intimated, that he was not their friend. They were, however, forced to make a virtue of necessity, and speak to him in the softest language, as this was neither a time nor place to irritate the Indians.

They were now in a dangerous situation, and knew not what course to take; for they had already offered him beads, money, hatchets, long knives, and other tools, highly valued by the Indians; but all in vain; he refused every thing, and seemed determined to betray them to the Spaniards. At last one of the seamen took a sky-coloured petticoat out of his bag, and put it on the Indian's wife, who was so highly pleased with the present, that she soon changed the temper of her husband.

He now told them he knew the way to the north side of the Isthmus, and would very willingly accompany them himself, had not a cut in his foot rendered him incapable of undertaking the journey ; adding that he would take care they should not want a guide ; and accordingly hired the same Indian that brought them thither, to conduct them two days march farther, for another hatchet. He was also very desirous of keeping them at his house the remainder of the day, as it rained very hard ; but they were too much afraid of the Spaniards to comply with his request, and therefore took their leave of the Indian, and marched three miles farther, where they built themselves huts, and passed the night.

On the fourth day, they began their march very early, because the forenoons were commonly fair, and the afternoons rainy, though the weather had very little effect upon them in their present circumstances. This day they marched about twelve miles, in which, they crossed near thirty rivers ; for there being no paths in this part of the country, the

Indians have no other direction. It rained violently all the afternoon, and the greater part of the night ; their huts were very indifferent, their fire small, and, to add to their misfortune, they could procure nothing to satisfy their hunger. These sufferings entirely banished the dread of an enemy, and their whole thoughts were now employed on the methods necessary for procuring guides and provisions.

They left their huts betimes in the morning of the fifth day, and travelled seven miles through pathless woods. By ten they reached the house of a young Spanish Indian, who had formerly lived with the Bishop of Panama. He spoke the Spanish language fluently, and received the English with kindness and hospitality. His plantation afforded plenty of yams, potatoes, and plantains, but no meat ; so that the only flesh they had during their stay here consisted of two fat monkies, which they distributed to the weak and sickly : this, with a few eggs procured by the Indians, proved of great service. The English adven-

turers had still in their company the Spanish Indian already mentioned, and whom the Indians were desirous of retaining among them. Accordingly the master of the house promised him his sister in marriage, together with his own assistance in clearing a plantation; but the English refused to part with him, lest he should betray them to the Spaniards. They, however, promised to release him in two or three days, when they should be out of the reach of their enemies. They spent the afternoon with this friendly Indian, dried their clothes and ammunition, cleaned their guns, and made the necessary preparations for marching early the next morning.

During their continuance here, I (says Mr Wafer, from whose journal the remaining part of this narrative is taken) met with a very unfortunate accident. One of our company drying some gun-powder carelessly on a silver plate, it took fire close to my knee, and not only tore the flesh from the bone, but carried away a considerable part of the skin of my thigh. This accident caused extreme pain,

which I endeavoured to soften by a few medicines I carried in my knapsack ; but three or four days after, I was deprived of this assistance, by the desertion of a negro who attended me, and carried my luggage. The anguish of the wound soon increased for want of emollients, and the fatigue of travelling being too much for me to endure, my companions were obliged to leave me behind among the Indians of Darien, together with Mr Richard Gobson, who had been an apprentice to a druggist in London, and John Higginson, a mariner, both of whom were rendered incapable of proceeding any farther.

Our companions had not left us long before we were joined by Robert Spratlin and William Bowman ; so that our little company was now increased to five. Some of the Indians, among whom we were obliged to live, perceiving my wound, applied to it certain salutiferous herbs chewed to a consistency, and spread upon a plantain leaf, whereby a complete cure was performed in about twenty days, though a weakness ever after continued

in my knee. In other respects, however, the people did not seem over and above civil; for they treated us with contempt, giving us no other food than green withered plantains, which they flung to us as they would to the dogs. A young Indian, indeed, who had lived a considerable time at Panama, and acquired some Spanish, procured for us, unknown to his countrymen, a comfortable share of ripe plantains, which proved of the utmost service, and in all probability prevented us from perishing. This inhospitable usage did not, however, proceed from the natural disposition of the Indians, who are, in general, a kind and compassionate people; but from the offence they had taken at the behaviour of our companions, who had forced the Indian guides to direct them during the remainder of their journey; the severity of the rainy season being then so great, that even the Indians themselves, who have very little regard either to the weather or to the roads, considered travelling as almost impossible.

Their resentment against us increased, as

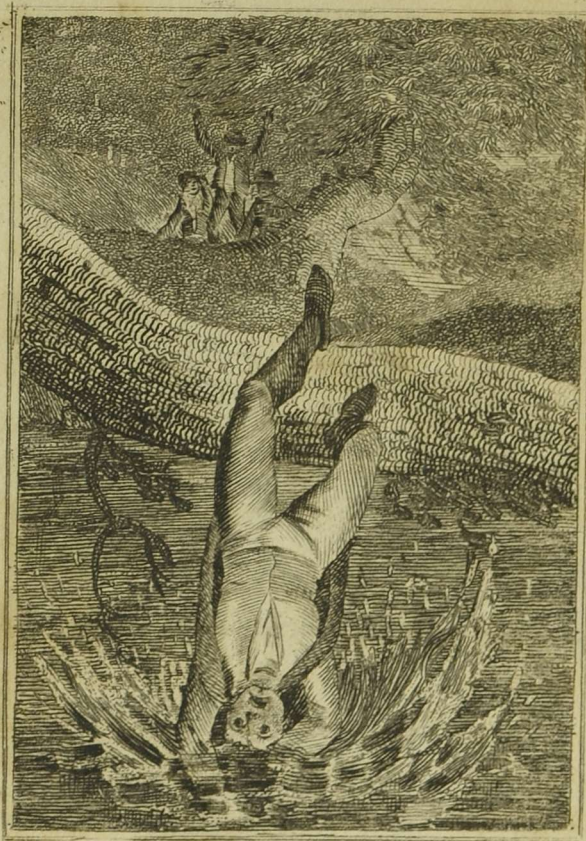
they did not find these guides return so soon as they expected ; and in consequence of this disappointment, supposing it to arise from their having been murdered by the ship's company, it was determined to revenge the supposed loss upon me and my unhappy companions. A large pile of wood was accordingly prepared for that purpose, and in the flames of which we were to resign our breath : but they were at last dissuaded from executing their cruel intentions, by the interposition of their chief, named Lacenta, who proposed sending us northward, under the care of two guides, who might learn from the Indians on the coast what was become of their friends.

Two guides were accordingly appointed, one of whom was the generous Indian who had before assisted us, and the other our inveterate enemy. During the march, we only had dry maiz for food, and that given us with a sparing hand. Our lodging was the bare earth, which was cold and wet, for it rained, thundered, and lightened continually ; and the

dropping of the trees, which were our only covering, increased the severity. The third night we rested ourselves on the top of a small hill, which in the morning was, by the rain that had fallen while we slept, formed into an island, the adjacent lands being covered with water. In this wretched and forlorn situation, we were abandoned by our guides, who made the best of their way back to their own country. The third day after their departure, we perceived the waters were considerably fallen, and we proceeded on our journey, directing our steps to the northward, by the help of a pocket compass; and about six in the evening, reached the banks of a very deep and rapid river, over which we perceived our shipmates had lately passed, as a tree newly felled lay across the stream.

After some consultation, in which we forgot that this river might owe its depth and rapidity to the rains, it was agreed that we were past the main ridge of the Andes, which divides the northern and southern sides of the Isthmus, and that we could not therefore be

WATER'S TRAVELS



A Sailor attempting to cross a River falls into the Stream

far from the north sea. In consequence of this determination, we endeavoured to cross the river over this incommodious bridge, but found it so slippery that we could not stand upon it ; nor was it without difficulty we got over it astride. We however all gained the opposite bank, except Bowman, who fell into the river, and being but a weak man, and loaded with four hundred pieces of eight at his back, we concluded he had perished, as the stream soon hurried him out of sight. When we landed, we searched for a path, which we imagined our former companions must have made, but the search was in vain ; for had there been any such thing, it was now covered with mud and ooze. This disappointment determined us to cross the river a second time by the help of the tree, which we accordingly accomplished, and after a walk of about a quarter of an hour, found Bowman sitting on the bank : the stream had it seems hurried him to an eddy, near which were fortunately a few boughs, by the help of which he had reached the shore.

The day following, being the fifth of our present journey, we were so weak for want of food, that had not Providence directed us to a maccaw tree, on the berries of which we fed with greediness, we must inevitably have perished. On the 6th we reached another river, into which that we had before crossed discharged its waters ; and as there was a necessity for our passing this rapid stream, we knew not how to form a bridge, as we had amongst us only a long knife. After some deliberation, it was determined to cut a sufficient number of hollow bamboes, of which there are plenty in the woods, and to form them into two bark logs, of sufficient dimensions to carry us down the stream. Accordingly we went cheerfully to work, tying them together with the twigs of a shrub like a vine. When we had prepared our little floats, we took up our lodging upon a small hill, and having gathered a sufficient quantity of wood, made a good fire ; but had not been long seated round it, before there arose the most terrible storm of thunder, lightning, and rain, accompanied with a sulphureous

smell, which almost choaked us, while the rain soon extinguished our fire. About twelve o'clock at night, we heard the dreadful sound of the waters tumbling from the mountains, and soon after perceived them pouring upon us from every side, with the most frightful rapidity. We were therefore forced to seek shelter among the cotton trees that grew there in great plenty; but most of them being free from branches to the height of forty or fifty feet, there was no possibility of climbing them. I was, however, fortunate enough to find one, in the side of which the hand of time had formed a cavity about four feet from the ground. I immediately took shelter in this hollow space, in the middle of which I found a knob, that served me for a stool. I was, however, forced to sit in a very uneasy posture, the cavity not being high enough for me to sit upright; but, wearied out with fatigue, I fell asleep, till the trees and rubbish swept down by the flood dashed with such violence against my asylum, that it trembled with the

shocks, and soon roused me from that comfortable composure.

It is impossible for words to paint the terrors that now overwhelmed my mind. At last the morning-star appeared, but the water, which ran with excessive rapidity, reached up to my knees ; though they could not be less than five feet from the surface of the ground. The storm abated with the dawn of the morning, the sun arose with splendour, and the flood soon after retired from the land. This encouraged me to quit my narrow habitation, though the ground was very slippery, and my limbs benumbed with cold. I, however, made shift to reach the spot where we had made our fire, and called aloud for my companions ; but the only answer I received was the melancholy echo of my own voice. Despair now seized my soul, and I dropped dispirited on the ground, but was soon after revived by the approach of Mr Higginson, followed by our other companions. They had, it seems, also found refuge among the trees, and there saved themselves from being swept away by the ra-

pidity of the waters. After having returned thanks to God for our remarkable preservation, we searched about for our bamboes, but found them full of water, and consequently of no use. This misfortune was, in all probability, owing to the little care we took in cutting them; for we perceived they were cracked in many places.

We were now in the utmost dilemma, not knowing what course to take. At length it was agreed to attempt the difficult task to return to the Indian settlement from whence we came. In our journey along the bank of the river, we were agreeably surprised with the sight of a deer lying fast asleep; and we should certainly have killed the creature, had not the person who attempted it forgot to wad his piece, by which neglect the shot tumbled out just before the gun went off. The noise however, roused the deer, which immediately swam across the river and escaped. This was the eighth day of our march, during which we had only fed on a few maccaw berries, and the pith of a bibby tree.

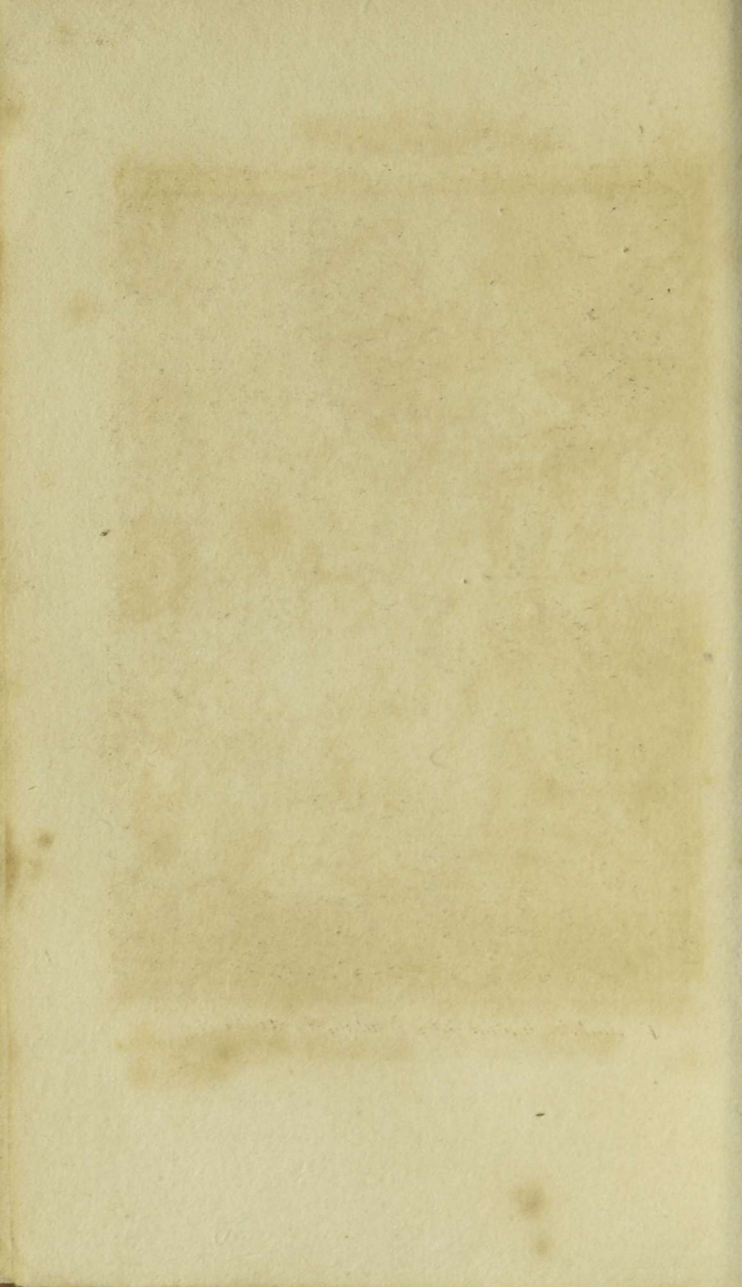
But soon after our disappointment with regard to the deer, we perceived the track of a wild hog, and struck directly into it, hoping it might bring us into a plantain walk, as this creature is very fond of that fruit. Nor were we disappointed; for we soon perceived two Indian plantations. But now our hearts began to fail us; for though we were on the point of perishing with hunger, yet the terrors of immediate death, which we knew we must undergo, provided their friends were not returned, overwhelmed us, and for some time fixed us like statues to the spot where we were standing. At last it was agreed that I should venture alone to the plantation, and the rest of my companions either follow me or retire, according to the reception I met with from the Indians.

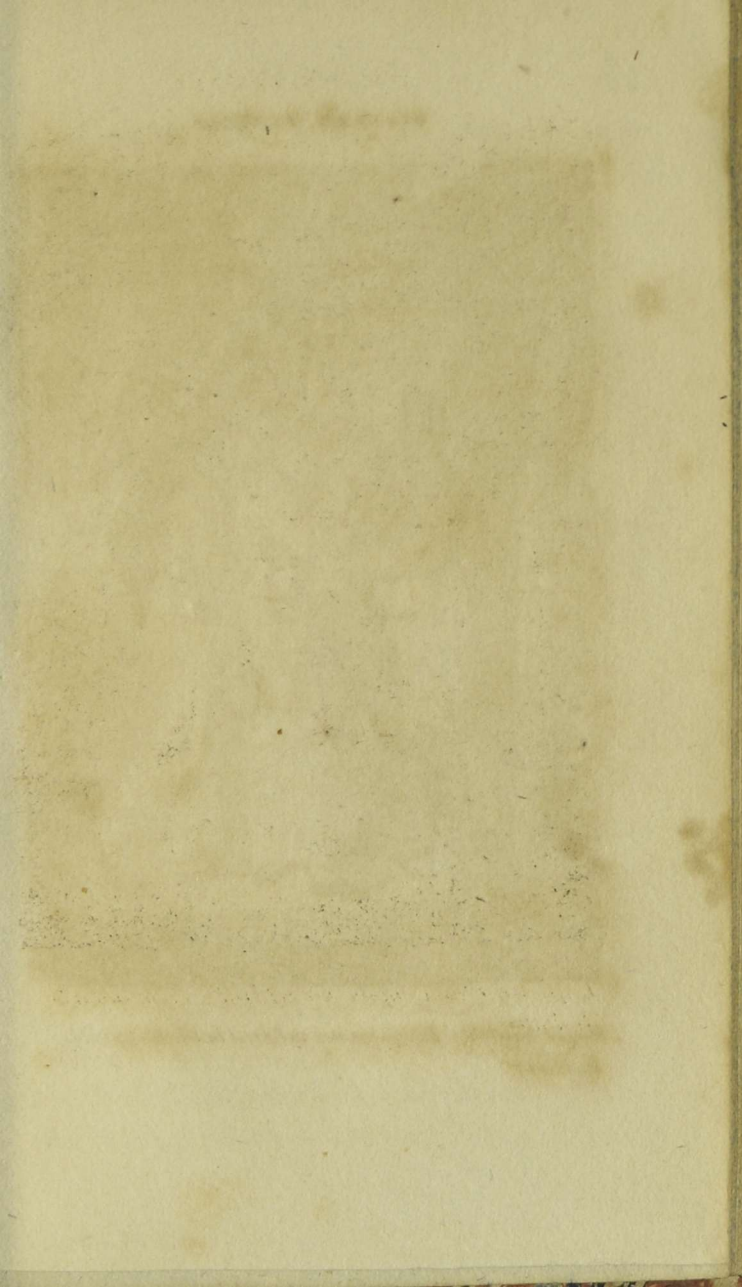
Accordingly I repaired to the huts; but on entering one of them, where there was some meat boiling over the fire, the heat of the house, and the scent of the victuals, so strongly affected me, that I fainted away. The Indians soon brought me to myself, gave me some-

WAFER'S TRAVELS

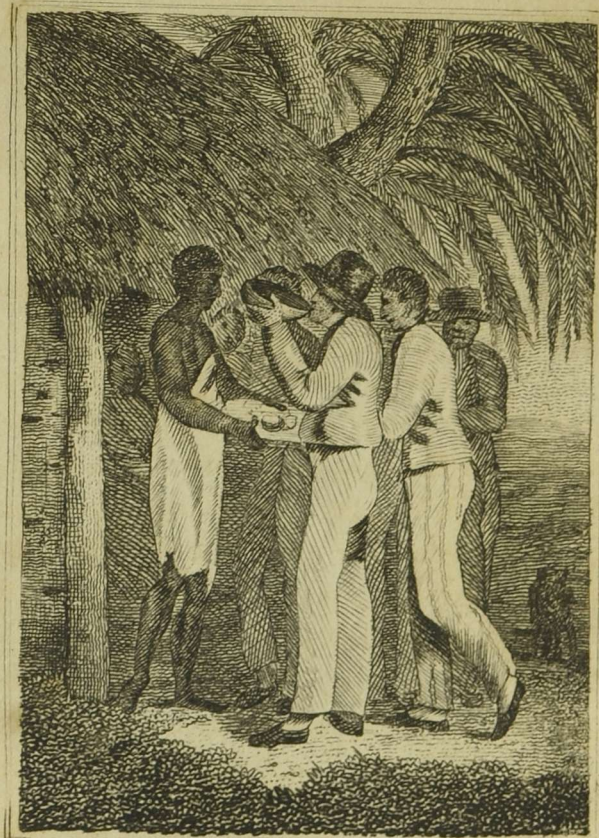


Wafer and the Indian Chief hunting the Wild Boar.





WAFER'S TRAVELS



*Wajer and his companions relaid by the hospitable
Indians.*

thing to eat, and seemed to treat me with more than usual tenderness. What contributed to revive me chiefly, was my perceiving among them those very persons on whose account we were so near being put to death; and it afterwards appeared, that our shipmates had treated them with particular kindness, and they endeavoured by every method to express their gratitude.

As soon as I was recovered, they inquired for my companions, and being informed that they waited at a small distance, soon brought them all in, except Mr Gobson, who was so weary he could not proceed any farther; they therefore carried refreshment to him, and then brought him to the cabin.

We staid here seven days, and were treated with the utmost humanity and tenderness. But being very desirous of reaching the north sea as soon as possible, four of the stoutest young men were appointed to conduct us. We now travelled with such expedition, that in one day we reached the river where we found the tree, tho' we had before spent three days in going

thither. After proceeding about a mile along the banks, we found a canoe, in which we all embarked, and instead of going down the stream, paddled up against the current. At night we lodged in a house, where we were kindly treated; and the next day embarked again, having two more hands added to our number: so that we had now six Indians, all desirous of exerting their utmost endeavours in the service; and, in six days, they brought us to the house of Lacenta, the person who before saved us from the flames.

This house is situated on the summit of a fine little hill, decorated with groves of the stateliest cotton trees I ever saw. The bodies of these trees were in general six feet in diameter, nay, some of them eight, nine, ten, and eleven feet; for four Indians and myself took hand in hand round a tree, and could not fathom it by three feet. Here was also a stately plantain walk, and a grove of other small trees, which would make a pleasant artificial wilderness, were art and industry properly exerted.

The area of this pleasant hill is at least an hundred acres of land. It is a peninsula of an oval form, being almost surrounded with two large rivers, one coming from the east, the other from the west. These streams approach within forty feet of each other at the Isthmus, where they separate again, and after embracing the hill, join their waters on the other side, making there one large river, which runs very swift : there is therefore but one way to approach this seat, which, as I before observed, is not above forty feet in breadth, between the rivers on each side ; and this passage is fenced with hollow bamboes, popes-heads, and prickle-pears, planted so thick from one side the neck of land to the other, that it is impossible for an enemy to pass it.

On this delightful hill, fifty principal men of the country reside, all under the command of Lacenta, a prince whose power extends over all the south side of the Isthmus of Darien : indeed, both the Indians there and on the north side pay him great respect ; but the south side is his country, and this hill his palace.

There is only one canoe belonging to it, which serves to ferry over the prince and his subjects.

On our arrival, Lacenta discharged our guides, telling us, that it was now impossible to travel to the north side of the Isthmus, the rainy season being in its height, and travelling excessively bad ; adding, that we should stay with him, where particular care should be taken of us ; and we were obliged to comply.

We had not been long at this prince's seat, before an incident happened, which tended greatly to increase the good opinion Lacenta and his people had already conceived of us, and brought me into particular esteem.

It happened, that one of Lacenta's wives being indisposed was to be let blood, which the Indians perform in the following manner : the patient is seated on a stone in the river, while another with a small bow shoots little arrows into the naked body of the patient, as fast as possible ; but the arrows are shouldered, so that they penetrate no farther than we generally thrust our lancets ; and if by chance they open a vein which is full of wind, and

the blood spouts out a little, they will immediately leap and skip about, shewing many antic gestures, by way of rejoicing and triumph.

I stood by while this operation was performing on Lacenta's lady ; and, perceiving their ignorance, told the chief, that if he pleased, I would shew him a better way, without putting the patient to so much pain. Lacenta expressed a desire of seeing what I said performed, and at his command I bound up her arm with a piece of bark, and with my lancet opened a vein, but this rash attempt had like to have cost me my life ; for Lacenta, seeing the blood issue out in a stream, and not being apprised of it, swore by his tooth, that if she did any otherwise than well, he would have my heart's blood as a recompence. I was not at all moved, but desired him to have patience ; and after taking away about twelve ounces, bound up her arm, and desired she might rest till the next day, by which means the fever abated, and she in a short time perfectly recovered. This gained me so much reputation,

that Lacenta came to me, and before all his attendants bowed and kissed my hand, while others did the same to my knee, and some even kissed my feet; after which I was taken up in a hammock, and carried on men's shoulders, Lacenta himself making a speech in my favour, and commending me as far superior to any of their doctors. Thus I was carried about from plantation to plantation, and lived in great splendour and repute, administering both physic and phlebotomy to those that wanted my assistance: for though I lost my salves and plasters, when the negro ran away with my knapsack, yet I had preserved a box of ointments, and a few medicines wrapt up in an oil-cloth in my pocket, where I generally carried them.

In this manner I lived several months among the Indians, who in a manner adored me. Some of these had been slaves to the Spaniards, and made their escape, which I suppose was the reason for their expressing a desire of being baptized; perhaps more for the sake of having an European name given them

than from the knowledge they had of Christianity.

During my abode with Lacenta, I often accompanied him when he went out to hunt, in which he took great delight, there being plenty of game in the adjacent country. During one of these incursions to the south-east, we passed by a river where the Spaniards were gathering gold. This river, I imagine, to be one of those which falls into the gulf of St Michael. When we came near the place where they were at work, we stole unperceived through the woods, and placing ourselves behind the trees, observed the method they used in collecting this metal, which was in the following manner. They dipt small wooden dishes softly into the water, and took them up half full of sand, which they drew gently out of the stream, and found among the sand more or less gold, which they separated from the sand and dirt, by shaking the whole together; the latter rising over the brims of the dish together with the water, while the gold settles to the bottom. This done, they dry

it in the sun, and afterwards pound it in a mortar. Then they take it out and spread it on paper, and drawing a load-stone over it, all the particles of the iron, &c. are attracted from it, and the gold left clean and pure. In this manner they work as long as the dry season continues, which is about three months; for during the rains, the gold is washed from the mountains by violent rains, and the rivers are then generally very deep: but in the gathering season, when the floods are subsided, the waters are not above a foot deep. In this manner they collect a very large quantity of gold, some say 20,000 pounds weight in a season; but however that be, the quantity washed down from the mountains by the rains is incredible.

During these incursions I made with Lacenta, my four companions tarried at his seat; and I soon perceived that he intended to keep me in this country all my life. This discovery greatly affected my spirits; but I was careful to conceal my anxiety from the chief. One day as we were pursuing our sport, a pe-

cary or wild hog we had started ran the greatest part of the day, and at last foiled both the Indians and their dogs. This disappointment irritated Lacenta, and he expressed with impatience his desire that some better method of managing this sort of game could be discovered. This gave me an opportunity of commending our English dogs, and of making an offer to bring him some over, provided he would suffer me to go thither for a short time. He stood silent for some time; but at last swore by his tooth, I should have my liberty, together with my four companions, provided I would swear in like manner to return and settle among them; for he had before promised to give me his daughter, as soon as she was of a proper age. I accepted readily of the condition, and the Indian added, that he would at my return advance me beyond my expectation.

The next day we were accordingly dismissed, under the conduct of seven stout men. We had also four women to carry our provisions and my clothes, which consisted only of

a linen frock, and a pair of breeches. I had saved these in hopes of once more enjoying the company of Christians; for at this time I went naked like the savages, and was painted by their women.

We travelled over many prodigious mountains, and at last came to one much higher than the rest, the ascent of which took us up four days. When we reached the top of this amazing eminence, we found our heads greatly affected with a giddiness, and perceived the tops of the mountains we had passed before greatly below us. Sometimes we could not see them for the clouds which flew over them, though they were below us, and when they broke, we could discern the eminences appearing like islands in the ocean. We were now obliged to pass over so narrow a ridge, that we were persuaded it would have been almost impossible to have walked in safety; we therefore thought it the most prudent method to crawl along the top of this amazing precipice; the Indians also did the same, handing their

bows, arrows and luggage, from one to another.

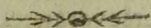
When we reached the foot of the mountains, we found a river that ran into the north sea, and near the banks of it were a few Indian huts, that afforded us indifferent entertainment. Here we lay one night, and it was the first house we had seen for six days ; our lodging before being only hammocks fastened to two trees, and our covering plantain leaves.

The next morning we pursued our journey, and two days after we reached the sea-side, where we were met by forty of the principal Indians of the country, who welcomed us to their houses. They were all drest in their finest robes, which are long white gowns, reaching down to their ancles, and fringed at the bottom. They carried half pikes in their hands, and moved in great order.

On the 10th in the morning, we were roused from sleep by the sound of two guns from a ship in the road, and immediately prepared for paying a visit to our countrymen, being persuaded she came from England. We

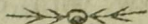
were not disappointed ; for we found she was an English sloop, and that she had a few days before taken a Spanish tartan, and brought her into the road. We went on board the sloop with our Indian friends, and were received with a very hearty welcome. My four companions were presently known, and caressed by the ship's crew, while I sat among the Indians, painted in their manner, being willing to see if they could discover me in this disguise ; and it was near an hour before one of the crew, looking attentively upon me, cried out, Here is our Doctor ; when they all immediately congratulated my arrival among them. But it was near a month before I could clean my skin from the stains made by the Indian paint. We now parted with our Indian friends, and sailed for Carthagena.

PERSEVERANCE.



IN China, where learning confers titles of nobility, there was a young man who possessed courage, wit, talents ; but along with these he had the defects of his age, indolence, impatience, and unsteadiness. In consequence of this assemblage, he went slowly on with his work, and foresaw with chagrin that he would scarcely be a mandarin at fifty years of age. He was on the eve of abandoning study, when one day, at the gates of Peking, he observed a work woman, who was continually turning a piece of steel on a grindstone. What are you about, said the scholar, are you a fool, poor woman? A fool ! nay, Sir, I know my trade too well. Of this piece of steel I am going to make a needle, and, please heaven, I will do it ; so long and so well will I sharpen

it. There is nothing needed but time and patience. Patience I shall have, and as for time it comes without our thinking of it. These words opened the young man's understanding. He returned to school, resumed his labour with perseverance, and having laid aside frivolity, he so sharpened his mind, that he became learned, and rose to high reputation.



BRUCE'S TRAVELS

IN

ABYSSINIA.

THE discovery of the source of the Nile was long an interesting object with Mr Bruce and his friends ; inasmuch as it had, for 2000 years, bid defiance to research and history. The English consulship at Algiers having become vacant by the death of Mr Ford, Lord Halifax pressed Mr Bruce to accept the appointment, to which he consented.

Having furnished himself with a complete set of instruments, and a very large camera obscura, in which he could sit unseen, as in a small sentry-box, and perform his drawings, he set off over-land to Rome, whence he proceeded to Leghorn, and arrived at Algiers, in the Montreal man of war, where he spent a year in learning the language. Business of a

private nature requiring Mr Bruce to go to Mahon, he obtained the necessary passports from the Dey, and also recommendatory letters to the Bey of Tunis and Tripoli. From Mahon he proceeded in a small vessel to Bona on the African coast, whence he sailed again for Tunis, a large city, and more civilized than Algiers. Here he obtained permission to make an inland journey through the kingdoms of Algiers and Tunis. At Dugga he found a large ruined temple, of the Corinthian order, of Parian marble, and which appeared by the inscription to be dedicated to Trajan, by Adrian, his predecessor and benefactor. From Dugga he proceeded by Keff to Hydra, a frontier town between Algiers and Tunis, inhabited by a tribe of the rich and independent Arabs, who claim an exemption from paying tribute ; because, by the constitution of their founder, they are obliged, as much as possible, to live upon lion's flesh, with which they comply ; hence they are very bold and expert horsemen. Having visited the ancient Tipasa, formerly a Roman colony, and Medrashem, a

superb pile of buildings, the sepulchre of Syphax and the other Numidian Kings, he returned to Dugga, and thence to Tunis. His next journey through Tunis was by Zowan, a high mountain, where is still to be seen a large aqueduct, which conveyed water to Carthage. Having again returned by the coast of Susa, he set out from Tunis over the desert to Tripoli, a dangerous journey : in his way he met Emir Hadge, conducting the caravan of pilgrims from Fez and Sus, in Morocco, across Africa to Mecca. His caravan consisted of about 3000 men and 4000 camels. Arrived at Tripoli, Mr Bruce sent his English servant on to Smyrna, with his books, instruments, &c. He then crossed the Gulf of Sydra, and arrived at Bengazi, the ancient Berenice, built by Ptolemy Philadelphus. A dreadful famine prevailing here, he set out southward, and visited Arsinoe and Barca, as well as Ras Sem, the petrified city. At Ptoiometa, he embarked on board a Greek junk, (as it was hazardous proceeding by land, on account of some of the Arab tribes being

at civil war), and intended to proceed to Crete. He sailed on a pleasant day in September, but soon a storm arose, and the vessel had just weathered the Cape that forms the harbour of Bengazi, when it suddenly struck upon a sunken rock, and Mr Bruce, with his Irish servant and a few more, took to the long-boat; they all, however, perished except our traveller, who by his ability in swimming reached the shore, after indescribable exertion. Being in the Turkish dress, he was taken by the wild Arabs for a Turk, who stripped him, and would have left him to perish, if he had not addressed them in Arabic with the salutation, *Salam Alicum*. On his then declaring himself to be from Tunis, and a dervise who went about doing good, and was then going to Greece to get bread, the Shiek of the tribe ordered him to his tent, and gave him relief. All those who remained with the ship came safe ashore. In two days after Mr Bruce was conducted to Bengazi, but with the loss of all he possessed, except a silver watch, by Ellicott, the works of which had been taken out and

broken, and a small portfolio containing sketches of Ptolometa. Thus Mr Bruce here received an irreparable loss, even before he had commenced the great object of his journey. He sailed again from Bengazi, on board of a French sloop, the master of which he had seen at Algiers; and after touching at different islands in the Archipelago, he arrived at Aleppo. He afterwards proceeded to Upper Egypt; and after passing various places of little consequence, they came to Gawa, where is the second scene of Egyptian ruins after leaving Cairo. Here he found a small temple of three columns in front covered with the usual hieroglyphics. On the 22d they arrived at Achmim, where Mr Bruce landed, with his instruments, to observe an eclipse of the moon, but was prevented by the light clouds. On the 25th they came to Dendara, where is a most extensive view of the ruins to be seen in Upper Egypt. A mile south of the town are two temples, one almost buried under ground; but the other is entire and accessible on every side, of an oblong square, built

with monstrous columns, which are of one piece, and consist of four human heads placed back to back against each other, with bats' ears. Before coming to Dendara, our traveller saw the first crocodile, and afterwards hundreds lying upon every island, like a flock of cattle; but so little is the dread of them, that the inhabitants drive their beasts into the river, and the girls wade there without restraint.

They next reached Furshout, which is in a cultivated plain of nine miles extent, sown with wheat and sugar-canes. A most extraordinary phenomenon occurred at this place, in its raining all night, which the Southsayers here said portended a dissolution of government. This did indeed happen; but it was easy enough to be foreseen.

Jan. 7. 1768, Mr Bruce agreed with Hassan to carry him farther, as at Furshout their engagement ended. In the afternoon they made El Gourni, in which is a temple of old Egyptian architecture, and near which scite Mr Bruce thinks stood the ancient Thebes.

On the 20th January they reached Syene, near the south gate of which are many tomb-stones, with inscriptions in the Cusic character; the same in which Mahomet, and the learned of his sect, wrote in the first ages. The time being now arrived when he was to quit all intercourse with Europe, and his dangers were augmenting, he arranged all his manuscripts, and remitted them to Cairo, that all the fruits of his labours might not be lost.

February 16, Mr Bruce set out by the caravan, on the desert route for Kenna, the Cæne Emporium of the ancients. In number, the caravan was about 200 armed, whom fifty Arabs would have put to flight. Nothing can give an adequate idea of the barrenness of this soil, where neither insect nor bird seemed to exist. So burning was the sun, that, upon rubbing two sticks together, in half a minute they took fire. At Legeta, where they halted, they obtained some water, from draw-wells, as bitter as soot: here they waited to join the caravan from Cus, Esne, and part of those of Kenne and Ebanout. In the evening twenty

Turks, well armed, from Caramania, joined the party ; some spoke Arabic, and Mr Bruce's servant Michael, a Greek, interpreted for the rest. They wished to put themselves under an Englishman for their mutual safety, whom they called their countryman, because they believe the English drew their origin from a district called Caz Dagli, between Anatolia and Caramania. Mr Bruce was highly gratified, in these distant regions, to find his countrymen so highly spoken of, and himself so trusted. On their way, they saw a mountain of green and red marble, and at Hamra the sand was red, of a purple cast, and the rocks were of porphyry.

Afterwards, they sailed for the mouth of the Indian Ocean. The coast of Arabia, all all along from Mocha to the Straits, is bold, close to which you may run without danger night or day. About four in the afternoon, they saw the mountain which forms one of the capes of the Straits of Babelmandel, in shape resembling a gunner's quoin.

And on the 2d of August they saw land

a-head, which, upon a nearer approach, they found to be two low islands to the leeward; one of which they fetched with great difficulty. Here they landed to refresh themselves. Mr Bruce, after some little intercourse with the natives, whose conduct was very suspicious, directed the rais to stand out towards Crab Island.

On the 3d, they passed Jibbel el Ouree, then Jibbel Zekir; but the wind turning contrary, they arrived at Loheia the 6th, and sailed again on the third of September. An Abyssinian, who died on board, and who had been buried upon their coming out from Loheia Bay, and who had been seen upon the bowsprit for two nights, had terrified the sailors very much; even the rais had not been a little alarmed, and came to Mr Bruce when in bed, on the 7th, to beg he would lay this terrible visitor. Mr Bruce, however, declined rising on this account, and fairly told him, that as the Abyssinian had paid for his passage to Masuah, he had a right, either he or his ghost, to be landed safely there. Here the

matter ended for the present ; he was, indeed, seen again sometime afterwards, and was said to have robbed several of the passengers of part of their property. Mr Bruce, however, found out, that it was not the ghost, but some of the sailors who were the thieves, and, after this detection, the ghost was never more heard of.

On the 11th, about seven in the evening, they struck upon a reef of coral rocks. The Arab sailors were for immediately taking to the boat ; while the Abyssinians were for cutting up the planks and wood of the inside of the vessel and making her a raft. A violent dispute ensued, and after that a battle, when night overtook them, still fast upon the rock. On Mr Bruce encouraging them, they all took confidence, and said, they hoped he would not leave them. Poles and handspikes were tried in order to stir her, but these were not long enough. A little after, a gentle wind from the east, filling the foresail at the time they all pushed, the vessel slid gently off free from the shoal.

Soon after they came to an anchor in the

harbour of Masuah, or the harbour of the shepherds, which is a small island on the Abyssinian shore, having an excellent harbour, and water deep enough for ships of any size.

Soon afterwards they commenced their journey along the plain on the top of Lamalmon; and were gratified, at last, with the sight of Gondar, and in the course of the next day arrived there. Abba Salama at that time filled the post of Acab Saat, or guardian of the fire. He was a man exceedingly rich, and of the very worst life possible; though he had taken the vows of poverty and chastity, it was said he had at that time above seventy mistresses in Gondar.

The next morning, about ten o'clock, Mr Bruce, dressed in his Moorish dress, went to Ayto Aylo, and soon after they set out for Koscam; and upon coming in sight of this palace, they all uncovered their heads, and rode slowly. As Aylo was all-powerful with the Itegehe, her first counsellor and friend, their admittance was easy and immediate. They alighted and were shewn into a low

room in the palace. Ayto Aylo went immediately to the Iteghe, or queen, to inquire about Welled Hawaryat, who was then ill, and his audience lasted two long hours. He returned to them with the news, that Welled Hawaryat was much better, by a medicine a saint from Waldubba had given him, which consisted in some characters, written with common ink upon a tin plate, which characters were washed off by a medicinal liquor, and then given him to drink. It was agreed, however, that the complaint was the small pox; and the good it had done him was, he eat heartily of *brind*, or raw beef, after it, though he had not ate before since his arrival, but called perpetually for drink.

Mr Bruce, before he entered on his charge of physician, stated to those present in the palace, the disagreeable task now imposed upon him, a stranger without acquaintance or protection, having the language but imperfectly, and without power or control among them. This being assented to by all present, Mr Bruce opened all the doors and windows, fu-

mingating them with incense and myrrh in abundance, and washed them with warm water and vinegar.

Mr Bruce's several patients being all likely to do well, were removed to a large house of Kasmati Eshte, which stood still within the boundaries of Koscam, while the rooms underwent another lustration and fumigation, and after which they all returned; and Mr Bruce got, as his fee, a present of the neat and convenient house formerly belonging to Basha Eusebius, which had a separate entry, without going through the palace.

About the 14th, Mr Bruce was informed, that all his commendatory letters were to be read. In the interim, Mr Bruce was sent for to the ras, who was an old man, sitting upon a sofa; he seemed to be about six feet high, though his lameness made it difficult to guess with accuracy. They must have been bad physiognomists that did not discern his capacity and understanding by his very countenance. Mr Bruce sat down with Aylo, three or four judges, Heikel the queen's chamber-

lain, and others, who whispered something in his ear, and went out ; which interruption prevented Mr Bruce from speaking as he was prepared to do, or giving him his present, which a man held behind him. The ras began gravely, “Yagoube, I think that it is your name, hear what I say to you, and mark what I recommend to you. You are a man I am told who makes it your business to wander in the fields, in search after trees and grass in solitary places, and to sit up all night alone, looking at the stars of the heavens. Other countries are not like this, though this was never so bad as it is now. These wretches here are enemies to strangers; if they saw you alone in your own parlour, their first thought would be how to murder you; though they knew they were to get nothing by it, they would murder you for mere mischief. Therefore the king (continued the ras) has appointed you baalomaal, and to command the Kocob horse. Go then to the king, and kiss the ground upon your appointment.—The king expressed his surprise to me last night he had not seen

you." Mr Bruce went afterwards to the king's palace, and met Aylo and Heikel at the door of the presence-chamber. Tecla Mariam, a scribe, walked before them to the foot of the throne; after which Mr Bruce advanced, and prostrated himself upon the ground. "I have brought you a servant," says he to the king, "from so distant a country, that if you ever let him escape, we shall never be able to follow him, or know where to seek him." To this the king made no reply, nor did he shew any alteration of countenance.

The king was in an alcove; the rest went out of sight from where the throne was, and sat down. The usual questions were now put about Jerusalem and the holy places; whether the moon and stars, but especially the moon, was the same in his country as in theirs; and a great many such idle and tiresome questions. He had several times offered to take his present from the man who held it, that he might offer it to his majesty and go away; but the king always made a sign to put it off, till, being tired to death with standing, he leaned a-

gainst the wall. Mr Bruce sincerely prayed this might be his last promotion in that court. However he was at last permitted to retire.

On the 28th of October, they left Gondar, passed the river Kahha at the foot of the town; and on the 30th, reached Bamba, where Fasil was encamped. Mr Bruce immediately sent Ayto Aylo's servant, whom he had with him, to present his compliments, and acquaint him of his being on the road to visit him. He thought now all his difficulties were over; for he knew it was in his power to forward them to their journey's end. It was now, however, near eight at night of the 30th, before Mr Bruce received a message to attend him. He repaired immediately to his tent. There was no carpet or cushions in the tent, and only a little straw as if accidentally thrown thinly about it. He looked stedfastly at our travellers, saying softly, "Endett nawi? bogo nawi?" which, in Amharic, is, How do you do? are you very well? Mr Bruce made the usual answer, "Well, thank God." He again stopt, as for our traveller to speak, which

he accordingly began to do with some difficulty. "I am come (said he) by your invitation, and the king's leave, to pay my respects to you in your own government, begging that you would favour my curiosity so far as to see the country of the Agows, and the source of the Abay, or Nile, part of which I have seen in Egypt."—"The source of the Abay (exclaimed he, with a pretended surprise), do you know what you are saying? Why, it is, God knows where, in the country of the Galla, wild, terrible people. The source of the Abay! are you raving? (repeats he again.) Are you to get there, do you think, in a twelvemonth, or more, or when?" "Sir (said Mr Bruce) the king told me it was near Sacala, and still nearer Geesh; both villages of the Agows, and both in your government." "And so you know Sacala and Geesh? (says he) whistling and half angry." "I can repeat the names that I hear, (said Mr Bruce); all Abyssinia knows the head of the Nile."—"Aye (says he, imitating my voice and manner), but all Abyssinia won't carry

you there, that I promise you." "If you are resolved to the contrary (said Mr Bruce), they will not; I wish you had told the king so in time, then I should not have attempted it; it was relying on you alone I came so far, confident, if all the rest of Abyssinia could not protect me there, that your word singly could do it."

He now put on a look of more complacency.—"Look you, Yagoube (says he), it is true I can do it; and for the king's sake who recommended it to me, I would do it; but the Acab Salama has sent to me, to desire me not to let you pass further; he says it is against the law of the land to permit Franks like you to go about the country, and that he has dreamed something ill will befall me if you go into Maitsha. (Mr Bruce was much irritated). A boy of these Galla would think nothing of killing a man of your country. You white people are all effeminate; you are like so many women; you are not fit for going into a province where all is war, and inhabited by men, warriors from their cradle."

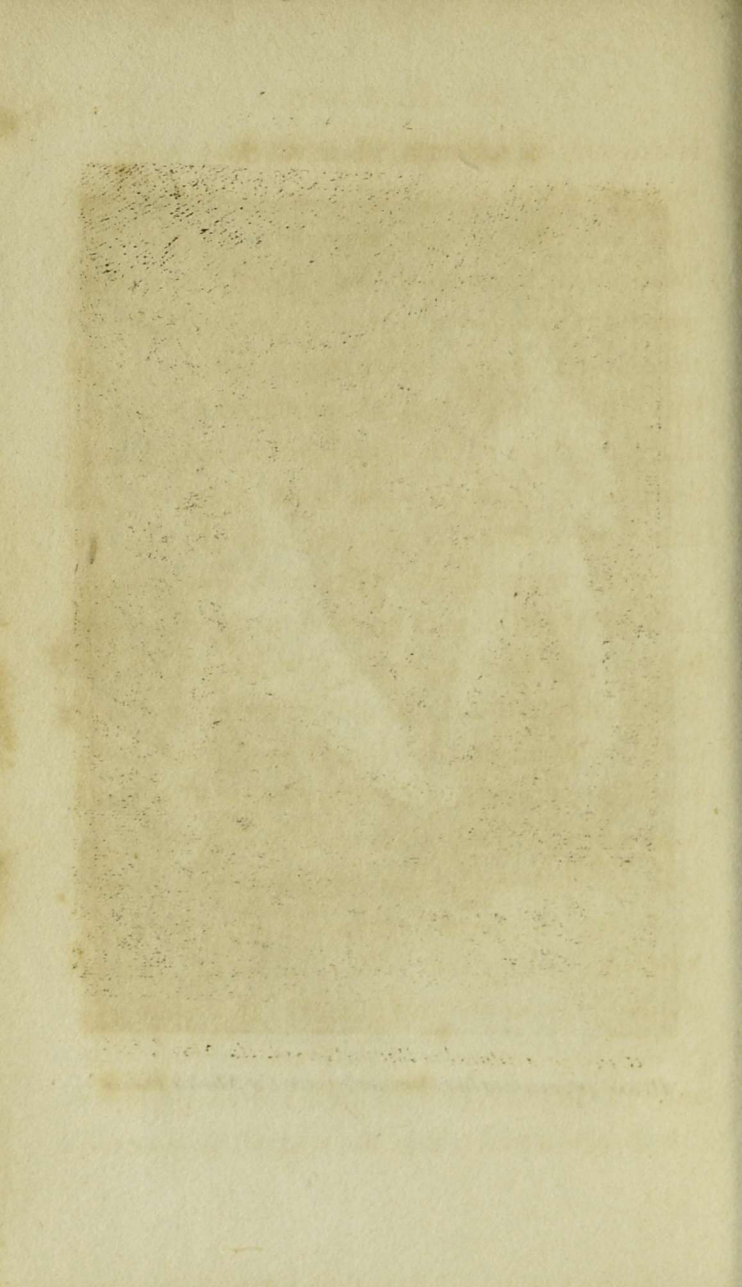
“Sir (said our traveller), I have passed thro’ many of the most barbarous nations in the world ; all of them, excepting this clan of yours, have some great men among them above using a defenceless stranger ill. But the worst and lowest individual among the most uncivilized people never treated me as you have done to-day under your own roof, where I have come so far for protection.” He asked, “How?” “You have in the first place, (said Mr Bruce), publicly called me Frank, the most odious name in this country, and sufficient to occasion me to be stoned to death without further ceremony, by any set of men wherever I may present myself. By Frank you mean one of the Romish religion, to which my nation is as adverse as yours ; I am no soldier, though I know enough of war to see yours are poor proficient in that trade. But there are soldiers, friends and countrymen of mine, who would not think it an action in their lives to vaunt of, that with 500 men they had trampled all your naked savages into dust.”

“I would, without thinking myself over-matched, fight the two best horsemen you shall choose from this your army of famous men, who are warriors from their cradle; and if, when the king arrives, you are not returned to your duty, and we meet again, as we did at Limjour, will pledge myself, with his permission, to put you in mind of this promise.” He repeated the word *duty* after him, and would have replied, but Mr Bruce’s nose burst out in a stream of blood; and, that instant, Aylo’s servant took hold of Mr Bruce by the shoulder to hurry him out of the tent. Mr Bruce went to bed, and Fasil, having sent for him the next morning, invited him to partake of a great breakfast; honey and butter, and raw beef in abundance, as also some stewed dishes that were very good. Mr Bruce then took a napkin, and opened it before him; he seemed to have forgotten the present altogether; but from that moment he saw his countenance changed, he was like another man. He shoved them from him, laughing, and said, “I will not take them from you, Yagoubé; this

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Bruce presenting his Blunderbuss to the Shekh Fidele.



is downright robbery ; I have done nothing for this, which is a present for a king." "If you will not receive them (continued Mr Bruce), such as they are offered, it is the greatest affront ever was put upon me ; I can never, you know, receive them again." He then folded up the napkin with all the articles, and gave them to an officer ; after which the tent was again cleared for consultation ; it was about one o'clock, or after it, when Mr Bruce was admitted to Fasil : "Friend Yagoube (says he), I did not expect to meet a man like you here in the fields ; but you will quickly be back ; we shall meet on better terms at Gondar ; the head of the Nile is near at hand ; a horseman, express, will arrive there in a day. I have given you a good man, my servant ; he will go to Geesh with you, and return you to a friend of Ayto Aylo's and mine, Shalaka Welled Amlac ; he has the dangerous part of the country wholly in his hands, and will carry you safe to Gondar ; I shall answer for your safety ? When will you set out ? to-morrow ? Mr Bruce replied, that he wished to proceed

immediately. Fasil then said to Mr Bruce, "Throw off those clothes; I must give you new ones. The king granted you Geesh, where you are going, and I must invest you. Bear witness, I give you, Yagoube, the Agow Geesh, as fully and freely as the king has given it me. You need not be alarmed at the wild people who are going after you; they are commanded by Welleta Yasous, who is your friend, and is very grateful for the medicines you sent him at Gondar: you see those seven people (our traveller never saw more thief-like fellows in his life), these are all leaders and chiefs of the Galla—savages, if you please; they are all your brethren."

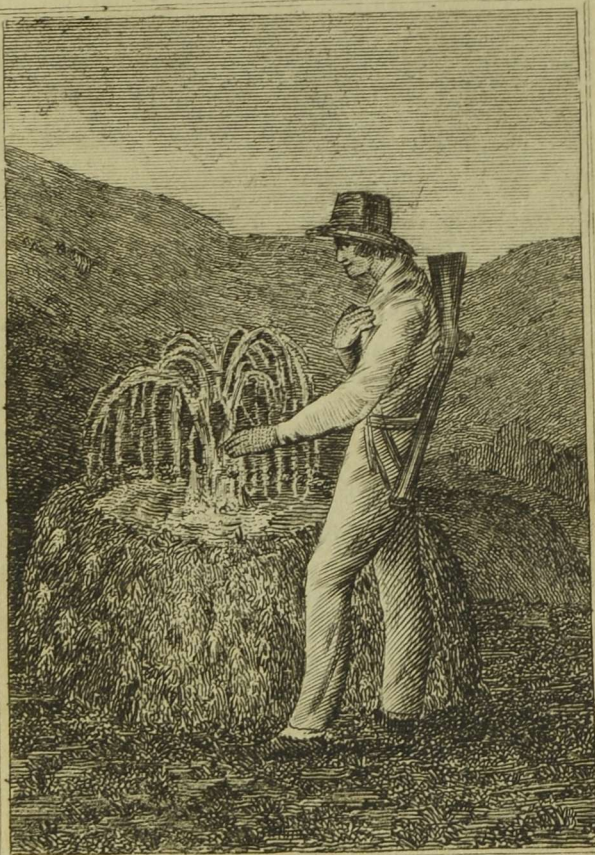
They therefore set off next morning, and arrived November the 3d, at a triple ridge of mountains, disposed one range behind the other, nearly in form of three concentric circles, which seem to suggest an idea, that they are mountains of the moon, or the *Montes Lunæ* of antiquity, at the foot of which the Nile was said to rise; in fact, there are no others. Being arrived at the top of the moun-

tain, they had a distinct view of all the remaining territory of Sacala, the mountain Geesh, and church of St Michael Geesh, about a mile and a half from St Michael Sacala, where they then were. They saw, immediately below them, the Nile itself, strangely diminished in size, and now only a brook that had scarcely water to turn a mill. Mr Bruce could not satiate himself with the sight, revolving in his mind all those classical prophecies that had given the Nile up to perpetual obscurity and concealment. The whole company passed, and ascended a gentle-rising hill, near the top of which is St Michael Geesh. The Nile here is not four yards over, and not above four inches deep where they crossed: it was indeed become a very trifling brook. The whole company had halted on the north side of St Michael's church, and about four o'clock in the afternoon, Waldo, his guide, carried our traveller round to the south side of the church out of the grove of trees that surrounded it: "Look at that hillock of green sod in the middle of that watery spot (said he), it is in

that the two fountains of the Nile are to be found; Geesh is on the face of the rock where yon green trees are; if you go the length of the fountains pull off your shoes, for these people are all Pagans, and they believe in nothing that you believe, but only in this river, to which they pray every day as if it were God; but this, perhaps, you may do likewise." Mr Bruce, throwing his shoes off, ran down the hill towards the little island of green sods, which was about 200 yards distant; and after this, came to the island of green turf, which was in the form of an altar, apparently the work of art, and he stood in rapture over the principal fountain which rises in the middle of it.

It is easier to guess than describe the situation of Mr Bruce's mind at that moment—standing on that spot which had baffled the genius, industry, and inquiry of both ancients and moderns, for the course of near 3000 years. Kings had attempted this discovery at the head of armies, and each expedition was distinguished from the last, only by the differ-

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.



Bruce's arrival at the source of the Nile.

ence of the numbers which had perished, and agreed alone in the disappointment which had uniformly, and without exception, followed them all. Divine honours are paid by the Agows of Damot to the Nile; they worship the river, and thousands of cattle have been offered, and still are offered to the spirit supposed to reside at its source. They are divided into clans and tribes, who meet annually at the source of the river, to which they sacrifice, calling it by the name of the *God of Peace*.

Geesh, however, though not farther distant from these than 600 yards, is not in sight of the source of the Nile. The country upon the same plain with the fountains, terminates in a cliff about 300 yards deep down to the plain of Assoa, which flat country continues in the same subaltern degree of elevation, till it meets the Nile again about seventy miles southward, after it has made the circuit of the provinces of Gojam and Damot.

A prodigious cave is in the middle of this cliff, in a direction straight north towards the

fountains, whether the work of nature or art Mr Bruce cannot determine.

From the edge of the cliff of Geesh above where the village is situated, the ground slopes with a very easy descent, due north, and lands you at the edge of a triangular marsh above eighty-six yards broad, in the line of the fountains, and 286 yards two feet from the edge of the cliff above the house of the priest of the river, where Mr Bruce resided.

In the middle of the marsh, near the bottom of the mountain of Geesh, arises a hillock of a circular form, about three feet from the surface of the marsh itself, though apparently founded much deeper in it. The diameter of this is something short of twelve feet; it is surrounded by a shallow trench, which collects the water, and voids it eastward; it is firmly built with sod or earthen turf, brought from the sides, and constantly kept in repair; and this is the altar upon which all their religious ceremonies are performed. This mouth, or opening of the source, is some parts of an inch less than three feet diameter, and about six

feet six inches deep. At the distance of ten feet from the first of these springs, a little to the west of south, is the second fountain, about eleven inches in diameter; but this is eight feet three inches deep. And about twenty feet distant from the first, is the third source, its mouth being something more than two feet large, and it is five feet eight inches deep. Both these last fountains stand in the middle of small altars, made, like the former, of firm sod, but neither of them above three feet diameter. The latitude of this long-sought-for spot Mr Bruce determined to be 10 deg. 59 min. 10 sec. lat. and the lon. 36 deg. 55 sec. 30 min. east.

Mr Bruce found, by experiment, that at the sources of the Nile he was then more than two miles above the level of the sea. November 6, at a quarter past five in the morning, Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at 44 deg. at noon 96 deg. and at sun-set 46 deg.

The Nile, keeping nearly in the middle of the marsh, runs east for thirty yards, and being arrived under the hill, whereon stands the

church of Saint Michael Sacala, about two miles from its source, it there becomes a stream that would turn a common mill, shallow, clear, and running over a rocky bottom about three yards wide ; nothing can be more beautiful than this spot.—After having stepped over the ford fifty times, he observed it no larger than a common mill-stream. The Nile from this ford turns to the eastward, and, about four miles farther, a fall commences of about six feet. Arrived in the plain of Goutto, the river makes so many sharp unnatural windings, that it differs from any other river Mr Bruce ever saw. Passing this plain, it turns due north, receives the tribute of many small streams, the Gometti, the Googueri, and the Kebezza, which descend from the mountains of Aformasha, and, united, fall into the Nile about twenty miles below its source. It begins here to run rapidly, and again receives a number of beautiful rivulets, till it begins to become a considerable stream, and empties itself at last into the Mediterranean.

On the 9th of November, Mr Bruce having

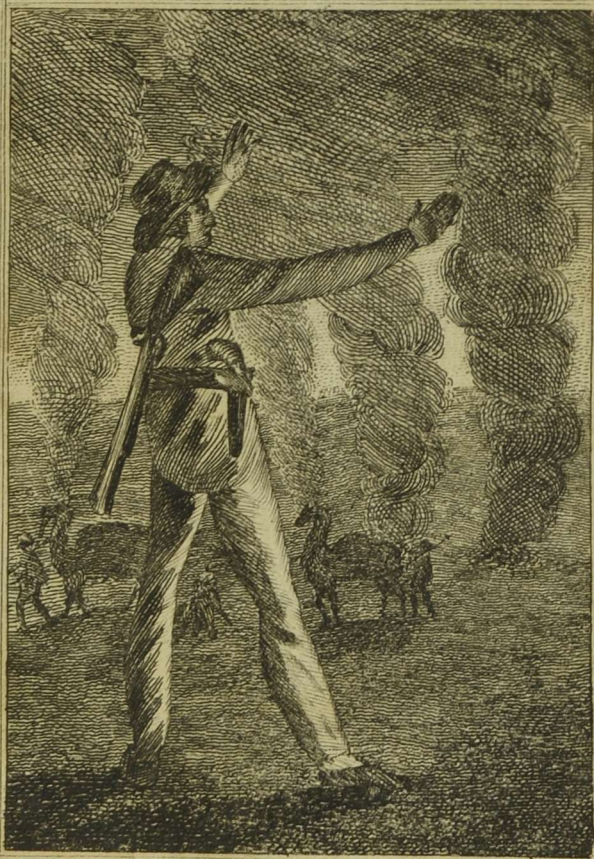
finished his memorandum relating to these remarkable places, traced again on foot the whole course of this river from its source to the plain of Goutto. He was unattended by any one, having with him only two hunting dogs, and his gun in his hand. The quantity of game of all sorts, especially the deer kind, was indeed surprising; but though he was, as usual, a very successful sportsman, he was obliged, for want of help, to leave each deer where he fell.

On the 20th of October, in the evening, they left Chendi, and rested two miles from the town; and, on the 9th of November, having received all the assurances possible from Idris, the guide whom Mr Bruce had engaged at Chendi, that he would live and die with them, after having repeated the prayer of peace, they put on the best countenance possible, and committed themselves to the desert. There were Ishmael the Turk, two Greek servants, besides Georgis, who was almost blind and useless; two Barbarians, who took care of the camels, Idris, and a young man, a

relation of his, who joined him at Barbar to return home; in all, nine persons, eight only of whom were effective. They were all well armed with blunderbusses, swords, pistols, and double-barrelled guns, except Idris, and his lad, who had lances, the only arms they could use.

On the 14th, they were at once surprised and terrified by a sight surely one of the most magnificent in the world. In that vast expanse of desert, from west, and to north-west of them, they saw a number of prodigious pillars of sand, at different distances, at times moving with great celerity, at others stalking on with a majestic slowness; at intervals they thought they were coming in a very few minutes to overwhelm them; and small quantities of sand did actually more than once reach them. Again they would retreat so as to be almost out of sight, their tops reaching to the very clouds. There the tops often separated from the bodies, and these, once disjoined, dispersed in the air, and did not appear more. Sometimes they were broken near the middle,

BRUCE'S TRAVELS.



Bruce surveying the pillars of burning sand.



as if struck with a large cannon-shot. About noon they began to advance with considerable swiftness upon them, the wind being very strong at north. Eleven of them ranged alongside of them, about the distance of three miles. The greatest diameter of the largest appeared to Mr Bruce at that distance as if it would measure ten feet. They retired from them with a wind at south-east, leaving an impression upon our traveller's mind to which he can give no name, though surely one ingredient in it was fear, with a considerable deal of wonder and astonishment. It was in vain to think of flying; the swiftest horse, or fastest sailing ship, could be of no use to carry them out of this danger, and the full persuasion of this riveted him as if to the spot where he stood, and he let the camels gain on him so much in his state of lameness, that it was with some difficulty he could overtake them.

From this day subordination, though not entirely ceased, was fast on the decline; all was discontent, murmuring, and fear. Their water was greatly diminished, and that terri-

ble death by thirst began to stare them in the face, and this was owing in a great measure to their own imprudence. Ishmael, who had been left centinel over the skins of water, had slept so soundly, that this had given an opportunity to a Tucorory to open one of the skins that had not been touched, and serve himself out of it at his own discretion.

The phenomenon of the Simoom, unexpected by them, though foreseen by Idris, caused them all to relapse into the greatest despondency. It still continued to blow, so as to exhaust them entirely, though the blast was so weak as scarcely would have raised a leaf from the ground. At twenty minutes before five the Simoom ceased, and a comfortable and cooling breeze came by starts from the north, blowing five or six minutes at a time, and then falling calm.

That desert, which did not afford inhabitants for the assistance or relief of travellers, had greatly more than sufficient for destroying them. These were Jahaheen Arabs, those cruel barbarous fanatics, that deliberately shed

so much blood during the time they were establishing the Mahometan religion. However, they were lucky enough not to meet with any of those barbarians.

On the 22d, their camels were reduced to five, and it did not seem that these were capable of continuing their journey much longer.

On the 27th, at half past five in the morning, they attempted to raise their camels by every method they could devise, but all in vain, only one of them could get upon his legs, and that one did not stand two minutes till he kneeled down, and could never be raised afterwards.—Every way they turned themselves, death now stared them in the face. They had neither time nor strength to waste, nor provisions to support them. They then took the small skins that had contained their water, and filled them as far as they thought a man could carry them with ease; but after all these shifts there was not enough to serve them three days, at which he had estimated their journey to Syene, which still however was uncertain. Finding, therefore, the ca-

mels would not rise, they killed two of them, and took as much flesh as might serve for the deficiency of bread, and, from the stomach of each of the camels, got about four gallons of water; the small remains of their miserable stock of black bread and dirty water, the only support they had hitherto lived on amidst the burning sands, and their spirits likewise were exhausted by an uncertainty of their journey's end. They were surrounded among these terrible and unusual phenomena of nature, which Providence, in mercy to the weakness of his creatures, has concealed far from their sight in deserts almost inaccessible to them. Nothing but death was before their eyes: all Mr Bruce's papers, his quadrant, telescopes, and time-keeper, were now abandoned to the rude and ignorant hands of robbers, or to be buried in the sands. However, on the 29th, to their inexpressible joy, they saw the palm-trees at Assouan, and a quarter before ten arrived in a grove of palm-trees on the north of that city.

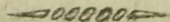
They were not long arrived, before they

received from the Aga about fifty loaves of fine wheat bread, and several large dishes of dressed meat. But the smell of these no sooner reached Mr Bruce, than he fainted upon the floor. He made several trials afterwards, with no better success, for the first two days, nor could he reconcile himself to any sort of food but toasted bread and coffee. His servants had none of these qualms, for they partook largely and greedily of the Aga's bounty.

Mr Bruce was obliged to keep his room five or six days after his arrival; but as soon as he got better, he and his servants set out on dromedaries, in order to recover his baggage. —The Aga had sent out four servants belonging to the stables to accompany them, active, lively, and good-humoured fellows. About twelve o'clock, they got into a valley, and hid themselves in the lowest part of it, under a bank, for the night was exceeding cold. Mr Bruce was afraid that they had passed his baggage in the dark, as none of them were perfectly sure of this place; but as soon as

light came, they recovered their track as fresh and entire as when they made it. In about half-an-hour they had the unspeakable satisfaction to find the quadrant and whole baggage; and by them the bodies of their slaughtered camels, a small part of one of them having been torn by the Haddaya, or kite.

Mr Bruce, after having received a very kind reception at this place, on the 11th of December set out for Cairo, where he arrived on the 10th of January 1773. After some stay there, he proceeded to Alexandria, where he arrived without any thing material occurring. At length, our traveller happily reached Marseilles, whence he sailed for England.



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NARRATIVE

OF

MR BYRON.

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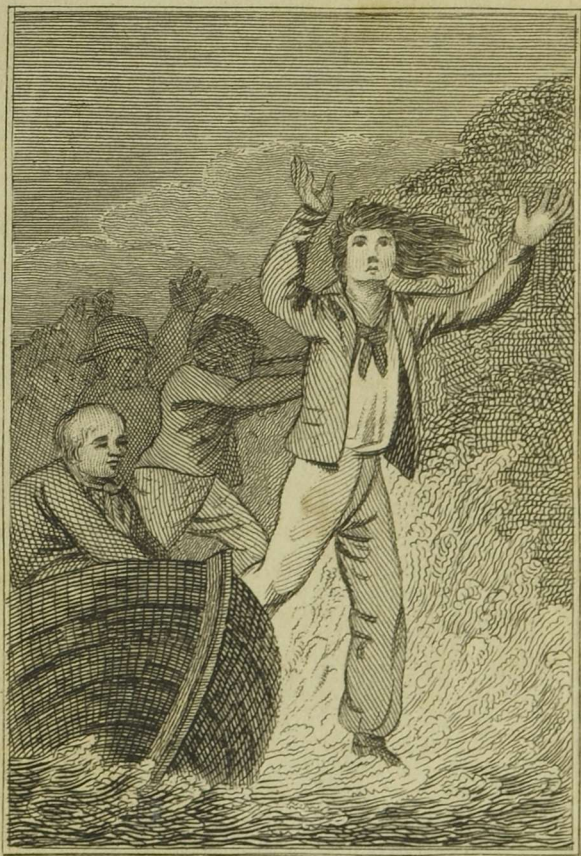
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BYRON'S VOYAGE



Byron and his Companions landing after
being shipwrecked on the coast of
South America

NARRATIVE

OF

MR BYRON.

MR BYRON was shipwrecked in a storm on the coast of South America. It happened during the night, and the scene was very dismal; the tempest beating on them, and mountainous waves continually washing over the ship, so as to threaten them all with destruction. When the day dawned, they saw the shore at a small distance, and a considerable number of the men, among whom was Mr Byron, reached it by means of their boats. The land was desolate and barren, without any sign of culture, so that they could hope to receive little other benefit from it, than pre-

servation from the sea. "It must be confessed," says Mr Byron, "this was a great and merciful deliverance from immediate destruction; but then we had wet, cold, and hunger to struggle with, and no visible remedy against any of these evils. Exerting ourselves, however, though faint, benumbed, and almost helpless, to find some wretched covert against the extreme inclemency of the weather, we discovered in a wood, at a small distance from the beach, an Indian hut, into which as many as possible, without distinction, crowded themselves, the night coming on exceedingly tempestuous and rainy. But here our situation was such as to exclude all rest and refreshment by sleep from most of us; for besides that we pressed upon one another extremely, we were not without apprehensions of being attacked by the Indians, from a discovery we made of some of their lances and other arms in our hut; and our uncertainty of their strength and disposition, kept us in continual anxiety.

In this miserable hovel, one of our com-

pany, a lieutenant of invalids, died ; and two more, who for want of room, took shelter under a great tree, which stood them in very little stead, perished by the severity of that cold and rainy night. In the morning, the calls of hunger, which had hitherto been suppressed by our attention to more immediate dangers and difficulties, were now become too importunate to be resisted. We had most of us fasted eight and forty hours, some more ; it was time, therefore, to make inquiry among ourselves what store of sustenance had been brought from the wreck by the foresight of some, and what could be procured on the island by the industry of others : but the produce of the one amounted to no more than two or three pounds of biscuit dust reserved in a bag ; and all the success of those who ventured abroad, the weather being exceedingly bad, was to kill one sea-gull, and pick up some wild celery."

The place on which they landed proved to be a remote rocky island, which they called Wager's Island, after the name of the ship

in which they were wrecked. As they had the prospect of remaining here for some time, they erected several huts to afford them a shelter from the severity of the weather. For food, they picked up shell-fish among the rocks. Sometimes they shot or caught wild fowl. They obtained also a temporary supply by going out to the wreck in calm weather, and by gathering such things as were from time to time washed on shore.

They were now and then visited by Indians from the neighbouring coasts, who were very uncivilized, and seemed but poorly provided with the necessaries of life. From these Indians they procured by barter a few articles of provision, chiefly dogs, which in their forlorn situation proved very acceptable food.

“ Some of our company were selected to go out in the barge, in order to reconnoitre the coast to the southward. This party consisted of Mr Bulkley, Mr Jones, the purser, myself, and ten men. The first night we put into a good harbour, a few leagues to the southward of Wager's Island ; where finding

a large bitch big with puppies, we regaled upon them. In this expedition we had our usual bad weather, and breaking seas, which were grown to such a height the third day, that we were obliged, through distress, to push in at the first inlet we saw at hand. This we had no sooner entered, than we were presented with the view of a fine bay, in which having secured the barge, we went ashore ; but the weather being very rainy, and finding nothing to subsist upon, we pitched a bell-tent, which we had brought with us, in the wood opposite to where the barge lay. As this tent was not large enough to contain us all, I proposed to four of the people to go to the end of the bay, about two miles distant from the bell-tent, to occupy the skeleton of an old Indian wigwam, or hut, which I had discovered in a walk that way upon our first landing. This we covered with sea-weed, on the side against which the wind blew ; and lighting a fire, laid ourselves down, in hopes of finding a remedy for our hunger in sleep : but we had not long composed ourselves, when one of our

company was disturbed by the blowing of some animal at his face, and upon opening his eyes, he was not a little astonished to see, by the glimmering of the fire, a large beast standing over him. He had presence of mind enough to snatch a brand from the fire, and thrust it at the nose of the animal, which thereupon went off: this done, the man awoke us, and related with horror in his countenance, the narrow escape which he had made. But though we were under no small apprehensions of another visit from this animal, yet our fatigue and heaviness were greater than our fears; and we once more composed ourselves to rest, and slept the remainder of the night without any farther disturbance. In the morning, we were not a little anxious to know how our companions had fared; and this anxiety was increased, upon tracing the footsteps of the beast in the sand, in a direction towards the bell-tent. The impression was deep and plain, of a large round foot, well furnished with claws. Upon our acquainting the people in the tent with the circumstances of our story,

BYRON'S VOYAGE



One of Byrons party disturbed while
asleep by the breathing of a large
Animal on his face

we found that they too had been visited by the same unwelcome guest, which they had driven away by much the same expedient. We now returned from this cruise, with a strong gale, to Wager's Island, having found it impracticable to make farther discoveries in the barge, on so dangerous a coast, and in such heavy seas."

They then made an attempt to escape from this dreary region, by sailing in their boats to the northward ; but they were obliged to return without success, having suffered almost incredible hardships, and having narrowly escaped being overwhelmed in these tempestuous seas. A short time after their return from this unsuccessful attempt, they were visited by an Indian chief with his family. This Indian came from the neighbourhood of one of the Spanish settlements, and he undertook to conduct Mr Byron and his remaining associates thither. They gladly embraced the opportunity, and having received the guide and his family into their boat, they set out on their voyage. " He conducted us," says the nar-

rator, " to a river, the stream of which was so rapid, that after our utmost efforts from morning to evening, we gained little upon the current. At last we were obliged to desist from our attempt, and to return. Indeed we afterwards found that the Indian had brought us this way for some purpose of his own, and that there was another way much better. I had hitherto steered the boat: but one of our men sinking under the fatigue, expired soon after, and I was obliged to take the oar in his room, and row against this heart-breaking stream. Whilst I was thus employed, one of our men, whose name was John Bosman, though hitherto the stoutest man amongst us, fell down from his seat, complaining that his strength was quite exhausted for want of food, and that he should die very shortly. As he lay in this condition, he would every now and then break out in the most pathetic wishes for some little sustenance. I sat next to him when he dropped, and having a few dried shell-fish (about five or six) in my pocket, I from time to time put one in his mouth. This

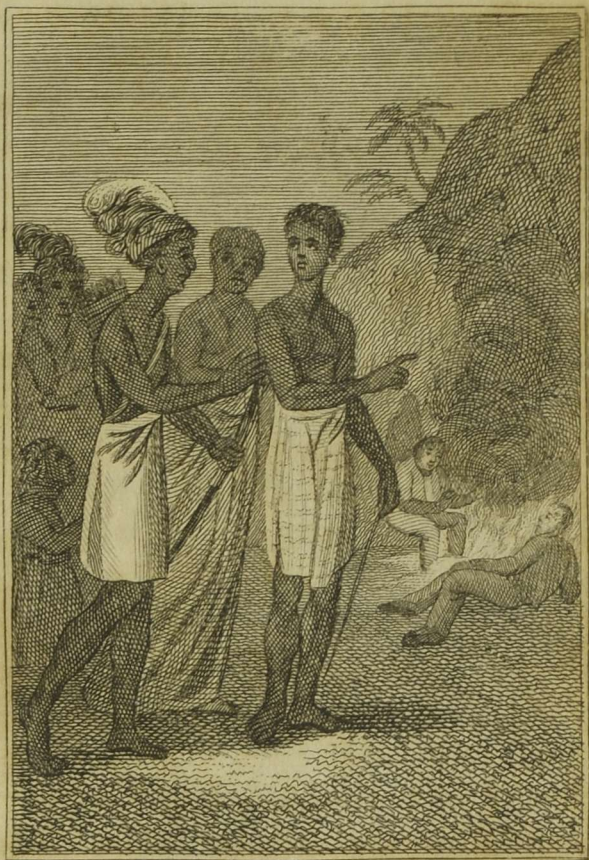
served only to prolong his pains ; from which, however, soon after my little supply failed, he was released by death."

When they returned to the coast at the mouth of the river, the Indian and his family left them for a few days to go in search of provisions. In the mean time, Mr Byron and his companions ranged the shore with the same view ; but here an accident happened, which at first seemed to render their situation utterly hopeless. Six of the men determined to carry off the boat, and they took the opportunity while the captain, Mr Byron, and the rest were at a distance, to accomplish their purpose. Those that were left behind had for some time no other prospect than that of perishing on the desolate shore. But happily, after a few days, the Indian returned with his canoe. He was disappointed at finding the boat gone, as he expected to have got it as the reward of his trouble. However, he still agreed to conduct them to the Spanish settlement, and to take whatever recompence they should have it in their power to give. The

whole party again set off. They travelled sometimes by land, and sometimes by water, having rivers and branches of the sea to cross ; so that, besides provisions, they sometimes had their canoe to carry for a considerable distance. They were joined in the way by some other Indians. The following are some of the incidents which occurred in the course of this journey.

“ Being arrived at the carrying place, the first thing the Indians did,” says Mr Byron, “ was to take every thing out of their canoes ; and after hawling them ashore, they made their wigwams or huts. We passed this night, as we had generally done, under a tree ; but what we now suffered is not easily to be expressed. I had been three days at the oar without any kind of nourishment but a root of a disagreeable taste. I had no shirt, as it had rotted off by bits ; and we were devoured by vermin. All my clothes consisted of an old short grieko, which is something like a bear-skin, with a piece of waistcoat under it, which once had been of red cloth, both which I had on

BYRON'S VOYAGE



Byron relieved by the Indians on the
Island of Chiloe

when I was cast away ; I had a ragged pair of trowsers, without either shoe or stocking.

“ The first thing the Indians did in the morning was to take their canoes to pieces. When they have occasion to go overland, as at this time, each man or woman carries a plank ; as it would be impossible for them to drag a heavy boat entire. Every body had something to carry excepting Captain Cheap ; and he was obliged to be assisted, otherwise he never would have got over this march ; for a worse than this, I believe, never was made. He, with the others, set out some time before me. I waited for two Indians, who belonged to the canoe in which I came, and who remained to carry over the last of the things from the side we had left. I had a piece of wet heavy canvas, which belonged to Captain Cheap, with a bit of stinking seal wrapped in it, to carry upon my head, which was a sufficient weight for a strong man in health, through such roads, and a grievous burden to one in my condition. Our way was through a thick wood, the bottom of which was a mere quagmire,

most part of it up to our knees, and often to our middle, and every now and then we had a large tree to get over; for they often lay directly in our road. Besides this, we were continually treading upon the stumps of trees, which were not to be avoided, as they were covered with water; and having neither shoe nor stocking, my feet and legs were frequently torn and wounded. Before I had got half a mile, the two Indians had left me; and making the best of my way, lest they should be all gone before I got to the other side, I fell off a tree that crossed the road, into a very deep swamp, where I had very nearly been drowned, by the weight of the burden I had on my head. It was a long while before I could extricate myself from this difficulty, and when I did, my strength was quite exhausted. I sat down under a tree, and there gave way to melancholy reflections. However, as I was sensible these reflections would answer no end, they did not last long. I got up, and marking a great tree, I then deposited my load, not being able to carry it any farther, and set out to join my

company. It was some hours before I reached my companions. I found them sitting under a tree, and set myself down by them without speaking a word: nor did they speak to me, as I remember, for some time; when Captain Cheap breaking silence, began to ask after the seal and piece of canvas. I told him the disaster I had met with, which he might have easily guessed by the condition the rags I had on were in, as well as having my feet and ankles cut to pieces; but instead of compassion for my sufferings, I heard nothing but grumbling from every one, for the irreparable loss they had sustained by me. I made no answer, but after resting myself a little, I got up and struck into the wood, and walked back at least five miles to the tree I had marked, and returned just time enough to deliver it, before my companions embarked with the Indians upon a great lake, the opposite part of which seemed to wash the foot of the Cordilleras*.”

* A range of mountains that run through almost the whole length of South America. They are most

They at length reached the island of Chiloe, and landed at an Indian village. "The Indians," says Mr Byron, "flocked thick about us, and seemed to have great compassion for us, as our guide related to them what he knew of our history.

"These good-natured compassionate creatures appeared to vie with each other who should take the most care of us. They made a bed of sheep-skins close to the fire for Captain Cheap, and laid him upon it; and indeed, had it not been for the kind assistance he now met with, he could not have survived three days longer. Though it was about midnight, they went out and killed a sheep, of which they made broth, and baked a large cake of barley meal. Any body may imagine what a treat this was to wretches who had not tasted a bit of bread, or any wholesome diet, for such a length of time. After we could eat no longer, we went to sleep about the fire, which the Indians took care to keep up. In the commonly called the Andes, and are supposed to be the highest mountains in the world.

morning, the women came from far and near, each bringing with her something. Almost every one had a pipkin in her hand, containing either fowls, or mutton made into broth, potatoes, eggs, or other eatables. We fell to work, as if we had eat nothing in the night, and employed ourselves so for the best part of the day. In the evening the men filled our house, bringing with them some jars of liquor they called chicha, made of barley-meal, and not very unlike our oat-ale in taste, which will intoxicate those who drink a sufficient quantity of it; for a little has no effect. As soon as the drink was out, a fresh supply of victuals was brought in; and in this manner we passed the whole time we remained with these hospitable Indians."

They were now in the immediate neighbourhood of one of the Spanish settlements, and Spain being at that time at war with England, they were delivered up to the Spaniards as prisoners. It was agreed that they should be sent to St Jago, the chief city of the Spanish dominions in that part of the world. On

their way through the different towns, they were treated according to the tempers of the different governors: but on the whole, they were allowed to be pretty much at their liberty, and experienced many instances of kindness and hospitality. The following circumstances occurred at Valparaiso. "We were," says Mr Byron, "carried before the governor, whose house was full of officers. We were immediately after, by his orders, put into the condemned hole. There was nothing but four bare walls. A sentinel's box was placed at our door, and we had always a soldier, with his bayonet fixed, to prevent our stirring out. We fared very badly. A common soldier, who was ordered to provide for us by the governor, brought us each, once a-day, a few potatoes mixed with hot water. The other soldiers of the garrison, as well as the people who flocked to see us, took notice of it, and told the soldier it was cruel to treat us in that manner. His answer was, "The governor allows me but half a real a-day for each of these men; what can I do? it is he that is

to blame; I am shocked every time I bring them this scanty pittance, though even that could not be provided for the money he gives them." We from this time lived much better, and the soldier brought us even wine and fruit. We took it for granted, that our case had been represented to the governor, and that he had increased our pay. As to the first, we were right in our conjectures; it had been mentioned to him, that it was impossible we could subsist on what he allowed; and his answer to it was, that we might starve; for we should have no more from him, and that he believed he should never be repaid even that. This uncharitable speech of the governor was made known every where, and now almost every one who came to see us gave something; even the mule-drivers would take out their tobacco pouch, in which they kept their money, and give us half a real. All this we would have given to our soldier, but he never would receive a farthing from us, telling us we might still want it; and the whole time we were there, which was some weeks, he laid aside

half his daily pay to supply us, though he had a wife and six children, and never could have any hope of a recompence. However, two years after this, I had the singular pleasure of making him some return, when my circumstances were much better than his."

An order soon came for them to go to St Jago, where, without much farther difficulty, they arrived in safety. "We found here," says Mr Byron, "a Scotch physician, whose name was Don Patricio Gedd. This gentleman had been a long time in this city, and was greatly esteemed by the Spaniards, both for his abilities in his profession, and for his humane disposition. He no sooner heard that four English prisoners were arrived in that country, than he waited on the president, and begged they might be lodged at his house. This was granted; and had we been his own brothers, we could not have met with a more friendly reception; and during two years that we were with him, his constant study was to make every thing as agreeable to us as possible. We were greatly distressed to think of

the expence he was at upon our account ; but it was in vain for us to argue with him about it. In short, to sum up his character in a few words, there never was a man of greater humanity."

Mr Byron remarks that they found many Spaniards here who had been taken prisoners by Commodore Anson. They all spoke in the highest terms of the kind treatment which they had received ; and it is natural, says he, to think that it was chiefly owing to that laudable example of humanity that our reception here was so good.

At the end of two years, an opportunity of returning to England occurred, and Mr Byron, after passing through a series of misfortunes for the space of five years, at length reached his native country in safety.

GENEROSITY.

IN the year 1746, when we were in hot war with Spain, the Elisabeth of London, captain William Edwards, coming through the Gulf from Jamaica, richly laden, met with a most violent storm, in which the ship sprung a leak, that obliged them, for the saving of their lives, to run into the Havannah, a Spanish port. The captain went on shore, and directly waited on the governor, told the occasion of his putting in, and that he surrendered the ship as a prize, and himself and his men as prisoners of war, only requesting good quarter. “No, Sir,” replied the Spanish governor, “if we had taken you in fair war at sea, or approaching our coast with hostile intentions, your ship would then

have been a prize, and your people prisoners ; but, when distressed by a tempest, you come into our ports for the safety of your lives, we the enemies, being men, are bound as such by the laws of humanity to afford relief to distressed men who ask it of us. We cannot even against our enemies take advantage of an act of God. You have leave therefore to unload your ship, if that be necessary, to stop the leak ; you may refit her here, and traffic so far as shall be necessary to pay the charges ; you may then depart, and I will give you a pass to be in force till you are beyond Bermuda : if after that you are taken, you will then be a lawful prize ; but now you are only a stranger, and have a stranger's right to safety and protection." The ship accordingly departed, and arrived safe in London.

A remarkable instance of the like honour is recorded of a poor unenlightened African negro in Captain Seagrove's account of his voyage to Guinea.

A New-England sloop, trading there in

1752, left a second mate, William Murray, sick on shore, and sailed without him. Murray was at the house of a black named Cudjoe, with whom he had contracted an acquaintance during their trade. He recovered, and the sloop being gone, he continued with his black friend till some other opportunity should offer of his getting home. In the mean time a Dutch ship came into the road, and some of the blacks coming on board her, were treacherously seized and carried off as their slaves. The relations and friends, transported with sudden rage, ran to the house of Cudjoe, to take revenge by killing Murray; Cudjoe stopt them at the door, and demanded what they wanted. "The white men," said they, "have carried away our brothers and sons, and we will kill all white men. Give us the white man you have in your house, for we will kill him." "Nay," said Cudjoe, "the white men that carried away your relations are bad men, kill them when you can take them, but this white man is a good man, and you must not kill him."—"But he is a white man,"

they cried, " and the white men are all bad men, we will kill them all." " Nay," says he, " you must not kill a man that has done no harm, only for being white. This man is my friend, my house is his post, I am his soldier, and must fight for him ; you must kill me before you can kill him. What good man will ever come again under my roof, if I let my floor be stained with a good man's blood ?"

The negroes seeing this resolution, and being convinced by his discourse that they were wrong, went away ashamed.

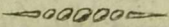
In a few days Murray ventured abroad again with his friend Cudjoe, when several of them took him by the hand, and told him, " They were glad they had not killed him ; for as he was a good (meaning innocent) man, their God would have been very angry, and would have spoiled their fishing."

HUMANITY.

THE Turks having invaded the Ukraine, on the side of Russia, that empire sent two numerous armies to repel the invaders. The one was commanded by Count Lascei, an Irish gentleman of great courage and experience, which broke through the Turkish entrenchments, and ravaged Crim Tartary with fire and sword. The other army was under the command of Count Munich, destined for the destruction of Oczakow. In this army the late Mr Keith, the governor of Berlin, and field-marshal of the Prussian forces, was then a lieutenant in the service of the Czarina. By his valour and skill, at the head of eight thousand men, the place above mentioned was

invested and taken, at least the success was chiefly attributed to him. In storming this city he gave such instances of tenderness and humanity as diffused additional lustre round his military glory ; for while the furious Muscovites were sanguine in their revenge, he checked their ferocity, and exhorted them to spare the lives of their enemies. Among others he rescued a child of six years of age from the hands of a Cossack, who had already lifted up his scymetar to cut off her head, as she was struggling to extricate herself out of some rubbish in which she had been entangled. Her father, being a Turkish grandee of some eminence, had been anxious to dispose of her suitably to her rank ; but being now an orphan, and Mr Keith not knowing how to provide for her himself, sent her to the Lord Marshall, his brother, who brought her up in the principles of the church of England, and educated her in the most liberal manner. He treated her in every respect as if she had been his own daughter ; and as she grew up gave her the charge of his house, where she did the honours

of the table, and behaved herself with such affectionate fidelity and exemplary discretion, that the saving this young innocent from destruction may be deemed not the least considerable of Mr Keith's services.



MAGNANIMITY.

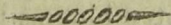
THE love of liberty, and a true devotion to its cause, seems to have been implanted by nature in the breasts of our forefathers; it shone in the persons and characters of the Silures, a powerful, hardy, and warlike nation, who inhabited the counties of Hereford, Monmouth, and the adjacent provinces of South Wales. It shone particularly in the character and person of their monarch Caractacus, a prince of noble birth, and an undaunted spirit. Though his forces were inferior to the Romans, who invaded his dominions, yet he defended himself with invincible bravery for nine years successively: but being at last defeated in a pitched battle with Ostorius, he fled to his mother-in-

law Cartismandua, queen of the Brigantes, who treacherously seized his person, and betrayed him to the Romans, by whom he was sent, with the rest of his family, in chains, to Rome. The behaviour of Caractacus in that metropolis of the world was truly great. When brought before the emperor, he appeared with a manly, decent, and composed countenance, and addressed himself to Claudius in the following harangue :

“ If in my prosperity the moderation of my conduct had been equivalent to my birth and fortune, I should have come into this city not as a captive but as a friend : nor would you, Cæsar, have disdained the alliance of a man born of illustrious ancestors, and ruler over several nations. My present fate is to me dishonourable, to you magnificently glorious. I once had horses : I once had men : I once had arms : I once had riches : can you wonder I should part with them unwillingly ? Although as Romans, you may aim at universal empire, it does not follow that all mankind must tamely submit to be your slaves. If I

had yielded without resistance, neither the perverseness of my fortune, nor the glory of your triumph, had been so remarkable. Punish me with death, and I shall soon be forgotten. Suffer me to live, and I shall remain an everlasting monument of their clemency.”

The manner in which this noble speech was delivered, affected the whole audience, and made such an impression on the emperor, that he ordered the chains of Caractacus and his family to be taken off: and Agrippina, who was more than an equal associate in the empire, not only received the captive Britons with great marks of kindness and compassion, but confirmed to them the enjoyment of their liberty.



A FATHER'S ADVICE.

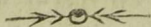
THE father thus began, " My son,
Mourn not thy wretched fate ;
For he that rules in heaven decrees
This life a mixed state.

The stream that carries us along,
Flows through the vale of tears ;
Yet on the darkness of our day,
The bow of heaven appears.

Nought pure or perfect here is found ;
But when this night is o'er,
The eternal morn will spring on high,
And we shall weep no more.

Beyond the dim horizon far,
That bounds the mortal eye,
A better country blooms to view,
Beneath a brighter sky."

NARRATIVE
OF
MR PELHAM.



THREE ships being fitted out for Greenland in the year 1630, of which the Salutation was one, set sail from the river Thames on the first of May, and arrived in Greenland the eleventh of June following. The ships soon after dispersed to several harbours for the conveniency of fishing. And the Salutation being something straitened for provision the latter end of the year, set eight men ashore at a place pretty much frequented by rein-deer, to kill venison, leaving them a boat, and orders to follow the ship to Green Harbour, which lies to the southward of the place where they

went ashore. These men having killed fourteen or fifteen deer, lay that night a-shore, and proposed next day to have gone on board ship, but a great quantity of ice driving towards the shore, obliged the ship to stand so far out to sea, that when they came to Green Harbour, she was out of sight : However, the ships being to rendezvous in Bellsound, further to the southward, and being to leave the country within three days, our huntsmen began to be very anxious, lest the shipping should be gone from thence too before they arrived. They thought it proper therefore to fling their venison into the sea, in order to lighten the boat, and make the best of their way to Bellsound, distant from thence about sixteen leagues ; but none of them knowing the coast very well, they overshot their port above ten leagues, when being sensible of their error they returned to the northward ; but one of their company being still positive Bellsound lay further to the south, they were induced to sail to the southward again, till they were a second time convinced of their mistake, and

then they turned their boat about to the north again, and at length arrived at Bellsound ; but had spent so much time in rowing backwards and forwards, that the ships had actually left the coast, and were gone for England, to their great astonishment. Being provided neither with clothes, food, firing, or house to shelter themselves from the piercing cold they were to expect in so rigorous a climate, they stood some time looking on one another as men amazed, at the distress they were on a sudden reduced to ; but their consternation being a little abated, they began to think of the properest means to subsist themselves during the approaching winter ; and the weather being favourable, they agreed in the first place to go to Green Harbour and hunt for venison, having two dogs with them very fit for that purpose. On the twenty-fifth of August therefore they went in their boat to Green Harbour, where they arrived in twelve hours, being about sixteen leagues to the northward of Bellsound. Here they set up a tent made with their boat sails, the oars serving for tent poles ; and ha-

ving slept a few hours, went early next morning to their sport, killing seven or eight deer and four bears, and the day following they killed twelve deer more, with which they loaded their boat, and finding another boat, which had been left there by the company, they loaded that with the greaves of whales (being the pieces which remain in the coppers after the oil is drawn from them) and returned with their booty to Bellsound. Here happened to be set up a large substantial booth, which the coopers worked in at the fishing season: It was eighty foot long, and fifty broad; covered with Dutch tiles, and the sides well boarded. Within this booth these sailors determined to build another of less dimensions, being furnished with boards and timber by pulling down a booth which stood near the former; and from the chimneys of three furnaces used for the boiling of oil, they got a thousand bricks. They found also four hogsheds of very fine lime, which mingled with the sand on the sea-shore, made excellent mortar. But the weather was now grown so cold, that they

were obliged to have two fires to keep their mortar from freezing. They persisted however in their work, and raised a wall of a brick thickness against one of the sides of their innermost booth; but wanting bricks to finish to finish the rest in like manner, they nailed thick boards on each side the timbers, and filled up the space between with sand, by which means it became so tight and close, that the least breath of air could not enter in: and their chimney's vent was into the greater booth. The length of this lesser booth, or rather house, was twenty feet, the breadth sixteen feet, and the height ten; their cieling being made of deal boards five or six times double, and so overlaid that no air could possibly come in from thence. Their door they did not only make as strong and close as possible, but lined it with a bed which they found there; and for windows they made none, except a little hole in the tiles of the greater booth, by which they received some little light down the chimney of the lesser. Their next work was to make them four ca-

bins, choosing to lie two in each cabin. Their bedding was the skins of the rein-deer, the same the Laplanders use, and they found them exceeding warm: and for firing they took to pieces some casks, and seven or eight of the boats which were left behind (for it seems they use a great many boats in whale-fishing, which they leave in the country every winter, rather than be at the trouble of carrying them backwards and forwards. Our sailors stowed their firing between the beams and the roof of the greater booth, in order to make it the warmer, and keep out the snow, which would have covered every thing in the greater booth, if it had not been for this contrivance.

Upon the 12th of September, observing a piece of ice come driving towards the shore, with two morses (or sea-horses) asleep upon it, they went out in their boat with a harping iron and spears and killed them both; and on the 19th of the same month, another, which was some addition to their food. But taking a very narrow survey of all their provisions,

they found that there was not half enough to serve them the whole winter ; and therefore they stinted themselves to one meal a-day, and agreed to keep Wednesdays and Fridays as fasting days, allowing themselves then only the fritters or greaves of the whales ; which, as has been observed already, are only the scraps of the fat of the whale, which are flung away after the oil is gotten out of them, and is very loathsome food. By the 10th of October the nights were grown long, and the weather so cold, that the sea was frozen over ; and having no business now to divert their thoughts as hitherto, they began again to reflect on their miserable circumstances ; sometimes complaining of the cruelty of the master of the ship, in leaving them behind ; and at others excusing him, and bewailing his misfortune, as believing him to have perished in the ice. At length, putting their confidence in heaven, which only could relieve them in their great distress, they redoubled their prayers for strength and patience to go through the dismal trial, and received great satisfaction

from their devotions, which were no doubt as sincere and fervent as ever were offered up to the Deity.

And now having surveyed their provisions again, they found that the fritters of the whale were almost all mouldy, having taken some wet; and of their bear and venison there was scarce enough left to afford them five meals a-week; whereupon it was agreed to live four days of the week upon mouldy fritters, and the other three upon bear and venison: and lest they should want firing hereafter to dress their meat, they thought it proper to roast every day half a deer, and stow it up in hogsheads, and with this kind of food they filled three hogsheads and an half, leaving so much raw as would serve to roast every Sunday a quarter, and a quarter for Christmas-day.

It being now the 14th of October the sun left them, and they saw it no more till the third of February; but they had the moon all the time, both day and night, though very much obscured by the clouds and foul weather. There was also a glimmering kind of day-

light for eight hours the latter end of October, which shortened every day till the first of December, from which time to the twentieth of the same month they could perceive no daylight at all. It was now one continued night, there appearing only in clear weather a little whiteness, like the dawn of day, towards the south. On the first of January they found their day a little to increase. They counted their days, it seems, in the dark season by the moon, and were so exact, that at the return of the shipping they were able to tell the very day of the month on which the fleet arrived. As for light within doors, they made them three lamps of some sheet-lead they found upon one of the coolers, and there happened to be oil enough to supply them left in the cooper's tent. For wicks they made use of rope-yarn; and these lamps were one of the greatest comforts to them in that long dismal night. But still their misery was such that they could not forbear sometimes uttering hasty speeches against the authors of their misfortunes: At other times reflecting on their former ill-spent

lives, they looked upon this as a just punishment of their offences; and at other times they hoped they were reserved as a wonderful instance of God's mercy in their deliverance, and continued constantly to fall down on their knees two or three times a-day, and implore the protection of the Almighty.

With the new year the cold increased to that degree that it raised blisters in their flesh sometimes, as if they had been burnt, and the iron they touched stuck to their fingers. When they went abroad for water the cold often seized them in such a manner, that it made them sore as if they had been severely beaten. Their water the first part of the winter issued from a bay of ice, and ran down into a kind of bason or receptacle by the sea-side, where it remained with a thick ice over it, which they dug open at one certain place with pick-axes every day. This continued to the tenth of January, and then they drank snow water melted with an hot iron until the twentieth of May following.

And now they took another review of their

provisions, which they found would not last them above six weeks longer; but to alleviate their misery, on the third of February they were cheered again with the bright rays of the sun, which shone upon the tops of the snowy mountains with an inconceivable lustre. To them at least this afforded the most delightful scene that ever was beheld. And after a night of many weeks or months, what could be imagined more glorious or pleasing to a mortal eye? As an addition to their joy also the bears began to appear again, on the flesh of which animal they had made many hearty meals. But, as the writer of this narrative observes, the bears were as ready to devour our countrymen, as they were the bears; and being pinched with hunger in this barren place, came up to their very door. One of these creatures with her cub they met at the entrance of their apartment, and gave her such a reception with their pikes and lances, that they laid her dead upon the spot, and the young one was glad to make his escape. The weather was so cold that they could not stay to flay her, but dragged

the beast into there house, and there went to work, cutting her into pieces of a stone weight, one of which served them for a dinner, and upon this they fed twenty days, esteeming her flesh beyond venison; only her liver did not agree with them, for upon the eating it, their skins peeled off; though one of the company who was sick, attributes his cure in part to the eating of it. If it be demanded, how they kept their venison and bears flesh without salt, it is to be observed, the cold is such that no corpse or carcase ever putrefies. Flesh needs no salt to keep it here, and that was their happiness, for had they been stocked with salt provisions, they had infallibly died of the scurvy, as others did who were left on shore much better provided with liquors and other necessaries than these poor men were. But to proceed. By the time they had eaten up this bear, others came about their booth frequently, to the number of forty and more, of which they killed seven, (one of them six foot high at least), roasting their flesh upon wooden spits, having no o-

ther kitchen furniture except a frying-pan they found in one of the booths : and having now plenty of provision, they eat heartily two or three times a-day, and could find their strength increase apace.

It was now the 16th of March, and the days of a reasonable length, and the fowls, which in the winter time were fled to the southward, began to resort to Greenland again in great abundance. Here they live and breed in the summer, feeding upon small fish. The foxes also, which had kept close in their holes under the rocks all winter, now came abroad and preyed upon the fowls, of which our countrymen having taken some, baited traps with their skins, and caught fifty foxes in them, which they roasted and found to be very good meat, at least in the opinion of men who had fed hitherto pretty much upon bears flesh. Thus they continued taking fowls and foxes till the first of May, meeting with no further misfortunes, except the loss of one of their two mastiff dogs, which went from their house one morning in the middle of

March, and was never seen afterwards, being overpowered probably, and eaten by the bears.

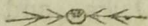
The weather beginning to grow warm in May, they rambled about in search of willocks eggs, a fowl about the bigness of a duck, of which they found some; being a change of diet they were much pleased with. And now the season coming on for the arrival of shipping, they went some of them every day almost to the top of a mountain to see if they could discern the water in the sea, which they had no sight of till the 24th of this month, when it blowing a storm, and the wind setting from the main ocean, broke the ice in the bay, and turning about soon after easterly, carried great part of the ice out to sea, but still the water did not come within three miles of their dwelling. The next morning, the 25th of May, none of their men happened to go abroad, but one of them being in the outward booth heard somebody hale the house, in the same manner as sailors do a ship; to which the men in the outward booth answered in sea-

men's terms ; they were then just going to prayers, and staid but for the man in the outward booth to join with them. Sure no sailors were ever so devout ! But even sailors will address themselves to heaven in their distress, when no human aid can help them ; as sick men send for the priest, when the physician hath given them over. But to proceed. The man who hailed them was one of the boat's crew that belonged to an English ship just come from England ; which our religious sailors no sooner understood, but they put off their devotions, and ran out to meet their countrymen, looking upon them as so many angels sent from heaven to their relief. And certainly the transports of joy they felt on this occasion, if it may be conceived, can never be expressed. But there was one mortification still in store, which no man would have expected : One of the ships which now arrived was commanded by the same master which left these poor wretches on shore ; and he, barbarous brute ! in order to excuse his own inhumanity, began to revile and curse them, calling them

rogues and runaways. And this same man, it seems, had left seven or eight other men in Greenland two years before, who were never heard of afterwards ; for which no doubt, he richly deserved the gallows, though our laws take but little notice of offences of this kind. But notwithstanding the barbarity of their own captain, the commander and officers of the other ship took care they should be kindly used and brought to England when the season for whale-fishing was over ; where they received a gratuity from the Russia company, and were otherwise well provided for by them. And perhaps there is no instance in history of a company of men in so exquisite a distress, who shewed more courage and patience, or made a wiser provision for their preservation than these did. And, as the writer of this narrative observes, Greenland belongs to the crown of England now by double right, for we did not only first discover it, and begin the whale-fishery there ; but these our countrymen did in a wonderful manner a second time take possession of the country for the king's

use, being the first that ever did inhabit it the year round, and perhaps the last that ever will. And here it may not be improper to record the names of these eight heroic Englishmen, not one of whom lost either his life or limbs, though left destitute of all necessities, in a country within twelve degrees of the pole, viz. William Fakely, gunner; Edward Pelham (the writer of the narrative) gunner's mate; John Wise, and Robert Goodfellow, seamen; Thomas Ayers, whale-cutter; Henry Bett, cooper; John Daws, and Richard Kellet, landmen.

ADVENTURES
OF
FOUR RUSSIAN SAILORS,
WHO WERE CAST AWAY ON THE DESERT
ISLAND OF EAST SPITZBERGEN.



IN this alarming state, (that is, when the ship was surrounded with ice,) a council was held, when the mate, Alexis Himkof, informed them, that he recollected to have heard, that some of the people of Mesen, some time before, having formed a resolution of wintering upon this island, had carried from that city timber proper for building a hut, and had actually erected one at some distance from the shore. This information induced the whole company to resolve on wintering there,

if the hut, as they hoped, still existed ; for they clearly perceived the imminent danger they were in, and they must inevitably perish, if they continued in the ship. They dispatched, therefore, four of their crew in search of the hut, or any other succour they could meet with. These were Alexis Himkof the mate, Iwan Himkof his godson, Stephen Scharasof, and Feodor Weregine. As the shore on which they were to land was uninhabited, it was necessary that they should make some provision for their expedition. They had almost two miles to travel over loose ridges of ice, which being raised by the waves, and driven against each other by the wind, rendered the way equally difficult and dangerous : prudence, therefore, forbade their loading themselves too much, lest by being overburdened, they might sink in between the pieces of ice, and perish. Having thus maturely considered the nature of their undertaking, they provided themselves with a musket and powder-horn, containing twelve charges of powder, with as many balls, an axe, a small kettle, a bag with

about twenty pounds of flour, a knife, a tinder-box and tinder, a bladder filled with tobacco, and every man his wooden pipe. Thus accoutred, these four sailors quickly arrived on the island, little suspecting the misfortunes that would befall them. They began with exploring the country, and soon discovered the hut they were in search of, about an English mile and a half from the shore. It was thirty-six feet in length, eighteen feet in height, and as many in breadth. It contained a small antichamber, about twelve feet broad, which had two doors, the one to shut it up from the outer air, the other to form a communication with the inner room: this contributed greatly to keep the larger room warm when once heated. In the large room was an earthen stove, constructed in the Russian manner; that is, a kind of oven without a chimney, which serves occasionally either for baking, for heating the room, or, as is customary amongst the Russian peasants, in very cold weather, for a place to sleep upon. They rejoiced greatly at having discovered the hut, which had, however,

suffered much from the weather, it having now been built a considerable time : our adventurers, however, contrived to pass the night in it. Early next morning they hastened to the shore, impatient to inform their comrades of their success, and also to procure from their vessel such provisions, ammunition, and other necessaries, as might better enable them to winter on the island. I leave my readers to figure to themselves the astonishment and agony of mind these poor people must have felt, when on reaching the place of their landing, they saw nothing but an open sea, free from the ice, which but a day before had covered the ocean. A violent storm, which had arisen during the night, had certainly been the cause of this disastrous event. But they could not tell, whether the ice which had before hemmed in the vessel, agitated by the violence of the waves, had been driven against her, and shattered her to pieces ; or, whether she had been carried by the current into the main, a circumstance which frequently happens in those seas. Whatever accident had befallen the ship, they saw

her no more ; and as no tidings were ever afterwards received of her, it is most probable that she sunk, and that all on board of her perished.

This melancholy event, depriving the unhappy wretches of all hope of ever being able to quit the island, they returned to the hut whence they had come, full of horror and despair.

Their first attention was employed, as may easily be imagined, in devising means of providing subsistence and for repairing their hut. The twelve charges of powder, which they had brought with them, soon procured them as many rein-deer, the island, fortunately for them, abounding in these animals. I have before observed, that the hut, which the sailors were so fortunate as to find, had sustained some damage, and it was this : there were cracks in many places between the boards of the building, which freely admitted the air. This inconveniency was, however, easily remedied, as they had an axe, and the beams were still sound (for wood in those cold climates

continues through a length of years unimpaired by worms or decay); so it was easy for them to make the board join again very tolerably: besides, moss growing in great abundance all over the island, there was more than sufficient to stop up the crevices, which wooden houses must always be liable to. Repairs of this kind cost the unhappy men less trouble as they were Russians; for all Russian peasants are known to be good carpenters; they build their own houses, and are very expert in handling the axe. The intense cold which makes these climates habitable to so few species of animals, renders them equally unfit for the production of vegetables. No species of tree or even shrub is found in any of the islands of Spitzbergen; a circumstance of the most alarming nature to our sailors.

Without fire it was impossible to resist the rigour of the climate, and without wood how was that fire to be produced or supported? However, in wandering along the beach, they collected plenty of wood, which had been driven ashore by the waves, and which at first

consisted of the wrecks of ships, and afterwards of whole trees with their roots, the produce of some more hospitable, but to them unknown climate, which the overflowings of rivers, or other accidents, had sent into the ocean. Nothing proved of more essential service to these unfortunate men, during the first year of their exile, than some boards they found upon the beach, having a long iron hook, some nails of about five or six inches long and proportionably thick, and other bits of old iron, fixed in them; the melancholy relics of some vessels cast away in those remote parts. These were thrown ashore by the waves, at the time when the want of powder gave our men reason to apprehend that they must fall a prey to hunger, as they had nearly consumed those rein-deer they had killed. This lucky circumstance was attended with another equally fortunate; they found on the shore the root of a fir-tree which nearly approached to the figure of a bow. As necessity has ever been the mother of invention, so they soon fashioned this root to a good bow by the help of a knife:

but still they wanted a string and arrows. Not knowing how to procure these at present, they resolved upon making a couple of lances, to defend themselves against the white bears, by far the most ferocious of their kind, whose attacks they had great reason to dread. Finding they could neither make the heads of their lances nor of their arrows without the help of a hammer, they contrived to form the large iron hook mentioned above, into one, by heating it, and widening a hole it happened to have about its middle, with the help of one of their largest nails: this received the handle, and a round button at one end of the hook served for the face of the hammer. A large pebble supplied the place of an anvil, and a couple of rein-deers' horns made the tongs. By the means of such tools, they made two heads of spears; and after polishing and sharpening them on stones, they tied them, as fast as possible, with thongs made of rein-deer skins, to sticks about the thickness of a man's arm, which they got from some branches of trees that had been cast on shore.

Thus equipped with spears, they resolved to attack a white bear; and after a most dangerous encounter, they killed the formidable creature, and thereby made a new supply of provisions. The flesh of this animal they relished exceedingly, as they thought it much resembled beef in taste and flavour. The tendons, they saw with much pleasure, could with little or no trouble be divided into filaments of what fineness they thought fit. This perhaps was the most fortunate discovery these men could have made; for, besides other advantages, which will be hereafter mentioned, they were hereby furnished with strings for their bow. The success of our unfortunate islanders in making the spears, and the use these proved of, encouraged them to proceed, and to forge some pieces of iron into heads of arrows of the same shape, though somewhat smaller in size than the spears above mentioned. Having ground and sharpened these like the former, they tied them with the sinews of the white bears to pieces of fir, to which, by the help of fine threads of the same, they fas-

tened feathers of sea fowl ; and thus became possessed of a complete bow and arrows. Their ingenuity in this respect was crowned with success far beyond their expectation ; for during the time of their continuance upon the island, with these arrows they killed no less than two hundred and fifty rein-deer, besides a great number of blue and white foxes. The flesh of these animals served them also for food, and their skins for clothing, and other necessary preservatives against the intense coldness of a climate so near the pole. They killed, however, only ten white bears in all, and that not without the utmost danger ; for these animals, being prodigiously strong, defended themselves with astonishing vigour and fury. The first our men attacked designedly ; the other nine they slew in defending themselves from their assaults : for some of these creatures even ventured to enter the outer room of the hut, in order to devour them. It is true that all the bears did not shew (if I may be allowed the expression) equal intrepidity, either owing to some being less

pressed by hunger, or to their being by nature less carnivorous than the others ; for some of them which entered the hut immediately betook themselves to flight, on the first attempt of the sailors to drive them away. A repetition, however, of these ferocious attacks, threw the poor men into great terror and anxiety, as they were in almost a perpetual danger of being devoured.

The three different kinds of animals above mentioned, viz. the rein-deer, the blue and white foxes, and the white bears, were the only food these wretched mariners tasted during their continuance in this dreary abode. We do not at once see every resource. It is generally necessity which quickens our invention, opening by degrees our eyes, and pointing out expedients which otherwise might never have occurred to our thoughts. The truth of this observation our four sailors experienced in various instances. They were for some time reduced to the necessity of eating their meat almost raw, and without either bread or salt ; for they were quite destitute of

both. The intenseness of the cold, together with the want of proper conveniences, prevented them from cooking their victuals in a proper manner. There was but one stove in the hut, and that being set up agreeably to the Russian taste, was more like an oven, and, consequently, not well adapted for boiling any thing. Wood, also, was too precious a commodity to be wasted in keeping up two fires, and the one they might have made out of their habitation, to dress their victuals, would in no way have served to warm them. Another reason against their cooking in the open air, was the continual danger of an attack from the white bears. And here, I must observe, that, suppose they had made the attempt, it would still have been practicable for only some part of the year : for the cold, which, in such a climate, for some months scarcely ever abates, from the long absence of the sun, then enlightening the opposite hemisphere ; the inconceivable quantity of snow, which is continually falling through the greatest part of the winter ; together with the almost incessant rains at certain

seasons ; all these were almost insurmountable obstacles to that expedient. To remedy, therefore, in some degree, the hardship of eating their meat half raw, they bethought themselves of drying some of their provision, during the summer, in the open air, and afterwards of hanging it up in the upper part of the hut, which, as I mentioned before, was continually filled with smoke down to the windows : it was thus dried thoroughly by the help of that smoke. This meat so prepared they used for bread, and it made them relish their other flesh the better, as they could only half dress it. Finding this experiment answer in every respect to their wishes, they continued to practise it during the whole time of their confinement upon the island, and always kept up by that means a sufficient stock of provisions. Water they had in summer from small rivulets that fell from the rocks, and in winter from the snow and ice thawed. This was of course their only beverage ; and their small kettle was the only vessel they could make use of for this and other purposes. I

have mentioned above, that our sailors brought a small bag of flour with them to the island. Of this they had consumed about one half with their meat; the remainder they employed in a different manner, equally useful. They soon saw the necessity of keeping up a continual fire in so cold a climate, and found that if it should unfortunately go out, they had no means of lighting it again; for though they had a steel and flints, yet they wanted both match and tinder. In their excursions through the island, they had met with a slimy loam, or a kind of clay, nearly in the middle of it. Out of this they found means to form an utensil which might serve for a lamp, and they proposed to keep it constantly burning, with the fat of the animals they should kill. This was certainly the most rational scheme they could have thought of; for to be without a light in a climate where, during winter, darkness reigns for several months together, would have added much to their other calamities.

Having, therefore, fashioned a kind of lamp, they filled it with rein-deers fat, and

stuck into it some twisted linen, shaped into a wick. But they had the mortification to find, that as soon as the fat melted, it not only soaked into the clay, but fairly ran into it on all sides. The thing, therefore, was to devise some means of preventing this inconvenience, not arising from cracks, but from the substance of which the lamp was made being too porous. They made, therefore, a new one, dried it thoroughly in the air, then heated it red hot, and afterwards quenched it in their kettle, wherein they had boiled a quantity of flour down to the consistence of thin starch. The lamp being thus dried and filled with melted fat, they now found, to their great joy, it did not leak. But for greater security they dipped linen rags in their paste, and with them covered all its outside. Succeeding in this attempt, they immediately made another lamp for fear of an accident, that in all events they might not be destitute of light; and when they had done so much, they thought proper to save the remainder of their flour for similar purposes. As they had carefully col-


lected whatever happened to be cast on shore, to supply them with fuel, they had found amongst the wrecks of vessels some cordage, and a small quantity of oakum (a kind of hemp used for caulking ships), which served them to make wicks for their lamps. When these stores began to fail, their shirts and their drawers (which are worn by almost all Russian peasants) were employed to make good the deficiency. By these means they kept their lamp burning without intermission, from the day they first made it, (a work they set about soon after their arrival on the island,) until that of their embarkation for their native country. The necessity of converting the most essential part of their clothing, such as their shirts and drawers, to the use above specified, exposed them the more to the rigour of the climate. They also found themselves in want of shoes, boots, and other articles of dress; and as winter was approaching, they were again obliged to have recourse to that ingenuity which necessity suggests, and which seldom fails in the trying hour of distress.

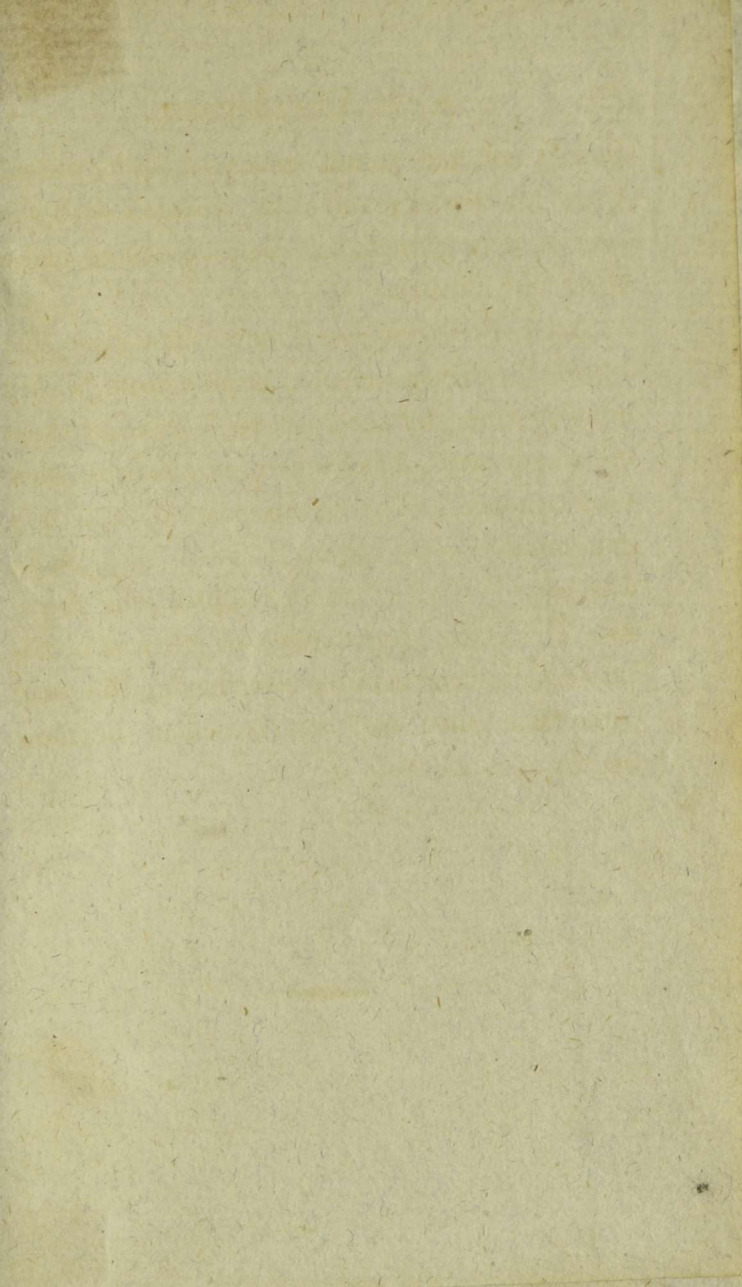
They had skins of rein-deer and foxes in plenty, that had hitherto served them for bedding, and which they now thought of employing in some more essential service ; but the question was how to tan them. After deliberating on this subject, they took to the following method : they soaked the skins for several days in fresh water, till they could pull off the hair pretty easily ; they then rubbed the wet leather with their hands till it was nearly dry, when they spread some melted rein-deer fat over it, and again rubbed it well. By this process, the leather became soft, pliant, and supple, proper for answering every purpose they wanted it for. Those skins which they designed for furs, they only soaked for one day, to prepare them for being wrought, and then proceeded in the manner before mentioned, except only that they did not remove the hair. Thus they soon provided themselves with the necessary materials for all the parts of dress they wanted.—But here another difficulty occurred : they had neither awls for

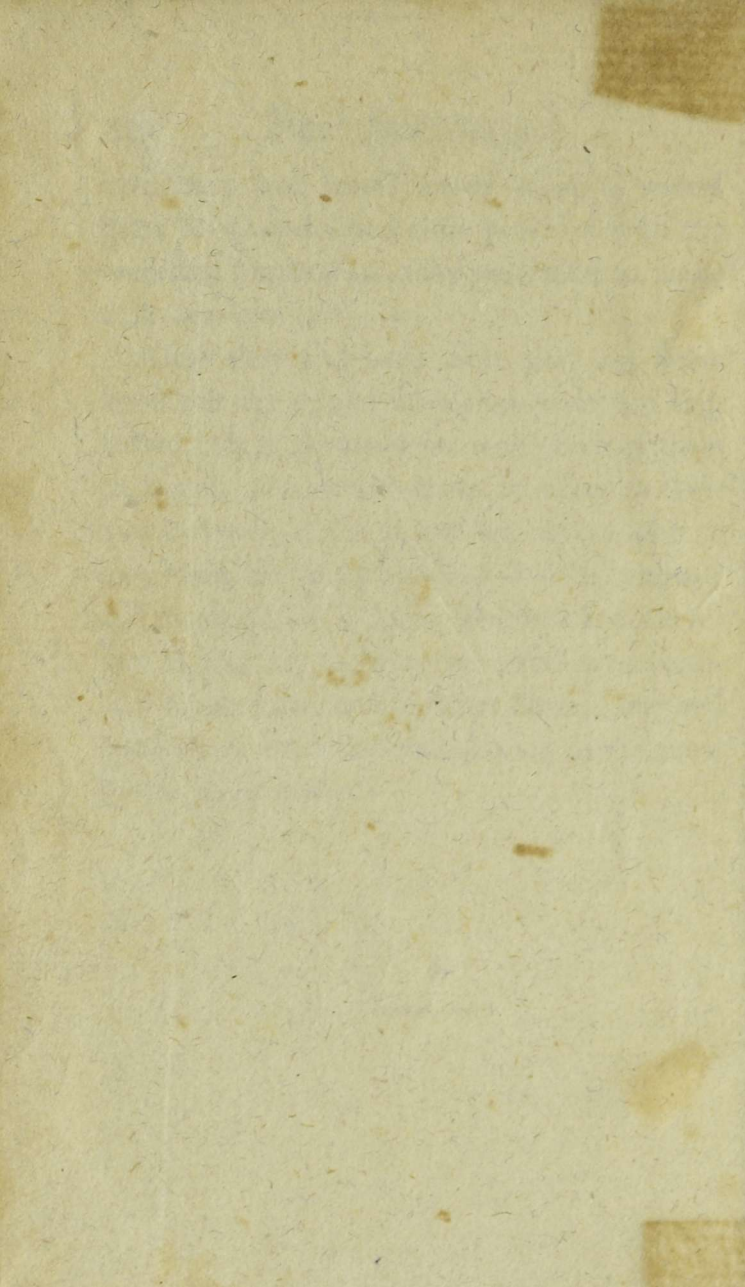
making shoes or boots, nor needles for sewing their garments. This want, however, they soon supplied by means of the bits of iron they had occasionally collected. Out of these they made both, and by their industry even brought them to a certain degree of perfection. The making eyes to their needles gave them indeed no little trouble, but this they also performed with the assistance of their knife ; for having ground it to a very sharp point, and heated red hot a kind of wire forged for that purpose, they pierced a hole through one end, and by whetting and smoothing it on stones brought the other to a point, and thus gave the whole needle a very tolerable form. Scissars to cut out the skin were what they next had occasion for ; but having none, their place they supplied with the knife : and though there was neither shoemaker nor tailor amongst them, yet they had contrived to cut out their leather and furs well enough for their purpose. The sinews of the bears and the rein-deer, which, as I mentioned be-

fore, they had found means to split, served them for thread ; and thus provided with the necessary implements, they proceeded to make their new clothes.

After they had lived more than six years upon this dreary and inhospitable coast, a ship arriving there by accident, took three of them on board, and carried them in safety to their own country. The fourth was seized with a dangerous disease, which is called the scurvy ; and being of an indolent temper, and therefore not using the exercise which was necessary to preserve his life, after having lingered some time, died, and was buried in the snow by his companions.







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