

A
RELATION
OF A
VOYAGE

Made by the
Sieur de Montauban,
Captain of the *French* Privateers,
ON THE
Coasts of *Guinea,*
In the Year 1695.

WITH

A Description of the Kingdom of *Cape de Lopez*; and an Account of the Manners, Customs and Religion of the Natives of that Country.

London : Printed in the Year 1698.

A LETTER to Monsieur * * * *

SIR,

I Have at last receiv'd the Relation of the Voyage, made by Capt. Montauban, commonly call'd Montauban, and I have sent it you printed. You will admire without all Doubt, as well as I, how by the means of his singular Prudence and Courage, he extricated himself from those weighty Pressures, under which any other Person in his Circumstances, would have unavoidably perish'd: You may also call to Mind in reading the beginning of this Narrative, that you had a sight of some of his Seamen at Bordeaux, A. D. 1694. from whence he set out the next Year to undertake the Voyage, of which he here gives us a particular Account.

He gave chase to divers Ships that he met during his Course, and engag'd at Cape Verd, with a Frigate of 34 Pieces of Ordnance. At St. John's Cape he came up with an English Vessel of 20 Guns, and took her after a small Engagement. Afterwards he took a Caper of Brandenburg,

burg, and steer'd his Course to Angola. At last he discover'd the English Guard-Ship, arm'd with 54 Pieces of Cannon near the Coast, and fought her during five or six Hours, till they both came to boarding with great Fury. But when he was just ready to master her, the English Captain set fire to his whole store of Powder, and both the Ships were blown up into the Air, with a most dreadful Noise and Havock.

You may have the satisfaction to take a view of so terrible a Shipwreck in this Narrative, as it were on the Sea shoar, and to observe how Capt. Montauban makes his Escape with Fifteen or Sixteen of his Men. He suffer'd Hunger above Three Days, and at last arriv'd at Cape de Lopez, where he went to visit the King of the Country: He has given us a Description of the Court and Kingdom of that Prince; treating at the same time of his Religion, and forming a Project for the establishing of the Roman-Catholick in those Parts. He stood Godfather to the King's Grand-son, by his Son Prince Thomas, and embark'd in a Portuguese Vessel, to return to Europe. An English Man of his Acquaintance took him on board his Ship, and convey'd him to Bar-

Barbadoes, where he was confin'd in a Chamber by the Order of M. Ruffel, Governour of the English Island. Afterwards he was set at Liberty, and transported to Martinica, where he was present at the Death of M. de Blenac, General of the French Islands. From thence he pass'd over into France, and continu'd very doubtful whether he should try his Fortune again by Sea or not.

All these Particulars (Sir) are related in so plain and natural a Style, that you may clearly discern the Integrity and Generosity of the Author. Indeed it must be acknowledg'd that Sailors and other Persons, taken up with the Management of Maritime Affairs, are nothing near so polite, as those that have Employments on the Land, by reason that they do not keep so much Company, and have not an opportunity of conversing so frequently with the more refin'd Wits of the Age; but to make amends for this Defect, they are generally a great deal more sincere. Therefore you need not fear, lest a Sea-Captain should impose on your Credulity: Besides, I have often heard him making a Narration of the same Voyage, yet never could perceive him to vary in the least Circumstances; insomuch, that the Candour and free

free Air, with which he was wont to relate the bravest Actions that were perform'd in the Engagements, would soon persuade his Hearers to believe, that what he said was certainly true. Neither did he write this Narrative thro' Ostentation, since he himself sufficiently declares in the beginning of it, that he did it only to give an Account of his Expeditions to a Minister of State. Lastly, if you still doubt of the Fight, in which the Sieur de Montauban suffer'd Shipwreck, you cannot but remember that you have read it in the Gazettes of the Month of September or October, of the present Year.

I am,

S I R,

Your most Humble, and

most Obedient Servant,

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A
 RELATION
 OF THE
 VOYAGE
 OF THE

Sieur de Montauban,

Captain of the *French Privateers*,
 on the Coasts of *Guinea*, A. D. 1695.

AFTER having been so often made sensible of the Malignant Influences of the Planet that governs at Sea; and having, by the means of a cross Fortune, lost all the Goods which I had gather'd together, with so great Care and Pains, I should take no Delight in calling to Mind the Misfortunes that put an end to my last Expedition; were it not that the Desire of being still more serviceable to the Publick, and to Private Persons, as also to testify to his Majesty the fervent Zeal I had for his Service, did not oblige me to set Pen to Paper, to
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give some Account of my Observations to *M. Phelipeaux*, in which he may discern with what Earnestness I penetrated into the most remote Colonies of the Enemies, to destroy 'em, and to ruin their Commerce.

I was not willing to enlarge this Relation with an Account of all the Voyages I made, and of all the particular Adventures that befell me on the Coasts of the *New Spain, Carthagena, Mexico, Florida, New-York, New-England, Newfoundland, the Canary Islands, and Cape Verd*, where I cruised up and down above Twenty Years, having begun to follow the practice of Navigation at the Age of Sixteen. I might also add the Expedition of the Year 1691. in which, being Commander of the Ship, call'd *The Machine*, I ravag'd the Coasts of *Guinea*, enter'd the great River of *Serreliou*, seiz'd on the Fort of the *English*, in which there were 80 pieces of Cannon, and caus'd 'em to be blown up, that they might not be refitted: But I will confine myself to the Narrative of my last Voyage, because 'tis the latest, and that which is still fresh in Memory, as having been made known publickly by the Report that was spread abroad in *France* and elsewhere, about the firing of my Ship, and the blowing me up into the Air, after so prodigious a manner.

In the Year 1684. after having ravag'd the Coast of *Carrack* I got the Wind to *Santa Cruz*, and was inform'd there, that a Convoy of Ships was to set out from the Islands
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of *Barbadoes* and *Nevis* for *England*. Whereupon I was oblig'd to go to the Latitude of *Bermudas*, with a Design to seize on that small Fleet, and in hopes of getting a good Prize. I was no sooner arriv'd, but they appear'd steering directly towards me, without any manner of Fear; but I attack'd the Convoy, call'd the *Wolf*, with two other Merchant-Ships, laden with Sugar; the rest having found means to escape, during the Fight. As I was carrying off this Prize, I met with another *English* Vessel of Sixteen Guns, that came from *Spain*, and was likewise sailing for *England*: She surrender'd after a slight Engagement, and I convey'd her to *Rochel*, where the Court of Admiralty adjudg'd her to me as lawful Prize. After having sold her, I brought my three other Ships to *Bordeaux*, where I arriv'd in the Month of *September*, *A. D.* 1694. These were in like manner allow'd to be good Prize, and I immediately fought for Merchants to dispose of 'em.

In the mean while my Free-Booters, who had not seen *France* for a long time, being now arriv'd in a great City, in which Voluptuousness and Luxury are predominant, were desirous to make themselves some amends for the Fatigues they had endur'd, during so long an Absence from their Native Country: Infomuch, that they riotously wasted vast Sums of Money, and gave way to all Actions of Extravagance. The Merchants and Victuallers made no

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scruple to trust 'em, or to supply 'em with whatever they desir'd, upon the Reputation of their Wealth, and the Report that was given out in the City, with reference to the great Prizes in which they had a Share. Thus they pass'd all the Nights in variety of Divertisements, and the Days in running about the Streets in Masquerade, causing themselves to be carry'd in Chairs, with lighted Torches at Noon-day: This Excess of Debauchery destroy'd some of 'em, and four others deserted me; so that perceiving that I lost my Men, notwithstanding all my Precaution, and all the Prohibitions that I could make, I determin'd to retire from the City as soon as 'twas possible, to preserve the rest of my Company.

At first I fill'd up again the Vacancy of those that were lost, by an equal number of young Men of *Bordeaux*, who in a short time were as capable of playing their Parts as the oldest. And indeed, I always take a particular Care to instruct my Men in the best manner of firing a Piece, and the frequent Exercise, with which I usually train 'em up, within a little while, renders 'em as expert in shooting right at a Mark, and in handling their Arms, as the most ancient Free-booters of the Sea, and the most skillful Hunters on Land.

After having victuall'd my Ship, which carry'd about 34 Pieces of Ordnance; I set out from *Bordeaux* in the Month of *February*, *A. D.* 1695. with a Design to cruise on the

Sieur De Montauban.

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the Coasts of *Guinea*, in *Africa*. To that purpose I pass'd to the Islands *Azores*, which lie in the 37th. Degree of Latitude, and rovd up and down during Eight Days, without discovering any thing. From thence I steer'd to the *Canary* Islands, situated in the 25th. Degree, and descry'd the Pike of *Teneriff* at a very great distance, which is reputed to be the highest Mountain in the World. 'Tis reported that those Islands took their Name from *Doggs*, call'd *Canes* in *Latin*, great Numbers of which were found there by the *Portugueses*. I sail'd round about 'em for Fourteen Days, to wait for certain *Dutch* Vessels, which (as I was inform'd) were to come that way; and indeed, they actually appear'd, but enter'd the Port before I could come up with 'em; which Disappointment oblig'd me to steer my Course for *Cape Blanc*, and the Islands of *Cape Verd*, which lie between the 14. and the 18. Degree of Southern Latitude. Upon my Arrival, I met with two *English* Ships riding at Anchor in the Road of the Island of *May*. I sent out my Shallop to discover 'em; and forasmuch as she brought me word, that they were Privateers or Interlopers, of 30 Guns apiece, I took a Resolution to take 'em by boarding; and therefore tack'd about, to make up to 'em: But whilst I was running a Course on one of the Points of the Island, those Vessels did not stay till I had tack'd about again; but suspecting my Design, they speedily set sail, leaving their Cables, Anchors and Shallops on the Road.

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I purfu'd 'em all that day ; but the Night approaching, I lost the sight of 'em, and return'd to the Road, from whence they set out, to hoist up the Cables and Anchors, and to sink the Shallops, to which they were fasten'd. Afterwards I steer'd my Course to the Island of *St. Vincent*, to pay my Ship, and to take in fresh Water and Wood. This Island is one of those of *Cape Verd*, or *Green-Head*, where I stay'd Eight Days, and at the end of that Term, having receiv'd Information from a *Portuguese* Bark, that there were two *English* Privateers of 20 or 30 Guns at the Island of *Fuogo*, one of which was refitting, by reason of an Engagement she had with another Privateer, I immediately weigh'd Anchor, and made that Island, which is not very far distant from those of *St. Vincent*, hoping to meet with the Enemies there ; but upon my Arrival I was inform'd by the *Portugueses*, that they had left the said Island *de Fuogo*, five Days before, in the Night, without giving any notice of their Course. Whereupon I steer'd mine to the Coasts of *Guinea*, and touch'd first at the Cape of three Points, where I met with the Guard-Ship which was a *Dutch* Frigate of 34 Pieces of Ordnance, and was cruising on the Main. She did not fail to descry me, and forthwith sail'd directly towards me, to make a Discovery : Forasmuch as I also had a sight of her, and wish'd for an Opportunity to fight her, I caus'd a *Dutch* Flag to be set up, to avoid disheartning her, and to
give

give her Liberty to draw near within my Cannon-Shot. When I perceiv'd her to be near enough, I put out the *French* Colours, and made a Signal to her to strike Sail; but she incontinently let fly a Broad-side at me with a great deal of Courage, and receiv'd mine in like manner. Thus we continu'd battering one another, from Morning, till Four a Clock in the Afternoon: Neither was I able to get the Weather-gage, nor to come to a close Engagement, to make use of my *Bucanier* Fuses to good purpose, in which consists the principal Force of our Privateers, nor to hinder her, by the means of the Advantage of the Wind, which she still kept over me, from casting Anchor under the Fort of the Cape of the three Points; where there were also two other *Dutch* Men of War, one of which carry'd 14 Guns, and the other 28.

I was apt to believe at first, that those three Ships would joyn together in quest of me; so that I tack'd round about during a whole Day, to wait for 'em, and cast Anchor within a League of the Road, hoping that at last the Shame of seeing themselves insulted over, after such a manner, would excite 'em to endeavour to revenge the Affront. But all these Efforts were in vain, and apparently the Guard-Ship was too much disabled to stand in need of a second Engagement. A small *Portuguese* Vessel that pass'd by soon after, gave me to understand, that those Ships were the same, that had

oblig'd the *Sieur Roy*, Commander of the King's Pink, call'd the *Deep*, to abandon the Coast, which was afterwards confirm'd by the *Sieur Roy* himself, at the Prince's Island, where we happen'd to meet.

Thus having perceiv'd, that the Enemies refus'd to fight, and judging that it would be disadvantageous to me to attack 'em under the Cannon of the Fort; I took a Resolution to go to *Cape de Lopez*, and to the Islands of the Prince, and of *St. Thomas*. By the way, I went to discover *St. John's Cape*, which is on the Continent of *Guinee*, as well as that of the three Points, and I luckily met with an *English Ship* of 20 Guns, laden with 350 Negro's, Elephants Teeth, and Wax. It cost me no great trouble to take her, and the Captain told me that he came from *Ardra*, where he took on board 550 Negro's, some of whom he caus'd to be put to Death, for revolting against the Ship's Crew, and others made their Escape to Land in his Shallop, which they had taken away. *Ardra* is one of the principal Towns of *Guinee*, situated on the Sea-shoar, being the usual Place of Residence of a Prince, who governs a large Tract of Land in that Country.

From thence I pass'd to the Prince's Island, in the sight of which I took a small Caper of *Brandenburg*, arm'd with Eight Pieces of Cannon, and 70 Men: She was wont to cruise in that Latitude, and to seize on small Barks that pass'd by that way,
without

without any Distinction of Nation or Colours. Afterwards I enter'd the Harbour, to cause my Ship, which was very foul, to be cleans'd, and to dispatch the *English* Prize, I had taken just before: I sent her to *St. Domingo*, in *America*, to be condemn'd there, under the Command of the *Sieur de Nave*, with a sufficient number of Men, whom I took out of my own Ship. But I was inform'd some time after, that she was retaken by certain *English* Men of War, who were before the lesser *Goeree*.

In the mean while, not to suffer my Mariners to lead an idle kind of Life, I gave Orders to the Officers to cause my Ship to be careen'd, and with the *Brandenburg* Caper I had taken, and 90 Men, whom I put on board her, we steer'd our Course, during a Month and half, cruising up and down the Coasts of *Guinee*, or round about the Islands of the Prince, and of *St. Omer*, without meeting any Enemy. Afterwards I return'd to the Road of the former of those Islands, where I caus'd my Ship to be victuall'd with all possible speed; and having made every thing ready, I weigh'd Anchor, and stood in directly for *St. Thomas's* Island, with a Design to sell or to truck away the Caper I had taken. And indeed, I barter'd her for Provisions, not having a sufficient Store to serve us whilst we cruis'd along the Coasts of *Angola*, where I determin'd to pass five or six Months, to avoid a Privateer which the *English* were building in those Parts of

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Guinea: They actually fitted out three Men of War and a Fire-Ship, to seek for me in the Road of *St. Thomas*, where they judg'd that I was to continue for some time. At my departure from that Island I descry'd a Ship riding at Anchor, and making towards her, I gave her Chase for a long time, but I could not by any means hinder her from getting a-shoar, and falling in with the Island of *St. Omer*. I miss'd in not taking her 150 Pounds of Gold Dust, which that *Dutch* Interloper had traded for on the Coast.

Afterwards I steer'd to the Coasts of *Angola*, which are situated above 250 Leagues beyond the Equinoctial Line. I arriv'd there *September 22.* and got Information at the distance of three Leagues from the Port of *Cabinda*, that there were two *English* Vessels, laden with *Negro's*. Forasmuch as I lay under the Wind of that Port, I kept off from the Shoar, hoping that the next day the South-west Wind, that usually blows from the Main, would convey me directly into the Port. That Morning, very early, I descry'd a Ship with *English* Colours making up towards me, yet I did not at first take her to be a Man of War, but discover'd some time after, that she carry'd 54 Pieces of Ordnance. I us'd all the Precaution imaginable not to fright her away, and set up *Dutch* Colours to make up to her with greater Facility: The *English* Ship on the other side did almost the same thing,
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and by the Cannon-Shot, which she boldly discharg'd from time to time, endeavour'd to draw near us. Having perceiv'd her Design, I feign'd to wait for her coming up, steering very slowly, to induce her to believe that my Ship was over-loaded, or that our Courfe was hinder'd for want of Sails, or a sufficient Complement of Men. We pass'd after this manner from Break of Day, till Ten a Clock in the Morning: She incessantly maintain'd her Flag with Cannon-shot without Balls; but perceiving at last that I did not do the like to make good mine, and that we were already come within Gun-shot one of another, she let off a Cannon loaded with Ball, which oblig'd me to put out *French* Colours, and to answer her Salute. At the sight of that Flag, the *English* Man of War, without endeavouring to get the Wind of us, let fly two Broad-sides, which I receiv'd without so much as firing one Gun, altho I had seven Men kill'd: I hop'd that being come a little nearer, I might render her incapable of making an Escape; using my utmost Efforts to get close within Fusée-shot, determining to embolden her to come on Board, since I was not in a condition to board her, because we were to the Leeward. At last, having approach'd by little and little, and seeing her within the reach of my Fusileers, who lay hid under Deck, I caus'd 'em to get up, and they made so continual a Fire, that they soon abated that of the Enemies.

In the mean while, forasmuch as their Company consisted of above Three Hundred Men, and they were also sensible that their Design could not be accomplish'd by the discharging of their Cannon, a Resolution was taken to board us, which they did with hideous Outcrys, and Threats, to give us no Quarter, unless we surrender'd: But their Grappling-Irons not being able to lay hold on the Stern of my Ship, theirs ran in such a manner, that she dash'd her Poop against my Boltsprit, and broke it in pieces.

Then my Men taking the Advantage of the Hurry and Disorder, lost none of their aim, and fir'd so furiously for an Hour and half, that the Enemy being no longer able to resist; and having lost many of their Mariners, began to despond, and retir'd underneath the Decks. I also perceiv'd almost at that very instant that they made me a sign with their Hats to give 'em Quarter. Whereupon I caus'd my Men to desist from firing, and commanded the *English* to embark in their Shallops, in order to surrender themselves on board my Ship. At the same time I appointed some of my Attendants to leap into that of the Enemies, to seize on it, and to prevent all manner of Surprise. I was already overjoy'd at the taking of so considerable a Prize; and so much the rather, in regard that after having master'd that Vessel, which was the Guard-Ship of *Angola*, and the

the largest that the *English* had in those Seas; I should be in a condition to get better Prizes, and to attack any Man of War whatever: My Men were no less joyful than my self; some of whom were going from on Board, and others were employ'd in veering the Cable, with a great deal of satisfaction, when on a suddain Fire, having taken the Powder in the Gun-room, by the means of a Match, which the Captain had left there, hoping to escape with his two Shallops; the Ships being grappl'd together, were both blown up into the Air, and made the most dreadful Noise that ever was heard. 'Tis impossible to make a lively Representation of that sad Spectacle; for since the Spectators were themselves the Actors in so bloody a Tragedy, they knew not whether they saw it or not, and were not able to judge, but of what they themselves had felt: Therefore leaving it to the Reader to imagine the Horror that might arise from the sight of two Ships that are blown up into the Air with Gunpowder, above the height of 200 † Fathoms, † *Toises.* forming as it were an huge Mountain of Fire, Water, Fragments of the Ships, Cords, pieces of Ordnance and Men, with a deadly Havock; during which, amidst the noise of the Guns that were let off in the Air, and of the roaring Waves that swell'd up on all sides; one might also hear the horrible crashing of the shatter'd Masts and Tables, of the torn Sails and Cords; of the

Men crying out, and of the broken Bones, leaving all that I say to the Imagination of the Reader, I shall only declare here what befel my self, and by what good Fortune I escap'd.

When the Fire took, I stood on the Deck of my Ship in the Fore-Castle, where I was giving Orders, and was blown up with some part of the Deck so violently, that (as I take it) the extreme Height, to which I was hurry'd, hinder'd me from being involv'd among the Fragments of the Ships, where I must inevitably have been crush'd in a thousand pieces: I fell back into the Sea, quite stunn'd, and continu'd for a long while under Water, without being able to recover my self; till at last struggling in the Water, as a Man, who is afraid of being drown'd, I got above it, and caught hold of a piece of Mast that lay near me. Then I cry'd out to some of my Men whom I saw swimming round about me, and exhorted 'em to be of good Courage, hoping that we might save our selves if we could find some of our Shallops. But that which troubl'd me more than my own Misfortune, was the sight of two half Bodies, in which there was still some Remainder of Life, floating on the Water, and leaving the Place where they sunk stain'd with their Blood; as also to see round about me an infinite number of Limbs and Members torn from Bodies, and the greatest part of 'em spitted on the Splinters
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of Wood. In the mean while, one of my Men having espy'd an entire Shallop amidst the Wreck, that swam on the Water, told me that 'twas requisite to endeavour to stop a Hole therein, and to take out a small Boat, which was enclos'd within it. Whereupon about Fifteen or Sixteen of us, who had escaped, made up to the Shallop, every one on his piece of Wood, and took so great Care to clear our Boat, that at last our Attempt prov'd successful. Thus we all got into it, and not long after sav'd our Master-Gunner, who had one of his Legs shot off in the Fight. We took up three or four Oars, or pieces of Planks, that serv'd us for the same use. Then we sought for somewhat to make a Sail, and a small Mast; and after having furnish'd our selves in the best manner we possibly could, we entirely rely'd upon the Divine Providence, which alone was able to secure our Life and Safety.

As soon as I had ceas'd from Work, I found my self all over besmear'd with Blood that ran out of a Wound I receiv'd in my Head, and which was apparently occasion'd by my being blown up. Therefore Lint was made for me with my Handkerchief, and a Band with a piece of my Shirt, having first wash'd the Wound with Urine. The same thing was done for others of our Company, who were wounded, whilst our Shallop sail'd without any sight of Land, neither did we know whither we were steering; but that
which

which added to our Affliction was, that we had no Provisions, and had already pass'd three Days without either eating or drinking; infomuch, that one of our Men, quite worn out with Hunger and Thirst, drank so great a quantity of salt Water, that he burst. The greatest part of our Company vomited continually, whether they receiv'd any Injury from the Water they swallow'd upon their falling into the Sea, as it befel me, or from that which they were necessitated to drink. As for my self, I was a long time indispos'd, so that my Body swell'd extremely, and a great number of small Pimples broke forth throughout my Body: But I am apt to believe, the cure of my Dropsie, and the Health that I have in some measure recover'd, and which is by degrees more and more restor'd, to be chiefly owing to a Quartan-Agüe, that seiz'd on me a little while after that Misfortune. I do not reckon up the other Inconveniences that were occasion'd by so desperate a Blow, it being impossible that they should not befall any Person under my Circumstances. The Fire of the Powder burnt all my Hair, my whole Face, and all over one side of my Body, and I became sensible of that Accident, which commonly happens among the Cannoniers, who serve at Sea; that is to say, I voided Blood thro' the Nose, Ears and Mouth. I know not whether the Blast of the Gun-powder produces that Effect, by excessively dilating the Vessels

Vessels that contain the Blood in our Body, so that the ends of the Branches let it out, or whether the great Noise and Commotion that it causes in those Organs, obliges the Veins to open: But let the case be how it will, 'tis of no great moment, since this is not a proper Place to hold a Consultation of Physicians, as long as we are ready to be starv'd with Hunger; nor to enquire what became of all the *English* Men, when we had much ado to save our selves.

We continu'd our Course by rowing up the Current, because we knew it came from the Port of *Cabinda*; but forasmuch as the Wind was contrary, we could never reach it; and we were forc'd to content our selves only to make *Cape Corfa* if it were possible, which is distant Twelve Leagues from that of *Cathersna*, where we were not able to land, by reason of a Bar, which renders the Coast inaccessible. That was our Design, but Hunger hinder'd us from putting it in Execution, and 'twas requisite to overcome the Obstacles that Nature laid in our way, by getting a-shoar notwithstanding the Bar, which we did at last, with a great deal of Difficulty, hoping to meet with some Negro, who might supply us with Victuals. Therefore one of our Company being detach'd to seek for somewhat to appease our Hunger, had the good Luck to find in a Pond that the Sea had form'd hard by, good store of Oysters sticking to certain Branches, and immediately ran to give us notice of
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this Discovery. Whereupon we all got up the Channel, to that Pond; and being arriv'd there, eat Oysters with a very good Appetite; opening 'em with Knives we had in our Pockets, which we lent one to another very charitably. After having spent two Days there, I divided my Men into three small Bands, and sent 'em to seek for Provisions and Habitations farther up the Land, with Orders to return to the Shallop in the Evening. I also went forth with the rest, but we did not meet with an Habitation, nor any Footsteps of Men. We only saw many Herds of Buffles, of the bigness of an Ox, which fled from us as we drew near 'em. Thus the whole Day being spent, without finding any thing, we all came back to the Shallop to feed upon Oysters, and took a Resolution to depart from that Place the next day, to go to *Cape Corfa*, to the Leeward of which is situated a large Port, where the Vessels that come from Cruising, take in fresh Water and Wood. The Negro's who inhabit the Country as soon as they are inform'd of the Arrival of any Vessels, by the discharging of their Cannon, instantly repair to the Shoar, bringing Provisions to be exchange'd for Brandy, Knives, Hatchets, and other Toys. They are oblig'd to take up their Habitation far from the Sea, by reason that all those Coasts are surrounded with Marshy Grounds. We were no sooner arriv'd at that Cape, but we heard a great noise made by the Negro's, who

who came to sell Wood to the Ships that lay at Anchor in the Port, and I made enquiry among 'em, endeavouring to find out some of my Acquaintance: For since they had very frequently supply'd me with necessary Refreshments, Wood and other Commodities in my other Voyages; I hop'd to meet with some Persons that had Knowledge of me; but altho I knew many of 'em, nevertheless 'twas almost impossible to persuade 'em, that I was Captain *Montauban*, in regard that I was so much disfigur'd; and they all took me for an Impostor that design'd to impose on their Credulity. However, I took the Liberty to tell 'em in their Language, which I understood a little, that I was ready to starve with Hunger, and that I entreated 'em to give me somewhat to eat: But I could not prevail by any means whatever, and 'twas absolutely requisite for me to beg the favour of 'em to conduct me to Prince *Thomas*, who is the Son of the King of that Country, hoping that he would call to mind the good Offices I had formerly done him.

At last I found means to introduce my whole Company into the Presence of that Prince. We pass'd at first thro the Habitations of those Negro's, and began by little and little, to make some Impressions on their Mind; insomuch, that they gave us some *Banana's*, which are a kind of Figs, longer than ones Hand. The next day we arriv'd at Prince *Thomas's* Seat, but I was
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in so forry an Equipage, that I could not make him take any Cognizance of me, by all the signs I gave him, either in the *Moorish* Language, or in that of the *Portugueses*, which he speaks very fluently. Forasmuch as in bathing with him one day, he had seen a Scar occasion'd by a Musquet-shot I had receiv'd in my Thigh; he told me that 'twas requisite at that very Instant to know whether I really were Capt. *Montauban*; and if I were not the Person, he would take Care that I should lose my Head. Whereupon he ask'd me whether I had not such a Scar; so that after having shew'd it to him, he immediately embrac'd me, and told me that he was very much concern'd to see me in so deplorable a Condition. At first he caus'd wholsome Victuals to be distributed to all my Retinue, and caus'd 'em to be lodg'd in separate Apartments, giving particular Orders to the Negro's, with whom they were quarter'd, to take all possible Care of 'em. As for my self, he retain'd me in his Court, and caus'd me continually to eat at his own Table. When I was a little refresh'd, he acquainted me with his Intention to conduct me to his Father, whose usual Place of Residence was five or six Leagues distant from thence; that is to say, ten or twelve from the Sea-shoar. Whereupon I gave him to understand, that I was very sensible of the Honour he did me, with extreme Satisfaction, and humbly entreated him at the same time to give me leave to take my Free-Booters along

long with me, and to bestow on us some Pieces of Stuff to put us in an Equipage fit to appear before so great a Monarch: He condescended to grant every thing that I desir'd, so that three Days after, we set out altogether in a large Canoo, and pass'd up the River of *Cape de Lopez*, by reason that the Country is so full of Fens and Marshes, that one cannot travel thro' it by Land.

Upon our Arrival at the King's Court, in a Village, consisting of three Hundred Cottages, cover'd with Palm-Tree-Leaves, where the King keeps his Wives and Relations, with some other Negro Families, that have obtain'd the greatest Share of his Favour; a Lodging was provided for me in Prince *Thomas's* Apartments, and all my Attendants were dispos'd of in others. We found the Inhabitants making great Lamentation and Mourning, because the chief Priest of their Religion, whom they call'd *Papa*, dy'd that very Day; and in regard that the Funeral Pomp was to commence, which is usually continu'd for Seven Days, for Priests of his Quality. Indeed he was in great Veneration and Esteem among those People, who look'd upon him as a Holy Man. Forasmuch as during the whole time of that doleful Solemnity, the King was in Mourning, and admitted none to publick Audience, Prince *Thomas* advis'd me to wait patiently, and not to stir out of my Lodging, unless it were to visit his Majesty, because it was the Custom of his Nation.

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However, I could not forbear going to take a view of the Funeral Proceſſion, yet could diſcern nothing but a great Concourse of People round about the Corps of the Deceased Person. In the mean while, I was well entertain'd by the Order of Prince *Thomas*, who was gon to see his Father. Indeed there was no want of *Banana's*, Elephants Fieſh, and River-Fiſh; but we had neither Bread nor Wine, nor any kind of Sauce, as it may be eaſily imagin'd. My Men were treated in like manner in their Apartments, during the whole time of our Abode in that Place.

At the end of Eight Days Prince *Thomas* came to us, and introduc'd us into the Preſence of the King his Father; he is a portly Negro, of a tall Stature, well ſhap'd, and aged about Fifty Years; who, to do me greater Honour, upon his Son's Recommendation, went out of his Houſe, on purpoſe to receive me, and advanc'd ſome Paces forward to meet me. He leant on four or five Women, who ſupported him on all ſides, ſhewing a certain Grandeur, after a very conſuſed and odd manner. He was ſurrounded with a great number of Negroes, arm'd with Lances and Fuſees, which they diſcharg'd from time to time with very little Order: Many Trumpeters and Drummers march'd before him, and at the Head of that Company were carry'd divers Standards, of the Colour of thoſe of *Holland*. He had no other Cloaths than a piece of Cotton.

ton-Cloth, with white and blue Stripes, with which some Parts were only cover'd by several Folds made round about his Body.

He was pleas'd to make me sensible of his Amity and Respect for me, by many Demonstrations ; and having stretch'd out his Hand, told me, that 'twas the first time he gave it to any Man. When we were arriv'd at his House, he sat down at the Door, and caus'd me to be placed on one side, and his Son on the other. Then he ask'd me several Questions about the Grandeur and Power of the King my Master ; and after I had acquainted him, that he alone at present carry'd on a War against the *English* and *Hollanders*, (of whom his Majesty had some knowledge, as having often seen 'em at *Cape de Lopez*) and that he likewise maintain'd it against the *Germans* and *Spaniards*, more potent Nations than the former, he told me that he was well satisfied with my Narrative, and that he had a mind to drink a Health to the King of *France*. Whereupon some Palm-Wine was immediately brought to him, which was not very disagreeable to the Palate, and his Female Attendants serv'd him with it in a large Cryстал-Glass. As soon as he began to take the Glass, the Negroes and Negresses, who attended in great numbers, held up his right Arm, and continually kept it steady in the same posture, till he had made an end of drinking. Afterwards a great noise was made with the Trumpets and Drums, and a Volley of Musket, or rather Fusée-shot.

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Then Prince *Thomas* ask'd me what was the Name of the King of *France* ; and after I had made Answer that he was call'd *Lewis the Great* , he told me he was desirous that I should stand God-father to a Child he had, aged only seven or eight Months, and that I should name him *Lewis the Great* ; whereupon I could not forbear smiling a little. He promis'd me likewise that at the first Voyage I should make to his Country he would deliver him into my Hands, to be convey'd to *France*, and presented to the King, for whose Service he design'd him ; being well pleased that his Son should be educated after the manner of that Nation, and in the Court of so great a Monarch. I also engag'd on the other side, that the very first time I should come back to *Guinee*, I would not fail to put him in mind of his Promise, to the end that at my Return to *France* I might set before the King the greatest Present that could possibly be made ; namely, the Son of Prince *Thomas*. Pray assure him (said that Prince) that I am one of his particular Friends, and that if he stand in need of my Service I will pass over into *France*, with all the Lances and Fusces belonging to the King my Father ; that is to say, with all the Forces of the Kingdom. Then the King resuming his Discourse gave me to understand, that he also would take a Progress thither in Person, if it were requisite, and immediately all the Negroes and Negresses made so hideous an Out-cry, that I was extremely surpriz'd: That Cry no sooner

sooner ceas'd, but the Fusileers discharg'd a Volley of all their Fire-arms, the Trumpets sounding, and Drums beating; and the Lance-men fell a running from one side to another backward and forward, with great Shouts; so that I could not choose but be somewhat frightened: And indeed, I did not know the meaning of that Uproar, neither was I able to recover my self, till I perceiv'd that the King drank a Health to the King of *France* a second time, with the same Ceremonies as before; that Prince *Thomas* pledg'd his Father, and that 'twas order'd that we should all drink at the same time. Which being done accordingly, the King caus'd two Loaves of Wax to be brought to him, made me a Present of 'em, desiring me to accept of 'em as a Mark of his Friendship, and afterwards enter'd his House.

This Audience being thus concluded, Prince *Thomas* conducted me thro' all the Quarters of the Village, where he went to visit his Friends, and on the following Days we pass'd to divers other Villages, situated farther up the Country at the distance of five or six Leagues one from another. These People, the greatest part of whom never travell'd to the Sea-shoar, and consequently never had a sight of white Men, ran from all parts to see us, and brought us greater quantities of Fruit, and of Flesh, of Buffles and Elephants, than we could eat. The Elephants of that Country are not altogether like those of the *East-Indies*; being but of

one kind, as also are those of *Cofala*, near *Zanguebar*, on the Eastern Coasts of *Ethiopia*. The Negroes eat 'em with a great deal of Delight, and esteem their Flesh beyond any other : They make their most sumptuous Feasts with 'em, and those who were desirous to do us most Honour, presented 'em to us instead of Buffles; on which, nevertheless I set a greater Value.

Forasmuch as they were not able to comprehend the difference of Colour between our Complexion and theirs, they stroak'd our Faces with their Hands, to see whether the white Colour would pass away; nay, divers of our Company had their Hands scrap'd with Knives, sometimes even till they were hurt, yet we durst not complain of that rough usage : However, Prince *Thomas* perceiving it, commanded his Attendants not to suffer 'em thus to rub and scratch our Fingers, and spoke aloud to the People that ran after us, telling 'em that all Foreigners were white, and that if the Negroes travell'd into other Countries, they would appear as strange to those Natives, as we did among them in *Guinee*. Nay, he often smil'd to see the Multitude continually running after us, as if we had been some unknown Animals; and I know not whether he were displea'd to see us thus pester'd by the Importunity of the Negroes, or whether he might not take some Delight in observing the Sottishness of those People : And indeed, I had sometimes an opportunity to take notice of all their extravagant Fopperies. At

At last, after three Days Journey, accompany'd with variety of Divertisements, the Prince convey'd me thro' another Road to take leave of his Father. The King caress'd me in a most obliging manner, according to the Custom of his Nation, and made me promise to visit him the first time I return'd to *Guinee*. Afterwards we embark'd in his Canoo, and arriv'd the next day at Prince *Thomas's* Village, where he continu'd the noble Entertainments, with which he was wont to treat us. Then he told me that he was desirous that I should perform the Office of a Godfather to his Son, and I comply'd so much the more willingly, in regard that I had an Opportunity of contributing somewhat to the making of a Christian, and the sanctifying of a Soul.

But forasmuch as I doubted whether the Priest of the Village knew how to baptize, or remember'd the Words that ought to be pronounc'd in the Administration of that Sacrament, I entreated the Prince to provide some of those Priests who were in the *Portuguese* Vessels, and he accordingly sent for one to *Cape de Lopez*, who arriv'd two Days after. The Christian Religion was first introduc'd into that Country by the *Portuguese*, altho' it be true indeed, that they do not maintain it therein as much as it is requisite: But the Obstacles that hinder the Propagation of it, proceed without doubt from the difficulty of inhabiting an almost wild and barren Country, where the Air and Provisions

are not natural to Foreigners: Therefore in order to its firm Establishment in those Parts, 'twould be expedient for the *Europeans* to have settled Habitations, or to build Towns there, to instruct the Negroes in the Articles of Faith, and Mysteries of the Gospel, and to send Missions thither from time to time; which might be done with great Facility, by reason that those People are extremely docil, and very capable of imbibing good Principles, and of embracing any Doctrine that one would go about to teach 'em, since they have liv'd for a long time without any manner of Belief, or any *Idea* of another Religion. These Negroes being thus converted to Christianity, some of 'em might be ordain'd Priests, who might be furnish'd with Rituals, and other Books relating to the Ceremonies of the Church, and a Catechism for the regulating of their Faith, till they were capable of reading the New Testament. It would also be requisite to establish a Bishop in that Town, who should take care to send Priests into the several Habitations of the Negroes throughout the Country, and to cause Oratories to be built in the most populous Places.

Thus the Christian Religion might be propagated in *Guinee*, and would be less liable to be extirpated by the Wars that the Natives make with foreign People. A Reformation might also be effectually carry'd on among the Christians, who reside in the Kingdoms of *Eez* and *Morocco*, and a mutu-

al Correspondence might be maintain'd between the Priests of that Nation, and those of *Guinee*, to the end that they might assist one another in the Preservation of Religion throughout all the Coasts of *Africa*. Indeed Christianity was planted almost after the same manner among the *Gentiles*, who had a much greater Aversion to our Faith, than the Negroes of *Guinee* have at present. The Priests, who are to be found thereabouts, are not for the most part real Priests; not having been ordain'd by any Bishop, and having only substituted themselves in the room of those who died in their Country: Neither have they retain'd any thing that favours never so little of Christianity, altho' they perform many Ceremonies, and have some Appearance of the Administration of the Sacraments.

But to return to our private Christening; upon the Arrival of the *Portuguese* Priest, Prince *Thomas's* Son was actually Baptiz'd, and nam'd *Lewis the Great*, according to his Father's Intention: A certain Negress of his Relations stood Godmother, and I my self was Godfather. I was told that that Lady bore the name of *Antonia*, which she receiv'd from the Wife of a *Portuguese* Captain, who held her at the Baptismal Font. Two or three Days after the Celebration of this Solemnity, which was perform'd with all the Magnificence that could be expected among the Negroes; some of Prince *Thomas's* Guards, who were posted at *Cape de Lopez*,

to give notice of the Arrival of the Ships, came to acquaint him with that of an *English* Vessel. Whereupon I entreated him to give me leave to embark therein, to return to my native Country, in order to my perfect Recovery from that illness, under which I still labour'd. But he was not willing that I should put my self into the Hands of my Enemies, and desir'd me to have a little Patience, till the Arrival of some *Portuguese*, with whom he would readily permit me to go. However, he went to *Cape de Lopez*, to truck away Elephants Teeth, Wax, and Negroes, for Iron, Arms and Brandy, and return'd after ten or twelve Days, when he told me, that a *Portuguese* Vessel lay at Anchor at *Cape de Lopez*; that 'twas requisite to cause my self to be convey'd in Canoos, to embark there; that he had recommended me to the Captain; and that I should want nothing that was necessary for me during my Voyage to *Europe*.

Then I took care to get all my Men together, except two, whom I did not think fit to wait for, because they had taken a Progress into the Country for five or six Days, and I knew not where to find 'em. Therefore we embark'd in the Canoos of that Prince, after having solemnly taken my leave of him; and being arriv'd at *Cape de Lopez*, I perceiv'd that the *Portuguese* Commander was an old Acquaintance of mine, with whom I had contracted Friendship at the Island of *St. Thomas*. Whereupon I took
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Ship with him, and three Days after, we cast Anchor before the same Island; the Governour of which shew'd me a world of kindness, and did the like to all my Men, during a whole Month that we were oblig'd to stay in that Port. At the expiration of that time, an *English* Ship arriv'd, which had been steering her Course on the Golden Coasts. I soon got into the Acquaintance of the Captain, and at last we became so intimate Friends, that I thought my self bound in Honour to accept of the kind Offers he made me, He entreated me to embark with him, and assur'd me, that at *Barbadoes*, to which place he was bound, I should meet with all the Supplies, necessary for the recovering of my Health; because there were certain able *Jewish* Physitians, who were his particular Friends. Therefore I went on board his Ship, with all my Men, notwithstanding all the Reasons alledg'd by the Governour of the Island, to induce me to suspect the *English* Captain, who was without doubt one of the most courteous and upright Men of his Nation: He was so kind as to resign his Cabbin to me, and to afford me all the Delights and Divertisements that can be imagin'd, to mitigate the Pains I endur'd from time to time.

Ten Days after our Departure from *St. Thomas*, having lost the Rudder of our Ship, we were oblig'd to set up a Mast in its place, which was put thro' the Port-holes of the Gun-room, and we were forc'd to steer
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with it, during the whole time of our Voyage, which continu'd three Months. When we stood in for *Barbadoes*, our Provisions began to fail, and there only remain'd what was sufficient for three Days, insomuch, that the Captain being much offended at his being overcharg'd with my Men, order'd three quarters of their Allowance to be retrench'd; and as soon as we arriv'd in the Port, went to salute *M. Russel*, who was Governour of the Island. He gave him a particular Account of the Engagement I had with the Guard-Ship of *Angola*, and was very much blam'd for bringing me to *Barbadoes*. Afterwards, returning to his Ship, he related to me every thing that was discours'd between him and the Governour, who forbid him under pain of Death, to suffer me to land: However, he did not acquaint me with the Prohibition, but contented himself only to advise me not to go a-shore, to avoid giving any cause of Suspicion to *M. Russell*, which Order I promis'd punctually to observe, not being solicitous to take any further Cognizance of a Place, which was well known to me a long time ago, and being unwilling to give the least Offence to my Captain.

The next day, many *Jews*, who were turn'd out of *Martinica*, came to visit me upon the Report of my Arrival; and perceiving me to be very much indispos'd and weaken'd, they sent to me divers Physicians of their Nation, who told me that I could not
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be cur'd, unless I were brought a-shoar, proffering at the same time to sollicite the Governour on my behalf, to give leave, that I might be convey'd into a House on the Port. Whereupon I drew up a Petition to *M. Russel*, in which I entreated him to grant me such a License, promising that I would not stir out of the Chamber that should be appointed for my Lodging, only to re-embark, and to cause my self to be transported to *Martinica*. However, the Physitians themselves were oblig'd to be my Bail, and I was at last conducted to the House of one *M. Jacob Lewes*, where great Care was taken of me during the whole time of my Abode in that Place.

Three Days after I was carry'd thither, the Major-General came to see me by the Governor's Order; very generously promis'd me his Protection, and offer'd his Service, especially to procure me any thing that might be necessary for the Restauration of my Health: Yet I was visited from time to time by the same Major, and every day by a Captain of the Garrison; who came not so much to enquire after the State of my Health, as to observe, whether I should ere long be in a condition to be transported out of the Island. *M. Russel* himself came in like manner ten or twelve Days after my Arrival, to know whether it were true that I was really so ill as it was reported: He also gave me a second Visit seven or eight Days after, in the Evening, and caus'd me to be remov'd from

Sieur De Montauban.

from the *Jew's* House where I lodg'd, to that of an *English* Merchant: He told me at the same time, that I should be better accommodated there than I had been at *M. Jacob Lewis's*; but the real Intention was, that I should be better guarded, and that I might not have an Opportunity of discoursing with so many People. The next day he came again to see me, and ask'd me how I lik'd my new Quarters. I heartily thank'd him for the good Offices he had done me, and to the end that he might not have cause to suspect my Men, I entreated him to give Orders, that they should be confin'd in the Cittadel, to prevent them from straggling about the Island, and from making their Escape.

Then *M. Russel* told me, that he intended to do so; but that I ought to understand that they were Prisoners of War, as well as my self. I reply'd, That I was not ignorant of it; and that I thought my self happy in falling into his Hands; but that the *English* Captain, who brought me to *Barbadoes*, had pass'd his Word that I should not be retain'd nor any of my Company: That upon his Protections of inviolable Fidelity, and the Offers of Service he made me, I ventur'd to embark, relying on the marks of Friendship, which he had already shewn: Then I added, that my Request to him was only to grant me my Liberty, and that of my Men, promising that I would ever be mindful of the Favour, either in restoring the Prisoners whom I might carry off from the Islands, if I should

should take up Arms again, or in paying him what Ransom he should think fit to require.

No, Sir, (said *M. Russel*) *I will neither have your Ransom, nor your Prisoners; for you are so gallant a Man, that your Misfortune and Illness cannot but be pitied, and therefore on the contrary, I would entreat you to accept of Forty Pistoles, of which I make you a Present, to supply you with Necessaries.* He gave 'em me in a Purse, which without doubt he brought for that very purpose, and at his Departure acquainted me that he was going to give Orders, that my Men should be got together again. The next day he sent me two of 'em, who told me, that they did not know what was become of the rest, and that they had Orders from the Governor to stay with me: I had the Liberty to send 'em abroad, to procure any thing that I stood in need of, and at last finding my self somewhat strengthen'd by the means of the extraordinary Care that my Landlord took of me, I acquainted the Officer, who visited me every day, that I would beg leave of the Governour to embark in the first Vessel that should set out from *Martinica*.

Three Days after there arriv'd a Bark, which the Count *de Blenac*, General of the *French* Islands, sent for the exchanging of Prisoners. *M. Russel* gave me notice of its Arrival, and that I should prepare for my embarking therein. Then I had the Liberty to go to his House to thank him for all
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the Kindnesses he had shewn me. He told me that he was sorry he was oblig'd by the Law of Arms not to allow me more Freedom than I had, and that he entreated me to afford a favourable Entertainment to the *English* Men who should fall into my Hands. Afterwards I went on board the *French* Bark, which was commanded by the *Sieur Courpon*, formerly an Inhabitant of *St. Christophers*; but I could not regain any of my Free-booters, except those two, who were sent to me by *M. Russel*, as I have already hinted.

We disembark'd at the Royal Fort of *Martinica*, and I repair'd with my two Men to the Town, to give a Visit to *M. de Blenac*, who was seiz'd with the last Fit of Sickness, of which he died. I gave him a particular Account of all my Adventures, and I perceiv'd him to be much surpriz'd to hear a Relation of so great Disasters. Forasmuch as he was desirous that I should lodge in his House all the time that I stay'd at *Martinica*, he made me every day repeat the particular Circumstances of my Engagement with the *English* Ship; and at last having found an Opportunity of conveying me to *France*, he sent to enquire after the Captain of a Vessel that was bound for that Kingdom, and recommended me to his Care. He determin'd likewise to give me Recommendatory Letters for *M. Phelipeaux*, to procure me some Employment; but the day before my departure, he fell into so great weakness, that he was no longer in a condition to write,

write, and died that very Evening, *June 10.* Indeed I had all the reason in the World to be very much concern'd at his Death; for *M. De Blenac*, who was a Person of singular Qualities, took delight in being serviceable to all Mankind; and more especially had a tender Compassion for those that were in a distressed Condition, or lay under the Pressures of ill Fortune, as my Case was at that time: He always endeavour'd to be beforehand with 'em, relieving 'em in their Necessities, as soon as they came to his Knowledge, and made a voluntary Proffer of the Favours he was ready to bestow, even before they could well be sued for. In a word, he was a Man of an Heroick Courage, and a skilful Navigator, well vers'd in Maritime Affairs; knowing all the Coasts and Latitudes of the Continent of *America*, and highly esteem'd by the King for his Integrity, Justice and Prudence, and for all the signal Services he had done the State, in matters relating to Trade, and the discovery of the Islands.

The next day after his Death, I went on Board the *Virgin*, a Vessel of *Bordeaux*, which was also built there, and after a few Days Passage; at last I arriv'd safe in the Port of that City, with many different and contrary Sentiments. I know not whether I shall bid adieu to the Sea for ever, having been so much dishearten'd by my last Misfortune; or whether I shall embark once again to revenge the Indignities put upon me

me by the *English* ; or whether I shall undertake another Voyage, to get a small Estate ; or whether I shall stay at home in Tranquillity, contenting my self with the peaceable Enjoyment of what my Relations have left me. However, 'tis certain, that Maritime Voyages are apt to create in Men almost the same Passions as Gaming : For as the losing Gamester, notwithstanding the ill Luck he has so often had before, does not believe that he shall always be unfortunate, but is still egg'd on by I know not what Impulse to venture farther ; so we Mariners, whatever Disasters may have befallen us at Sea, are continually boy'd up with the hopes of meeting with a fair opportunity to indemnify our selves for all our Losses. Upon the whole, I am apt to believe, that into whose Hands soever my Narrative may happen to fall, they will find it very difficult to give me Advice as to the Matter in Debate, and even to take it themselves.

F I N I S.