

THE  
LIFE AND ADVENTURES  
OF  
JOHN CHRISTOPHER WOLFE  
LATE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY OF STATE  
AT  
JAFFANAPATNAM, IN CEYLON;  
TOGETHER WITH A  
DESCRIPTION OF THAT ISLAND,  
ITS NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,  
AND THE  
MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF ITS INHABITANTS.

Translated from the Original GERMAN.

To the Whole is added,  
A SHORT, BUT COMPREHENSIVE  
DESCRIPTION OF THE SAME ISLAND,  
By Mr. ESCHELSKROON.

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# LIFE AND ADVENTURES

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JOHN CHRISTOPHER R. R. R.

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## P R E F A C E.

**T**HE island of Ceylon seems likely, on many considerations, to become an object of great consequence to this nation; yet we know little or nothing concerning it, more than what may be collected from the history of it written in the last century by Captain Robert Knox, who was prisoner there nineteen years. The book was published by Dr. Richard Hooke, and is now very scarce. It gives an accurate description of the manners and customs of the inhabitants at that period; but with respect to the Dutch, who have been long the masters of it, is totally silent. Raynal's account is very erroneous in many particulars. The voluminous and costly work of Valentyn is very scarce, and is besides written in the Dutch language. The public will therefore, it is presumed, receive with pleasure the following account of the island, written by a man, who a few years since

was in a high department under the Dutch government there, being styled in the *Naamboekje van de Hooge Indiansche Regeringe* (list of the persons composing the Dutch regency in the East-Indies, made out in 1766), *Eerste gezworenen Clerq van Politie en Justitie*. This account of his life and travels was published by the author in 1782, some few years after his return, at which time he lived at Roebel in Mecklenburgh. The author appears throughout the whole work in the character of a plain, but truly honest man, describing what he has seen, without ornament, and indeed very often without due order or connection. He is circumstantial, because his chief aim seems to be, to tell the truth; and his ignorance of the art of writing, does not allow him to express it otherwise. He not only does not spare us the salutes of the sentinels, and his refusal of the governor's niece, both which his vanity might have some share in



in prompting him to relate, but even seems to think it his duty to give a faithful account of the drubbings he received from the governor, &c.

It was necessary to say thus much, by way of establishing his character for veracity; as he has had occasion to make mention of several things which border on the marvellous, and probably will not easily be believed by every one. Of this nature are some circumstances he has related with regard to the elephant, and above all, the tail he has bestowed on the first king of the island; which, however, serves in some measure to confirm the marvellous stories told us to that purpose by Linnæus from Koeping, and quoted by lord Monboddo, in his *Origin and Progress of Language*, in order to countenance his strange theory of the origin of man, and his relation to apes and monkies.

Not being skilled in natural history, the author may consequently be expected



to have been guilty of some mistakes in describing that of the island. Whether, for example, the animals he calls bears and elks were really of the same species with those known by that name in Europe, may admit of some doubt; the latter being probably a species of antelope, and perhaps the *Antilope Oryx* of Dr. Sparrman; at least this, according to that learned naturalist, is the animal known to the Dutch at the *Cape* by the name of *elk* (Vid. *Sparrman's Voyage to the Cape of Good Hope, &c.*) His curious and entertaining account of the *rolleway*, may serve to correct an error into which the public have been led with respect to the native place of this animal; that learned professor having been himself deceived by the person, who exhibited it as a shew in Holland, and who perhaps, *bona fide*, supposed it to be a native of Guinea. The reader will easily see the improbability, that not only the same animal should be an  
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inhabitant of two distant quarters of the globe, but that likewise the same name should be given it by the natives of either country.

But above all, the author himself appears to be an object worthy of our curiosity. A man, who setting out in the most early part of life, with a solitary shilling only in his pocket, and without either friends or education, raised himself, by patience, industry, and an inviolable attachment to truth and secrecy, cannot be an uninstruative companion to our youth, and is a legitimate object of our curiosity at any age. In short, it is to be hoped, that the tedious diffuseness, together with the want of method and style, in some measure visible in this work, will be thought sufficiently compensated for by truth and accuracy of observation; and that, contrary to the Roman poet's remark on the palace of the sun, "*Materiam superabat opus*," in this little work it will be found,  
that



that “the manner is excelled by the matter.”

As the author, willing to advance as little as possible on any subject, to which he was not an eye-witness, has confined his remarks chiefly to the province of Jaffanapatnam, the place of his residence, the translator has endeavoured to supply this deficiency, by inserting at the end of these sheets, a *Description of the Island of Ceylon*, written last year in the German language, by *M. Eschelskroon*; a gentleman who has lately visited that quarter of the globe, and gained great applause from the learned on the continent, by the accurate accounts he has given of Sumatra. This of Ceylon seems to be in some measure an abridgement of the celebrated *Valentyn's* description of the island, but is enriched with many new and curious articles, so as to form, with the preceding work, a tolerably complete treatise on the subject.



LIFE AND ADVENTURES

OF

JOHN CHRISTOPHER WOLF.

ON the fifteenth of August, in the year of our Lord 1730, I came into the world. My extraction is from the lower class of trades-people; and my education was suitable to it. My parents could not afford to let me learn to read and write with any tolerable degree of excellence; and as soon as I arrived at the age of ten years, I was

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obliged

obliged to leave school. This period was the beginning of my misfortunes. I now had a step-father : this worthy personage did not find himself much disposed to pay three-pence for me every Saturday to the school-master : but instead of that, obliged me to work. I did every thing in my power on the occasion ; I entreated, I cried, I begged hard to go to school one year longer, but all in vain. I got no other answer than a few clouts on the head, and a good cudgelling. All this I put up with ; and indeed could do no other than put up with it : however, at times I still continued petitioning, but it was all to no purpose. I fretted and tormented myself night and day, without being able to hit on any scheme that seemed likely to make for my advantage. I then attempted work above my skill and abilities ; but, as may be imagined, without success. I was now continually the

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object

object of his scorn and ridicule, and was honoured by him with opprobrious appellations of every kind : in short, my life was a burthen to me. I naturally sought for protection and assistance from my mother ; but, alas ! she was forbid to speak to me : and when it happened, as it often did, that she did speak to me, and my father knew of it, he sought to revenge himself on both of us. In fine, I was reduced to a state of absolute despair. At length, a fancy struck me, that I would make my complaints to God Almighty, and crave his assistance ; for at that time I had not sense enough to know, that the Almighty was acquainted with all my wants. For this purpose I made choice of a garden, where there was an oven ; this oven was my bed-chamber. At first I could make nothing of it, being hardly able to make out a single sentence. In process of time, however, things went on better ;



and at last I arrived at such a pitch of eloquence, that I was able to pour out my whole heart to the Almighty with tears and supplications. This was my constant practice, as often as I could find an opportunity. Having by this means eased my mind, and found some consolation, I got courage enough to ask my step-father, how long in reality I was to serve him? It was with great difficulty that he was persuaded by my mother at length to set a time, at the expiration of which I might go whither I would. When the term of my vassalage was at an end, I was about fourteen years of age; but when I was in the last week of it, I was seized with a violent fit of illness, which kept me back a year longer, without, however, altering my resolution in the least. As soon as I was perfectly recovered, I prepared to depart—whither, I could not tell. All I knew of the matter was,

that

that I wanted to learn something ; this was my whole desire, aim and intention. Accordingly I got up early in the morning, and after having called upon God to guide my steps, I was in such high spirits, as to be enabled to take leave of my father-in-law with a cheerful countenance. He gave me a scornful look, accompanied with the following kind expression : “ Thou art half a fool already ; and, I do not doubt, at the last, wilt turn out a fool complete.” This was all I could get from him ; for he did not once wish me luck on my journey. I, on the other hand, thanked him for his care in my education, and asked his forgiveness, if at any time I had acted contrary to my duty as a son. The parting between me and my dear mother was very affecting : she wept incessantly, thinking she should never see me more : so that I was obliged myself, sorrowful as I was, to be her com-

forter. Before we parted, she owned to me, that my step-father had made her take an oath, not to give me any money for my journey. This news at first gave me great pain: however, I soon recovered myself sufficiently to tell her, "Never mind it, my dear mother, I have still a rich father, who will provide for me;" and other things to the same purpose.

I now took my bundle, which consisted of two shirts, a pair of stockings, a pair of coarse linen breeches, and six groschen\* in money; so that I had no great weight to carry. I travelled above five and forty miles in a straight line; in the course of which journey, half my capital went for bread, which, with the pure water of the brook, was my only sustenance. I now began to con-

\* One shilling English, reckoning the groschen at two-pence.



sider, what I should do when the other three groschen were spent. These reflections excited in me no small degree of terror. For I was not willing to ask alms of any body, neither have I ever had any occasion so to do, as the Almighty has always sent me relief in due season. But a steadfast previous faith on this head belongs not to man; and in my particular case, was, I must own, qualified with a great many doubts.

However, I resolved to make a trial at a place, where I arrived on Saturday evening. Accordingly I asked my poor landlord (for I could not afford to go to any decent inn) whether there was any opportunity of getting into a school in that place; and found by his answer, that it was but a short time since a house for the maintenance and education of orphans had been erected there, the director or overseer of which was extremely good-natured and affable. Hear-

ing this, I took but a short time to consider of the matter ; but the following day, which was Sunday, paid my respects to the gentleman, who received me very kindly. On my discovering my circumstances to him, and asking his advice and assistance, he bid me come to him again the next day. I accordingly waited on him, when he represented to me in a lively manner the difficulties that would attend my studies ; and, in short, endeavoured to dissuade me entirely from the undertaking. Upon this I took my leave very sorrowful and heavy-hearted ; but having, during my stay in the place, got acquainted with this gentleman's servant, he invited me to go with him into his master's garden. There were some people at work upon it ; and he asked me, whether I had any inclination to do the same. I answered him in the affirmative, and immediately taking hold of a spade, filled a wheel-  
barrow

barrow full of earth, and drove off with it in an instant. When I had made three or four turns, the director coming thither, stood and looked at me; and after a little chat, ordered me to go with him into the house. I appeared to please him, and he was still kinder than before. The day after I was told at my inn, where he had likewise made some enquiries about me, that the director had accepted of me, and that I was to live in his house with his servant. How light was my heart, as I went from my inn! I skipt and ran, as if I was going to take possession of the world. On my arrival the director gave me a book, and pointed out to me a paragraph, that I was to get by heart against the next morning. A thousand dollars would not have given me so much pleasure at that time, as this book, and the lesson it contained. The day following, the director set me at his own table, and promised to take

care



care of my fortune; at the same time citing the example of the learned M. Rambach, who in the early part of life had been a carpenter; and concluded with these words, "Perhaps I shall employ you in my orphan-house, as soon as it is finished; so that I shall not begin with teaching you the languages, but shall do my best to instruct you in the Christian faith and the principles of morality; and at the same time teach you to write a fine hand, and cast accompts. Among other things requisite in this undertaking, I shall have need of a person that can instruct the lads in these particulars, and this is what I have thought of for you." In this kind manner was I provided for by this worthy man, who is now gone to receive his reward in heaven.

A year after this, he thought proper to get me appointed a student at Berlin, that I might become still more fit to  
 exercise

exercise the calling he intended me for. With this view he wrote to a gentleman there, who sent word back, that he wished very much to see me. It was some few weeks before it was convenient for me to set out on my journey. I was equipped by my worthy director in a very handsome manner, and went by water, all the way on the river Spree. In the space of a week I arrived at Berlin, and presented my letters whither they were addressed. The gentleman, who wanted to see me, behaved in a very friendly manner, but lamented that I had not come a fortnight sooner, for the place he had designed for me was now in the possession of another: as, having received no answer to his last letter, he had doubts with respect to my coming. So that I found I had undertaken this journey to no purpose, and accordingly resolved to return by the first opportunity.

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In the mean while the man, aboard whose vessel I had sailed down the Spree, or rather I should say his wife, proposed to me to speak for me to the prorector of the *grey cloisters*; and I was soon after informed by these people, that I might wait on the prorector in person. Accordingly I made my appearance before him, and having acquainted him with the particular situation of my circumstances, was inscribed as a scholar in the gymnasium, or academy, and put into the fifth class. I acquainted the director by the next post with what I had done; and soon after received the following reply, “ that he was very sorry he had let me go to Berlin; that this course of going through the classes of an academy, and learning the learned languages, was by no means proper for me, and was diametrically opposite to his designs; and that I had done very ill in setting about this matter without his partici-



participation, nay, against his inclination." Towards the end of his letter, however, he seemed to give way a little, and only recommended to me to be wary and prudent in my conduct. The pro-rector, who some time before had taken a shepherd's boy under his care, and caused him to make such progress in the space of four years as to obtain a bachelor's degree; this gentleman behaved to me in a very kind manner, and upon my shewing him the letter I had received, gave me great encouragement to proceed: he likewise procured me the means of maintaining myself. He introduced me to the acquaintance and good graces of a certain baron, who gave me a weekly allowance for pocket-money: besides this, he procured me a stipend elsewhere, and gave me a place among the singing boys in the choir. In addition to all this, I had undertaken the instruction of three children belonging

ing to a merchant. My pupils were perfectly satisfied with my conduct towards them, and with my lessons. So that I lived a most happy life : but some cross accidents soon intervened.

A scholar belonging to the Cologne academy there, with whom I was not in the least acquainted, one afternoon came into a hall, where I was with some others, and fired off some gunpowder. The rector thought to discover the perpetrator of this action by my means ; but as I was in reality entirely unacquainted with him, and therefore could not name him, I not only came to be suspected by the rector of disobedience, but got likewise (contradictory as it may seem) the hatred of my school-fellows, as a common tale-bearer, and one entirely devoted to the rector. One morning, as I was going along the Stralau-street, a lad, of whose person I thought I had some little recollection, on a sudden  
jumped

jumped across the way to me, and in an instant drawing his sword, cried, "Stand still, you thief, this moment! Stir not an inch for your life!" I immediately recollected him to be the same person as had fired the gunpowder off in the hall; and in my fright, jumping on one side, got to a latch door, where a man was leaning over. The man directly opened the door for me, and asked me what was the matter? I answered him, "I knew no more than he: undoubtedly the lad was wrong in his head." I always kept to this tale, and constantly pretended as if I did not know the lad in the least.

My school-fellows were very much enraged against me. They said I was a sectary and a foreigner, and was come to take the bread out of their mouths, with other reproaches of that kind. Thus circumstanced, I wrote to the very worthy and venerable M. Schubert, at  
Zoffen,



Zoffen, and to him, as a man of great knowledge and experience, I disclosed my religious tenets, &c. His answer might have served me for a rule of conduct through life. " Providence, said he, has a variety of ways : if a man go in any of these, no changes can hurt him, he is always in his proper element." In this letter a ducat was inclosed, without the least mention being made of it.

There now happened another affair to add to my persecutions. A pious man of my acquaintance came to me one morning early, and begged me to go with him to his house. At first I excused myself to him on account of its interfering with the school-hours, which it would be the more unpardonable in me to miss, as I was on the foundation. As we went along, he told me his wife was ill, and was desirous of speaking with me. I wondered what she could want with me, which, indeed, he seemed as  
ignorant

ignorant of as I. At last I arrived at the house, and entered the chamber of the sick woman, who was lying on a tent-bed. She desired her husband to leave us alone; accordingly he pretended to go away, but staid in the room, without her seeing him, behind the bed. She now addressed herself to me, begging my assistance; that she was a lost soul, damned to all eternity, &c. I, for my part, was so much terrified, that I was not able to answer her a word: but looked at her husband, who seemed almost dissolved in tears. Finding me silent, she began again entreating me to assist her. I begged her to send for a clergyman, or any one else capable of comforting and relieving her: for my part, I was but a poor student, and had not yet been in the practice of administering comfort to dying persons. "I could pray, however, surely: would I be so kind as to pray by her." I told  
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her,

her, I thought it would be much better, were she to pray herself. “ Ah, replied she, God will not hear a wretched sinner.” I now therefore began to comfort her with passages out of the bible and other good books, concerning the love of God and of our Saviour to sinners. At first I spoke in short sentences only, and with frequent interruptions; but soon after went on with more courage, and with a good flow of expression. At length she joined me, and out of the fulness of her heart, uttered with her lips the most affecting and comfortable texts and sentences out of the sacred scriptures; the hearing of which filled my heart with a secret joy. She then called her sorrowing husband to her, and comforted him in the most affectionate and engaging manner. About half an hour after this she died. A scene such as this, I had never in my life before been witness to.

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Had I at that time been told, that I should get into a scrape in consequence of this event, I should certainly not have believed it. For I had doubtless done no bad action; I was called upon quite unexpectedly, and had spoke what my heart prompted me to say; and as far as my slender share of learning would bear me out, without the least reward, or hopes of obtaining any. How came I then to be blamed and get an evil name on this account? It was said, that I had taken upon me the office of a clergyman; that I had done things which it was not proper for a student to undertake; and in fine, that I was totally unworthy of the favours that had been hitherto bestowed on me. My comrades now exultingly cried, that it had long been observed, that I was privately a sectary; that they had long known me for a methodist, an anabaptist, &c. In the mean time I took every thing deeply

to heart, and went no more to school. In fine, I could not recover this shock, and pined away visibly. I wandered about without knowing what I was doing, or whither I was going. The worthy prorector, who had been at some pains to enquire concerning my conduct in this affair, through the channel of the woman's husband, was extremely hurt on my account, and wished to give the most favourable turn to every thing. He accordingly bid the widower tell me to go to him. This honest man, who blamed himself as being the occasion of my misfortunes, a circumstance I had never thought of laying to his charge, endeavoured all he could to persuade me to go to the prorector. At length I went: and if ever in my life I saw a friendly and compassionate look, I saw it then on his countenance. He addressed me at first with the most encouraging expressions, and after testifying  
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his satisfaction at what I had done, assured me, that the clergyman who had complained of me, had been put to shame and dismissed; that my patron, the baron, who had conceived a wrong opinion of me, had been since fully convinced by him, that I was a true genuine Lutheran; that he had praised me publicly in the class that very day, and therefore expected to see me there again the day following. And on the subject of this last article, I was forced to give him my hand, at parting, by way of promise. Nothing came of it however, for I staid away, and lived with the merchant, whose childrens' education I superintended, till my departure for Hamburgh, which happened some weeks after. Previous to this, I wrote to my old friend and benefactor the overseer, to ask his advice concerning my affairs. In a very friendly reply, he advised me to go to Magdeburgh,



to the Abbé Steinmetz, who at that time lived there, and to whom he would give me a letter of recommendation. I received the same advice from M. Schubert, whom I mentioned before, and other worthy gentlemen. But I could not easily prevail on myself to take this step: the state of mind I was then in kept me back, and presented a heap of difficulties to my imagination. I could not make the least preparation for the journey: but grieved day and night, so that I had hardly any sleep; and for six nights successively had a dream each night, attended with circumstances of a similar nature. I dreamed that I stood on the shore of a great sea, and threw out a hook with a design to catch fish. It was not long before I had a bite; and I had no sooner drawn up my fish and began to view it, than it was changed to a man before my face; at the sight of which I was extremely pleased, although

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at the same time much amazed. I laid, however, not the least stress on this dream; and it was only by chance that I spoke of it to a person, who immediately told me the signification of it, which was, that I should soon go on a voyage, and by that means make my fortune.

At length the appointed day arrived; I set out on my journey in a waggon, and got safe and sound to Hamburgh. Here I was obliged to stay nine days, before I could get a vessel to carry me farther on my journey. A few hours only before my departure, a beggar-lad, about thirteen years old, came to me, saying, he was from Saxony; that he had neither father nor mother, and did not know what to do to get his living. I took compassion on him; and after having clothed him from head to foot, made an agreement with the master of

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the vessel, and took him with me to Amsterdam.

This voyage took us up seven weeks, as at the beginning of it, by reason of the wind being contrary, we were obliged to lay to on the Stohr \* off Glückstadt. At length, however, we came in sight of the great and far-famed city of Amsterdam, and soon after anchored before it. The captain going on shore took me with him; and I gave my servant, who, during the whole voyage had been very handy and serviceable, some of my effects to take care of till my return, when I intended to take him and them away together. In the mean time the captain took me to a good inn, where I made an agreement for board and lodging for myself and lad. But when I returned on board the ship, I

\* The Stohr is a river in Holstein, that falls into the Elbe a little below Glückstadt,



found that my hopeful youth, to testify his gratitude, had taken to his heels, and carried off with him part of my linen, a loss which I felt very sensibly.

I was now in Holland, and, indeed, in the very metropolis of it. I staid here however full half a year; and in the mean time amused myself with viewing the curiosities of the place, and made myself acquainted with the environs. At last, my purse decreasing daily, I was obliged to turn my thoughts towards getting a livelihood. I had many different projects in my head, one after another. At one time a merchant offered to make me his factor, if I would learn the Dutch language: but I had no great liking to that employ. At another time I took it into my head to go to Jerusalem; and a captain, who was bound for Smyrna, proffered to take me thither for nothing; but from this scheme I was dissuaded by my host.

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This last person offered me money and entertainment as long as I should want it, though I told him that he must not expect any reimbursement from my friends and relations in Germany.

One day my landlord came home and wished me joy of somewhat, that, in his opinion, would turn out one of the best things that could happen to me. In fact, he had spoken of me to Admiral B——, who had seemed pleased with what he heard of me, and had promised to come thither the next morning on purpose to see me. For my part, I expected him with anxiety mingled with pleasure; and the next day he made his appearance. His stern manner and harsh utterance inspired me with the greatest awe. He informed himself concerning the place of my birth, my patronage, age, religion, and the views that had brought me to Amsterdam; and finally asked me, whether I would undertake the office of chaplain  
(Zieken-

(Ziekentrooster) on board of his ship. As I had but a confused idea of the duties of this office, I was told that they consisted in reading public prayers every night and morning, and on Sunday evening a sermon, or else to give a short exhortation in its stead, and to instruct and comfort, on their death-beds, such of the sick as required it. Upon this, without hesitation, I answered immediately in the affirmative. The admiral then gave me his hand, saying, “you are now engaged with me, and I shall take care to let you know the day you are to go on board.” After this he made enquiry concerning some particulars relative to Brandenburg; telling me withal that he was born at Stetin, had come to Holland, while he was yet a boy, and there had taken to the sea, where he had made his fortune. Here he broke off the conversation, as he had to go directly after this to the East-India House. My joy  
on



on this occasion was not to be described, any more than the desire I felt to depart; and my imagination was continually roving on the sea. But in the midst of all my rejoicings, there still occurred a disagreeable reflexion; and that was, how my landlord, who had taken care of me so long and so kindly, was to be paid? After puzzling my head about it for a long while to no purpose, I put the question to himself. He answered me, laughing; "What, Mofsey! \* are not you aware then that you have met with a crimp, and that our fine Admiral that has engaged you, is neither more nor less than a pirate." "A crimp! cried I, with a loud laugh, more like a confectioner I think; for

\* The nickname of Mof, is given by the populace of Holland, to the Germans, that arrive there in swarms every year, particularly from Lower Saxony, to go on board the Dutch ships, and to assist them in getting in their harvest.

you

you have preserved this poor body of mine this many a day, and with it, I hope, my soul into the bargain. But, jesting apart, do, be so kind as to inform me how I am to pay you for all your kindness :” “ Well! replied he, since you are so very importunate, know that your payment is to consist in this. If you should live to return fortunate and rich, as I sincerely hope you will, then you shall pay me in hard coin : but if you should chance to die abroad, why then, you know, death pays all.” At the same time he clapped a few gilders into my hand with these words ; “ There are a few gilders for you ; when you get to Africa, you may drink my wife’s and my health with them. Now my dear Moffey, what say you? are you content? do you like the bargain?” I stood and stared at the man and his wife, struck quite dumb with astonishment :

nor

nor could I find a single word to thank them on the occasion.

The evening before my departure, my landlord shewed me a chest, in which he had packed up every thing that I was to take with me; and giving me the key to it, said, "See here, my young adventurer, here in this little box, is contained your whole estate, real and personal, being every thing you have to take with you from Europe. It does not signify overhauling the contents now: you will see them fast enough by and by, when you will have more time to rummage it. I only wish you may bring it back from the Indies filled with better stuff than it is at present."

The next morning I went on board the sloop that was to take the rest of the crew, together with the lading, to the Admiral's ship. As soon as all were on board we set sail for the Texel, where  
 102 we



we found the Admiral's ship, with seven others, that were fitted out for the same voyage. When we had weighed anchor and got out to sea, I had leisure to review the contents of my chest : I accordingly unpacked it, being very desirous of seeing what my worthy host at Amsterdam had put up in it for me ; and was astonished to find, not only necessaries of every kind, but even several articles which, to a man in my situation, might be deemed superfluous ; but which he had taken care to provide, as tokens of his friendship. This chest I have always preserved with as great care as a good catholic would the relicks of his saint, and twenty years after brought it back safe to Amsterdam. There I was in hopes to have produced it to my worthy benefactor, and at the same time to have presented him with some of the contents : but heaven had ordered it, that

just

just before my arrival, he had changed this life for a better.

For some days, at first, we had tolerable wind and weather; but this latter soon changed and grew boisterous, and, indeed, was so tempestuous, that for fourteen days together we saw neither sun, moon, nor stars. We were not able to keep a fire in the kitchen day nor night, so that we could not get our provisions boiled, or even warmed, by which means a great part of the crew fell sick. At last we found ourselves a second time near the entrance of the Texel. In this situation we fired a few guns, on which a pilot came out to us, in order to take us again into the harbour. But there was now no occasion for him, the wind coming round, and the weather clearing up. However, we made no great progress on our voyage, for we found the North Sea very  
unpro-

unpropitious to us ; it was in a continual rage or foam, so that we were not a little afraid of running foul of the banks on the Flemish coast, which lay directly before us, and through which we were obliged to sail through a very narrow pass. To our great misfortune, what we so much dreaded came to pass ; and ere we were aware of it, we stuck fast on one of the above-mentioned banks. On this occasion the Admiral, officers, and the most expert sailors, appeared as if they were thunderstruck. They seemed to have neither eyes, hands, nor understanding ; a deep and universal silence prevailed ; in short, the utmost despair seemed to have taken possession of the minds of the whole crew. The good Admiral ran to his cabin, and falling on his knees wrung his hands, at the same time calling to God to help him. By good luck, however, soon afterwards the wind veered about, and



carried our vessel off from the bank again. As soon as we found that she was afloat again, we tried the pumps, and searched every part of the vessel to see if she had got any damage. Happily all was safe and sound. For this great and miraculous preservation, we returned public thanks to the Almighty, on which occasion I likewise preached a suitable discourse.

Our worthy Admiral had no sooner come out of the cabin, than we perceived a considerable change in his countenance. The anxiety of his mind had given it a deadly cast; his features had lost all animation, and his whole appearance portended a dreadful and speedy alteration. In short, from that day forward, he never looked up, but pined away and wasted daily. When his end approached, he sent for me, and after having unburthened his conscience to me, and received what spiritual comfort I was able

to impart to him, he pressed my hand, and said, in the kindest manner, that he would provide for me still farther; that he had some friends in Batavia, to whom he would recommend me; that he would give orders for me to change my ship at the Cape, and be put on board Captain Eiken's vessel. I thanked him for his kind care of me, but wished that I might have the happiness to live a long while yet under his auspices. "No," replied he, my good friend! It is now too late to nourish such hopes as these. Death has already laid his cold hand upon me. Call in the Captain, I have something to say to him." When the Captain came, after transacting some necessary business, he desired him to deliver some letters to several of his acquaintance in Batavia; the contents of which were, to recommend me to them in the strongest terms. He concluded with requesting him to put me on board Cap-

tain Eiken's ship as soon as he should arrive at the Cape. For, continued he, I would not, by any means, wish him to go with you to Ceylon. The Captain promised punctually to obey his orders. The next day the Admiral died. His loss was universally lamented.

For my part, I was almost inconsolable. He had ever treated me with such kind partiality, as to make every body on board suspect that I was at least a relation of his, if not his natural son. This was put to me very close, soon afterwards, by the Captain; but when I assured him that I did not, in any shape whatever, belong to the late Admiral's family, that I was born in Mecklenburg, of ordinary though honest parents, and that it was God alone that had inclined the Admiral's heart towards me: he replied, this is somewhat extraordinary; I do not know what to think of it. I have given my hand to the Admiral upon it, that I  
would



would put you aboard Captain Eiken's ship at the Cape: but I'll tell you what I intend to do, if you approve of it: I will do more for you than even our deceased friend did. If you chuse it, you shall sit here, every day, in my cabin, at the same table with the person that keeps my log-book. He is a native of Holland; and you may practise speaking the Dutch language, which may probably hereafter be of use to you. At the same time you may learn the art of navigation, and that I will undertake to teach you myself. What say you?" I answered him; "Sir, it is your's to command: it shall always be my pride to obey you: I perceive, with joy and gratitude, that the loss I have sustained in the death of my late benefactor is already repaired." He immediately gave orders to his servant to serve me daily with provisions from his own store. The very next day I set about learning

Dutch, in which the Secretary assisted me as much as lay in his power. At noon, when the altitude was taken, the longitude and latitude observed, and the rout of the ship laid down on the chart, I was always a spectator. In process of time I had likewise an astrolabe given me, and was shewn how to take an altitude. This I practised daily, an occupation that by no means interfered with the exercises of my function. For on Fridays and Saturdays I kept myself disengaged from every other employment, and compiled a discourse for the following Sunday, from *J. Axends*, and other books of that kind,

The weather being almost continually fine and moderately warm, the commandant or captain of the marines ordered the fire-arms to be brought out and cleaned, and the soldiers to perform their exercise. This order was obeyed with the greatest alacrity and cheerfulness ;

ness; for there were no blows given nor received on the occasion. They used likewise to practise sham fights and other military manœuvres. About three or four days from the commencement of these feigned attacks, having spied at noon a vessel of a considerable size, we hoisted our flag, and fired a gun; and looking at her through the glass, we observed that she was Turkish. The Mussulman was so sullen, as neither to display his flag, nor answer our salute. We then fired a ball on one side of them, but to no manner of purpose. The third time we took aim at the top of their mainmast; and with such success, as to break it in two. It was extremely astonishing to me, to see how soon every thing was got ready for the engagement. The papers that were of consequence, were given me in charge, together with a little casket, to which was fastened an iron weight, that in case of our being



defeated, I might without delay throw it into the sea. But things did not come to this extremity, as the wind soon carried us out of sight of the Turks, who seemed in no hurry to follow us, and set us a wondering, what could have been the meaning of their conduct. In the space of about three hours, however, we came out of this reverie, in consequence of seeing her companion, that was sailing after her. Had they both been together at first, we should undoubtedly have found very hot work with them.

Five days after, we had a different kind of antagonist to cope with, against whom neither weapons nor fire-arms were of any avail. In short, we were overtaken by a storm, which came on about three o'clock in the afternoon. Happily we had had time to take in all our sails, excepting one small one; as we saw our enemy approaching in the  
shape

shape of a dark thick fog, that took up the whole circle of our horizon. Just after we had got prepared for its reception, it poured on us all on a sudden, as if it had been shaken in a moment out of a sack. The onset was dreadful, nor was its progress less terrible. As quick as thought, we lashed down the helm, and lay to under one of our courses, giving ourselves up entirely to the mercy of the winds and the waves. Our fears had driven most of us to the bottom of the hold, where we lay all in a lump, like a heap of maggots, that intertwining one with the other, composed an irregular mass, not indeed absolutely without motion, but entirely without any order or distinction. The captain wound up the whole, by calling out through a speaking trumpet, "Let every man pray to God in his own way." This was, as it were, a clap of thunder in the ears of all that heard it, and bereft us

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at once of the power of speech as well as of understanding. I, for my part, had thrown myself on my knees in my chamber, with my hands clasped together, without either praying or calling to any one. In this posture I must have remained above an hour. By degrees, however, I came to my senses again; and the first sensation I had, was that of being still alive; presently I began to think farther, and found my ideas and imagination return to me; and now, for the first time, I was able to pray. In consequence of having thus prayed, I presently lost all fear, and grew brisk and chearful, hope now succeeding to despair; and was withal so courageous, as to venture to crawl over the soldiers, who were still all in a heap and panic-struck, to my friend the commandant, whose chamber was near mine. With great pains and difficulty (for there was no such thing even as standing) I got

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at him, and found him still in a swoon. I took him by the shoulders, and shook him with all my might and main; at the same time calling out, "Hear me, my worthy friend! The Lord Jehovah of a truth liveth, and our Prophet sleepeth not; take courage, my good friend, as I have done; for I have been dead, and am come to life again." At length he revived, and by degrees recovered his speech. We had not, however, been long together, before it began to thunder and rain most terribly. "Now," cried I, clapping my hands, the day is our own!" In effect, the wind fell, and the sea became more calm; so that within an hour, we had unlashed our rudder, had unfurled some of the sails, and by break of day, were able to keep our course.

This fright was followed by an universal disposition to mirth and jollity: for we had a fair wind with a clear sky,  
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and as fine weather as we could wish for in our circumstances. The soldiers began to grow quite hearty and full of spirit, and the sick were much better. Some played on musical instruments, while others danced; and at last, they even took it into their heads to act a comedy, in which the parts of the Doctor and Hans Wurft were performed by a Saxon, who had formerly played Harlequin in his own country, and had brought his coat and his whole gear along with him. He was a fine laughable fellow, full of tricks and fun, and in short, no contemptible Harlequin. He had just finished his first performance, and was making a few leaps round about the sides of the ship, by way of conclusion, when he unfortunately leaped on one side, and fell into the sea; and though we looked after him with the greatest care and anxiety, never was seen again. Thus closed our comedy in a truly

truly tragical manner : at the same time the captain gave orders, that no such nonsensical sports should be carried on for the future.

Soon after this, we arrived at the Cape of Good Hope. The soldiers were almost out of their wits for joy, and talked of nothing but Cape wine from the time we descried land. The sailors, who from having made the voyage before, were more in the secret, and knew that no soldier is ever allowed to go on shore there, on hearing this joyful discourse, carried on the joke, and begged their fresh-water brethren not to forget to treat their companions in the voyage with a bottle of the best wine at the tavern, as soon as they should get on shore. The next day we got into the harbour, and immediately cast anchor ; during which we fired eleven guns, which were directly answered by the fort with nine. In the mean time the soldiers prepared



prepared to go into the town, having dressed themselves in their best clothes, and put up in their handkerchiefs a few pounds of tobacco, some small looking-glasses, their tobacco-boxes, with flint, steel and tinder, and every thing else that remained to them since their departure from St. Jago, where we had stopped to bury the admiral. Most of these precious articles were intended to be exchanged for this same bewitching Cape wine. Thus they stood all prepared, some of them every now and then stealing up on the deck, to ask how long it would be before we should land; all of them to a man having turned merchants: for there was not a soul there, that had not something to sell, were it only pins and needles. But before they could well look about them, they were summoned by the bell upon deck, as the commissioners of the regency were just come to muster the people on board, according

to custom. When the muster was over, the soldiers, who had tricked themselves out so nicely, were told, that they must stay on board, and, on penalty of death, not dare on any occasion whatever to go on shore. This, it is true, was a hard rub: but soon after, some of the Cape traders, who are very well acquainted with the trim of these poor fellows, found their way on board, not only with wine, but with every thing else that was tempting either to the eye or the belly: and so they went to it pell-mell, and continued buying and bartering, till there was hardly a man among them all left with buckles in his shoes. The commissioners having finished their business, returned, and the captain went with them, leaving me in the ship; at the same time telling me, that I should hear from him soon, and desiring me in the mean while to take care of myself, and want for nothing. I had now  
nothing

nothing to do but to amuse myself; for the sick were taken on shore, and there were no prayers read.

I had been informed, that Captain Eiken's ship, the *Love*, the vessel that was to take me to Batavia by the desire of the late admiral, was already arrived in the harbour. I cannot say that I had any great inclination to go with it: for I was now quite used to the ship I was in, my business was easy to me, and I was treated with peculiar kindness. Besides, I thought I should not in that case be able to make any farther progress in learning Dutch and navigation: add to all this, that Batavia was described to me as a very unhealthy place; the secretary, who was my informer in this point, calling it "the burial-place of the Europeans." However, I did not puzzle my brains much about it, but left every thing to Providence. The morning after I had taken this resolution, the second mate



mate of the ship came on board, and told me the captain wanted to speak with me. Accordingly I got into the boat with him, when he whispered me in the ear, that our captain, to the great astonishment of every one, was chosen admiral in the room of my deceased friend, and that I might safely congratulate him upon it. As soon as I got out of the boat, I hastened to pay my compliments to the new admiral, who had apartments at the judge advocate's. He came a few steps across the hall to meet me, and received my congratulations with the greatest pleasure in his countenance; at the same time making me a present of ten Spanish *matts*, which came very opportunely, as I had had no more than two gilders from my kind host of Amsterdam. When I was preparing to take my leave, the admiral addressed me with, "A-propos, my dear Wolf, what do you think of your intended trip to Batavia?"

Mr. Eiken, who is to take you thither, is here, and I spoke with him about it yesterday ; he is very willing to take you aboard his ship, and I am to the full as willing to keep you in mine. What do you think to do in this case ?” This was sufficient to make me come to a resolution immediately : in consequence of which I replied, “ I must have lost all sense of gratitude to my worthy admiral, for the affection and favour he has shewn me, were I to think of doing any other than what he wished and commanded.” Upon this he gave me his hand, saying, “ Be it so ! You shall have every thing on board of my ship the same as I have myself.” I made my obeisance with my humble thanks, and went my way.

I shall not trouble my reader with a description of the Cape and its inhabitants, the Hottentots ; and therefore shall only observe, that we took our leave

leave by firing nine guns, which were answered with the same number from the fort. At first setting off, we had remarkably fine weather, and the wind was so much in our favour, that we made almost eight hundred leagues in the space of six days; and had this lasted a little while longer, we should have reached Ceylon in a very short time. But such good luck did not fall to our lot. We were overtaken by a violent tempest, that carried us very far wide of the place of our destination; as the better to weather the storm, we were obliged to abandon the helm, and leave the ship to the mercy of the winds and waves. And when afterwards, we endeavoured to steer into the right course pointed out by the compass, we observed, that we had got above a hundred miles too high. Besides, notwithstanding all the pains we took, we found it at first impossible to get into the right course; as



we had to encounter not only with adverse winds, but likewise with a strong current, by which means we went back more than we advanced. Thunder, lightning, low winds and rain, made the weather unpleasant and troublesome, and indeed quite insupportable to the soldiery, who were thinly clad, and who felt an uncommon degree of cold that penetrated to their very bones. In order to remedy this, some bales of cloth, that had been provided by the East-India Company for the purpose, were brought out, and distributed among them; not gratis indeed, for they were put down separately to each man's account. At length we were refreshed with a clear sky, favourable winds, and fine weather. On a sudden we saw a water-spout in the clouds, which we were prepared to fire at with a cannon-ball, in case she came too near our ship. It was produced in an instant from the clouds, in

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the form of a column, which descended as quick as thought into the water. On the other hand, a violent motion was observed in the sea, and a large quantity of water was drawn up, and carried into the cloud. Upon this, the cloud changed its colour instantaneously, turning quite black, and drawing its column after it: and soon after this, it was dissolved into rain. This rain we received in vessels, and observed that it had a sulphureous smell; on which account, orders were immediately given, that nobody should drink of it.

Some time after this, we came in sight of the coast of *Madura*. The next day about noon, a *kattemaran*\* came from the commandant of Ponnokail†, desiring

\* A kind of boat, made of logs and trunks of trees lashed together, on which the Indians often venture to considerable distances out in the sea.

† Ponnokail is a factory on this coast belonging to the Dutch.

to know the ship's name, with that of the commander, and other particulars. Towards evening we arrived at the port of the chief factory Tutukoryn, where we anchored. From this harbour it was still six and thirty miles to Ceylon, or more properly to the port of Colombo\*, whither our ship was bound; but which, in consequence of its being becalmed, could not be got thither under some weeks.

The next day I read evening prayers for the last time to my congregation, and concluded them with a sermon. When divine worship was over, the admiral took me into his cabin, and spoke to me as follows: "I have heard your farewell sermon with attention, and I must give you my testimony, that you have truly and duly discharged the

\* Colombo is the principal place belonging to the Dutch in Ceylon, and is the residence of the governor of the island,



duties of your calling. I will now disclose to you my intentions with respect to you. I will solicit the governor and council of Ceylon, to allow me a third mate on board my ship, and then I will appoint you to the place; and by this means, I am in hopes of getting you on board of my ship again. If this scheme should take, you shall then see, that I shall spare no pains to assist you still farther in the advancement of your fortune. What say you to this?" I replied, "that I had no will but his:" at the same time making the best acknowledgments I was capable of, for these fresh tokens of his friendship. Taking me by the hand, he continued: "I intend writing this very day to the governor in your behalf; for you will soon be fetched away, with the remainder of those who are to stay on the island, as you stand inscribed on the muster-roll among those who are at the disposition

of the governor and council: but this does not signify a straw. If the governor should think proper to employ you in any thing, be quiet and obey him; for as soon as I shall have spoken to him, all will be right, and we shall have you on board again." Having asked the admiral, whether there were any instruments of navigation to be had in Ceylon, he answered me, that I might make use of his; and, as he had duplicates of them, he would make me a present of such as were necessary for me.

A few days after this, there came two sloops from Colombo, and demanded all our crew, except fifty sailors, who were to stay with the ship, in order to take her into the harbour of Colombo; and by this opportunity I was also to depart. If I might have had my will, I had much rather have remained on board with the admiral. At taking leave of him, I was very much affected; and  
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were I to say, that he embraced me in his cabin, and wept at parting, I should say nothing more than what was true. "By the blessing of God we shall see each other again," were his last words. The letter of recommendation, which was drawn up not without art, he did not give into my care, but into that of the officer who commanded the soldiers, in company with whom I went on board the sloop, and immediately set sail.

In this vessel we were obliged to remain all night. At day-break, we had the satisfaction of seeing the fort of Colombo, from whence we were about a mile distant, but did not arrive there in less than three hours. At length, however, we got to the harbour, which is not the best anchorage for ships, as in storms and high winds there is always danger of driving on the shore; a circumstance that has already occasioned the destruction of many a fine vessel.

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We had not been long at anchor, ere two flat-bottomed boats came to the sloop, in order to take the men with their boxes and chests ashore. While every one was looking after his baggage, and I consequently had to take care of mine, one of our soldiers came to me, and told me, that my chest was opened, and empty. I ran to it in a fright, and found it but too true. If ever I was affected by the loss of a few trifling possessions, it was now. I was struck dumb, and could not speak one word; and had not my friend the captain, and all the soldiers near me, began to administer comfort to me, should have remained longer in this situation. I must say, that I did not know of one among them, that did not love and respect me; for which reason, I could not possibly suspect any one of them. One of the sailors belonging to the sloop must consequently have been the thief; and had the time per-

permitted, my trusty soldiers would have certainly found him out, if he had been above ground, and in all probability would not have treated him with the utmost gentleness. The rogues had left me nothing but my books, and what lay in my small trunk along with my ten Spanish matts. Among the former was *Wudrian's School of the Cross*, which I immediately laid hold on, saying, "My dear Wudrian, thou shalt be my comforter." This accident engrossed the conversation, till we landed on the island of Ceylon.

The soldiers immediately went towards the guard, which was entirely formed of recruits, and where they were to remain three days, and then to be relieved by another party. At last I took the resolution of stealing softly after them. As I went, or rather (from being so long confined to the ship) waddled along, I was accosted by a black man, dressed in  
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the Dutch fashion, who asked me in Dutch, whether I was the *domine* (or chaplain) of the ship? and whether I had brought any letters out from my native country, at the same time requesting the favour of my company at his house to smoak a pipe with him? This invitation I made no scruple to accept. His wife was white, and spoke nothing but Portuguese. The man was a painter by profession, and shewed me several pieces, which in my opinion were by no means contemptible. Though he had never been in Europe, yet he had acquired no inconsiderable portion of knowledge by reading the best authors. He was very desirous to know my situation and circumstances; and I told him as much of them, as I thought it was proper for him to know. He seemed to have no doubt, but that I should make my fortune; and expressed much sorrow at not being able to lodge me at his own house,



house, but would recommend me to a good lodging elsewhere. And this he actually performed, entirely to my satisfaction; taking me to a certain post-master's, who received me in a very friendly manner. This man was obliged every evening to lay before the governor an account of every thing that happened during the day, within the sphere of his employ. He consequently, the very first night, reported that I was come to his house. The next day the governor desired to see me: accordingly I appeared before him. After putting several questions to me, he desired to see my hand-writing; accordingly I wrote a few lines in German and Dutch. With this he appeared perfectly satisfied, and asked me farther, how old I was, and whether I chose to go to the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam. I told him, I was nineteen years of age, and was willing to go whithersoever he pleased to send me. On this he ordered  
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me to make my appearance at his palace every day, and to avoid bad company; at the same time promising me, that if I conducted myself properly, and was diligent in improving myself in my studies, he would make my fortune. When I got home, I asked my landlord, the post-master, how far the place of my destination was from Colombo? He replied, about a hundred miles; adding, that it was a very unhealthy situation for Europeans, and in that point not much superior to Batavia. This answer put me into a terrible fright; I rang my hands, and cried, "Good heavens! what a step have I taken! What have I promised? To give up navigation for this! Is not my word engaged to the admiral on this head?" The postmaster, convinced of my honest intentions, began to comfort me; and withal discovered to me, that he had received commands from the governor, to look narrowly

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to all my ways and actions. At length I imagined that I had found out a way of deceiving the governor, and (by the admiral's assistance) of getting again into my old element, as soon as the ship should arrive: for this purpose, I would pretend to be sick, and consequently not fit for the journey. This scheme I communicated to my landlord, who shook his head, and said, "Things are not here as they are in Europe. You will immediately be visited by proper officers, and sent to the hospital." The only thing I had now to wish for, was the admiral's speedy arrival, as nobody but he could make the least change in this affair. But alas! it was all of no avail, and I was obliged to set out on my journey, after I had been a fortnight at Colombo, and had rested myself a little. It is true, according to all appearance, the governor meant me very well; for on the postmaster's giving his testimony

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in my favour, he not only gave me to understand, that he was very well satisfied with me, but likewise made me presents at different times, of money, to the amount of fifty dollars. But the destination he had intended for me, was diametrically opposite to my plan of life; and the idea of being transported to a remote pagan country, made me perfectly shudder, whenever it came athwart my imagination.

But what could I do in this case? Nothing! I therefore, in a full reliance on God's providence, set out on my journey in a miserable vessel, belonging to a pagan merchant; and consequently, all the people in it were likewise pagans, except one old man who was an European, and had been above forty years in that country, and who was the only person I could converse with. I had about thirty miles to go with this vessel, a voyage which

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was performed, with the greatest danger, in not less than three days; as these people coasting very near the shore, whenever the wind blew a little fresh, took down their sails that they might neither be carried out too far to sea, nor yet be run ashore. The very first day we were near being shipwrecked; our vessel, through the unskilfulness of the sailors, having struck upon a rock, so that we lost our rudder entirely. Immediately all the Indians leapt at once into the sea, in order to save their lives by swimming, leaving me alone with the old European. This poor creature began to cry aloud to God and his saints, calling out with all his might to his tutelary saint and the Virgin Mary; at the same time he took out his rosary to assist his devotion; but from the anxiety and terror he was in, could not count the beads, which he now and then let slip through his fingers by the dozen at a time. I, for my part, re-

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mained quiet, performing my devotions in secret. We had been more than an hour in this dreadful condition, the Indians all the while swimming at a distance, in expectation of seeing the vessel go down; when, observing that she was buoyant, just as she was at first, they approached her again. Upon which the old fellow called to them in their language, desiring them to endeavour to bring back the rudder and come on board, as he imagined the rudder had received no great harm. In a very short time they were all on board again; and were welcomed with so many curses by the old man, my companion, that my very flesh crawled to hear him. I could not help speaking to him on this subject; and this naturally brought me to the subject of the rosary and invocation of saints. But he directly took me up in these words; “ You are a wise man to be sure, if one may take your word for it;



it; for I see very plainly, that you do not care a straw for either saint or rosary. No doubt but that you are wiser than our priests. My good boy, take my advice, and let your beard grow a little before you meddle with these matters."

In the mean time our vessel was got off again, and the wind was become tolerably favourable, so that we made about twelve miles that day. In the evening we ran as near shore as we could get, and threw out two buoys with a stone fastened to the end of each. Early in the morning we continued our voyage, and arrived about noon, at a place called Kudermalle. Here we anchored again, and the whole crew went ashore in a wherry. The old man and I went with them, on purpose to view the consecrated tomb of a Pagan saint, which is to be seen there, and of which, my companion, after his wrath had cooled a little, had given me a descrip-

tion; at the same time informing me, that the Pagan, who was buried there, had led a very strict and holy life after the manner of hermits; that all the Pagans that came this way, went on shore here, in order to make their offerings, and present their petitions; and that these offerings, when the pilgrims had taken their departure, were always carried off by a hermit that lived in the neighbourhood. When I came to the tomb, which was nothing but a heap of earth thrown up into a mound, and terminated at each end by a stone, I could not help wondering at the earnest devotion testified by our sailors, who lay on their faces above half an hour together, appearing to tell the deceased every thing that passed in their hearts, and praying to him to send them a happy voyage. After this they retired about the distance of a gun-shot from the tomb; and having made a fire, they dressed some  
viſtuals,

viſuals, and brought a part of it to the deceased; ſtrewing flowers at the ſame time over his tomb. In the evening they got ſome earthen lamps, with oil in them, which they lighted up at the tomb; and thus paſſed half the night in exerciſes of the moſt exemplary devotion. Having thus performed their duty at the ſepulchre of their ſaint, they ſet ſail again, with chearfulneſs and alacrity, for the iſland of Manaar \*, where we anchored in the evening. This was the old man's home; for my part, I was, that very evening, taken to the Comman- dant, who received me in a friendly manner, and found me in proviſion during the ſpace of nine days.

On the tenth, I ſet out on the journey †, with a large company, freſh,

\* Manaar is a little iſland, lying north-eaſt from Ceylon, and between that and the continent.

† The ſtreight between Manaar and Ceylon is very narrow. The author therefore ſpeaks of this expedition, as if it was made entirely by land.



brisk and lively. My baggage was light enough ; for what I had provided for the journey, I had given to the Commandant, who had assured me that I should have no need of it, as the Purveyor, who went with us, was obliged to furnish me with victuals gratis : a piece of information that had made me very happy, and freed me entirely from all care and sorrow. At noon every man began to prepare for dinner, while I made the silliest figure that it is possible to conceive : the whole company being hard at work with hand and mouth, and I, all the while, a simple spectator. When I asked the Purveyor, where was my dinner, he answered me very civilly, “ that if I had any thing to eat, I was welcome to fall to and do as they did.” I desired him to recollect, “ that I had brought no provision with me, as he well knew ; assuring him at the same time, that if the commandant had not told me, that

he,

he, as purveyor, was obliged to find me in victuals on the road, I should certainly never have got into such a scrape. I begged him therefore to let me have something to eat, even if I paid for it; for I could not otherwise possibly keep soul and body together, and consequently could not proceed on the journey with them." To this he replied, "that he had no victuals for me, either with money or without; and as for the rest, it was nothing to him, what I did, or what became of me; that was my business, and not his." I therefore held my tongue. In the evening, when they went to supper, I had as little to fill my stomach with as at dinner-time: and when I lay down, though I was heartily tired, yet its continual cravings kept me from sleeping.

The next day, though I was lighter than ever I had been in my life, yet my feet would not carry me forward; not-

withstanding which, I made a shift to keep on till noon : I had however, even then taken a resolution at the next stage to lay me down, and wish the world a good night. At length we arrived there. I now laid myself along on the earth, which I addressed with a faint voice in these words : “ Here will I end my days ! Now thou wilt no longer need to bear me, or afford me nourishment : do thou but, as a kind mother, receive and keep me in thy bosom, that the wild beasts tear me not in pieces and devour me.” My fellow-travellers having by this time began dinner, two of them, one a Venetian, the other from a different part of Italy, came to me ; they had but a trifling portion of provisions, but endeavoured to persuade me to take a part with them, and refresh myself. At first I refused : but afterwards complied with their kind request, thinking I should tempt God if I did otherwise.



otherwise. They then brought me some water, mixed with a little spirits; so that I had both victuals and drink set before me. Pleased to see me eat, they bid me take courage, promising to help me forwards, even if they should be obliged to carry me. By this means, I recovered myself so as to be able to keep up with the company. These good creatures, notwithstanding their being of a different religion from mine, shewed mercy and tenderness towards me, and constantly divided their scanty portion into three parts, which, thus divided, was little more than sufficient to keep life in our bodies.

On Sunday in the afternoon I arrived at Jaffanapatnam, before the principal fortress, called *Nossa Senhora de Milagro*. The officer of the guard came out of the fort to meet me, and asked me my name, and whence I came. When I had satisfied him on these points, he told

told me, that they had already received a letter concerning me. As he walked very fast, I was obliged to tell him, that I was almost starved to death, and had not strength enough to follow him. He pitied my condition, and taking me under the arm, led me to his house; where he ordered some pepper to be boiled in a little water, and some light food to be got ready for me. I was for some time so weak, that he was obliged to treat me as one would an infant. This good countryman of mine (for he was a German) took care of me thus for the space of a fortnight, and would have done so longer, had he not been obliged to go elsewhere upon duty. Not content with what he had done for me, he farther spoke in my presence to the purveyor of the hospital in my behalf; whom I likewise myself offered to pay beforehand for any thing I might have from him. The man himself did not seem to be at  
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all against it; but referred me to his wife, who was not to be won either by money or intreaties. All the answer I could get from her was, "She could not assist me;" to which I made no other reply than, "Well, God is the searcher of all hearts," and directly went my way through the fort, going on in a straight line through the town that lay at a small distance from it, till I came to some Malabar huts. Here I soon perceived a black man make towards me, who asked me, what I wanted, and whither I was going? I told him, "I wanted to satisfy the cravings of hunger, if it were possible, for that I did not know where to get victuals for love nor money." Upon this he made me go with him to his hut. I followed him joyfully; and an hour afterwards, he brought me upon some green leaves a mess that I eat with an appetite. I then asked this honest fellow, if he could not procure



procure me a little victuals twice every day? This he undertook to do. At parting, I was going to give him a couple of German groschen; but he refused them, saying, "No, I will not take any thing of you: by and bye, when you come to be a great man amongst us, should I be alive at the time, I will then ask you to pay me for this meal." I began to laugh; but he assured me, that the moment he saw me, he had conceived the highest respect for me, and could not at that present time harbour any other thoughts concerning me, than what he had just uttered. After this, he went with me to my lodging, and having seen it, returned home. This worthy pagan was my purveyor for some months, and paid more attention to me than many followers of Christ do to their fellow-christians. If at any time he observed that I did not eat heartily, he appeared uneasy, and begged

begged me to tell him, if there was any thing I could like better. This good Samaritan was still alive when I left the island. In my prosperity I have often invited him to my house, and now and then have been his guest at his cottage ; but I still look on myself as indebted to him for the first meal I made at his table.

The governor, that had sent me to this place, now came hither himself, and took on him the government. I very soon appeared before him ; but at first he did not recollect me. At length he asked me, how things went with me, and what made me look so miserable ? Upon this I told him downright, that had I known that I should have been so hard put to it in this country, I would have taken care never to have come to it ; for I had been very nearly starved to death. He said, that I needed be under no farther apprehensions on that account,

as he would take care that I should be plentifully supplied with the necessaries of life. Accordingly he immediately ordered some dozen of bottles of wine and strong beer, together with various eatables, to be carried to my chamber; promising me, that when these were consumed, they should be followed by more. I returned him thanks, and begged to be accommodated with a better lodging, and one better adapted for the carrying on of my studies. Having obtained his promise on this head, I took my leave.

The night after this, one of the clergy of the place sent for me. I found him alone. He behaved in a very friendly manner, and questioned me pretty closely, "whence I came, whither I was going, &c." He then began with pitying my case, as in his opinion I had got into the wrong road. With this he burst out into the grossest invectives against the



the governor: and finally promised to assist me in getting away from thence; for that cut-throat (as he called the governor) would never assist me any farther, but would sooner add to my wretchedness than relieve it. I, that hitherto had no reason to complain of my supreme lord and master, chose to conceal my thoughts; telling him in the mean while, that I would think of his proposals. The next morning, the governor gave orders to the serjeant, to bring me before him: this man asked me what I had done, for that the governor was in a monstrous passion. I, that was not conscious of any crime, told him, I could not recollect the having offended his honour in any instance. As soon as I made my appearance, the governor asked me, Whether I had been with Parson P—— the preceding evening? I told him I had.— How came I there? I replied, he had  
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sent for me.—What had he said to me? He had put various questions to me, as, “How old was I, where was I born, what religion was I of, and what had I studied? &c.”—“Had he said nothing else?” “Possibly he might, replied I; but if he did, I paid no attention to it. I attended to nothing but his questions, and answered them to the best of my knowledge.”—“But, says the governor, what did he say of me? what sort of a man did he make me out to be?” To this query I could give no answer, but stood speechless. At this he took fire directly, and flew into a violent passion. I, on my part, began to tremble; and all I could utter was, that I begged his honour’s pardon, I could not at present recollect any thing, being perplexed and confounded beyond measure. He then gave me some time to recover myself, but soon repeated his queries. But finding that I still pleaded ignorance, and chose

chose to say nothing about the affair, he made me a present at parting, that went to my very marrow; and how I got away from him, and came to the bottom of the great stone stair-case, I cannot now say.—A fine introduction this, to my advancement in life! thought I; so fine a beginning must have a glorious sequel, without doubt! The minister, whom I had to thank for all this, sent one of his slaves for me at twelve o'clock at night. When I was introduced to him, he testified the greatest sorrow for what had happened. “An old woman, he told me, who had been there to pay a visit to her daughter, one of his servants, had overheard every thing he had said, and gone that very night to relate it to the governor. He had been informed of what had happened. He commended my silence, and swore to me, that were I but willing, he would procure an opportunity for me to make my escape.”



To this propofal I made feveral objections.—The next day I was fummoned to appear before the fecond in council. This man endeavoured, by crofs queftions, to get me to confeß; but I was too cunning for him. Finding that I was perfectly mafter of my tongue, he began to make ufe of threats; but all to no purpofe. I flood to it, that I had not taken notice of every thing that had been faid in the courfe of the converfation; but this I was fure of, that I had not fpoken ill of any one; that they might do what they would with me, it would all come to nothing. Several Europeans, that did not want for art, were likewise fet upon me; but in vain. I was refolved rather to die, than betray the parfon; as what he had faid, was fpoke in wrath, and I had in fome meafure been the occafion of his mifconduct. Some days after this, the governor fent for me again. At firft he queftioned  
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me with a kind of indifference; till at last he pressed me hard. I, however, still stood to my former assertions; and with tears in my eyes begged him to forgive me, and not to place the misbehaviour of others to the account of an obscure and miserable creature, that was almost dead already with hunger and affliction; as I had at any time rather die, than give my testimony to a thing that I was not thoroughly sure of. Upon this I was dismissed from his presence, in a manner that for many reasons I do not chuse to relate. As soon as I got home, in the wickedness of my heart, I began to despair; but recovered from this horrid state, by constantly praying to the Almighty, and reading good books. I now became fixed in my purpose, and was resolved to see the affair out. My innocence contributed to make me still bolder; and at times I was inclined to look upon the whole matter as a mere trifle.

For the space of six weeks not a word more was said to me about it. I was, as it were, forgot; and, keeping myself apart from the rest of mankind, taught myself Dutch and Portuguese. This period of reflection was of use to me, in teaching me to be discreet and cautious, and to weigh my words well, before I uttered them. By the practice of these prudential maxims, I distinguished myself from the common run of mankind, and recommended myself to the esteem of every one.

One day there came to me a slave, to request that I would go with him to his master's house. Accordingly I followed him, thinking that it was the judge-advocate that wanted to speak with me: but, in fact, it was the inspector of the works. He received me in a most friendly manner, kept me to dinner, and questioned me very closely with regard to my present circumstances. Observing, how-



however, a shyness on my part, he swore by all that was sacred to be true to me, and promised to assist me as far as lay in his power. I then acquainted him with every thing relative to the affair ; in return, he endeavoured to comfort me, and told me he would take me into his house. In fact, that very evening he ordered my baggage to be brought, and kept me with him, conversing with me, and in every respect treating me as a friend. He was rich and childless. At length it pleased God to change the heart of my dread lord and master towards me. He sent for me a third time. Accordingly I made my appearance, but with more indifference than before. He asked me, “ Whether by this time I had thought better of the matter ; and which I took to be my commander, him or the priest ? ” With all humility and submission, I begged his honour to forgive me. At length he said, “ Well, be it

so! I will forgive you this time; and see in future how you are inclined towards me: and if I find you honest and faithful, I will, notwithstanding this *faux pas*, perform my promise. Your admiral made great interest for you with me, and I, on my side, promised to do for you." After some conversation, he bade me come to him again in three or four days; "When, said he, I'll let you know what you are to do." With this I took my leave, and got down the high stair-case rather better than I had done before. My worthy host was waiting for me, and seemed as happy as myself at my reception. It was not till three years after, that I heard he had been my mediator. He had explained the whole affair to the governor, by whom he was much respected, and shewn the best side of it with respect to me; giving him, at the same time, to understand, that I could never have given him



him better proofs of discretion and silence than I had done in this matter; and that, therefore, I might be of great service in the cabinet.

Three days after this, when I waited on the governor, he took me into the office, and pointed out to me the table at which I was to write. At the same he ordered his secretary to give me some papers of little consequence to copy, that I might be thus initiated and brought on by degrees. This man, who was a nobleman by birth, promised obedience; but, as soon as the governor's back was turned, he shewed his good inclinations towards me by the following expressions: "I cannot comprehend what is the meaning of all this. You will certainly never be capable of doing the business that is transacted here: especially as you are a German, and do not as yet understand the Dutch language. The governor would have acted much wiser,



if he must needs do you a service, in making a soldier of you: for in that case you might have been an officer in time."

I had now passed a year on this footing, when I again got a thorn in my side, that tormented me for the space of eleven months. The fact was, that two thousand rixdollars were stolen out of the office; and as, about that time, I had got a very handsome new suit of clothes, I was suspected of having committed the theft. In order to find me out, various methods were tried, but all in vain; and no wonder! for I was perfectly innocent, and had neither committed the theft, nor knew who had. Still, however, I was considered by most people as the thief, although they did not dare say so: accordingly I felt the effects of their ill-will in the highest degree; nay, they used me worse than a dog; and had not the fear of what might  
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have been said by the world interposed, God knows what they might have done to me. All this while I was fretting myself almost to death, wasted to a shadow, and began to hate life. In this inexpressibly miserable situation I had passed, as I said before, eleven months, when one morning the governor met me with these words: "Forgive me; I have carried things too far with you." I for my part was frightened, not knowing what all this meant. At last the governor's lady came, and explained the matter to me: before this, I did not even know that I lay under any suspicion. In order to make me some amends, and put me into good humour again, I had a present made me of a suit of clothes and some linen.

Notwithstanding this, I could not help constantly feeling a secret dread; so that I wished, from the bottom of my heart, to go away from this place to another.

another. I had no other hopes of attaining this, but what depended on the admiral's return. At length he came; but wrote me word, that, " Being obliged to return in a fortnight to the coast of Coromandel, to his great sorrow and disappointment he should not be able to see me; but wished me every good fortune that could possibly attend me in Ceylon." At reading this letter I lost all hopes, and fell into such a melancholy, that for some days I neither ate nor drank: which the governor perceiving, and enquiring into the reason of it, I told him it proceeded from being indisposed. He then would needs have me make a change in my way of life; and having furnished me with fire-arms, and at the same time sending an interpreter with me, desired me to make excursions in the neighbourhood. But we soon got out of our latitude; when there came about us a number of blacks, with a design



design to kill me. By the help of an innocent lye, however, that I was obliged to coin in this extremity, I got away from them, and at last arrived safe at my own dwelling, though not till the night after our setting out. In consequence of this adventure, the governor would not let me stroll out any more.

I was now to give in my declaration, whether I was capable of doing any thing or not; and, indeed, it was high time: for they could not possibly keep me there any longer, learning and doing nothing. Indeed I did not well know what to make of myself. As to a military life, I could not bear to think of it, even if they would have made me an officer. And as for the other scheme, that I should ever be capable of perfectly understanding different languages, of transacting the business of the cabinet, and of taking part in the government of the country, appeared to me utterly impossible;

and I was forced to acknowledge ingenuously, that the judgment passed upon me by the private secretary was not without some foundation. A decisive answer was required from me, and as I was not able to give this, it was all over with me. At this instant of my dismissal from the office, the private secretary took his leave of me with the greatest good humour.

I was now once more my own master; and for above nine months went about just where I pleased. The greater part of this time, however, I employed in study. In this situation I was, much against my inclination, drawn into a correspondence with a major. Once upon a time, my correspondent happened to arrive in our parts quite unexpectedly; and waited on the governor, expecting likewise to find me there. But not seeing me at court, nor hearing any thing of me, he enquired where I  
was;

was; and was answered briefly, that I had been dismissed on account of my incapacity. This he seemed to wonder at much; protesting, that he himself thought very differently of me; as from his correspondence with me he could not help being of opinion, that I might be very useful. He then shewed my last letter, that he happened to have about him, in which I had represented my own destiny by way of allegory. The company present stared, at finding me capable of writing in such a style; and the private secretary was called to give his judgment upon it. This worthy man was quite certain that I had only copied the letter. On this, the major begged that I might be sent for. On my first entrance the governor asked me, "where I had hid myself, and what I was about." I replied, that "I continued studying the Dutch and Portuguese languages, and had begun to learn

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the Malabar." I was now questioned about the letter. I assured the governor, that I had written it myself: but was rather shy in explaining the allegorical part. This was the history of a wolf, that was continually tormented and drawn into scrapes by a set of artful rascally foxes. The Governor now went aside with the major; and afterwards coming up to me, said, " You may stay here, and return to the office again. Be diligent in your studies; perhaps you may make such a progress, that I may be able to make use of you." I now returned to the office, and was received there by the Secretary, not quite with the same kindness and good humour, as he had shewn at the time when I took leave.

My diligence did not pass unobserved by the Governor. One morning he conversed with me in a very friendly and familiar way; and at last concluded with saying,

saying, "but may I absolutely depend upon your fidelity, obedience, and discretion?" I replied, "I would pledge my very soul upon it." "But would I swear this by the Holy Trinity?" I answered, "with all my heart," and took the oath accordingly; after he had previously threatened me with the rack and gallows, in case I should prove untrue to him. After this, he gave me a key, and took me to a chest of books, fast locked up, in which all his private papers, containing the most full and accurate instructions, and exposing the real principles of government in that part of the world, were found disposed in the best order. "By the perusal of these," says he, "you may acquire knowledge, and become master of your business: but in order that I may be able to judge of the progress you make, you shall write some remarks on the principal things you meet with worthy of observation."



vation."——By these means I became, in a year's time, fit to be employed in state affairs, of which, an unexpected event obliged me to give a proof sooner than I thought to have done. On this occasion the Governor appeared extremely well pleased, saying, at the same time, "I could never have expected so much of you. You are now come to that pitch, as to be capable of serving me essentially." And to shew how much he was pleased with me, he gave orders for a silver hilted sword, with an elegant embroidered sword-knot, the whole accompanied with a suit of blue velvet, to be made for me. My sword he put on himself; at the same time clapping on my head a hat of great value, and saying, "Now you are a gentleman." At dinner, I was set at table directly opposite the Governor: whereas, before this, I had been used to sit at a side-table. In the afternoon, the Governor went out  
a walk-



a walking; and by his order, I walked with him at his left hand; while always, before this, I was contented to flink behind him. All the Governor's slaves, to the number of one hundred and fifty, now came to congratulate me. I had appartments alloted me in the Governor's house, and a slave to wait on me. He likewise made me a present of a fine horse. His Lady too presented me with a suit of fine linen. Thus, all at once, came fortune, favour, and every thing that can give a man distinction, and procure respect. The Count, however, made me a very sneering compliment, by way of congratulating me on the acquisition of my new dignities. The Governor, who had been listening at the door, came in and put himself between us. He gave the Secretary the severest reproofs for his having persecuted me in so strange a manner, and for having, on all occasions, spoken ill of me, and endeavoured

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deavoured to bring me into disgrace. In fine, he told him, that he must for the future, consider me, as being in every respect, excepting that of birth, his equal. In short, the Governor was in such a passion with him, that he was going to dismiss him from the office that very day. "For, said he, these two chaps do not suit each other at all. The one is too haughty, and the other understands his business." I hearing him talk in this manner, begged him to have some consideration for the Secretary, as I did not yet find myself in a condition to go through all the business of the office, being still in want of practice. Accordingly my worthy patron suffered himself to be persuaded by me. And by this means I kept the Secretary on half a year longer, and should, doubtless, have kept him longer still, could he but have bridled in his passions. But he behaved so very ill to our common master, that

this

this latter, all at once, turned him out of the Secretary of State's Office, and sent him into the Chancery, among the common clerks there. In which capacity, in the space of a year, he came under me, as I was first Secretary in that office, and in quality of this, had absolute command over him. But in fact, I never found the least desire arise in my breast to return him evil for evil: a conduct, by which I made him perfectly ashamed of himself. A little while before his death, he asked me forgiveness: on which, I assured him, that I had forgiven him long before; and at the same time, promised to give his widow a monthly allowance out of my own pocket; a promise, which, after his demise, I faithfully kept.

My situation became every day more and more enviable. The money-chest, in which were several tons of gold, was entrusted to my care. In short, nothing



was kept from me. My patron began to disclose to me all the secrets of his heart, well knowing that I was able to keep a secret. At four in the morning he rose : at which time I used to go to him, to drink coffee, and smoke a pipe with him. Then came the time for the consideration of state affairs, when he spoke with me concerning them. When this was over, the Governor's Lady used to make her appearance; in the presence of whom, not a word was mentioned of government-matters, the conversation then turning only on private correspondence. In this manner I lived with my lord and master; a man that represented the Sovereign of a kingdom, twice as great as Saxony, the inhabitants of which are absolutely his subjects; a man that had seven Princes under him, who are obliged to appear before him yearly, in the most submissive manner, and give an account of their administration of government :

vernment: a man, in fine, that had power over life and death; who, in one hand carried a sword, and in the other a sceptre.—I have only thus much more to say of the East-India cabinet, and then I have done; and that is, that I openly before God, and with a safe conscience can say, to the honour of the Dutch nation, that in this cabinet I learned, saw, and practised no other maxims of state than those, by which the Christian Religion, together with an impartial distribution of justice, may be kept up, without the molestation of any one, and at the same time the public peace be preserved. And with this protestation I close this cabinet, remembering my oath, from which I do not even now consider myself as free.

It was above six years before my circumstances were thus altered for the better. During this space of time, I might be said to have been at school; a

space of time, in which I learned many a hard lesson, enforced by very severe treatment. My great patron now set himself to work, to raise me still higher, endeavouring, by his benefits, to efface the remembrance of my former various sufferings, and perfectly to convince me, that he loved and esteemed me. He accordingly procured me a post, that I could hold without prejudice to my other employments, and which brought me in three hundred dollars a year. My business in this office, was to examine previously all the writings, which served to commence a law-suit in any of the courts of justice; such as memorials, petitions, and the like; and when they were good in law, to sign them. This office procured me great respect from the people of the island. I absolutely forbade any presents to be made to me; as I could plainly observe, that certain persons endeavoured to seduce me, if possible, in  
order



order to effect my ruin. A man that is honest may act with confidence, even in posts of the utmost importance; and at last arrive at such a pitch of courage, as not to fear what man can do unto him.

—During my stay in the Secretary of State's Office, I had seen the business of each of the courts, viz. Of police, of justice, agriculture, the ecclesiastical court, &c. and learned how far the respective power of each extended: what they could, and what they could not do. Through all these courts I had past; but the most important part of my employ in the last years, I shall pass over in silence; and only add, that I had an amazing deal of trouble, and heavy burden thrown upon me, in a burning hot climate, lying in the seventh degree of latitude; in which time, besides my usual business, I was obliged to undertake, and go through with many a disagreeable commission, especially during the war,

which lasted five whole years. For this trouble, however, I was pretty well rewarded; and had I chose to have staid longer, I should, doubtless, have found it still better worth my while. I was not only known to his excellence, the \* Governor-General, but likewise to his Majesty the Emperor of Candia†, whom I had served, by the pains I had taken in the restoration of a peace, of which he was very desirous. I was now at the

\* The head of the Dutch settlements in the East-Indies, whose residence is in Batavia.

† The Dutch, it is well known, are masters of all the coasts of Ceylon. Farther up the country live, partly a free, independent nation, partly dependent princes, and nearly in the middle is Candia; the king of which, styles himself Emperor of Ceylon. By reason of the mountains and woods, which abound greatly in this part of the island, he has ever been invincible by the Portuguese and the Dutch. The peace between him and the Dutch East-India Company, has been confirmed, indeed, by frequent treaties, but has never yet proved lasting.

zenith

zenith of my fortune; my patron was well inclined towards me; I was in good health; and my purse was not empty. There was still one thing more that the Governor required of me; this was, that I should marry: to this end he offered me his brother's daughter, who lived with him in the house, and whose parents were dead. I politely excused myself; on which account I was out of favour with the Governor, for more than half a year. This period of my disgrace might, perhaps, have lasted longer, if the Lady had not, in the mean while, got married to a Governor's son. It is true, I should, in all likelihood, have made my fortune early in life, by this match; but I could not help having some apprehensions on account of two things, which I chuse to pass by in silence.

In this manner I lived with my patron sixteen years. He kept his promise with me, and heaped honours upon me.

During



During the latter part of this time, I was a perfect darling, and was in such high esteem, as to be preferred throughout the whole house, even to his own children. Finding himself increase in years, he wished to rest from his labours, and threw as much as he could upon my shoulders. He often wrote his name at the bottom of a sheet of paper, and left me to fill up the blank as I pleased. I often used to say to him, "You run too great a risk;" to which he would directly answer, "Let me alone; I know you thoroughly; you are sent to me by Heaven; exactly such a man as you I have often wished for." With all my greatness, however, in fact, I was nothing more than a beast of burden, that all the night long, whilst other people slept, was racking myself with thought. For the space of three whole years, I had but one single Sunday to myself, without writing or dictating.

Now

Now I was afraid I should not be able to hold out in this manner long; and therefore came to a resolution, to get away from my patron soon. Soon after this, he resolved on making a voyage with his family to Batavia, chiefly for the sake of his children, with a view to their education. They accordingly set out for that place, and arrived safe, after a prosperous voyage; but he himself and his worthy lady, lived scarce a year afterwards. They both endeavoured to persuade me to make the voyage, and offered me some thousand dollars, if I would comply with their request; but I knew Batavia too well for that, and therefore kept at home: for what good would the money do me, after I was dead? On quitting the island, he made it appear to every one about him, how much he esteemed and loved me.

I cannot here help relating an adventure, that happened once on a time, when I

was

was with him at a country-seat of his, called *Heart's Ease*. One afternoon, there came a party of blacks, to the amount of a hundred, each of them armed with large sabres and pikes. They pressed on in a tumultuous manner, asking for the governor, (who was just awaked from his afternoon's nap), and demanded several thousand dollars, or else his head, without delay. I being luckily present at the time, sent with all possible speed for the body-guard, which just then consisted of twelve Europeans, commanded by two officers; this being only a small party from the grand guard, which was relieved from time to time by others drawn from the same body. At the same instant, in order to gain time, I entered into conversation with the fellow who was their spokesman. In the mean while, the governor's lady had retired by a back-door, and called together the yeomen of  
the



the guard; they in an instant came running in to defend their master, who was now quite surrounded. I saw very plainly that this would not do, for our Europeans were not as yet come up with their fire-arms: I therefore called to the yeomen, "Hold! what are you about? these people have a lawful demand upon us; they come from the Emperor, and *must* have money." The governor then addressed himself to these banditti, saying, "Good people, be quiet, and make room for me; I will go to my chamber, and fetch the money directly." The thieves taking the governor at his word, let him go; and before they could look about them, our soldiers fired among them; by which means, seven fell at once, ten were taken into custody, and the remainder saved themselves by flight. We immediately ordered the prisoners to be carried to the fort, and at the same time a file of soldiers to be sent from

from thence for our defence. The remainder of the yeomen of the guard likewise came to us, but there was no longer any occasion for them, for we slept the next night in perfect safety.

The governor, just before his departure, made mention, that I was used to do good to my enemies ; a remark, that had particularly a retrospect to the secretary and the purveyor, of the latter of whom I have already related, that he had refused to give me provisions for love or money. This fellow, whose behaviour to me was less like a man's, than that of a devil incarnate, eight years after our first interview, came to Jaffanapatnam, to request an increase of his salary. I, who at that very time stood in the governor's presence, with my hand full of papers, recollected this barbarian again, and asked him, " whether he had still as hard a heart, as he had when I had the misfortune to travel  
with

with him?" On this, the Governor directly looking at me, asked, "is that the fellow that behaved so infamously to you?" I replied, yes, that is he! The Governor in a great passion, called to his Marshal, saying, take this scoundrel to the guard, and tell the officer to put him under confinement till farther orders. "To the fellow himself," he said, "get out of my sight, murderer! I will take care you shall have occasion to remember this as long as you live." I now in my turn began to intercede for him, and was fortunate enough to obtain his pardon. The man himself afterwards told several people, that I had been his guardian angel, or otherwise he would have been in a very bad plight. For my part, I cannot help thinking, that in acting thus, I did better than if I had sought to revenge myself upon him. For of what service would it have been to me at that time? I thank heaven!



ven! I was no longer in danger of being starved.

The island of Ceylon, which, in my opinion excels all others in the world, lies not far from the coast of Coromandel, and in all probability, formerly was joined to it. The best proofs of this are to be seen at a place called Adam's Bridge, where the sea is far from being deep, there being only a narrow channel to be found, through which small vessels can pass. This island is supposed to be above three hundred geographical miles in circumference. It has a number of capes and bays. Here are to be found some of the best and safest harbours in the world, and particularly on the east side of it, the port of Trincomale, in which, above a hundred ships may lie in safety, partly by reason of the high mountain on one side of it, and partly on account of the strength of the fortification erected on the other. This harbour is in the  
form

form of a dish, and has a narrow entrance.

The soil varies much in different parts. Some tracts are found very fertile, and fit for producing vegetables of every kind ; in others, on the contrary, nothing is to be seen but stones, sand, and rock. In almost every part of the island, it is observable that, ten feet deep, or more, there lies throughout a bed of rock ; which, when it is bored through, affords tolerable good water. In fine, hills, dales, and delightful streams of fresh water, full of fish and precious stones, are scattered all over the island. In particular, it is affirmed, that in a river, not far from Candia, all kinds of stones, except the diamond, are to be found.

The costly spice, known by the name of Cinnamon, particularly thrives here ; it not being found in any other part of the globe, of so fine and good a quality. This noble plant appears to thrive bet-

ter when self-sown, than when propagated by culture, In this case, the crows, who are very fond of eating the red and quick tasted fruit of the cinnamon-tree, are the best gardeners. For along with the fruit they swallow the kernels, and scatter them thus undigested every where with their excrements, by which the soil is, at the same time, manured; and the seed shortly after striking root, springs up out of the earth. On this account, no one dares to shoot, or otherwise kill a crow, under a severe penalty. Of this cinnamon, the Dutch send out yearly near a thousand bales, each bale weighing eighty pounds neat. This article of commerce, they get mostly for nothing, it being given in to them by the people of the country, who perform this service by way of vassalage for their lands. More of it would be got, if the trees could produce fresh bark; but they always wither directly



directly after they are stript of their bark. It may easily be imagined, however, that the additional growth must be considerable, when so great a quantity perishes every year. The growth of the tree is not every where alike, but stronger and weaker according to the difference of the soil. When the plant has time given it, it grows to a tolerable sized tree; but the larger this is, so much the worse is the bark; this kind of bark being only used for the distillation of oil of cinnamon. The report, that the cinnamon-tree may be smelt from afar, is without foundation. I have often rode through plantations of this spice, without finding any reason to countenance such an opinion. At the season of the year, when this drug is delivered in, all the vassals, who are here called *cheleasses*, meet together, when each of them has a piece of coarse linen given him, as a present from the company. On this occa-

sion they perform a comedy in the country-fashion, which is really worth seeing.

*Pepper* is likewise produced here in some parts of the country, and has a great resemblance to the *solanum dulcamara*, or *bitter-sweet*. The pepper-corns grow in clusters, like grapes; and, when they are ripe, are stript off. The Indians steep the green pepper in vinegar, in great quantities, and use it whenever they have caught cold, or their stomachs are out of order. The spice, however, produced here, is not so good as that which grows on the coast of Malabar; as likewise in the neighbouring countries of Cochin, Canara, and Venezuela; though the former sort, in its growth, does not differ much from the other. The cardamon will not thrive well in Ceylon. It should seem, that this soil is not fit for the plant, for it is very troublesome to rear, and hardly

pays

pays the planter for his pains. Those which grow on the east side of Java are better.

On the other hand, coffee thrives here much better. These beans grow in pairs, upon a kind of shrub, and are contained in a pod, which opens when the berries have attained a state of perfect maturity. The inhabitants of Ceylon do not make the least use of this fruit.

Tea, and some other sorts of elegant aromatics, are not to be found here. Some trials have been made to rear them, but without success. It is the same with sugar; as a rarity, indeed, it may be had here, but not in such quantities as in the fields of Batavia.

Rice, on the contrary, thrives very well: it is ploughed into the ground with a round ploughshare, by which means the furrows are not made deep, as the ground is never raked afterwards.



It may be sown and reaped three times a year, as it ripens every four months. The flail is not known among the Indians; but in its stead they have their grain trodden out by oxen, upon the spot where it grew. These they fasten together by fours, driving them round, all over the corn, till the grain is all got out of the straw. It is very remarkable, that none of these cattle used in threshing, will either dung or stale as long as they are at this work; which I have often observed with great attention, more than a hundred times. The corn having been threshed out in this manner, is afterwards cleansed from the chaff; and being put into sacks, is laid on the oxen's backs, and so carried home.

The earth here produces several rare plants, of different kinds, without any kind of culture; particularly a sort of root of different colours, blue, yellow, and white, of a mealy nature, and not a

bad taste. *Ginger* grows in Ceylon as common as grass in Europe. They have likewise there a fruit, pretty much resembling our potatoes, called *batatas*; as likewise another sort, called *cotto-collingo*, of both of which, the Europeans are very fond. Before all the vegetable productions of this island, a sort of grain, not unlike mustard, has the preference. This seed, which the people of the country call *man*, is dug up out of the earth, where it lay buried, and is eaten as a delicacy. The taste of it is not to be equalled by that of any other vegetable; and I cannot think of any thing I can compare it to. The word *man*, in the language of this country, means *sand*.

*Medicinal* roots and herbs are to be found here in great quantities: and, indeed, the inhabitants are well skilled in physic, and are in particular good surgeons.

The vegetables, which are the usual produce of our gardens in Europe, grow here tolerable well: such as *carrots*, *white-cabbage*, *celer-rabi*, *cauliflowers*, *onions*, *fallad*, *cucumbers*, (these last are rather better than they are in Europe) *melons*, *gourds*, *parsley*, *celery*, &c. The Europeans there, wish to carry this species of gardening to a still greater length; and, I am of opinion, that if good and fresh seeds, of many other vegetables, could but be carried thither, still many more might be reared. But the voyage thither is too long, and the heat of the climate too great for seeds to keep. Of fruit-trees, there are many different sorts, but none of the same kind as those we have in Europe. The principal of these is the *mango*: the tree, which bears it, grows to the size of a middling oak. The eating of this fruit never hurts any body; and what is still more extraordinary, the fruit of every tree has  
a flavour



a flavour peculiar to itself, no two mango-trees being found to produce fruit of the same taste. Almost all the fruit in these parts, do not last long after they are ripe, but the mango may be preserved several weeks. It is ripe twice a year.

The *ananas*, or *pine-apple*, is likewise to be found here; but as it is so well known in Europe, I shall content myself with relating a story, which may serve to shew its medicinal virtues. An European, that lay ill in this island, cried out day and night for somebody to bring him a pine-apple. It was, however, not allowed him by the physician. In a few days he died, and being opened, a worm of an extraordinary size was found in his stomach, which it had already begun to eat into. The people, who had attended the sick man, remembering what he had longed for, by way of experiment, dropt some pine-apple juice on the worm, which

which died in an instant. The *pumpel-nut*, likewise the produce of Ceylon, is as big as a man's head, of a middling size, and has a rind almost like that of a lemon; which being peeled off, nothing is to be seen but a parcel of soft red kernels adhering to each other: these may be eaten, either with or without wine. This fruit is extremely refreshing: the tree that bears it, does not grow higher than the hazel-tree.

The *pomegranate* adorns most of the gardens in Ceylon. The best time for gathering it, is indicated by its bursting spontaneously. Its red kernels make a beautiful appearance; but I have never been able to observe, that the Indians hold them in such high estimation, as many would make us believe they do.

The delicious *figs*, which the country people are so fond of seeing grow round about their cottages, are in much higher estimation with them than the above-mentioned

mentioned fruit. These figs are not of the same sort as those that are natives of Portugal, and are cultivated with us in Germany, but differ from them totally. Of these, there above twenty different species, all of which have an agreeable sweet taste. They differ much, however, as well in degree of sweetness, as in magnitude. There are some nine inches long, some six, others again but half that length; at the same time, that they are as thick as the arm of a child that is twelve months old. The skin is yellow throughout its whole substance; the inner part, which partakes more of a mealy, than of a watery nature, is perfectly white. About fifty of these figs, more or less, in proportion as they are of a larger or smaller sort, hang on one stalk. The tree that bears them, is not of a woody nature, but consists rather of a spongy substance, and must be watered constantly: and indeed,



deed, the best sort is always found near springs. It bears figs on one stalk only, after this it dies: but in the mean while the stem produces so many young shoots, that you may very well afford to give it respite; and in a short time, you will have more figs from its new offspring. The leaves of this tree have a very beautiful appearance, and are of a very soft texture and substance. They are often above two ells \* long, and more than half an ell in breadth, and serve the country people for plates and dishes at their meals. The inhabitants consider these figs as a capital present, as they are well apprised that the Europeans are very fond of them. The *Rollarwei*, (an animal, of which we shall speak more hereafter) is very apt to fall foul on these figs, whilst the country people are asleep in their beds; on which account, they

\* The German ell is about two English feet.

are obliged to gather them, almost throughout the whole country, before they are quite ripe \*.

The *gambuse* is likewise a well tasted fruit. The Europeans are as fond of it, as we are here of the beurré-pear, which it very much resembles. It is flesh-coloured, and of the size of a hen's egg. It has one single large kernel, by which it is propagated.

A fruit, not unlike our yellow plums, grows on large and high trees, in uncultivated woods. It is called *palpelum*, and is much superior to the grape in richness of taste. The children of the Indians are extremely fond of them; and the wild swine get as fat with them, as ours do with acorns and beech-mast.

*Itschepalam* is a fruit, which has the shape, colour and size of our ordinary

\* The whole of this description plainly points out the pifang-tree.

black cherry, but differs widely from it in taste.

*Jake*, or *four-sack*, [fauer-sack] is chiefly found, all over the island, in gardens. This fruit grows on a tolerable large tree, to the thickness of a stout, lusty man, hanging on it like a well-stuffed sack. It is green, with a cartilaginous rind; on the inside yellow, and divided into a number of partitions; in each of which there is a kernel, in colour and taste perfectly resembling the chesnut. The fruit itself is agreeably sweet, and grows to the size of a large water-bucket, weighing, perhaps, twenty pounds. The Dutch have given it the name of four-sack; to signify, that on account of its great size, it must be four-fauce for the tree to bear the weight of it.

Besides these, there are a great many more fruits to be found in the gardens of Ceylon: I shall, however, only give a  
de-



description of the *Adam's-apple*; as, on account of its fine clear red and yellow tints, it may well deserve to be called the king of them all. Its external appearance invites the beholder to taste it: but it is so far from being eatable, that it is rank poison. This apple takes its name from its shape; which is round on one side, but on the other flat, as if a piece had been bitten out of it. The Portuguese are firmly persuaded, that this is the apple which our progenitors tasted in Paradise: and even take upon them to affirm, that this same Paradise was situated in Ceylon. This proposition they attempt to prove by the following considerations: On a prodigiously high mountain, called Pico d'Adam, are found two tomb-stones, to the full as large again as the ordinary ones, with an inscription engraved on each, which hitherto no one has been able to read or explain. Now there can be no doubt, but

but that under these stones lie the bodies of Adam and Eve; who, as being the first of our race, are certainly intitled to this honourable distinction. — On this mountain, the Pagan priests perform their idolatrous rites, and keep a lamp constantly burning here. It is even reported, that Adam used frequently to walk with his beloved consort, from this island, over to the Malabar coast; and for this purpose, had a bridge thrown over a small stream, which separated the island from the continent; the remains of which bridge still exist, and bear the name of Adam's bridge to this day. It is, however, not improbable, that the bones of the first inhabitants of the island are deposited under these stones: but whence these people first came, it is not very easy to determine. Whether they were fishermen driven thither by stress of weather, or whether they went thither in search of food, at the time when the  
island

island was joined to the coast of Malabar, are likewise points which I shall not pretend to settle.

The *limon*, the *cocoa*, and the *palm-tree*, are too well known by description, or otherwise, for me to attempt describing them here. I shall therefore only remark, in general, that the first of these does not grow to any height in Ceylon, but for that very reason throws out a greater number of branches, bearing continually till it dies. The leaves of the cocoa-tree, among other uses, serve for fodder to the elephant, and are accordingly brought in by the natives (in the way of foccage-service) in great quantities; as this animal, in consequence of his great bulk, consumes no inconsiderable quantities of provisions. With respect to the palm, or (as it is called from its fruit) *panegais*-tree, there is one thing observable, that it makes a new shoot every year: as soon as this comes



out, throwing off the leaves from the old one. Hence may be easily seen the age of the tree itself; and not even so, but it even serves to mark the age of its owner; it being here the custom to plant one of these trees at the birth of every child: this, as the child grows up, is pointed out to him, that by it he may always know his own age. Before I was acquainted with this particular, it appeared to me extremely odd, that, whenever I enquired after the age of any respectable Malabar, I always received for answer, that he was as old as such a particular panegais-tree. The first time I was thus answered, I flew into a passion, and asked my informer if he wanted to make a fool of me? The old gentleman was terribly frightened; and falling at my feet, begged me not to think any thing of the kind: but he really did not know how to answer me in any other way.

Of

Of trees bearing fruit that produces oil, there are divers sorts. The *illiper-tree*, for example, the fruit of which, has nearly the appearance of the olive, from which the oil is pressed out in Portugal, and is thicker on the trees than the leaves themselves; so thick, indeed, as often to break the branches by their weight. Another is the *margosy-tree*, the fruit of which is somewhat smaller; but in consequence of this, the oil is so much the stronger; on which account, it is much used by the Indian physicians, who ascribe wonderful effects to it. I have often taken it myself, and found, that it has searched every minutest part of my body, and thrown off the foul humours. If this oil could be brought to Europe genuine and unadulterated, the same wonderful cures might probably be performed with it by our physicians as by those of Malabar. It is the common belief, that if you take a few

drops of this medicine early in the morning, you will be safe from the effects of poison all the day. The wood of this tree is amazingly hard, and the leaves of it are used in Ceylon to drive away the muskitos, by the smoke arising from them when burned. These leaves harbour a kind of winged animals, not unlike our grasshoppers. The size of this tree is much the same with that of our lime-tree.

The ebony-tree, with which our turners are well acquainted, grows pretty plentifully on the eastern side of the island. Some centuries ago, the artizans of Ceylon made more use of it than they do at present. Divers domestic utensils and pieces of furniture of the make of those times, are still to be seen, which are of no mean workmanship. Now that far better sorts of wood have been discovered in the thickest parts of the forests, the ebony is no more in use any where; but  
in



in its stead, the workmen make use of what they call *calmander*, and of *gouvernies*: and besides these, of a third sort, the name of which, in the language of Ceylon, has now slipped out of my memory. These sorts of wood are of a fine grain, of a brown colour, and burn with a yellow flame; being withal, far preferable to any European wood whatever. They have naturally a fine gloss, so that one may almost see one's face in them; and what is still of greater consequence to the workman is, that they are entirely without knots.

There are a great many trees, of divers kinds, to be found in the extensive and almost impenetrable forests, with which this island is adorned; so that a man may travel for many days together, without seeing any thing but high and thick trees, surrounded at the bottom with shrubs and bushes of different kinds; which, altogether, make a very fine, but

at the same time, an awful appearance. The greater part of these trees and shrubs, which bear no resemblance to those of our own climate, I shall pass over, and make my observations on a few of them only; and in the first place, on

The *devil's-tree*; which, although it bears no fruit fit for the nourishment of man, being only eaten by the bats they have here, is, notwithstanding, in higher estimation with the Malabars than any other tree. Under this, not on account of the extensive shade it affords, but for reasons suggested by the wildest superstition, they make offerings to their idol *peu*, that he may not do them any harm. This tree has properties different from those of any other, for its twigs and smaller branches send out roots, that bending down to the earth, take a fast hold there; and then shooting up again contiguous to the trunk, grow up with it

it in close contact; and by this means, in process of time, form a tree of an astonishing thickness. The thickest that I have seen, measured above twenty-five ells in the girth; and I am apt to believe, that many are to be found of a still greater size. The properest name for this tree, would be that of the *milk-tree*, as it is full of a juice, resembling a thick kind of milk. The present title, by which the Europeans distinguish it, they have probably bestowed on it on account of the offerings, which are made under it to his infernal majesty.

The *tamarind* - tree is remarkable among those that grow wild here, especially for its great size, and the vast extent of its branches; which, as it were, invite the traveller to come and partake of its delicious cooling fruit. A drink more refreshing in this climate cannot be had, than a kind of punch made of fresh-gathered and ripe tamarinds,



merely by the addition of pure water and a little sugar. In the last years of my residence on the island, I indulged myself in this, by way of refreshment, almost every day, and found myself much the better for it.

The *arreek*-tree is one of the most beautiful trees produced here. It is capable of forming the most delightful alleys; for the stem grows quite strait, while it shoots up to a good height, and not thicker than a stout man's arm, throwing out branches only at the very top. The fruit, which is yellow, and about the size of a hen's egg, hangs from the stalk like grapes. The rind is somewhat thick; and when this is taken off, the fruit has the appearance of a nutmeg. One of its uses is for dying scarlet: but the principal consumption of it is occasioned by the practice of chewing it, which is universal among the Indians, and not unfrequent with the Europeans.

For

For this purpose they take a sort of leaf, called betel, in shape resembling our kidney-bean; to this they add the arreek with a little lime; and then chew it all together, for the purpose of clearing their teeth and gums, and of giving a fine red colour to their lips. This delicacy (which, however, is not to be swallowed, being a luxury reserved for the mouth only) is held in the highest estimation. There is not a female, high or low, rich or poor, of whatever rank or condition in life, that has not her little chest apart to herself, which is stored with this bewitching fruit, and which she carries about with her as constantly as the Catholic ladies do their beads. Many there are that lavish away upon it every thing they can scrape together, to the great sorrow of their husbands; and are as much attached to it, as our good women in Germany are to their coffee; so that they

they had at any time rather give up a meal, than part with this indulgence.

The *kapok*-tree is not unlike our walnut-tree, but the fruits differ greatly. That of the *kapok*-tree is slender, of the length of a man's hand, and full of a species of wool, which is used for stuffing mattresses and cushions, it being much stronger and coarser than the ordinary cotton; which grows on a small shrub, and has nothing in common with the *kapok*, excepting a small pod in which the wool is contained. Perhaps, there is hardly any where a finer sight than this shrub with the cotton ripe on it. Not snow itself is so white.

The *talpat*-tree grows here likewise, and makes a stately show with its leaves, which are of an uncommon size, and are manufactured into parasols and parapluies. If it were not for these leaves, people in this country would suffer the greatest inconveniences. This kind of screen  
from



from the weather, from the Indian name for which the tree itself has got its denomination, is used for state by the people here in the middling station of life; as such a man would think it the greatest shame imaginable, were he to be seen in the streets without a slave carrying a talpat after him. And, indeed, it is the fashion for the talpat to be carried after a man, when neither sun nor moon is to be seen, and there is not the least appearance of rain.

From vegetables, I shall now proceed to animals, as my design is to mention a few particulars likewise concerning some of these. I begin with the largest of them, viz. The *elephant*, of which, I have seen several six ells high \*. That they are not all of this size, it is needless to inform the reader. A young cub does not measure more than one ell in height; but goes on thus increasing

\* Or twelve feet.

proportionably, till it arrives at its full growth. This animal is not only the largest, but likewise the most acute of any. Had it the gift of speech, it would be found equal to many of our dull race of blockheads, in point of understanding. At least, such is the opinion and open declaration of all those who are thoroughly acquainted with the nature and properties of the elephant, and have had to do with him for a number of years. Even in the business of generation he imitates man; and, indeed, considering the particular frame of the females, it could not be otherwise. For this purpose, the male makes a pit, or hollow in the ground, and assists his consort to lay herself on her back; and, in case he finds her perfectly compliant and agreeable, very complaisantly helps her up again after the business is finished, (for she cannot possibly rise of herself) by throwing his trunk round her neck.

But

But if she at first stood shilly-shally, and gave herself prudish airs, he then even lets her lie, and goes away about his business.

How long the female goes with young, is not as yet ascertained. I have been at some pains to come at the truth on this point, but without success. That this animal is capable of arriving at a great age, I am very well assured, from what I have myself observed in the case of a tame one, which was caught on the island, in the year 1717, and was still living in 1768, and was even then used with advantage for the breaking in of the wild elephants that were just caught.—They keep together in great droves; and every male has his peculiar female belonging to him, which none of the others dare approach. On the other hand, the males always quarrel and fight together, till each has his appropriate female. If it so happens that one of  
these



these is beat out of the field, and is obliged to go without a consort, he instantly becomes furious and mad, killing every living creature that comes in his way, be it man or beast. One in this state is called a *ronkedor*, and is a greater object of terror to a traveller than a hundred wild ones. It is generally affirmed, that the elephants of Ceylon, are the best and the first in point of rank, as they hold their heads, as well as necks, higher than those that come from other parts ; and it is reported, that when they chance to meet together, these latter give them the pas, and shew evident tokens of submission and respect. But of this last report, I can say nothing from my own experience. These animals are distributed into three classes, *males*, *ma-janis*, and *females*. The two former are of the masculine gender, and differ only in this circumstance, that the first have these

two large and long tusks, while those of the majanis are but small. The females have none at all: on the other hand, they have two breasts between their fore-feet; by means of which, they suckle their young. They do not walk or run in a diagonal manner like other quadrupeds, but rather sideling, lifting up the two feet, which are on the same side, from the ground at once; in consequence of which, they do not run very fast. It is almost superfluous to mention here, that the elephant's skin is of an ash-grey colour, smooth, and without scales; and that there is only one part of him in which he is vulnerable by a musket shot, and that is, between the eye and the ear. But the manner in which he is caught and tamed is, I believe, not so well known; for which reason, I shall give a description of the different methods in this place.

I. A

I. A certain korahl \* has been used for these many years past, in which most of the elephants in Ceylon are caught. In order to have some idea of this korahl, you must imagine to yourself a large fishing-net, with two flaps standing out wide from each other, and terminating in a bag. Now this snare consists of a collection of stout and vigorous trees, partly growing wild on the spot, and partly planted there for the purpose. These trees stand very close and near to each other; and where there is any gap, very strong palisades are brought to fill it up, so that the elephants cannot by any means get out. As soon as the hunters have given information that they have discovered a tolerably numerous troop of elephants, the principal people of Ceylon are oblig-

\* This word, according to Salmon and Goch, [Present State of Indostan and Ceylon] means, in the language of Ceylon, "Toils for elephants."



ed to bring together several thousand men. By means of these, the whole drove, thus inclosed, is driven slowly towards the first opening of the korahl, that takes up an enormous space. When they have got them thus far, the game is, as it were, in their hands. The whole train of huntsmen and country people now unite, and draw up close into this opening, and making a great noise and uproar, as well by their cries as instruments, which they carry with them for the purpose, they contrive to get the elephants, who keep together in one drove, like a happy and peaceful family, into the smaller space, which is called the *sporting* korahl. Here there is likewise formed a palisadoe (as it were) of six or seven thousand men, who make a large fire, and at the same time an intolerable din with shouting, drumming and playing on the hautboy of that country, so that the elephants are frightened;

ened; and, instead of going backwards, move forwards towards the smallest space, called the *forlorn hope*. This strait is closed likewise with a large fire, and a great clamour is made as before; by which means, the elephant being seemingly stunned (as it were), looks round about him, on all sides, to see if he can obtain his freedom, which he hopes to arrive at by means of his great bodily strength. He tries each side of the korahl's fence, but finds, that with his strong trunk, he is not able to fell the stout trees that are planted there; in consequence of which, he begins to be in a passion, inflating his proboscis with all his force. He now observes, that the fire comes nearer and nearer to him: accordingly he ventures into the small out-let of the korahl; and seeing the tame elephants stand at the end of it, imagines that he has at length obtained his freedom. This narrow passage, through

through which one of these animals only can pass at a time, is covered at top: on this top are placed some expert huntsmen, who drive the elephant to the end of the passage with a stick, to the top of which, is fastened a sharp-pointed hook. As soon as they have got him here, they take away the beams which close the end of the passage, and leave the opening free. Now the elephant rejoices like a prisoner just broke out of his confinement. Accordingly he takes a pretty large leap: but just at that moment he finds, standing by his side, the two tame elephants, (called *hunters*, and more commonly *crimps*) who oblige him to stand still, and keep him fast between them. If he refuses to stand and be obedient, they begin to discipline him with their trunks; and by their master's orders, thresh him with these flagellatory instruments in such a manner, that from the mere pain he is



forced to evacuate the contents of his body. Now, when at length he finds that he cannot escape from the power of these unrelenting beadles, he gives the affair up, and with a good grace allows himself to be led to a tree, at a small distance; to which, he is bound by the hind-leg with a stout thong of untanned elk or buck-skin, and where they leave him, and take the tame animals back again. When one of these beasts has thus been led out of the korahl, the others follow more willingly, being all in hopes of obtaining their liberty, as they have seen nothing to make them suspect the fate of the first that went out. When the hunt is quite finished, all the elephants are seen fast bound to trees. In that manner they are to stand several days, being all the while kept low in point of food, in order that they may know that they are not now their own masters, but subject to the will of others.

At-

Attendants are placed by the side of each animal, who give him his food by little and little, to the end that he may learn to distinguish, and grow acquainted with mankind. At first he looks very froward on an attendant of this kind; in the course of a few days, however, he becomes more resigned to his fate, and allows the former to come near him and handle him. He likewise soon comes to understand what his governor says to him; and even suffers a strong rope to be thrown round his neck; with which rope he is coupled to a tame elephant, and so led into the stable. This is performed in the following manner. A tame elephant has, on either side of him, a wild one; and, if he is of a great size, he has even two smaller ones on each side. The kornack sits on the tame animal with his sharp-pointed hook, with which he turns the creature by the head the way he would have him go,

and thus leads his captured elephants to their stables, in which are driven down stout poles or trunks of trees. To these they are fastened by the hind leg, at some distance from each other, so that they cannot come together; and thus they are suffered to stand, being fed daily with cocoa-nut leaves, and once a day led to water by the tame ones, till the proper time arrives for taking them to market and felling them. It is easy to imagine, that this kind of hunting is attended with more trouble, noise, and tumult, than those which are set on foot by our princes and great people in Germany, as neither dogs nor fire-arms can be used here. But what is most to be admired in all this affair is, the great boldness of the huntsmen, who know how to manage this animal, in itself so terrible, as readily as a skilful huntsman in our country manages his hounds. These kornacks or huntsmen, have a trifling



trifling pension: but the country fellows that help to drive the elephants together, have only that one day taken off from the number of days on which they are obliged to labour (as vassals) on ordinary services.

II. Another method of taking these animals, is that which is practised (in the countries respectively subject to them) by the orders of the seven tributary princes, whom I mentioned in a cursory manner, when I was treating of the extensive power of the governor. They have pits, some fathoms deep, in those places whither the elephant is wont to go in search of food. Across these pits are laid poles, covered with leaves, and in the middle baited with the food, of which the elephant is fondest. As soon as he sets eyes on this, he makes directly towards it, and on a sudden finds himself taken unawares. His new situation at first sets him almost mad;

at length however he becomes cooler, and bethinks himself what he shall do in these disagreeable circumstances. Accordingly, having first thrown from him the materials of his snare, which had fallen in with him, he makes some endeavours at getting out; but finding himself too heavy to accomplish this, he cries out for some of his own species to come to his assistance. At length he sees some of them coming towards him, and flatters himself, that they are come to help him out. This, in fact, they do; but, being of the tame domesticated kind, as soon as they have pulled him out by means of ropes, they make him prisoner, and deliver him up into the hands of their leader. If he appears discontented at this treatment, and endeavours to regain his liberty, he gets well thrashed; and is disciplined in this manner, till he submits with a good grace to be fettered and led any where, just as his driver pleases.

pleases. That he may be got out the easier, the pit is made rather shallow, and shelving on one side, so that he can in some measure help himself out; otherwise it would not be possible to draw out such a large and heavy animal, without doing him some damage.

III. The third and last species of capture, is that practised by the Moors (as they are called in those parts, from their following the doctrines of the Koran\*) who by these means are enabled to pay their rents to the lords of the manor, the Dutch East-India Company. It consists of the following manœuvres: in times of drought, when the elephants,

\* These people are not Moors, but natives of India, professing the Mahometan religion. This name seems to have been a legacy left them by the Portuguese: for after the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, these looked for their old antagonists even in Asia, and called all the Mahometans they found there Arabians, or *Moors*.

being



being in want of water, are used to haunt certain particular spots, where they know they shall find water to quench their thirst; these people (a strong and hardy race of men) go a hunting in parties, consisting of four men each, accompanied by some stout young lads, their children, whom they have brought up to this business; and in this manner search the wood through, till they have found a herd of elephants. Having attained this point, they pitch on the largest of these animals, and keeping continually hovering about him, endeavour to get him away from the rest. The elephant, on his part, wishes for nothing so much as to get rid of these troublesome visitors, and accordingly strives to drive them out of the wood. On the other hand, the boldest and most expert of these fellows, with an ebony stick which he carries with him, about two feet long, begins a sham fight with

with the elephant, who bangs the stick heartily with his proboscis. But the Moor parrying the strokes, and taking care to avoid coming to close quarters, by leaping nimbly from one side to the other, the elephant grows extremely angry, and does every thing in his power to disarm this strange fencing-master, and take his life. But besides this more adventurous enemy, he finds he has two more to cope with, one on each side of him; and while he is engaged with these, comes a fourth behind him, and watching his opportunity, throws a rope, made into a noose, round one of his hind legs. At this instant, the lads, knowing that the animal has work enough cut out for him before him, and that his whole attention is taken up by the stick, approach him with the greatest boldness, and fastening the noose as quickly as possible round his leg, drag him on till they find a tree fit for their purpose, to  
which

which they fasten him, and let him stand. In the mean time, two of the men run home, and bring a tame elephant, to which having coupled the wild one, they lead them together to the stable.

By one of these three methods, are all the elephants taken in Ceylon; and he who thinks otherwise of this matter, is certainly very much out in his judgment. It is not my custom to dispute with any man, for I would have every man enjoy his own opinion; and am not in the least hurt, if others consider as suspicious, what from experience I know to be fact; or think otherwise of me, than I am conscious that I deserve. However that be, as I have had occasion for the space of twenty years, not only to see a great number of elephants in their wild state, but have likewise been in the way to observe closely and accurately the methods of capturing them, the management of them, the methods of

of



of selling them, and the various uses they are put to, I make no scruple of pretending to as much knowledge in these animals, as the best jockeys in Germany can possibly have in horse flesh; and shall therefore take the liberty of mentioning some more particulars relative to them, which have come within the compass of my own experience.

There is a sale for these animals in the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam every year, in the month of July. The merchants of the coast of Malabar and Bengal are invited to it by advertisements, in which the size and sex of the animals that are put up to sale, are specified. On the appointed day, all the beasts are brought into the market, distributed into certain lots, each lot containing the different sizes, great, middling, and small. Each lot likewise is numbered, and the numbers are drawn by the merchants out of a golden or silver bason. This  
being

being finished, the whole amount of each lot is reckoned up according to a table of the current prices laying before them, and a proper deduction at the same time is made for defects; in one beast, perhaps, a nail, of which when the number is complete there are eighteen, being wanting on the foot; another having a cleft or ragged ear; another again a short and stumpy tail, &c.

In the course of all these transactions, the Secretary and his clerks never meet with the least contradiction or opposition of any kind from the merchants, as these former are known to be thoroughly acquainted with the current prices and the customary abatements. This business being finished, and the respective sums of money, which have been previously paid into the Company's coffers, being counted over, the Governor, by way of conferring a particular honour on the merchants, after having sprinkled  
 them

them with rose-water from a golden font, presents each of them with a nosegay with his own hand; and orders his porter, who is a native of the country, to rub them with powder of sanders-wood. In return, and by way of shewing their deep sense of the honour done them, the merchants make each of them a low bow: and in this manner the fair is finished. In some years above a hundred elephants have been sold at once; by which, the company has been a great gainer: for one of these animals, that is twelve feet high and has no blemish, and at the same time has two tusks of an equal size, will fetch above two thousand dollars.

The decoy-elephants are never sold; and throughout the whole island, none are used for this purpose but such as are blemished. The natives of the country never buy any elephants, as they cannot make use of them. And the purchasers  
of



of them come from other countries, where these animals can be of more service. One of the uses to which they are put, is to keep up the state and pomp of the nobility, who have always one or two of them standing before their palaces. These yeomen of the guards are generally clad in a costly covering of tapestry; and their tusks are tipped with gold or silver, set round with jewels.

They are likewise used for the purposes of war, by the inland princes, in which case they are generally brought into the field coupled together, and having heavy chains fastened to their trunks. The Indians are wont with this view to make them furious and almost mad with a drink prepared from amfium\*, so that they are afraid of nothing that can possibly be opposed to them: and they have this advantage, that neither darts, nor even bullets from small arms, have

\* Amfium is the Indian name for opium.

the power to wound them.—This animal is likewise made use of as the public executioner; and it must be owned, that he performs this office to perfection, when he is properly educated for it. He usually executes his commission by taking the criminal (supposing this latter to be condemned to death) up with his proboscis, and throwing him up in the air, in which case he catches him on the point of his tusks, and thus makes an end of him. But if the malefactor is not decreed to suffer torture, he then lays him down on the ground, and with one of his fore-feet treads him to pieces at one smash. When the sentence does not amount to death, he then takes the criminal, and tossing him up in the air, gives him a fair fall without interposing any farther: in this case the poor delinquent sometimes gets off safe and sound; but it is an equal chance if he is not a cripple for life.—This animal is used

likewise for labour. He is made to drag the heaviest pieces of timber fastened to one of his hind legs; and in general, to carry on his back all kinds of heavy burthens.

He is also frequently made use of for riding. I have myself made some trials of him in this way: but cannot say, that I experienced any pleasure in it, as by his fideling way of going he jolts one excessively.

The elephant may even be taught tricks; and in this point he far excels all other animals. With the greatest astonishment, I have often been a witness to the consummate grace and dexterity with which he manages his proboscis, and using with as much ease and readiness as a man does his right hand. He will untie a handkerchief, or undo any other kind of parcel, that contains any delicacy that suits his palate, and take out the contents of it, as well and



as neatly as any human being ; and will even pick your pocket with amazing dexterity. He will throw up a ball into the air, and catch it again ; with many other feats, too tedious to mention at present.

I will now take my leave of this uncommon creature, with relating two extraordinary stories, which, to my certain knowledge, are true ; but which, I must confess, I should scarcely credit, were they told me by another person.

I was present, when the *vidan* (or overseer of the elephants) was, according to annual custom, ordered by the Governor, to go with his men and decoy-elephants, and fetch away those that were newly captured, and turn them into their stables. The Governor gave strict charge to this officer, to take every precaution that the whole drove might be brought home safe, and in good condition. Accordingly, the *vidan* having

set out on his journey homewards, it so happened, that in his convoy of elephants, one of them was driven away by the rest; proving, in short, an errant *runkedor*, as I have explained the matter above. Without delay he turns loose his best decoy-elephant, which he called *schilli*, (or darling) saying to her, "Go thy way, and make this honest man happy: but be sure to bring him back again." With these words, he let the tame female depart. The *runkedor* directly marched off with her, away from the rest of the drove; which, after baiting a few hours, were taken farther on. In the evening they came to a fortress, where they passed the night, and found fodder prepared for them. The next day, the commander of the fort (a German) expected that the *vidan* would go forward on his march: instead of which, he staid and requested to have some more fodder, as he must wait a little longer for

for his schilli. Upon this the commanding officer was curious to know the particulars of this affair: being let into the secret, he only laughed at the poor vidan for his pains, telling him that he supposed he was out of his senses; but at all events, that he must shift his quarters. The vidan, however, begged hard to stay till the following morning, and at length obtained his request. In the night his schilli came back safe and sound with her gallant: the next day they were coupled together without the least opposition on the part of the male, and were thus brought without any farther accident, on the third day, to the end of your journey. Here the story was heard by every one with the greatest astonishment, and the vidan was obliged, with his cornacks, to confirm the truth of it. It may well be supposed that there was not a man, woman or child, that did not go in crowds to see this



runkedor. He was found to be twelve feet and one inch in height, and to have very fine tusks. He was sold for two thousand five hundred dollars.

The other anecdote, as follows. A peasant, that lived near the spot where some elephants were daily taken to water from the stable, and who about that time was generally sitting at the door of his hut, had taken a particular fancy to one among them, and used now and then to give him a few fig leaves (a food, of which this animal is particularly fond) and which the elephant used to eat out of his hand, to the fellow's great satisfaction. One day, having taken it into his head to make a fool of his old friend, he wrapped up a stone in the fig-leaf; at the same time, saying to the kornack, "for this once, I'll treat this beast of your's with a good solid stone, that will stay long enough in his stomach, I'll answer for it." The kornack replied, "he

“ he will not be fool enough to swallow it; do not imagine that he is quite so stupid.” The boor was tickled with the fancy, and offered the stone to the poor beast, which he accordingly took; and having brought it with his proboscis to his mouth, let it fall directly. “ Ha! called out the kornack, did not I tell you he would not swallow it?” at the same time driving his beasts on: and having watered them, returned immediately. The countryman was still on the same spot; in the mean time the elephant, as quick as thought, steps out of the road, throws his proboscis about the man, drags him after him, and throwing him down, at one dash treads his bowels out of his body.

They have horses here of an excellent Arabian race; and a spot for breeding them in, not inferior to any in the world. For there are three islands situated hereabouts, which again are respectively di-

vided into other smaller islands or islets. On these islands, called *Ilhas de Cavalos*, this kind of cattle runs wild. The largest of them is appropriated to the mares, with the stone-horses: from twenty to twenty-five of the former, being reckoned sufficient for one of the latter sort: and the horses live with their females on much the same terms as the elephants do with theirs; as they constantly keep to their own stud, and will not allow any other horse to come near their mares. On the second island the foals are put, and the fillies on the third. Either of these must be five years old, before they are taken on to the first island. The Dutch take these horses for their own use, just as they want them: besides which, they sell a great number yearly at a horse-fair, which is held the day after that of the elephants. Not a horse is sold under a hundred dollars; and this price must be kept up at all events,



events, even if some of the horses are to be shot for it, in order to lessen the number. And if any body chuses to pick out a horse for himself, he must then pay one hundred and fifty dollars for each. These animals, as has been mentioned before, run wild on the islands, and must be caught every time that they are wanted ; a task which is performed with the greatest ease : as they have here likewise a korahl, which is circular and fenced round with stones. Into this the horses are driven : and as soon as the purchaser has pitched on any one in particular, some of the natives, who make it their business, directly set off, after him, full speed, with ropes made into a noose, which are eight fathoms in length, and of the thickness of a man's finger : this they contrive to throw about one of his hind legs whilst he is on the full gallop, and thus make sure of him : or if they cannot get at him

him in this manner, they run him till he is quite weary. One cannot see this manœuvre practised without the greatest astonishment; for these horse-catchers are so well trained up to the practice, that they never fail. They teach their children this art upon a man: and I have had it tried upon myself. I had only to say, on which arm or foot I chose to have the rope thrown, while I was running as fast as I was able, and it was done. The rope itself, is prepared from a vegetable, in some measure resembling hemp, but at least ten times as strong and durable. Of this plant, which grows wild, the fishermen make their nets, and are able to catch with them fish of the largest size, if we except whales and the like kind of fish.

The peasants of Ceylon make no use of the horse; but instead of that, for the cultivation of their lands, the wild buffalo, which they catch themselves, and

tame

tame it, and employ it in their business. In which particular, they are much better off than our boors, who must keep their oxen for a certain number of years before they can work them. The *buffalo* is a heavy clumsy animal, with rather more bone about him than our ox; of a grey colour, like the elephant, with his horns falling back on his neck; these are rather flat than round, and are deeply annulated. He is of an uncommonly hot nature, and is very apt to lie down in the water. Even when he is made perfectly tame, or at least as tame as his disposition will admit of, he will frequently try to regain his liberty, and endeavours to bite his master. In the journies I have taken, I have been more in fear of this animal than of the elephant, till I had learnt the method of scaring him away. This is, to hold one's hat in one's mouth, and running directly towards him, to set up a loud hollow



hollow or shriek ; on which, the beast makes off as fast as possible. It is affirmed, that the buffalo lasts as long again as the tame ox ; of which, there are several sorts in Ceylon, somewhat differing from ours in horns and stature. In the year 1763, I saw two white oxen, each of which measured eight feet twelve inches in height (Rhine measure). They were both sent as a present to the king of Atchin. The natives of the country would sooner die themselves, than take away the life of a cow.

The *E/k*, on the contrary, is a much soberer and quieter animal ; and as soon as he sees a man, always makes way for him by getting out of the road. He has a very fine range, and finds plenty of food, in the thick and almost impenetrable forests of this country ; and is seldom shot, for his flesh is too tough to be esteemed as an article of food, no part of him being eatable but the marrow

out of his marrow-bones. His skin is not put to any use, and is always thrown away : in short, this animal does not engage the attention of any body.

As for deer, the people of the country are at the pains to get them only once a year ; at the time when there is a scarcity of water in the woods, and the deer are obliged to visit the dykes that still contain a little water. Close by these dykes, the archers dig deep pits, and placing themselves in them, two by two, shoot whatever comes that way, whether it be boar, stag, roe-buck, or elk. It is a great pity that, by reason of the great heats, the flesh of the wild boar, which might be had in such plenty, cannot be much in use. From the deer, the best part of the flesh is cut out, particularly that from the loins, which after being dried in the sun, is laid on a gentle charcoal-fire ; and then being beaten between two stones till it is tender,

tender, is eaten with a little salt by way of relish at tea-time. The Europeans call the venison prepared in this manner, *Apostle*, an appellation, for which I can find neither rhyme nor reason.

The *chamois* goat is a delicate animal that browses on the rocks, is more sought after than any other game, for its flesh is tender, and excellent when broiled, much better than that of

The *hare*, which is found every where in great plenty, and the flesh of which is reckoned unwholesome. They are often taken, however, with nets, merely for the pleasure of seeing them leap, and are then let go again, or else given to the hounds. The hare would quite overrun the fields and woods, were it not for his great enemy and persecutor,

The *jackall*, by some called the fox. This animal robs him of his young, and even seizes on many an old one while they are asleep. This species of fox is per-



perfectly like the European, excepting that the hair of his coat is somewhat longer, and inclined to a grey colour. Of all the wild animals, this is the most common. If the country, where in times of yore, Sampson, in order to vex the Philistines, set fire to their corn by means of foxes, was as well stored with them as Ceylon, it must certainly have cost him very little trouble to collect, with the assistance of his friends, a number equal to that mentioned in history\*.

There is not a lion to be found throughout the whole island. On the other hand, bears and tigers are very numerous. The bears are black, and equal in size to those of Poland. Their food is the wild honey, which has a higher

\* There can be no doubt but that Sampson's foxes were, in fact, jackalls, alias *Schakals*. The Hebrew name for these creatures is *schugal*, and the Persian *schagal*, or *schakal*. Vide *Michaelis's Remarks*.

flavour than ours in Germany. As for the bees, I have never seen any tame ones, but a great number wild. The bear is very seldom known to fall upon travellers. There is much more danger of the tiger: and it requires the utmost caution, to avoid being surpris'd by this wily creeping foe; for, when once he has set his sharp claws into one, it is not easy to get away from him. This crafty animal lies in wait for a man, in the same manner as the cat does for a mouse; and never makes his assault in the face of his prey, but either behind or on one side of him. And if he finds that he is observed, and that his adversary is on his guard, he then sneaks off as softly as possible. The forests pay him the tribute of many a young deer, as he does little more than suck their blood.— Those that have never seen a tiger, may have an idea of it, by forming to themselves the image of a white cat, striped with

with yellow, which in this case they must suppose as big as a large dog.

The *porcupine* is likewise an inhabitant of the woods, and is of so malignant a disposition, that when any one approaches it, it directly lets fly its quills at him, that are half a foot long, and striped black and white. In this animal there is found (though scarcely in one out of a hundred) an excrescence, which is usually termed a stone, and was formerly very scarce and dear. It has, however, more the appearance of a fungous excrescence or sponge, than of a stone.

The *crocodile* is seen sometimes in the woods and sometimes in the water: and they are generally found two or three together. It never meets with the least molestation, let, or hindrance from any one; for no animal will undertake to attack it on account of its scaly armour, which is equal to a rock in hardness, and



resists even iron itself. Of this I am perfectly convinced, having often tried with my own hands to break it with an iron pick-axe. This creature is of a monstrous size; the largest I have seen was twelve feet long. It has four feet, like a man's hands, and four eyes, two above and two below the head, which is long, and bearing a great resemblance to that of a pike. It has no tongue, but a very wide throat, and teeth that close within each other like rock-work, and which are extremely strong withal, and as sharp as if they had been filed for the purpose. Its thickness about the middle, is in proportion to its length; and the tail is full as long as the whole body. It cannot run fast by land on account of the shortness of its feet, but makes its way the faster for it in the water; besides, that in this element it can lie in ambush better for mankind, whose flesh affords him a repast, to which he has a

great

great inclination. His food consists chiefly of flesh and fish: as for herbage, he does not care for it. When he has made a good meal, and has well plugged up his teeth with it, he betakes him to the shore, and makes a clattering noise with his teeth for a signal, upon which a bird, called the *crocodile-bird* makes up to him, and while the crocodile holds his mouth wide open, picks the meat out of his teeth with his bill, that by its stoutness and length is perfectly adapted to this purpose. The shape of this bird is the same with that of the *blaue-rake*\* of the Germans. The Governor's game-keepers used often, for sport, to catch the crocodile with a fish-hook fastened to a strong chain, and baited with a dead dog; and when the bait had taken, and they had got him fast, it was the work of ten men to draw

\* Described by Mr. Pennant, under the name of the ROLLER.

him out of the water. And when once they had got him on the bank, it was necessary to take great care not to come too near him : for he would grow outrageous, opening and shutting his jaws continually, and swinging his tail to and fro with great violence. He has a weak place, where a shot from a fowling-piece proves mortal to him, viz. just where the jaw-bone terminates in the neck. At this part the game-keepers used to take their aim, and continued to hit the spot, till the poor prisoner emitted his last breath.

Those who pretend to experience in this matter among the natives, affirm, that, besides his own, the crocodile produces another species of animal, that is found upon land, but not in the water ; and which bears a great resemblance to the crocodile, excepting in its scales, which are neither so large nor so hard as those of the former. This species is supposed



supposed to be produced from the spawn of the crocodile, which has been cast on shore out of the water, where it has remained, till it has been quickened by the sun. This animal is called *leguan*\*, and lives under ground, making holes in the earth, in the manner of our badger: his food is roots, herbs and fowls. This animal is more sought after than the crocodile, the flesh of it being esteemed to possess great medicinal virtues. He makes use of the same device as the fox, to screen himself from his pursuers; forming different passages under ground, at which he may go in and out, and seldom straying far from them.

Among many others, I have seen in the woods a strange animal, called the

\* This is a very innocent kind of lizard, above five feet in length, and of a green colour, which is found on the West-Indian islands. Its proper name is the iguana.

*slotb.* It is of no great size, has a broad visage, red eyes, and four feet not unlike those of a frog. This creature can climb up trees, as easily as it can walk on the ground; but in either case it takes a quarter of an hour to each step.

The huge *wood-snake*\*, that inhabits the eastern part of this island, I cannot compare to any thing so well, as to the main mast of a ship. This animal, so dreadful to behold, does not easily hurt mankind, as it is very heavy and slow in its pace, and consequently it is not difficult to avoid it. Its food is the wild cattle, which it has the power of drawing towards it very forcibly, as it lies still on its belly, by breathing upon them; so that the poor beast is obliged to follow the inspiration, and yield itself an easy prey to its antagonist. By swallowing by degrees, and (as it were)

\* This seems to be no other than the *boa* of the naturalists.

sucking it in, it will contrive to get a beast, as big as a two years old heifer, whole into its stomach, skin, bones and all; on which account it is likewise called the sucking, or boulding snake. A soldier, a Frenchman by birth, took it into his head to go over from the Dutch East-India Company, to the Cingalese. But as he did not understand their language, and consequently could not explain to them what he wanted, they let him go again; till at length he fell into the hands of the Malabars, that delivered him over to an out-post, whence he was past as a prisoner to the chief fort. This Frenchman, who spoke Portuguese perfectly well, it was my business to examine; and as the poor fellow's death would certainly be of no service to me, I let him go unpunished, under the pretext that he had got drunk and lost his way. This happy issue of the affair brought tears into his eyes;



and he gave me the history of all the sufferings he had undergone during his peregrinations, by which he had sufficiently paid for his disloyalty. Among other circumstances, he mentioned, that, being once extremely weary, he sat down on a tree that lay on the ground, but soon found the tree begin to move. He stood up in haste, and looking behind him, saw the whole tree in motion, and, at the end of it, the head of a hideous large snake; from which he made off as fast as he could, his feat, luckily for him, not thinking proper to follow him.

They have here a very small kind of snake, about the thickness of a tobacco-pipe, and almost a foot and a half long, of a green colour, and which is very much dreaded, as being the most venomous of any on the island. The *cobra di cabello*, likewise, is very common here, and is of the thickness of a man's arm. This species of serpent is taught

taught to dance by the viper-catchers, who carry them about, and thus get a livelihood by them. When one of these fellows wants to make his serpents dance, he strikes up a tune on his *rambam* (a kind of tabor or hand-drum), at the same time singing to it; while the animals, to the number of ten, or sometimes not so many, creep each of them out of their separate cells. They then raise themselves upright on their tails, which lying, rolled up, on the ground, serve them for a basis and support; at the same time expanding their *cabels*, which have the air of spectacles, and making various motions with their long bodies, as well as with their heads. The fellow then begins to dance between them, as a dancing-master would with his scholars; making curvets and capers, sometimes laying hold on one, sometimes on another of them; now and then putting their heads into his mouth,

and then letting them go again ; and in this manner puts an end to the entertainment, at which I have often been a spectator, and indeed the first time not without some sensation of fear.

There is another species of snake, which is called the *rat-catcher*, and which performs the same offices as our cat does, by clearing the rooms of rats ; on which account it is suffered to run about the house without molestation, especially too as it never attacks nor hurts any human creature. It is not unpleasant to see a snake catching a rat. The rat immediately begins to squeak, and cannot easily get away, the snake all the while attracting it very powerfully with its breath, by which means the rat is deprived of all power to fly.

Of rats there are two kinds, one black, the other quite white. The Malabar populace eat them with great avidity, throwing away no part of them but the head



head and the tail. Snakes are made more of by the natives here, than any other animals, excepting apes. They rear them up, and keep them in their huts, and even let them eat with them at their tables. I once saw an example of this with the greatest amazement, in the case of a pagan inhabitant, to whom I had made a visit, and was conversing with him on the attributes of the Deity. It being his meal-time, he called to his *pamba* (or snake), which immediately came forth from the roof, under which he and I were sitting. He then gave it victuals from his own dish, which the snake took of itself from off a fig-leaf, that was laid for it, and ate along with its host. The latter asked me, "Whether I could venture to do the same?" I replied, "No, for I am not acquainted with your snakes, nor they with me: I am, however, of opinion, that it is a brute creature, like  
other

other brutes, and differing from them only in species ; but by no means a man, and still less a God." With this answer the idolater did not seem highly pleased, as he, for his part, could not help attributing divine properties to his snake. When the snake had eaten his fill, he gave it a kiss, and bid it go to its hole again. The snake was to the full as big as my arm.

There are certain spots on this island, where it seems as if the snakes had formed themselves into a monarchy or commonwealth. In one of these districts I once chanced to stray, to my no small terror and amazement. It was on an afternoon, not long after I had dined, that I went out to take a walk, and soon found myself environed by an astonishing number of snakes of a middling size. They took their course from south to north, crawling behind me as well as before me. I began to bawl out lustily, and soon  
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upon this appeared a black man, who told me, “ that I had only to stand quite still and quiet, and the snakes would do me no harm; they had only taken it into their heads to look out for another neighbourhood to fix their dwelling in, and were now leaving their old quarters.”

Accordingly I stood still, and saw above a hundred pass close by me. It would be absolutely impossible, on account of these snakes, for people to live, and walk out with such tranquillity and indifference as they do in this country, had not an all-wise Providence afforded likewise a remedy for this mischief, and, at the same time, appointed a violent persecutor to the whole race; so that, in consequence of the former, their bite is the less to be dreaded; and by means of the latter, the too great increase of the species in this hot climate, is in some measure checked.

For



For they have here not only a wood, leaves and herbs, together with a species of lime or chalk, which are all such certain cures for the bite of serpents, that there is nothing to be apprehended from them; but likewise an animal, which is a sworn enemy to the species of serpents. It is called the *mungus*, and is about the size of an European cat (though the head is rather sharper), with short legs, and its coat of a grey colour. A better idea cannot be given of this animal's method of procedure with the snake kind, than by comparing it to that of our beagle with the hare. As soon as the *mungus* finds a snake, he makes directly up to it, and endeavours all he can, to seize it behind in the neck. The snake turns round, and bites him; which he finding, runs away from the snake, and crops, as quick as possible, a herb, which is of sovereign virtue in the cure of this kind of venom; then

then coming back in a violent rage, sets on the snake with redoubled fury, and keeps close up to it, till he has gained the victory, and bit it to death. It is worthy of observation, that the mungus and the crow are not found in deserts or forests, but in inhabited places. This, doubtless, is not without design; and the sensible part of the heathen in Ceylon is well aware of it. — How the serpent race, in the act of generation, entwine round each other's bodies, and set head to head; how they catch frogs for their food, &c. &c. is well known in Europe, and therefore needs not be described in this place. I will only just mention here, that the Cingalese deprive the snakes of their venom, by removing the vesicle which is placed at the insertion of their teeth into the jaw; after which they handle them with as little fear as they would an eel. The English tar, when he happens to touch  
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at this island, catches these serpents, and after having cut off their heads, and skinned and parboiled them, broils them and eats them with a good relish. That they are very fine eating, with vinegar and pepper, I myself know from my own experience.

I now come to the description of a kind of animal, which most of the pagans look on as sacred. I mean the *ape*, which comprehends a great many species, all very different from each other. They live more amongst mankind, than in the great forests; as the garden-fruit, especially the sweet fig, suits their taste much better than the wild produce of the woods. In the whole island, there are three sorts of them; but in the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam, no more than one, viz. the *rolleway*. This is an animal with a long grey coat, and full as big as the blood-hound; in other respects not differing



differing from the small ape, so well known in Europe. From this hallowed race, which roam up and down the country in large parties, the peasant often receives great damage, as they are sometimes apt to take rather too great liberties; robbing him of his fruit, his rice and his *punat*\*; notwithstanding which, he lets them alone, never pursuing the thief that has robbed him, but, on the contrary, feeling very much hurt, whenever he sees an ape wounded or killed by an European; nay, the very hearing of such an event would grieve him greatly. Neither is the rolleway ignorant, that he has free leave and liberty with the peasant: in consequence of which, he visits him even in his bed-chamber, but there he is not quite so welcome, on account of the wife and daughter; for he

\* A sort of cake, made of the pulp of the ripe fruit of the palm-tree.

is very well known not to be over-scrupulous with respect to certain matters: every other liberty is readily allowed him. It frequently happens, that the rolleway shall snatch up a child of one of the black inhabitants, and run up a tree with it; and after having admired it for some time, will bring it down again unhurt, laying it gently down on the same place whence he took it: a circumstance that forebodes good fortune to the child, and is accordingly a most welcome event to the parents. When a female is delivered, the young cub is examined and admired by all the apes present, who sit in a ring, and hand it round to each other. When this ceremony is finished, the mother gets her child again, and lays it to her breast, on which, while it suckles, it takes fast hold with its hands, more like a human creature than a brute. When one of these animals has climbed up a tree, in order

order to avoid its pursuers, and still finds itself exposed to their fire, it dodges up and down, and backwards and forwards, between the leaves and the branches; and, if the tree luckily happens to be lofty, they may take their aim, and shoot till they are weary, before they hit their mark. But, in case that one or two of them are shot, and fall to the ground, then there does not remain another ape on any one of the trees all round the spot, but they all come down, and endeavour to save themselves by flight. With the hounds of this country it is not possible to get at them; for these are afraid of them, and run from them. When this creature finds, that it cannot conceal itself in the tree, it is wont to rid itself in great haste of all its natural incumbrances, which occasions a scent not very agreeable. During the time of my being on the island, and not before, they found that the hide might be

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tanned,



tanned, and used for shoes; a discovery made by a Russian tanner. When the rolleways are found in the open fields, it is constantly observed, that some of the largest of them are placed as sentinels, who, as soon as they perceive the least danger, set up a loud cry by way of signal, in consequence of which, the whole herd takes the alarm, and scampers away. And, now they have got into the way of making use of this animal's hide, I will just mention the best method of catching him. They take a good heavy cocoa-nut, with its rind on, and at one end of it make a hole, large enough for the monkey to get his paw into it; they then loosen a part of the kernel with a knife, and so let it lie. The inquisitive, and at the same time liquorish creature, finding this nut, examines the hole, and through it spies the loosened kernel; eager to come at this, he sticks his paw into the hole, and laying hold of  
the

the loose piece of kernel, his fist thereby becomes so much enlarged, that he cannot get it out again; but, having hooked his claws pretty tight into the part he has hold of, the nut remains hanging to his fore-foot. In this manner it is impossible for him to run very fast, and consequently he falls into the hands of his enemies.

The two other sorts of monkey are of the size of a middling cat; the coat of the one being black, and that of the other of a reddish-brown colour.

There is a small saltatory animal frequently found in the houses here, up and down the walls of which it runs as fast as others do on the ground, by means of its rough feet, armed with sharp claws. This creature, which has some resemblance to a thin emaciated frog, strikes every body with fear: for it is affirmed, that, if it jumps on any one's body, that person is struck with the palsy or apoplexy.

apoplexy. I was once very much startled, when being in a pretty large company, they all on a sudden began to call out, *Thele ! Thele !* with marks of great anxiety and terror; and flying out of the room, as if they were bewitched, left me, who neither saw any thing, nor understood the meaning of the word, quite by myself. At length, however, they called me out likewise; accordingly I went after them, and was for the first time informed of the mischievous properties of this creature.

The inhabitants are not less afraid of the *scorpion*, an animal which is very frequent in some places, particularly in the neighbourhood of Graves and Cemeteries. The Europeans, who mostly wear shoes, have nothing to fear, especially in the day-time, from this creature; but to the natives, that go barefoot, it is an object of great terror. It is true, people do not die in consequence of its

sting ;



sting; it nevertheless occasions an intolerable heat in the blood, so that remedies must be used against the inflammation.

The *tarantula*, or horned spider, is likewise a dangerous animal, as well as extremely odious to look at. The body alone is in some as big as a man's hand; its horns are brown, and the body has a rough appearance.

An *emmet*, of a white colour all over, and of a middling size, frequently does inexpressible damage to such wearing apparel, as is left hanging against the walls of the house. In the space of a night, they come in such swarms out of the ground, that they are able to eat up a whole suit of clothes in that time. Almost every body, as well natives as Europeans, complain loudly of this animal. I myself have suffered from their ravages, sufficient to make me remember them.

They do not want here for tame and useful cattle; but to treat of them in this place, would be superfluous. The sheep, however, I cannot pass entirely unnoticed. These, in most respects resembling our wool-bearing kind, are, however, not covered with wool, but with a hairy coat, more like that of a dog: and it is a remark, that holds good of sheep in general, that the warmer the climate is in which they are found, so much the more apt the wool is to degenerate into a hairy coating. Neither is there the least doubt, but that an all-wise Providence has prepared for the inhabitant of every country, a peculiar diet, as well as a covering for his body, adapted to the climate.

There is no down, nor any other kind of feathers used in Ceylon; neither are they easily to be had here; for there are no swans on the island, and the feathers of

of geese are not good for much, so that they are suffered to run wild.

Now my subject has brought me to the class of fowls, I shall pass quickly from the goose, of which there are three sorts, the *brand*-goose, the *birgander*, and the *common* goose, to the peacock.

*Peacocks*, far from being scarce here, are, on the contrary, very common. They are so bold and tame, near some of the pagan temples, that they cannot be got away from the spot.

The *stork* is to be found here likewise, but in some shape differing from the European. Whither this latter goes, I have not been able to learn in my travels: that it often lights on board of ship, no sea-faring man will allow to be true. The stork of Ceylon never emigrates; any more than the *swallow*, which is to be seen here the whole year through.

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The *turkey-cock* is much larger and fatter here, than in Europe : it is certainly a native of a warm climate.

Of the larger birds of prey, as the *ubu*, the *eagle*, the *falcon*, and a kind of white hawk, commonly called the *kitchen-thief*, there is plenty. This latter kind of hawk is the prophet or augur of the Malabars ; as, when they see him fly over their heads early in the morning, they never will set out upon a journey, or undertake any business of importance on that day.

Here is likewise a beautiful kind of *beathcock* : the cock has golden feathers. A very rare species too of *cock* is found here, called *double-billed* : this has a white double bill, which is almost as large as the bird itself.

Of *ducks* there are many species : a large Manilla duck weighing twelve pounds, the Turkish, and all the European sorts, and one very small one, which they

they call *felinge*, and which is the best tasted of any. Universally the flesh of all animals, that are eatable, has a very different taste from that in Europe, excepting the flesh of ducks, which has much the same taste with ours. They have likewise *ravens* here; I mean the black sort, for as to the white, I have not seen any. The woodcock and common snipe, together with some other sorts of snipes, abound here. The same may be said of an amazingly great variety of the smaller kinds of birds, many of which far exceed ours in the beauty of their plumage; particularly an extremely beautiful green pigeon, with a red bill, and feet of the same colour, which, when the sun shines upon it, perfectly dazzles the eye. This is the case likewise with a parroquet of the same colour, which has a bright red circle round his neck, setting off the green in a most advantageous manner. This species of  
parrot

parrot learns to speak tolerably well. To these I will add another small bird, which, according to the particular species it is of, is either black, red or white all over, and is not bigger than a swallow. It carries one single feather in its tail, that is bent into an arch, and is eighteen inches long. Ceylon has its *cuckow*, but cannot boast of a *nightingale*.

It produces, however, a cock, superior to the common, which can fight as well as crow. This cock-fighting is very much practised here, much money being lost and won by means of it; and the privilege for it is yearly farmed out by the East-India Company for the benefit of the poor. The battle is conducted in the following manner: on each of the cock's feet, just where his spurs grow, they tie a sharp instrument, of the length of a man's finger, with a fine thread; then taking the cock up with both



both hands, they toss him down again three times, in the face of his antagonist, who is introduced to him with the same ceremony. After this, both the combatants are set down, which directly, and without looking about them, run furiously at each other, and cut and slash about them, till one of them fairly gives it up; on which the conqueror strides over his vanquished foe, and proclaims his triumph by crowing. The lovers of the sport bet largely on this occasion, and pay to the man that farms this privilege, about two shillings English for each main. When it has black feathers, this animal is likewise, by the inhabitants, offered up to the devil, by way of atonement.

Not far from the shore, in a low flat situation, there are salt-pans (if I may so call them), where the sea, at high water, overflows the shore, by this means filling up these different hollows in the  
land,

land, and, when it retires, leaving a great quantity of saline matter behind it, which the sun distils out of these cavities, just as it is performed in pans in the salt-works, thus producing the most beautiful salt, without the assistance of man: it is as white as the falling snow.

On the sea-shore are found a great number of the most rare and beautiful testaceous animals, thrown up by the sea. One would suppose one's self placed in the midst of an extensive cabinet of shells. Here are to be found shells of all sizes, figures and colours, great, middling and small, and some that are even diminutive to excess. Others again are white, or coloured, marbled or striped with various colours; whilst others are so beautifully turned, as not to be imitated by the best artists. Of muscles there are more than a hundred different sorts, in pairs; now if a single shell be taken from one of these pairs, and applied to a thousand  
others,

others, not one will be found to fit it exactly. They all differ from each other in size, form and colour. The same may be said of the cowries, commonly called blackamoor's teeth: in these latter consists the whole specie of the inhabitants of the Maldivia islands.

On the strand are likewise to be found many different *petrefactions*, and those even of animals, such as petrefied crabs, fish, and the like. Also genuine *crystals* of the finest water, and as hard as flint, and *corals*, that grow in the shape of trees. The coral stone is particularly used for the building of fortifications, to which purpose it is extremely well adapted; as being of a meally nature, it cannot be shivered into pieces by the stroke of a cannon-ball. It is likewise burned into lime: the lime made of it, however, though good, is not near so strong and durable as that made from the



the pearl-muscles, and other curious marine productions.

The *pearl-fishery* is conducted in the following manner: the place where the fishermen meet, forms a bay, like a half moon, and is called Kondatie. Out of this harbour they run, and, when they have a good wind from the shore, so as that they can make use of two sails at once, they make five miles in a short time, when they find themselves arrived at the *banks*. Here they take in their sails, and throw out their wooden anchor. Seven out of their number (which is fourteen) now get themselves ready, tying a stone about their middle, and at the same time a rope, which is rather longer than the water is deep. Each of them then takes a net, and ties it round his neck on the left side of him, making use of his left arm to hold and guide it; and after praying, and calling to God for his aid,

leaps

leaps into the water. The stone carries the diver to the bottom in an instant; who with his right hand shuffles the muscles into his net as quick as possible, repeating this once or twice at most; then pulling the rope, that is held all the while by his partner, is immediately drawn up by him. The poor diver now finds himself conveyed in an instant into his boat, into which he empties the contents of his net; then wiping his nose and mouth, "that all the while ran blood," and cleaning them with a turmeric root, takes breath a little, and then continues his work in the same manner till noon; at which time the remaining seven, who before were employed only in hauling up the others, now take their turns. Towards evening they weigh anchor, unfurl their sails, and with a fair sea-breeze run back again to the bay of Kondatie. Not far from this shore there is a pit, into which

they throw the muscles they have drawn up, and after having taken a little refreshment at night, go to rest till the dawn, when they are wakened by the firing of a cannon or two, and with the rising sea-breeze sail again to the pearl-banks: and so much for the fishery. These muscles for the future I shall call oysters, as they resemble these latter, at least more than they do muscles, the shape of which is rather long than round. People, who have experience in these matters, pretend, that the pearl-oyster is produced by the influx of a fresh mineral water into the salt water. Of this I am no judge: I can only say, that on the spot where the pearl-banks of Ceylon are situated, a river of fresh water does undoubtedly empty itself into the open sea. The matter which is the foundation, as it were, of the pearl-oysters, I shall call the seed, and compare it with frog-spawn, as it looks exactly like it,

and



and is connected together by a slimy substance; this seed is deposited in great quantities, and would produce a much greater number of pearl-oysters, if it were not swallowed up by the fish with great avidity, and especially by the rapacious shark.

The oyster-seed does not lie equally thick on all parts of the banks, but is distributed in batches, much in the manner of a box-border in a garden. Indeed, it would almost seem, as if the oysters had a kind of root, stem and branches, by which they are connected and held together, and thus grow to their full perfection. For it has been found, that whenever they are disturbed in this their natural order of connection, not one of them makes any farther progress in its growth, but remains just as it was, when it was first separated from its vital tree.

These pearl-oysters require fourteen years in order to ripen and to produce perfect pearls. A connoisseur in these matters, can tell the age of an oyster as exactly by looking at it, as the dealers in cattle can that of an ox by looking at his horns. But during these fourteen years, there is always some fresh oyster-seed deposited under the old, and consequently in every fishery they get pearls of all sorts, some large and perfect, some middling, and some small. These pearls are found in the fleshy part of the oyster, one, two, or more in number, without being fixed to the shell, or by any means adhering to its matrix, called the *mother* of pearl. Neither has any one been able to observe, that the pearl forms any part of the live oyster, as, for example, eyes, &c. neither indeed has it any thing in common with the fleshy part. In my opinion, the pearl arises out of the substance of the oyster, and at the same time

time with it, and does not receive the deposit of the *mother*, till this latter having arrived at its full perfection, cannot assimilate any more matter, and in consequence of this superabundance, generates the pearl; and in this point of view, the mother-of-pearl has its name very properly bestowed upon it. What confirms my opinion on this subject, is the observation, that in many oysters there are found one or more pearls adhering to their matrix, which, however, have by no means so fine a water as those which grow free and unconnected with the shell; for in that situation, they must have assimilated some of the coarser substance of the outer shell, from which the round and unattached pearls are not subject to receive the smallest particle, being nourished only with the most pure and attenuated vapours. But there are still left unanswered many points, that must always remain an impenetrable



secret; as, for example, “ Why are not all oysters, that are allowed to lie their full number of years, furnished with pearls? Why in some few are very large pearls found, whilst in others of the same age, the pearls are extremely small? And lastly, why is the clearness of the colour, or of the water, so different in different pearls?”

The oysters are suffered to lie in the pit, into which, after being dragged up, they have been thrown, till they begin to be putrid; in consequence of which, they yield such a horrid stench, that I really do not know what to compare it to; but can only say, that in comparison of this, the smell of asafœtida is highly delicious. The oysters being in this situation, they do not set about opening them till the fishery, which lasts thirty days, is quite finished. In this fishery, a hundred and thirty vessels are used, each vessel being manned with  
fourteen

fourteen divers, very expert at the business, who, by way of payment for this toilsome work, are allowed to keep to themselves all the oysters they fish up on Sundays. By these pearls, which are sold out of hand by the divers, many a man makes his fortune. For this purpose assemble, from different countries, some hundred thousands of people, who at the same time bring with them all kinds of wares and commodities, and thus turn the meeting into a perfect fair. In this manner, it is not uncommon for a man, if he has but luck on his side, to make his fortune with a single dollar: the case here is just the same as in the lottery. The poor European soldier, who with many others, to the amount of several companies, is sent hither by toilsome marches, to see that no malpractices are carried on, is an uninterested spectator of this private traffic; not but that he wishes (and that not a little)

likewise to become a chapman, as he has heard from every body, that he might sell these commodities again to great advantage; but alas! his purse is quite empty, and so far is he from being able to buy pearls, that his finances will not even afford him a pipe of tobacco.

It is generally three years before the fishery is at an end. The East-India Company do not keep it in their own hands, but farm it out. The first year is worth more than the second, and this again somewhat more than the third. The produce of the whole fishery has frequently been reckoned at five, or even six hundred thousand dollars. After the person, who farms the fishery, has caused all the oysters to be opened, (which is done by blacks, who perform this operation quite naked, and are searched every evening, as otherwise they would be apt to conceal pearls of value in their ears, mouth and posteriors) and after he has

given



given up the pit, this same pit, as soon as it is dried up, is sold by the honourable Company for some thousands of guilders, to people who are used to sift from out of the sand, the small pearls that have been spilled, or otherwise let fall into the pit, and who very often find their account in it.

It may perhaps be asked, why the fishery takes up the space of three years, when at the same time they actually fish no more than thirty days? To explain this, it is sufficient to say, that it cannot be ordered otherwise, on account of the weather; for at a certain time of the year, which (in order to prevent thieves and pirates, who are even now not wanting among them, from taking advantage of it) I do not chuse to mention, there are two sorts of wind in these parts, one that blows from the land about midnight, and the other proceeding from the sea towards evening; by favour of which  
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the craft quickly runs between the shore and the banks. As to the situation of these latter, or in what latitude they lie, I shall still less take upon me to point it out.

As for the weather, it is of a very different constitution in Ceylon and the adjacent countries, from what it is in Europe. The division into summer and winter takes place likewise in Ceylon, although it be so very hot in this climate. In the middle of October the north wind begins to appear, and bursts forth with a dreadful storm of thunder and lightning, infomuch that the earth and the air seem all on fire with gleams of lightning, which appearances last some days. With all this comes a rain, the like of which, with respect to violence, I have never yet observed elsewhere, which lasts till the middle of December. This is properly called the rainy, or winter season; for it will sometimes

times be so chilly at this period, that one shall perfectly quake with cold. About the middle of April, the north wind, which hitherto had blown continually, sometimes with great violence, at other times more gently, and again at other times so as hardly to be perceived, takes its leave with just such another dreadful storm as it came with. Directly upon this, the south wind blows with such force, that one finds it very difficult to keep on one's legs. In sandy districts it raises clouds of light sand, so that one is obliged to keep one's eyes, nose, and mouth shut. This south wind remains till the middle of October: other winds there are not. I recollect, that at the rainy season, by reason of the heavy rains, I have not been able to see sun, moon, or stars, for fourteen days consecutively: from this it may be imagined, what a quantity of water must be brought by this rain. The inhabitant of this

country



country gets his quota almost all at once; with this portion he must be content, for himself, family, and cattle: for which reason, he is obliged to be a very great œconomist of it, and for this purpose he makes use of the dykes, which he has both natural and artificial in his fields, besides large vats, which are hollowed out of a tree with a red-hot iron, and contain more than a hundred rundlets of water. In places where there is a free and uninterrupted passage for the air, the climate is tolerable for an European. But in such spots as the wind cannot arrive at, or thoroughly ventilate, by reason of their being situated in the neighbourhood of high mountains or thick forests, the air is very unfriendly to any new-comer from Europe. There are, however, many posts, which it is necessary to occupy with Europeans: some of these wretches I have often seen (not without compassion) in the most miserable

miserable condition, who, were it but possible, would willingly have been in their own country, begging at other men's doors; but a poor sinner is often made to repent in this country, the crimes he has committed in his own.

The black prince, who rules this island, styles himself, "The greatest, most invincible, and *tailed* emperor." To explain this, we must inform the reader, that, according to report, the family of this prince originates from Siam; and the first of these emperors had a fleshy excrescence, full a foot long and two inches thick, growing out of his posteriors, at the extremity of the os coccygis. Hence the word *tailed* is still preserved in the title. This was related to me by one of the emperor's ministers of state; who, had he lived, and I staid longer on the island, would have procured me the honour of making my obedience to his imperial majesty in per-

person ; for he had sent me word, that I was in high favour with his royal master. This first and really *caudate* emperor, is farther reported to have arrived at Ceylon, at the time when it was already pretty well peopled; in a ship with some Siamese, and to have been received by the inhabitants as a remarkably excellent, and at the same time holy man. His great character and qualities procured him the highest respect from the Cingalese, which descended to his posterity; who, from time to time increasing their power, gave laws to the inhabitants, and at length got the absolute sovereignty over the whole island. It is highly probable, that the first rulers in Ceylon more resembled priests than kings or emperors : as what remains of the primitive customs, cannot give us an idea of any thing else than an idolatrous barbarous kind of worship. Of this, each reign-



reigning prince, during his administration, erected monuments in virtue of his office of high priest. Where we find temples instead of palaces, idols for crowns, and oblations instead of swords, we are more apt to look for a priest than a king; and this is just the case with the relicks of antiquity in Ceylon. At what time these emperors first, in the strict sense of the word, enjoyed absolute power without controul, and began to have an imperial court, and to build citadels for the security of their persons, I have not been able to learn. Suffice it, that in process of time the islanders began to build a very respectable palace for their emperor, which is constructed, in a simple plain manner, of stone and mortar, and is yet standing, being known by the name of Candia. In the same manner the present Emperor is, by every body, called the Emperor of Candia.

This

This Candia\* lies almost in the middle of the district, subject to the Emperor. He is lord paramount of the whole island, excepting the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam†. His predecessors had ceded to the Honourable Dutch East India Company, to them and their heirs for ever, all the colonies formerly held by the Portuguese. On this subject fresh contracts have been drawn up, by which twelve miles of the coast, every where round the island, reckoning from the sea-shore, are yielded up to the company.

The Portuguese were extremely fortunate in discovering so fine an island. And to do them justice, they were not negligent in profiting by the discovery. They paid the greatest attention to agri-

\* *Candi-uda*, we are informed by *Knox*, means the top of the hill; and thence is derived the name of Candia.

† Which belongs to the Dutch.

culture and commerce, and erected fortifications, that to the inhabitants must have appeared not only formidable, but impregnable. No sooner had they finished these, than they grew insolent and overbearing; and conducting themselves in a manner not warranted by the laws of nature and of nations, invested themselves with the supreme judicature, affected to treat the emperor and his family with indifference and contempt, nay, even sought to take his life; and lastly, endeavoured to make themselves masters of the whole island; with the farther design of converting the people of Ceylon to the catholic faith, by means of fire and the sword.

This they first attempted by craft and address; to which purpose they made use of the superior abilities and understanding of the Jesuits, who at that time were in the highest estimation. But this scheme did not succeed; for the

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emperor



emperor and his subjects observed, that the scope of the Portuguese was not so much to convert them to their religion, as to enslave their persons, and seize on their property, and accordingly took to their arms. They, however, soon found themselves too weak to contest the point in this manner, as they had no fire-arms, and were entirely ignorant of the military art, as practised by the Europeans. They therefore entered into the resolution of applying to the Dutch, who at that time had begun to trade to the East-Indies, and even had settlements in Batavia; but this prudent nation did not think fit to comply immediately with their request, without first well weighing the consequences of such compliance. And perhaps their scruples would have got the better of their inclinations to serve these islanders, had not time and circumstances opportunely paved the way for such an undertaking; for it very  
season-

seasonably happened, that the States-General were involved in a bloody war with the king of Portugal, and therefore had a right to attack the possessions of the Portuguese in the East-Indies. Of this event, the Dutch East-India Company, as making part of the Republic, availed themselves; and taking an active part in the quarrel between the king of Candia's subjects and the Portuguese, took up arms against the latter, in defence of, and conjointly with the former. The Portuguese at first did not pay much regard to this circumstance, as they relied on their strong fortifications, and their superiority in discipline; looking on the Ceyloners as being in general defenceless, and without arms; and upon the Dutch, as being of no signification. On the contrary, they made a mere joke of the affair, and laid their account in making all the Dutchmen prisoners. The Portuguese ladies especially, pleased

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them-

themselves with the idea of the stately figure they would be able to make with these white slaves, whose brawny limbs were excellently well adapted to carry them when they went abroad. When the Dutch soldiers and sailors heard of their boastings, they were seized with the utmost fury, and vowed to spend the last drop of their blood, and (were it possible) rather die a thousand deaths than be slaves to the Portuguese. With these inclinations, the time seemed tedious to them, till they were led on to battle; for it was first necessary to settle matters with the emperor. As soon as this latter had entered into, and, together with his ministers of state, had signed a contract, by which they jointly agreed, not only absolutely and for ever to cede to the Dutch, in consideration of receiving their assistance against the Portuguese, all the colonies at that time in possession of the latter, but likewise, as long



long as sun, moon and stars should shine in heaven, to make alliance or contract on any account or subject whatever, with none but the Dutch, who alone should be and continue their friends, allies and defenders. As soon, I say, as this was finished in due form, and Mynheer was perfectly well assured, of what nature the reward was to be, that he was to have for his pains, he instantly took up arms, and both soldiers and sailors were furnished with guns, pistols, sabres and long knives. The principal generals on the side of the Dutch were *Corter*, *Rotbasse*, and *Riklof van Goens*.

It is not my intention to take up the reader's time with the relation of all the events which happened during this war, as they are to be found recorded by different writers: I shall therefore only quote a passage from the *Memoirs of Mynheer Van Goens*, written by himself. "I took it into my head, that the

Portuguese had no great stomach for fighting, and on that account would be easily conquered; but soon found the contrary by experience: for I must acknowledge, that if the omnipotent hand of God had not been with us, I should have done very little to the purpose, or rather nothing at all, with the small army under my command, as I frequently had no more than one Dutchman to oppose against a hundred Portuguese. Both my soldiers and sailors had agreed together, to conquer or die; and accordingly never feared either sword or fire. The greatest difficulty I had with them, was to keep them in order of battle, as their impetuosity often made them break their ranks. On the isle of Manaar, I once found a great body of troops posted on the sea-shore, against which I thought it necessary to lead my little battalion. But it seemed to me impossible to do any thing here: accordingly I represented

to

to my people the great strength of the enemy, which I could distinguish very plainly by means of my spying-glass, at the same time saying to them, ‘ My lads, this will never do, let us even remain where we are; the enemy amounts to some thousands, and we are altogether no more than a hundred.’ But they were not to be put off in this manner; they with one voice begged of me to land, as they were in hopes of being able to drive the Portuguese from their post in a short time. With a view to keep up their courage, I gave way to their desires. The whole attack throughout was nothing but rage and fury; in half an hour’s time, the whole force of the Portuguese was put into disorder, and obliged to retire to their fortrefs, whither we could not pursue them, on account of the canonade kept up from the walls. This assault, which was one of the most bloody, was named by the Portuguese



‘the bath of blood,’ and had such an effect on them, by exciting in them a perfect dread of our people, that they could never after be brought to stand against us.”

When the chief fortress in the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam was given up, a Dutch soldier, that understood the Portuguese language, asked a Jesuit, “Father, when will you come back again?” To which the Jesuit replied, “When thy sins are as great, or greater than mine.” To what a pitch the sins of the Portuguese then living at Ceylon had arrived, may be guessed from the following circumstance: when a Portuguese had, to please his fancy, killed an inhabitant of the island or two, he had only to lay a certain sum of money on the corpse, and nobody could afterwards take upon him to call the murderer to account, as he was entirely exempt from all judiciary proceedings, or any claims  
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of justice. When now the brave Hollanders\* had got the better of the whole collected force of the Portuguese, these latter still endeavoured, more than once, to re-establish themselves by treachery and deceit. By the crafty instructions of their holy fathers, they made several trials to this purpose; but none of them succeeded, and all their schemes were discovered, ere they could be put into execution. However, in consequence of this conduct, not a single Portuguese was suffered to remain on the island; but they were all sent off at once to the coast of Malabar, where they had a colony, which they are still in possession of, viz. *Goa*. There they exercise their religion, prepare candidates for holy orders, and afterwards send them out as missionaries, all over the East-Indies.

\* The Dutch were absolute masters of the island in the year 1658.

The fortresses and other places, which the Dutch took from the Portuguese, were as follows—*Colombo, Gale, Mature, Hangewelle, Nigumbo, Calbere, Kattun, Trinconomale, Batticalox*. In the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam—*Jaffanapatnam, Manaar, Hamenbiel, Porto das Pedras, Ponnoryn, Elexant, Beschuetter, Peil, Loewe, Arripo, Mantotte, Catschiai, Clali, and Pulveraincatto*.

The emperor of Candia now finding himself delivered from his enemies and persecutors, thought himself happy in having made choice of such able protectors, and sent an embassy to the Dutch with costly presents, which were received by them with the greatest respect, and the ambassador was sent back with a suitable return: and this custom is kept up yearly, even to this time. The Company gets presents to the amount of twenty thousand guilders. The first jubilee, in commemoration of this grand event,



event, was kept by the Dutch in the year 1758, while I was on the island.

The emperor of Ceylon, in his present situation, may be considered as sovereign of one of the finest islands of the inhabited world. He resides almost in the middle of it, and sees the Dutch keeping watch round about him every where on the coast, that he is not attacked by an enemy unawares. It is true, he is by this means somewhat limited, and has not the liberty of trading with any other nation; but this is of no import, he is emperor notwithstanding, and his security must always be of greater value to him, than any advantages, by which his sovereignty might be endangered.

The emperor governs his subjects, the true genuine *Cingalese*, by the statute laws of the land, which are the joint production of divers wise princes, his predecessors, and are considered as sacred by the *Cingalese*. The burthens he lays on  
his

his subjects, are easy to be borne, and are so contrived as to command the obedience and respect of the natives. The lowest of his subjects has a right to lay his complaints against the greatest man in the kingdom before the emperor, the first opportunity he can find of seeing him; which he graciously receives, and orders the complaint to be investigated by impartial commissaries. If at any time he finds a grandee of the kingdom guilty of any crime, he allows justice to take place without respect of persons.

The emperor is seldom or never seen riding out alone in the adjacent country, either on horseback, or on an elephant, or in an andol, but always accompanied by some of his favourites. (The andol is a kind of portable chair, large enough for a man to lie in at full length, and hung upon a crooked bamboo, which is hollow on the inside, and consequently very light, but at the same time extremely

tremely strong.) He is clad after the manner of his countrymen and subjects the Cingalese, wearing a kind of hat; and besides that, a cap, a shirt, a stomacher, and over that, a coat, with buttons in the front, a piece of linen cloth about his waist instead of breeches; no stockings nor shoes, but instead of the latter, a sort of slippers, that are turned up at the toe to a considerable height, like a pair of skates: in this last article consists the chief luxury of his dress, they being stitched and embroidered in a variety of manners. In rainy weather, he wears wooden *sabots*, called *chirips*, about the width of the sole of his foot, and rising three fingers breadth before and behind; these are thin towards the middle; at the top is a small button, which he fastens by loops fixed between his great toe and the rest, and thus steadies his *chirips*, so that he can use them in walking.



The emperor professes to belong to the Buddian sect\*, of which opinion likewise are all his grandees, and most of the natives of the country. He holds a plurality of gods, and rewards and punishments after this life; he makes atonement for his sins, by offerings and good works; he shews his reverence for his idols, by frequenting their temples and addressing his prayers to them. This various and motley tribe of gods, amongst which the deity, that bears the resemblance of an ape, has the precedence, his imperial majesty has abundance of time and opportunity to visit; as he has no foreign embassies to attend to, excepting once a year to the guardians of his coasts, the Dutch, who are obliged to address him, kneeling upon one knee,

\* *Buddu*, or *Budso*, a famous founder of a new religion. He came originally from Siam, and travelled as far as Japan.

in the most submissive manner. The holy priests, who have the honour of a secret intercourse with his gods, are his chief companions, and entertain him with the mythology of these divine personages, their various natures, and the different departments they occupy in the government of the universe.

And so much for the emperor of Candia. His subjects, the Cingalese, are by no means the worst sort of men that I have had occasion to be acquainted with; their skin indeed is black, like that of their emperor, but this black covering includes a soul and spirit not inferior to any. In the articles of provisions and dress, they naturally differ from us, on account of the difference of their climate. The houses set apart for the service of the deity, are built in a style very different from that of our churches; and the Cingalese, when he goes thither, takes no books with him,

as the Christians are wont to do, but speaks from the abundance of his heart, what he wishes to lay before his god. Previous to his approach to this holy place, he dresses himself neatly, washes and purifies himself, and above all, takes care not to go into any tavern, or house of entertainment, at the time when he is going to enter the temple of his deity: on the contrary, he makes his appearance there fasting, and prostrates himself the whole length of his body; for he does not think himself worthy to behold, face to face, the image of his god. He is very charitable to the poor of his own nation, particularly to the religious, who entirely abstain from all manner of work, and only exercise their sacred functions, going about every where, and calling to the people continually, to put them in mind, that God is at hand. The Cingalese are a very regular sober people, being (unlike most of the eastern nations)



tions) content with one wife, and taking great care of their children; living in peace and friendship with their neighbours, paying the emperor punctually his tribute, and labouring early and late in their respective callings. I will now dwell no longer on this subject, as I do not understand the Cingalese language; but instead of that, mention some particulars relative to the Malabars, who live in the kingdom of Jaffanapatnam, and with whom, from the connections I have had with them, I am better acquainted.

These Malabars came originally from the Malabar coast, bearing not the least resemblance to the Cingalese, and are under the dominion of the Dutch, who exercise sovereign authority over them. Their whole clothing consists in a piece of linen, with which they encircle their bodies from the navel almost to the knee. In this manner go both sexes,

male as well as female. The people of quality throw likewise a piece of linen over their shoulders, and wear another bound round their head, not unlike a Turkish turban; the common people are not allowed to alter the fashion of their dress, nor to imitate people of rank in their clothing. With respect to their belief on the subject of the Deity, and the human soul, so much has been repeatedly said by the Danish missionaries\*, that it is needless for me to mention any thing concerning it. Every honest man, however, must bear testimony to these missionaries, that they spare no pains to promote the end of their mission, which, it must be confessed, is a very unpleasing and difficult task. It is a great pity, that the natives cannot be trained up, so as to become good missionaries; by which means, a much

\* At Tranquebar, In the year 1714, the missionaries were more numerous, and the natives were more advanced in the knowledge of the Christian religion, than at present. The missionaries were more numerous, and the natives were more advanced in the knowledge of the Christian religion, than at present.

greater progress would be made in this pious undertaking.

The Malabars of Jaffanapatnam differ so widely from those that inhabit the coast, in language, manners, and religious rites, that not only do they not understand each other in conversation, but they even seem quite a different nation. The insular Malabars, besides frequently sacrificing, and performing good works, once a year, by way of a general purification from their sins, bathe in the holy river, as it is termed by them, and in their language, *Ramasuram*. Previous to this, it is requisite that one of their holy men, who is set apart for this purpose, should drown himself in this same river: this being done, and the water having, from this operation, acquired a purifying power, all those that are present at it, throw themselves into the river, at the same time calling aloud to their god Rama to put away their



uncleanliness from them. While they thus purify their bodies, they imagine that they shall at the same time obtain the purification of their souls. There are people among the Malabars, who keep their bodies under in a singular manner, by severe fasting, using the discipline of flagellation, like the most pious catholics, and never sitting down day or night; some, that they may feel pain continually, break a limb asunder, &c. There are no missionaries sent to the Malabars, but the ordinary clergy make the circuit once a year, and keep an examination in every church. This examination consists chiefly in the following particulars: 1. It is ordered that all the children born since the last visitation, shall be brought to be baptized: 2. That all such as wish to be married, appear with an attestation from the school-master of the place, that the banns have been proclaimed three Sundays together: 3. That

3. That all the youths that are eighteen years of age, be taken from school, and have their names inscribed among such as are to perform foccage-service, and pay the poll-tax. (All children are at liberty to go to school at free-cost till they are eighteen years old.) This regulation gives the finest opportunity in the world, to a covetous priest, to make a penny; as a lad will generally give a dollar or two, to go on with his schooling, and thus get excused from all labour and service. 4. That on this occasion, the minister exhort the schoolmaster belonging to each church, to do his duty with the greatest care and attention. Here it is to be observed, by the bye, that the schoolmaster among the Malabars, at the same time performs the office of a notary, drawing up all contracts, bonds, and such like instruments, and keeping copies of them.

By the method of proceeding above-

mentioned, the people become merely baptized heathens, in every other respect holding the superstitious tenets, and following the idolatrous practices of their ancestors. In former times they took more pains, and a handsome Malabar school, or academy, was erected for the education of the youth, which, however, is now gone to decay. The Malabar children learn to read and write at the same time, the schoolmaster making the figures upon the ground in sand, which they make after him till they can do it readily of themselves. They likewise learn to reckon by memory, without any cyphers, and that to so great a degree of perfection, that it is really astonishing. Parents here commonly take more care of their children, than many Europeans; they are particularly careful that their children, by the time they can read and write, should have good long ears, to hang as low as their shoulders; and



likewise learn to exercise their craft, in order that they may be enabled to get their living. They never chuse to go out of their father's house to learn a trade or profession; for they have certain statutes and regulations, by which their children are forbid to learn any other profession than that of their parents. If a man be a goldsmith, he must make all his children goldsmiths; the husbandman must bring up all his children to husbandry, and so on in every other kind of business. As the Malabar lads have no occasion to think on any thing else but what they see their fathers do before their eyes, and as they are continually with him, and consequently soon learn to do the same, it is not uncommon to find boys of twelve years of age, or even less, as perfect in their business, as many masters in Europe of forty. The paternal authority is very great, so that the child perfectly looks upon his father

as a god, and performs with the greatest pleasure whatever he requires of him. The father looks out a wife for his son, and does it betimes, always chusing one of his own kindred, as for this purpose he never goes out of his own family: thus having pitched upon one to his liking, he talks the affair over with her parents or guardians, with whom he settles her portion. The schoolmaster is then called, together with the head of the village where the bride lives; it is their business to draw up the marriage-writings, in which they are to make mention of the girl's portion (which generally consists in a piece of land, some cattle, and money), and witness the writings. The father, as soon as he gets home, tells his wife what he has done; she, in her turn, breaks the matter to her son, who, on his part, always appears perfectly satisfied. The mother then pays a visit to her intended daughter.

daughter-in-law ; and on this occasion, the mothers on both sides lay their heads together, to fix on the proper time for the wedding. But if at any time it should happen, that an untoward child should not chuse to follow his parents inclinations in this matter, he must even be content to be disinherited without any farther ceremony, as a disobedient son, and to be ejected immediately out of the family ; and farther, if he should take upon him to exercise any hostilities against his parents, he would be immediately laid hold of, and severely punished. Such sort of degenerate stubborn children, are often found among those who have lost their parents when they were very young ; and not being content with their guardians, chuse to follow their own devices ; in pursuance of which, going away from their friends, they herd with people of their own complexion ; there form a most pernicious



nicious band, whose whole business it is  
 to steal, rob, whore, and murder, and  
 introduce all kinds of irregularities a-  
 mong the Malabars, who are naturally  
 lovers of discipline and order. This  
 free and jolly set likewise produces the  
 toppers, gamesters, and dancers; for a  
 reputable Malabar house-keeper will  
 never drink, or play at cards, and still less  
 dance; but on the contrary, would look  
 upon it as the greatest shame, were he  
 so to do. While I lived among these  
 people, I was often, as a mark of singu-  
 lar respect, pressed to be their guest;  
 and particularly once, on the tenth of  
 April (which is their New-Year's-Day),  
 to an entertainment, where there were  
 great doings. Before the house of the  
 master of the feast, who was a man of  
 consequence in the island, there was a  
 number of poor people, who came there  
 in hopes of partaking of his bounty;  
 towards the end there came likewise a  
 troop

troop of dancers, male and female, with a kind of musical instrument, called by the Europeans the *devil's neckcloth*. Seeing these people coming, I asked our kind host, whither he would not dance too after dinner? At this the man seemed very much struck and hurt, telling me, "he never could have believed, that I would have affronted him so much; that at any time he had rather die than dance; that this latter proposal touched his honour too near; that he would never be the instrument of casting an odium on the memory of his honoured parents after their death, nor did he chuse to go out of the world himself with a reproachful name." I replied, "Come, come, my good friend, for this once we will both dance together." He begged of me earnestly to leave off, and say no more about the matter, but talk of something else. "But, if you do not chuse to dance," said I, "what have you the  
dancers

dancers here for?" "They are come of their own accord," replied he, "thinking to get a bit of victuals; and as of two evils we must always chuse the least, and as dancing is rather better than stealing and robbing, our people are content to bear with these dancers, and other kind of strollers."

Most of the crafts and trades, that are carried on in Europe, are exercised likewise by the Malabars, a very few only excepted, e. g. periwig-makers and hair-dressers; for the Malabars wear no wigs, nor their wives any têtes. On the other hand, this nation is divided into more classes than the Europeans are; for whilst we have only those of the chief magistrate, the nobility, the burgesly, and the peasantry, among them there are twelve different casts. That of the priest is the highest of all, those of the watchmen and porters the lowest; this latter is again subdivided into two classes,



classes, for the highest class carries nobody but the chief magistrate of the country, and him in an andol, such as we have already observed is used by the emperor of Candia. These porters are called cheviasse; they wear a white garment, that reaches to the calves of their legs, and a turban. In war time, I have been carried by these people by the governor's side, but never else. Each of these casts keeps separate by itself, never mixing with the others; no individual of a higher cast would, for the whole world, sit or drink with one of a lower. The pride of the nobility is intolerable, and often draws them into quarrels, particularly with the bramins, who do not belong to the Malabar race, but think as highly of themselves as these do, and therefore never give way to them when they meet them; which often brings employment to the judge advocate. This Malabar nobility first  
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originated under the dominion of the Portuguese, having been idly invented by these latter, in order to squeeze a little money out of them : the Portuguese having suggested to them, that it was not fitting for one Malabar to be set over others, as head or overseer, without some peculiar distinction ; that therefore every head, or bailiff of a village, ought to be ennobled. This took with the simple Malabar, who asked, how much the letters-patent of nobility would cost ? He was informed, “ a few hundred dollars only.” Such as had the money by them, pressed forward immediately to receive the honour first, which was accordingly conferred in the following manner : the governor took a thin silver plate, on which the name of the Malabar, who wished to be ennobled, was written, with the title of *Don* prefixed to it ; this he bound with his hand on the forehead of the Malabar (who

(who was all the while in a kneeling posture), and laying his hand on his shoulder, said, "Don thou art, Don shalt thou live, and Don shalt thou die." Thoroughly satisfied with this, the new created nobleman would walk off; coming again another time, when he wished to be appointed head of the village, for which purpose he must take care to bring another purse. By this contrivance, the Portuguese got an enormous heap of money from the Malabars; for every one that could scrape together the sum fixed upon, got himself ennobled. The Dutch, afterwards, made still sorrier work of it, and sold the title of Don for fifty, five and twenty, and at last even so low as ten dollars. The bramins, who very well know how the Malabars come by their nobility, and are proud of their birth, make no distinction between one of these noblemen, and a common Malabar; at which the Malabar is apt to

take



take fire, and in his turn twits the bramin with coming into his country, and living upon them; so that they are seldom friends. The bramins are the greatest idolaters among the pagans, crafty, lazy, and deceitful; and are among the plain and simple Malabars, what formerly a certain society was in Europe, and would be still, perhaps, if they had not been restrained by some, who had as much penetration as themselves.

To what I have said before of the Malabar husbandmen, I must beg leave to add, that they are very diligent; rising early in the morning, to go to work with their slaves, and returning home at sunset, to rest. The slaves they have no use for, they dismiss, to maintain themselves by their own labour; who, in consequence thereof, form a peculiar race, and live by themselves\*. They

\* The author doubtless means such slaves, as are born under the master's roof.

are, however, bound to appear when called upon. The master can sell these slaves whenever he pleases, or else make them free; but in that case he must give them a formal release in writing. Among these freed-men there are likewise some rascals, who, having no property of their own, live by theft and rapine. But if the slave be well-disposed, and industrious, he endeavours to get an honest livelihood by working for some master, and perhaps lays by money into the bargain; though it often happens, that he is in danger of being cheated out of it, by a grudging and covetous master, which often occasions much mischief and disturbance. The Malabars have a system of laws peculiar to themselves, and originating from the pagan princes, who formerly governed this country. By these laws every Malabar is empowered, if he has no children, to adopt whomsoever he will for his heir, without his

relations daring in the least to oppose it. In consequence of this law, it sometimes happens, that poor children are adopted and looked upon as the true heirs. The daughters fare better than the sons, in consequence of the legacies generally bequeathed them by their parents; as they almost universally receive half their father's possessions, by way of dower: if the parents afterwards come to decay, nay, even should they get into debt, the son alone must be answerable for all, as the daughters never give back any part of the portion they have received. Pains have been taken to make some change in this affair, but hitherto they have not been able to bring it about. I have frequently spoke with sensible Malabars upon the subject, and received for answer, that in case an equality was to take place in this matter, their daughters then would not so easily get husbands, and consequently run a greater risque of being seduced.



seduced. The youngest son always has the privilege of remaining in his father's house ; in other respects he is subject to the Dutch imposts, that is, he is burdened with foccage-service, and the poll-tax. If he neglects performing foccage-service, he is fined in a schelling ; and if particular circumstances should require his extraordinary service, he must be ready to act when called upon. For the provisions he delivers in, he is paid a regulated price.

There are likewise another sort of Malabars, called *Wedas*\*, who keep retired

\* The *Wedas*, or Bedas (by the Abbé Raynal improperly written Wadas) are, according to the account of Knox and other authors, a nation of hunters, living in a state of freedom, without houses, and roving about in the interior parts of the woods : they are not, however, a different people ; for they speak the same language as the other Ceyloners. (*Pauw. Recherches sur les Amer.* I. p. 151.) and the great clearness of their complexions proceeds

tired in caves and forests, and do not chuse to be subject either to the Dutch, or the emperor of Candia. These people subsist like other savage nations; living without any regulation or order, like the wild beasts, and flying as well before the Europeans, as the Cingalese and the Malabars that are settled there. In the territories of the Malabar princes, they often do much mischief; suddenly falling on the inhabitants, whom they frequently plunder, and, in case of opposition, even sometimes kill. This race of men live on the roots of the earth, on fruit, and the animals they procure by hunting, the flesh of which they eat raw, preserving part of it in wild honey, against a time when they may stand in need of it. It is unsafe to travel through

from their living in the woods, where they are not exposed so much to the sun. (*Zimmerman's Geographical Zoology*. I. p. 81.)

those

those parts of the country where they sojourn. This dangerous and noxious race of mortals is not known to have any religion, nor yet any moral regulation among themselves; they are a set of absolute libertines, who follow the bent of their wild and depraved natures. The Portuguese, as well as the Hollanders, have been at some pains to reduce these people to obedience and order; but this they have found impossible, partly by reason of the density of the woods, and partly on the account of the unhealthiness of the country where they live, and where they are harder to catch than wild beasts.

Among the civilized Malabars, there lives a race of black Turks, who are commonly called *Moors*. These people follow the doctrine of the Koran, and go lightly clad in the Arabian fashion, being there, in some measure, what the Jews are here. They follow no other



occupation than merchandize, buying  
 and selling, and in this they are ex-  
 tremely ingenious and expert. It is  
 through them that the Malabars get their  
 trinkets and jewels, such as golden ear-  
 rings, coral necklaces, bracelets and rings  
 for the arms and legs ; and dispose of  
 them again, when they have occasion to  
 turn them into money. These Moors have  
 the art of keeping up their credit with  
 the Company at large, as well as with  
 particulars among the Europeans, and  
 in short with every body there ; and a  
 Moor is hardly ever known to be brought  
 into a court of justice. The Company  
 often makes use of their talents, par-  
 ticularly when it wants to lay a tax  
 upon any article of commerce. Nobody  
 understands the value of pearls and  
 precious stones so well as they, as in  
 fact they are continually employed in the  
 boring of pearls ; and the persons who  
 are used to farm the pearl-fishery, always  
 rely

rely on their skill in this article, as well as in arithmetic, to inform them what they are to give for the whole fishery. They perform all their calculations entirely by memory, in which manner they are capable of reckoning up the most difficult fractions. Their houses, though they have almost all of them more wives than one, are not so clean in the inside as those of the Malabars, in whose company they never eat, although, like them, they eat without knives or spoons, always using their fingers for this purpose.

Of these three different races, viz. the Bramins, Moors, and Malabars, the inhabitants of Jaffanapatnam consist. Of these three, the Malabar is properly the original and genuine inhabitant of the country. One may likewise easily distinguish each of these from the other (even without their clothes), from their outward appearance. The Bramin is of

a yellow complexion, plump and fleshy; the Malabar is black, has long hair, and has no calves to his legs; the Moor is likewise black, but strong built, has thick calves, and keeps his head shaved: with all these three races I have been very conversant. The Moors used to pay me great respect, on account of my having by me a copy of the Koran, in the Arabian and German languages, which when I shewed them, they always kissed with the highest degree of admiration. In the war against the emperor of Candia, we had taken into our service ten companies of the Moors, who were commanded by their own princes: with these we did more execution than with five companies of Europeans, by which this nation obtained the highest credit. Of all these, it is the rural Malabar that I prefer (though it must be confessed, that they are mere heathens), and I cannot but hope, that the Almighty, in due time,



time, will yet be merciful unto them. In the hymns, which they sing in times of trouble and distress, there is something so natural, as perforce to move one to compassion, nay, to tears, even though, for want of knowledge in their language, one should not perfectly comprehend the force of their expressions. I was once indeed affected so much on their account, as to shed a torrent of tears, at the time when God punished this country with a drought that lasted almost the space of a year, and directly upon this, with the plague, of which there died eighteen hundred thousand people. On this melancholy occasion, the poor Malabars assembled together in the open fields, where they threw the dust into the air, and cried lamentably to the God of all gods, “ beseeching him at least to take pity upon the earth, although he should not think themselves worthy of his favour; at the same time they hoped their  
mediating

mediating god would speak for them to the other gods, and not be silent, for otherwise they must all perish."

I will here just mention a few particulars relative to their manner of burying the dead. The Bramins burn the dead body, and collecting the ashes of it in pots, bury them in the earth, at the same time besmearing their own foreheads with the ashes of burnt cow's-dung. The Malabars, on the other hand, wrap their corpses up in a cloth, and lay them, without any coffin, in their church-yards, about a foot and a half deep in the earth. The Moors inclose their dead in a kind of house, made of wood, and then let it down into the earth, at the same time placing one or more stones, with a white flag, over the grave.

I cannot conclude this account of the Malabar nation, without recommending to the favour of all the European ladies,  
who

who adorn their persons with the Indian chintzes, the Malabar maidens, that with their own hands paint this beautiful manufacture.

I now come to speak of that worthy nation, the Dutch. In Ceylon, it may be said to consist of almost every nation to be found in Europe, who, having entered into the service of the East-India Company, are pretty universally known by the general name of Dutchmen to the natives of this island, who have very little, if any, idea of the different states of Europe. This mixed nation is, with respect to itself, comprized in one single class, viz. that of the Europeans; but the children descended from them, are distributed into different classes; as for example, a child, whose father and mother are both Europeans, belongs to the class called *Pustiz*; a child born of an European father, and a Pustizin, is termed a *Castiz*; and one sprung from an Euro-



European father, and an Indian mother, is called a *Mestiz*. These three classes rank next to the Dutch, and go clad in the same manner, especially the male sex; but the women of the last class have a peculiar dress, not being permitted to imitate the two former in that particular. Inferior to these three classes there are two more, the *Tupasses* and the *Libertines*; the former are descended from the slaves formerly made free by the Portuguese, the latter from such as have obtained their freedom from the Dutch. The men are clad like the Dutch, the women like the *Mestizes*. This latter class increases every day; as it is by no means uncommon for a rich European to give a slave his liberty, as a reward for his fidelity; not indeed so often during the life of the former, as by will, after his death, as people are not so easily persuaded, while they live, to part with a faithful slave. On this occasion, he must  
make

make him a present of ten dollars, as the slave must have some means of getting his bread. Every European in office is obliged to have one or more slaves, in order to keep up the dignity of his character, a custom by no means to be admired; since it would be much better for them to make use of free men, as we do in Europe; as the slaves are not only apt to live dissolute lives, but are likewise almost universally deceitful and faithless; and what is still worse, is, that the inhabitants cannot bring up their slaves in the christian religion, because in that case they must necessarily be declared free; for as slaves they are not allowed to be baptized, nor to partake of the Lord's supper. I, for my part, had eight slaves about my person, all of whom I was absolutely resolved to have baptized; but as the Dutch minister, agreeably to his instructions, did not dare undertake to do it, on pain of  
being

being discharged from his office, I had them baptized by a catholic missionary ; and before my departure from the island, I took care to put them into the hands of good religious people.

Every master is at liberty to clothe his slaves as he pleases, excepting only that he dare not let them wear either hat, shoes, or stockings, not even the governor himself, or a man of the first rank. When a slave is sold, he must appear before a notary, and with his own mouth declare he is a slave, otherwise the deed of sale will not be made out.

The administration of the Company's affairs in Ceylon is vested in three different persons ; the first in rank presides in the principal fort in Colombo, the second in Jaffanapatnam, and the third in Gale. When the first of these retires from government, the next comes into his place, and is himself succeeded by the third. Each of these represents the  
Company



Company in the fulness of its prerogative and dominion, being fully empowered by them for this purpose, in consequence of the instructions he has received from them. In affairs relative to the police, each of them has the power of acting contrary to the advice of his council (which consist of eight persons besides himself), and may take upon himself the whole of the affair that has been under consideration.

In the administration of justice, he is at liberty to alter the sentence of the judge in criminal cases, that is, either to enlarge or mitigate the punishment of the culprit. No offender is doomed to death, till he himself has confessed his crime: if this, however, be made out by incontestable proofs, and yet he will not confess it, he is then put to the torture.

The sword is not at all used here in executions, neither are criminals broke  
upon.

upon the wheel, as is the custom in Germany; but instead of that, it is the practice to break their thighs with an iron club. The generality of criminals are hanged at the gallows; they are likewise sometimes put into a sack, and thrown into the sea; they are seldom or never sentenced to be branded with hot irons; and in case they are, the mark is not made on the forehead, but on the back.

The Roman law constitutes the laws in criminal cases. The Dutch administer justice in its utmost purity, and it would not be adviseable for any body to shew the least partiality here. The island of Ceylon has seen a melancholy instance of this, in the person of a governor, called *Peter Vuyft*, who having very unjustly ordered a common foldier to be put to the torture, was commanded to repair to Batavia on the occasion, where he was publicly hanged, drawn and quartered, and afterwards  
burnt

burnt to ashes, and thrown into the sea. The poor man, who had suffered so much from his tyranny, had a pension given him, and his son was sent to the university, to study at the Company's expence. The council of justice is obliged to meet in the court of judicature twice a week. Every criminal process must be terminated in the space of six weeks, excepting in case that the proofs cannot be brought time enough, on account of the absence of the witnesses. Such of these processes as have been adjudged and carried into execution, must be sent every year into Batavia ; and if any fault be found with them there, those who passed the sentence are liable to be called to account for it.

The oaths taken on occasion of these processes, next come under our consideration. Those christians who are of the Lutheran and reformed churches, take the oaths according to a certain formu-  
T
lary,



lary, in which they call to witness the Holy Trinity. The Roman Catholic takes the oath on the gospel of St. John, and more particularly on the text "the Word was flesh," &c. on which he lays his right hand.

The Mahometan swears upon the Koran, on which he lays both hands, and (if I may so speak) at the same time his whole soul: before this book he bows as low as before Almighty God himself.

The Bramin makes his appearance with the badge of his order covering the half of his body, and laying hold of this badge with his right hand, says, "As certainly as I bear and now touch this mark of my order, so true and certain is my deposition." Upon this oath of his we may as perfectly rely, as upon that of the Malabar.

He appears in court with his youngest child; if he has no children himself, he

he takes one belonging to another branch of his family, and laying the child along upon the earth, places himself over it; then raising both his arms and hands on high, he calls upon God, “to do away from the face of the earth, not only him, in case he should utter a falsehood, but likewise his little child, nay, his whole race;” he likewise begs of the Almighty, that “while he is yet speaking, all those curses, if merited, may fall upon him; and that in that case, he may not return to his family as he came, but, together with his child, on their way home, meet with some terrible disaster.” He concludes the whole with this expression, “Thus have I said.”

In the civil processes there is a peculiar method of procedure to be observed. The plaintiff lays his cause before the court, by a petition, dictum, or memorial; upon this he obtains leave to cite his opponent in form, against the

next court day. This writ is immediately filed, and the citation is the very same day made out, by the secretary ; he then delivers it to the apparitor, who instantly forwards it to the person to whom it is addressed, either by himself, or by one of the messengers in ordinary, who are obliged to bring back from the person cited, a token, to shew that they have performed the duties of their office. When the defendant appears, he begs to have a copy of the complaint lodged against him, and to be indulged in a fortnight's time to consider of it, and to prepare his answer. If, at the end of this term, he brings in his answer, the plaintiff in like manner asks for fourteen days, in order to make his reply. When this is done, the judge then orders him to produce his proofs in *forma probantis*. Then they are allowed to make interrogatories and reproaches, according as circumstances may require. All these

pieces



pieces are collected together, and sent to the bench of judges for their perusal : upon this they undergo a discussion, as they lie upon the table, and the whole bench passes judgment upon them. In this instance they must perfectly agree in the judgment they pass ; and though they may debate, yet in the end they must not differ in the least. Against the next court day, the parties are cited to hear sentence of judgment passed, the court doors being open ; and if either of them finds himself aggrieved thereby, he may appeal ; which, however, seldom or never happens, for the court of appeal is at Batavia, above five hundred miles distant. If the defendant does not appear, after having been cited four times by his adversary, the plaintiff's suit is then declared good. A declaration of this kind, however, may be recalled within the year (during which time the sentence remains in *statu quo*), if it can

be shewn, that the party was absent when he was cited. All the above-mentioned papers and pleadings must be short, and drawn up without any unnecessary circumlocutions, or the insertion of any thing foreign to the subject; the attorney must make use of clear and proper expressions, and not ask more for his writings than a certain specified sum; for which reason he must sign every writing with his own name, with an account of how much he has had for each writing. In like manner, the president and each of the judges must be very cautious in their conduct, as in case of any indirect proceedings, they are liable to be complained of to the governor. No wonder then, that such a state as this is maintained and established in security and credit.

The sentiments held respecting the Christian religion, are here divided into three classes, just as they are in Europe.

This

This difference, however, is not carried so far here, as it is in many other places; for a too rigid doctrine often produces mere trifling distinctions, by which true and genuine religion suffers more than it otherwise needs to do. The gospel allows the tares to grow among the wheat, and does not permit it to be plucked up and burnt: our great Master himself says, "Let them both grow together;" but man thinks himself wiser, and will have every thing in outward appearance the same. The Dutch government allows liberty of conscience to every one; only it will not permit, that any man be disturbed in the exercise of that public worship, which has its source in this doctrine. Here the catholic and protestant christian may each of them perform their devotions in their own way, without lett or molestation: if he be true and upright in the station he holds in the state, he is never asked what religion he pro-



fesses ; and indeed, all religious disputes  
 are discountenanced by government.  
 Among the common people which come  
 here from Europe, there are frequently  
 found many that lead a sad dissolute life,  
 as they know their conduct is not so  
 closely inspected by the clergy here, as  
 it is with us in Germany. On two  
 fellows of this kind, we once saw a re-  
 markable instance of Divine vengeance  
 inflicted : they were both sailors, that  
 made swearing (as it were) their pro-  
 fession, and at that time were inventing  
 new oaths to abuse each other with, and  
 in which they endeavoured mutually to  
 out-do one another. Now just as they  
 were pleasing themselves with the idea  
 of having invented a new and horrid  
 oath, the master of the equipage ordered  
 them to go off with a boat to a ship  
 lying off the shore of Colombo, and  
 bring away from thence a subaltern  
 officer, whose presence was required at  
 the

the fort. They did as they were ordered, and lo! they had scarce got to the distance of two gun-shots from the shore, when they both sank, in the sight of several people, in very calm and pleasant weather, and were never seen more.

I look upon justice and religion to be the foundations, on which the Dutch have erected the government of their colonies; a charge, in which the viceroy has need to employ all the wisdom and talents he is master of, in order to maintain the state itself, as well as its valuable commerce, in their present flourishing condition. With regard to the instructions given to the regency here, how to conduct themselves as well in war as in peace, I chuse to be totally silent; since I have already said, that on my departure from the island, I had shut the door of the cabinet after me, in which my much-respected master, the late governor, brought me up. Should Providence

dence think fit to station me there again, I should willingly spend my last hour in doing the business of it; and shall think, that my vocation is not so great to serve my own country, as to serve the Dutch nation.

I shall now say something with respect to the commerce here, and then conclude. The Company sends to Ceylon from Europe, divers articles of commerce, chiefly for the use of the Europeans there, who prefer the things that come from their own country, to those they find in Ceylon, and willingly give eight or nine dollars for a Westphalia ham; from three to four, nay, even five dollars for a cheese; from eighteen to twenty guilders for a bottle of red wine; and two dollars for a cann of good French brandy. But with things of this nature the Company does not trouble itself, but allow this privilege to the ships, the people belonging to which  
know



know how to make their advantage of it; but all the produce of Ceylon, without reserve, comes into the Company's hands, the emperor being under an obligation not to dispose of the commodities of his country to any other than to them. Of this produce the Company sells or barter a part in the East-Indies, and some in Ceylon itself; the remainder they bring over to Holland.

\* \* \* \* \*

Being resolved to leave this country, and having put my affairs in order, and the evening before taken a farewell supper with the regency of Jaffanapatnam, at nine in the morning I set off from that place, by the way of Colombo and Gale. The gentlemen of the regency accompanied me, with a number of other friends; likewise many of the natives

stood

stood on the shore, as I got into the yacht: they almost all of them lamented my departure, and wished me my health and a successful voyage. An old heathen said to me, "Your God, my good Sir, will doubtless convey you safe to your own country, and likewise bring you back again; I do not despair myself of having the pleasure to see you return." The following day I arrived at Manaar, to which place the commandant came himself to meet me, and received me in a very friendly way, taking me home with him to his own house, where I had made a resolution to stay no more than one night; but could not help yielding to his earnest entreaties, that I would spend my Christmas with him. After this, I sailed to Colombo in one of the country vessels, and had like to be cast away in my passage thither. The *tandel*, or overseer, was seized with a fever; the sailors began to quarrel among themselves,

selves, none of them chusing to take the  
 helm. Upon this the waves got the  
 upper hand of us, and our vessel was  
 near being overfet: I immediately sprang  
 forward, and putting the point of my  
 naked sword to the tandel's breast, said  
 to him in his own language, " You  
 scoundrel, you shall die with us how-  
 ever!" The man was frightened, flew  
 to the rudder, and ordered his people to  
 let fly the sails; this was done in the  
 twinkling of an eye, and in an instant  
 all was right again. After we had  
 finished our tedious voyage, the tandel  
 thanked me for curing his fever so suc-  
 cessfully, as he had had no more of it  
 since; at the same time asking me,  
 whether I really meant to kill him in  
 earnest? I told him, " No, I only  
 wished to save him and myself, and I  
 had succeeded." When I arrived at Co-  
 lombo, I waited on the governor there,  
 who permitted me, out of three home-  
 ward



ward bound ships, to chuse which I would; and when I had made my choice, gave orders to the captain to prepare the great cabin for me, and make every thing as convenient as possible. After this, I visited the whole body of the regency, as likewise the principal rector of the gymnasium, who was a particular friend of mine; and when the treaty of peace with the emperor of Candia was in agitation, translated what I wrote into the Cingalese language. This man shewed me a plan that he had drawn up, for the better instruction of the youth of that place; upon the subject of which, according to the best of my poor judgment, I gave him my thoughts for the last time. This he took very kindly of me, and promised himself the pleasure of seeing me again at Ceylon in two years time; as he was fully persuaded, that my journey thither was undertaken merely with the view of carrying some  
informa-

information to the East-India Company in Holland, with respect to the state of affairs in Ceylon. Many more had the same idea of the cause of my journey, as my post seemed to them too lucrative to be given up, without very important reasons. I likewise visited the fine Printing-house there, and found the master of it to be a man who had come out from Holland to Ceylon in the same ship with me, in the capacity of a common soldier: by this printer I was informed, that the whole number was dead, except three. I now still had a tour to make to Gale, before I could go aboard the ship that was to take me home. I could not make any long stay at Colombo, as the time approached when the ship must set out on its voyage. When I passed the guard there, they paid me the honours due to me, by presenting their arms; an honour, that was not shewed me at my first coming to the island.

island. Accordingly I made a trip from Colombo to Gale, arriving there the day after I set out: here I had the same honours shewed me as at Colombo, and had time to remain at the place three days, a period of time that passed very rapidly. I then went with the captain on board the Zuid-Beveland (so the ship was called that I had fixed upon), which I found to be almost as large as that which many years ago had taken me to this part of the world.

During the first part of our voyage we had good winds and weather, consequently we made way considerably; so that in the space of a fortnight, we found ourselves under the line: here we were obliged to lie at anchor five weeks; during this time we not only found it very tedious, but the weather was likewise very hot: at length we got a brisk gale.

Hitherto



Hitherto we had had pleasant, but at the same time very warm weather; but now the air was something cooler. At length we were overtaken by a high wind; this was the fore-runner of a violent storm, which indeed soon overtook us, and lasted twenty-four hours. It went off, however, without doing us any damage; our sails and masts were found, and in a good condition, as we had time to prepare ourselves. When this storm was over, we had an extraordinary fine wind for twenty days together, when we were again overtaken by a terrible tempest: this occasioned an universal terror, as the ship was too heavy laden, and drew too much water. For my part, I got out of my cabin, and went upon deck, that I might not hear any longer the dreadful dashing of the waves. The captain, and with him the rest of the officers, now lost all hope, excepting the third mate, who took upon him to

save the ship, on condition that he might  
 do as he pleased. I hearing this, said,  
 My good friend, in the name of our  
 masters and superiors, I give you leave,  
 in these circumstances, to make use of  
 your skill and knowledge; I will take  
 care to lay the account of the whole  
 procedure before them, and will stand  
 answerable for every thing. Upon this  
 the young man, turning to the captain,  
 asked him, whether he had free leave?  
 The captain gave him for answer, that  
 he should do as I had told him. Im-  
 mediately he ran out of the room, set  
 himself down upon his bottom, on the  
 middle of the deck (for it was impossible  
 for him to stand), and calling about him  
 the most expert of the sailors, desired  
 them, with the kindest expressions he  
 was master of, to clap another sail on  
 to the foremast; they directly set about  
 it, and it took them up above half an  
 hour to do it; as soon as ever it was  
 done,

done, it was observed that the ship began to float; they then thought they might venture to clap on another sail, which was accordingly done, and was the means of saving the ship. The first mate, a very conceited and blustering coxcomb, was not to be seen any where till the storm was abated. Upon this I asked him, "What was the first thing, in time of extreme danger on board of ship, that we ought to think of, the keeping up one's dignity and rank, or the saving of the ship? Pursuant to the orders of our superiors, the lowest of the sailors has permission to take place of the captain himself, if, in case of the ship's being in danger, he can think of any method to save it; as frequently the space of a single moment is sufficient, for the ship to be saved, or go to the bottom. He might rest assured, that I thought myself bound in duty to set this affair in its true light, before my honour-





it being his watch, at the time when the third mate had interfered. For the sake of our common deliverer, I kept to my resolution, and effectuated my design; but in such a manner, however, as would admit of a good turn being given to the affair. And thus, in this instance, pride was punished, and met with a fall.

In less than a fortnight after this, we landed at the Cape, having narrowly escaped being shipwrecked on the coast by the fury of the winds and waves. As soon as we had landed, I waited on the governor (who at that time lay ill), and upon the rest of the gentlemen of the regency. My abode was at the judge advocate's, who took me to his country-seat, where we kept the Easter holidays together. I seized this occasion of visiting, along with him, the tract of country where the Constantia wine grows; and was informed that this wine has its name from a figure of a woman cut in stone,

which stands on the lintel of the door of one of the proprietors, whose name is *Constantia*. This wine is the best sort of any that grows at the Cape: here I spent a whole month, and got perfectly refreshed. At my departure, I laid in a good quantity of wine, biscuit, baked fruits, almonds, raisins, and the like. With a particular view I likewise left there the slaves, that I had taken with me from Ceylon to be about my person.

As soon as the ship was provided with every necessary, we set out again on our voyage. In fourteen days time, we passed by the island of St. Helena, and soon after came to the island of Ascension. From this, after a tedious calm, we passed into the Bay of Biscay, where we met with dreadful storms of thunder and lightning. Here we likewise met with two large Portuguese ships, with a rich lading of gold and skins, which they had taken in at America. Not long after  
this,



this, we saw three Dutch men of war coming towards us, to convoy us into the mouth of the British channel: we saluted them with twenty-five guns, which they answered with nine, and immediately made a signal for our captain to go on board of them; he accordingly set off in the boat, and returned in a few hours, bringing us the news of a truce having been concluded. As soon as we had got into the channel, the men of war left us, and went back to convoy the other ships that were left behind. An English packet-boat now came on board of us, and asked the name of our ship, whence it came, and whither it was bound, in order to publish it in the papers. We dispatched them with the necessary intelligence, and in two days got through the channel with a fair wind. We did not find the wind so boisterous now, as it had been many years ago, when I first went to the East-Indies.

Having fortunately gone over the north sea without meeting with any storms, we sailed directly for the *Ramekens*, an old fortification not far from Middleburg: here we cast anchor, and thus finished our voyage. In a few hours, two gentlemen, deputed from the East-India Company, made their appearance on board our ship, in order to dismiss the crew; they congratulated me on my arrival, and asked me, if I was inclined to remain any longer in their service? they were very willing to agree to send me out in the same character, either to Ceylon, or any other factory I should chuse, as I was already used to the climate, and had acquired experience in the service. I thanked them, and replied, that I wished to make my parents in Germany happy with the sight of me, and therefore could not resolve upon staying any longer in Holland: as for the rest, I was very sensible of the honour

honour I had enjoyed, in having been twenty years in their very respectable service, in which I could boast of having shewn all the fidelity, obedience and diligence, that lay in my power. They replied, they were perfectly convinced of it, and for that very reason wished me to stay. They then asked me some particulars concerning the state of Ceylon, on which head I gave them satisfactory answers. At length, at my own request, I got my dismissal, with this proviso, that at any time whenever I should be inclined to it, I had only to apply to them, and they would with pleasure employ me again. While this business was transacting, some thieves got into my cabin, and stole part of my baggage, to the amount of three hundred dollars. Having informed the gentlemen of the committee of it, they ordered the ship to be searched immediately; but as it grew towards night, they could



not go quite through with the search. Seeing that there was nothing more to be done, I wished my thief a good journey, and set out for Middleburg, where I arrived at midnight, between twelve and one o'clock. The next day I paid my respects to some of the gentlemen of the East-India Company, to whom I had some important secrets to communicate. They were by no means pleased with me for leaving them, just at the time when I had got an insight into their affairs. I excused myself as well as I could, and promised soon to return; and indeed my real intention was so to do: for which reason I set off for Germany in haste, leaving all my things behind. It is remarkable that I landed in Holland on the thirteenth of September, the very same day, that many years before I set off for the East-Indies.

When I arrived in my native town, I was much disappointed in not finding  
 what

what I looked for ; my friends having all some time before departed this life, so that my hopes were now all frustrated. Immediately upon this, a violent fit of sickness, with which I was seized, rendered all the plans I had formed abortive, and occasioned me to take to a way of life, which at present I chuse to bury in silence ; and having finished this account of my travels and adventures, take leave of my readers.





DESCRIPTION  
OF THE

ISLAND OF CEYLON,

By M. ESCHELSKROON.

**T**HE island of Ceylan, or Ceylon, lies between the 6th and 10th deg. North lat. and between the  $101\frac{1}{2}$  and 104th E. longitude. It is a *Landvoigtey*, or *government*, belonging to the Dutch East-India Company. It is of a great extent, being in length 220 miles from North to South; and in breadth, measuring from East to West, in some places 120, in others 72, and at Jaffanapatnam but 28 miles; in circumference

rence 790. To the North of it is part of the coast of Coromandel; to the East the Bay of Bengal; to the South the ocean; and to the West the Maldivia islands.

Ceylon is one of the most important of the Dutch possessions, and that not only on account of the cinnamon, which is not allowed to be peeled from the tree any where else, and for which the company has the exclusive privilege; but likewise of other precious articles brought from thence, as well as the considerable revenues arising to the company from other sources. This extensive island is divided into six kingdoms, as follows :

1. *Candi* or *Candia*. 2. *Cottu*. 3. *Sitavaca*. 4. *Dambadan*. 5. *Amoraya-poere*. 6. *Jaffanapatnam*.

Farther, into six principalities, eleven counties, four marquisesates, and nine seigneuries or lordships. RADIA SINGA, emperor

emperor of Candia where he resides, bears the title of that of the whole island ; though in fact his authority is confined to the internal part of it, and does not in the least extend to the coasts. The coast, indeed, all round the island belongs to the Dutch ; and is fenced in, as it were, in such a manner, with forts and fences, that at present it is next to impossible to carry on a very illicit commerce ; a caution, which the various and repeated attempts of the English to participate of the rich booty to be found here, have made necessary. In so late a period, as that between the years 1756 and 1760, these latter were at great pains to conclude a secret negotiation with the emperor, which, indeed, took effect, insomuch that they had began to carry on a considerable trade in the distant bays on the eastern side of the island. The governor at that time was John Schroeder, a Hamburger, who, from the  
condition



condition of a common soldier, had raised himself not only to this post, but likewise to that of one of the council of the Indies, in which latter office he died.

This man saw through the views and intentions of the emperor. He had intelligence, that this latter had infringed the treaty, and that he had dealings with the English, particularly in ammunition, cannon, arms and powder. He sent to him, desiring him to desist, and to call to mind the oath he had taken to deal only with his subsidiary allies. The emperor, however, set him at defiance, telling him, that he would not be dictated to any longer. This was the signal for war. M. Schroeder immediately gave orders to cruize in all the bays and mouths of large rivers, round the whole island, and to search every vessel, and on refusal, to make use of force; the consequence of which was, that he  
had

had sufficient proofs to produce of the emperor's treachery. Upon this, he ordered all the troops to be marched towards the mountains, in order, if possible, to bring the emperor to reason. This latter, who had plenty of ammunition, turned out likewise, and a war broke out that lasted seven years. As long as the governor-general, Van Mossel, who died in May 1761, was in being, Schroeder had every support he could wish from Batavia; but Van der Parra, who succeeded Mossel, wishing to get his own nephew into Schroeder's place, did every thing he could to thwart this latter in all his schemes and intentions, so that he retired in disgust, recommending Baron Van Eck in his room. Van Eck followed his predecessor's plan; Candia, the metropolis of the island, was taken and plundered, and converted into one of the company's settlements. The emperor lost all his arms and ammunition,

munition, and was obliged to sue for peace. The conditions were consequently dictated by the victorious party. They were, as follows :

1. The emperor shall keep within the mountains, and have nothing to do with the coasts, where the company may throw up as many fences as they please, and increase or diminish them at pleasure.

2. The emperor shall pay all the extraordinary expences incurred by the honourable company during this war, and occasioned by him, the whole amounting to 10,000,000 of piaſtres.

3. And, whereas the emperor gives his word that he is not able to do this with specie, he shall therefore discharge it by three installations, partly in cinnamon, and partly in other articles of commerce.

4. The emperor shall by his subjects, the Cingaleſe, not only throw up again every



every fence, redoubt, &c. that has been destroyed, but shall likewise assist the Dutch, at his own expence, in every new fortification in future to be erected.

5. Candia shall be restored again to the emperor; and in other respects, all and every contract, made previously to this, is hereby confirmed and renewed.

The six principalities in Ceylon are,

1. *Oeva*. 2. *Mature*. 3. *Denuaca*, or the two *Corles*; by the word *Corle* is meant a government. 4. The four *Corles*. 5. The seven *Corles*. 6. *Matale*.

The eleven counties are,

1. *Trinkenemale*, or *Trincoenmale*.  
2. *Batricalo*. 3. *Velase*. 4. *Bintene*.  
5. *Drembra*. 6. *Panciapato*. 7. *Veta*.  
8. *Putelan*. 9. *Velare*. 10. *Gale*.  
11. *Billigam*.

The four marquisesates are,

1. *Duranura*. 2. *Ratianura*. 3. *Tripane*. 4. *Accipate*.

The nine lordships or large manors are,

1. *Alican.* 2. *Colombo.* 3. *Nigombo.*
4. *Chilauw.* 5. *Madampe.* 6. *Calpentin.*
7. *Aripo.* 8. *Manaar.* 9. *The Pearl Fishery.*

Besides this general division, they reckon thirty-four greater, and thirty-three lesser districts (*Landschaften*) in the interior part of the island, exclusively of the four peculiar districts of *Jaffanapatnam*. These are,

1. *Welligame.* 2. *Timmoratie.* 3. *Warmoratie.*
4. *Pachealapalie.*

In this island there are divers streams and rivers. The more considerable ones are as follows :

*Mavela-Ganga*, a river that takes its rise from *Adam's-Peak*, and running northwards, empties itself into the bay of *Trinconomale*.

And *Kosdoeva*, near *Gale*, which springs out of the *Heu-berge*, (or Hay Mountain,

Mountain, as it is called) and flows into the sea near Gale, together with many small streams; such are those near *Alican*, *Catture*, *Colombo*, which all come originally out of the *Adam's-Berge*, falling into the sea in the places here mentioned.

The whole land is full of mountains and forests. Formerly, orders were issued by the emperor, that no one should presume, on pain of death, to cut any roads through the impassable forests, wider than was sufficient for one person to pass: but at present all the roads are by the Dutch made wide enough for two or three waggons to pass each other.

— The seasons here differ extremely: for when the rainy season prevails on the western side of the island, it is the dry season and fair weather in the eastern, and vice versa; a diversity, which ceases in the middle of the island. Earthquakes also are very common here, and



sometimes very hard shocks, as is usual in hot climates. However they are not near so violent as in those countries that lie still farther to the eastward.

I now come to a more particular description of the island; beginning with the county of *Gale*, on the south-west side of it, and the town or city *Punto de Gale*. This is situated in long.  $102\frac{1}{2}$  deg. N. lat. 6 deg. 5 min. It is above two miles in circumference, and is strongly fortified by nature as well as by art. Indeed the chief and best fortifications are the *blind-rats*, as they are called, or invisible rocks in the bay. The principal buildings here are the magazine, the hospital, the commandant's dwelling-house, and the Dutch church, where likewise the Cingalese in the morning and at noon perform their religious rites and worship.

In this town there is a great trade, as well on account of the inhabitants bartering

tering their commodities with those of the neighbouring coasts, as also on account of the fleets which take their lading in here on their return to Europe, and are generally dispatched by the 25th of December. The factory here is, in point of rank, the second on the island. The Company keeps here a commandant as president, with a merchant for his deputy and assistant, and other officers, who compose the council. The military, which is generally stationed here to the amount of three hundred men, is commanded by a captain; and the country round about is governed by a *Dessave*, or seneschal and his deputy. These, however, as well as all the other forts and factories, are all under the command of the governor of the whole island, residing at Colombo.

2. *Calicature* lies fifty miles to the north of Gale, and between these places there are a good many villages and un-

fortified towns, which are all invested by the Dutch with small detachments of the military. But Calicut is one of the principal fortresses; it has double walls, and a good garrison. From hence, further on to the northwards, to the extent of thirty-five miles, are scattered several villages and small places, which are all likewise a kind of out-posts belonging to the garrison.

3. The beautiful and magnificent town of *Colombo*. It lies in lat. 6 deg. and long. 102 deg. 10 min. When the Portuguese were in possession of it, it was of a vast extent; but after the taking of it in 1656, it has been very much diminished in its dimensions, and by this means is become very strong and tenable: it is defended by five large bastions, *Victoria*, *Constantia*, *Concordia*, *Haerlem*, and *Enkhuyzen*. In the town itself stands the beautiful edifice in which the governor dwells; a magnificent hospital; a com-



a commodious roomy orphan-house; a large church for the Dutch; a school for the Malabars; and a spacious market. There is also a seminary here, of which a minister is always the rector, with two assistants. On this occasion it is worth remarking, that it is the only institution of the kind in the whole Indies; even Batavia, to the great shame of the direction in Holland, not being provided with one. It is certainly much to be lamented, that the education of youth is so much neglected throughout the whole extent of the Company's possessions; in all of which the children are suffered to grow up under the tuition of slaves, under their inspection, and in their company: consequently every good and generous sentiment is nipped in the bud, and a wide door is opened for the reception of every thing that is mean and base. The men of fortune, therefore, among the Europeans here, are all obliged,

obliged, if they wish to save their children from destruction, to send them in their tender infancy to Holland, to be there educated, and be made useful citizens.

Even people of the first rank, who have not been able to persuade themselves to trust their tender offspring to the mercy of the sea, have, sooner or later, always had occasion to lament their excessive fondness: for, though they generally keep a tutor in the house, whom they procure at a great expence from Europe, yet the children have, after all, a miserable education; their servile notions can never be eradicated, and the conversation they of course daily hold with their slaves, counteracts all the instructions they receive from their tutor. Add to this, that they are continually told, that they are generals or directors sons, that they will have large fortunes, and will certainly be *Orang Baazar*, or  
great

great men. All this serves to inspire them with an utter contempt for their inferiors, and a plenary conviction, that they are not under the least necessity to learn any thing, and consequently they remain stupid and ignorant all their lives. Notwithstanding which, they even in their early age attain to the most lucrative employments, though many of these *lipplaps* (for so they here call such as are either born in Asia, or whose fathers are Europeans and mothers Asiatics) have scarce learned so much as to be able to write their names: thus much, however, cannot be dispensed with; as from the duties of their office they are obliged to sign their names frequently to instruments and official papers, at the same time that perhaps they are not able to read the contents.

The Majores themselves, which constitute the general direction (die Vergaadering van 17) in Holland, are so sensible



sensible of this, that they have made it  
 a rule, that no native, or lipplap, shall  
 rise higher than to the office of book-  
 keeper; though the gentlemen at Ba-  
 tavia, out of regard to their sons, do not  
 adhere quite so closely to this rule, as  
 they do to the order, that no foreigner,  
 i. e. no one that is not born in the Seven  
 United Provinces, shall rise higher than  
 to the employment of a factor. In fine,  
 there are no schools here but those of  
 the lower class; and the schoolmasters  
 are either *krankentroster*, i. e. chaplains,  
 that come with the ships from Europe,  
 or more usually still, broken mechanics,  
 such as bakers, shoe-makers, glaziers,  
 &c. who have no more book-learning  
 than just to make a shift to sing the  
 Psalms of David, and at the same time  
 perhaps can say the Heidelberg catechism  
 by heart, together with a few passages  
 out of the Bible, and are able to read  
 a sermon from some author; or else they  
 are

are some wretched natives, that can scarce make a shift to read Dutch intelligibly, much less can they write a good hand, and in arithmetic are still more deficient. And so much for the state of learning in the whole of the East-Indies in the possession of the Dutch.

Just before Colombo there is a large projection of the land into the sea, which bends towards the West, and with the bastion in the South-West composes the harbour; but the road here is extremely unsafe, the ships lying all exposed to the North-West wind; consequently they never make any long stay here, but make as speedily as they can for the Bay of Gale.

The town of Colombo is divided into the Old town and the New, both which are separated from each other by a latticed gate. Here is the principal factory, where the governor, and next  
to

to him a consul (that is to say here, but not in the regency of the country, for in that case the commandant of Gale takes the second place), a fiscal, or judge advocate, and the other officers of state, reside.

There is likewise in this place, a judiciary council, or college of justice, where all matters of law are determined, and whither all the factories on the island may appeal; but they are still at liberty to appeal again from this court to that of Batavia, which is the highest in the Indies.

The military is commanded by a major, and is reckoned at this place to consist of four thousand men. The *Landvoigt* has a considerable revenue, and is the most respectable, in point of power and authority, of any governor in the Indies; having, besides a number of other factories, the two governments of Gale and Jassanapatnam under him; and, though  
he



he is responsible to the council at Batavia, corresponding directly with Europe, and likewise receiving the cargoes directly from thence, which still adds to his consequence. Till the year 1669, he was of still greater importance, as before that period the coast of Malabar was likewise subject to him; but in the year 1669, this coast became a separate government, and was placed under the controul of Batavia. The fortresses and factories, without reckoning the garrisons and the smaller out-posts, are: Mature, Calpentyn, Manaar, Jaffanapatnam, Trincomale, Coatjaur, Batticalo, Banua, the salt-pans, Magammo, Punto, Gale, Nigombo, with several out-posts under Colombo, Tutocoryn, and Punto Pedro.

4. The fortress of *Nigombo* lies above twelve miles from the principal fort, Colombo, and between them are dispersed many beautiful villages and unfortified towns.

towns. Nigombo is particularly well fortified, for the purpose of protecting the cinnamon-country. The Portuguese had fortified it in a most extraordinary manner; but the fortifications are now very much diminished, partly to save the expence of a large garrison, and partly because the principal fort is so near it. Formerly here were a merchant as resident, an ensign with about a hundred soldiers, and officers civil and military; but now they are all reduced to the ensign with sixty men. This place is situate in the kingdom of Cotte, and has very fine woods belonging to it.

5. The island *Calpentyn*, and the fortrefs upon it, about thirty-six miles from the fort above-mentioned. The extent of this island is about twenty-four miles from North to South, and four in breadth. There are two villages upon it; the fort is on the eastern side of it, and is garrisoned by an ensign and forty men.

6. *Ma-*

6. *Manaar*, likewise an island, twenty-five miles long, and eight broad. Here is also a fort, with a factor as resident, and a lieutenant with a hundred men to garrison it. This fort is in the eastern part of the island, and is very strong. Between this island and the coast of Madura, there lies a heap of sand-banks in a strait line, to the extent of fifty-two miles, which have some depth, and are therefore called *Adam's Bridge* by the inhabitants, who assert, that this was the dwelling-place of Adam and Eve, paradise being situated in Ceylon; and a heap of other fables to this purport. It is likewise supposed, not without reason, that this island was formerly united to the continent, and was by degrees, and in course of time, separated from it by the sea.

Here is likewise the famous *Pearl-fishery*, which was latterly neglected by the Portuguese, but is now carried on by the Company to great advantage. On



the opposite coast of the continent, to the North-East of this island, is the extensive village of Matotte, and along the same coast are many places of some note, which are all garrisoned.

7. *Jaffanapatnam*. The whole of this kingdom is twenty-six miles in breadth towards the Northern part; on the South-East side, near Cattiani, twelve; and towards fort Calirauw, but two; and in length from East to West, eight miles. It lies at the distance of about ninety miles from Manaar. It is, as has been already observed, divided into four districts. The castle is in Welligame, very strongly fortified, and well garrisoned. There is a consul in the capacity of commandant, who has likewise his council to assist him, the same as at Punto de Gale; he having here, in a similar manner to that practised at all the other factories, the supreme command: a major by brevet commands the military. Besides the commandant's house, there

there is a magnificent church here, and a handsome hospital. Round about in the neighbourhood there are many fortified places and out-posts, of which Ponto das Pedras is the principal. Higher up the country, in the three other districts, there is a number of inhabited villages, to the amount of a hundred and sixty. The natives are here, as well as in every other place, within the jurisdiction of the Company, and must pay all the imposts with cinnamon and areek. To the Westward of the fort lie three large islands, viz.

1. Amsterdam, formerly called *Corridiva*, twenty miles in circumference, uninhabited, and full of forests.

2. Leyden, formerly *Oerature*, sixteen miles from Jaffanapatnam, and four from Amsterdam, and has several villages upon it. Betwixt these two islands there is a fort, called Hammenhiel, which is of great strength, and is considered as the key to Jaffanapatnam.



3. Delft, once *Pongardiva*, is, as well as the others, Middelburg and Horn, desert and uninhabited, excepting in so far as that a great deal of timber is cut here for the use of the Company.

At the utmost point or promontory of this kingdom, directly to the East, is,

8. The fortress of Calirauw, under the controul of Jaffanapatnam, and guarded by an ensign and about forty men, with gunners, &c.

9. *Trinkenemale*, or Trinco-enmale. Betwixt this bay and the fort Calirauw, is the country called *Bedas*, which takes in a space of a hundred and twenty miles, and is, the whole of it, a mere forest. The bay of Trinconemale is the finest in the whole island, as the roads are very safe, and defended from the winds by small islands. Here is a very strong fortress, in which dwells a consul in the capacity of resident, who has under him a factor by way of administrator, a captain of the military, which consists of  
about



about two hundred and fifty men, and several other officers. This place was, as well as Batticalo, formerly a *commandery*, but is now converted into a residentship.

10. *Coticar* is merely an unfortified town, in which a few Europeans and Cingalese keep guard, in order to hinder any smuggling being carried on. A lieutenant has the command here.

11. *Baticalo* is, in like manner, a strong fortification, situated eight miles inland from the bay, and directly upon the river, whence it takes its name. A merchant commands here in the capacity of resident, and the military, which amounts to a hundred and fifty men, is commanded by a lieutenant. Here the Dutch made their first landing in 1682, and took it by storm from the Portuguese on the 18th of March, with the assistance of Radja Singa, who at that time was as weary of the Portuguese, as he soon after was of the Dutch.

The unfortified towns of Patenuad, Aragone, Raddele, Colahawyle de Pagodi van Trinkoli, whither the Cingalese go upon pilgrimage in great numbers, Comene, Pomene, Mandagli, Patten, Pattene, Oekandi, Andenove, Memene, Mandegelle, Jalepat, Catenagon, Leawaica, Tranfalier, Magami, Condeli, Killigamna, Kolkgalle, Anakenwelle, all along the shore, from the stream of Cerinde, to the river Walluwe, which latter likewise has its source in Adam's Mountain, offer nothing worthy our observation, but high mountains and the Salt-pans, as they are called. Between Maluwe and Tangale, there is a large plain, thirty-two miles in circumference, where they hunt the elephants. The places called Ajale, Halpilane, Huwacora, Tanidar, Galuettes en Dondore, lie in a circle from Baticalo to Matura, about ten or twelve miles distant from each other; and are all so well guarded, being at the same time provided with flags for the

the purpose of making signals, that on the first appearance of any vessel at sea, they are all immediately brought under arms; and on the least commotion in the interior part of this extensive island; they are in a condition to make preparations for defence all over it. In consequence of the island's being thus encircled with forts and out-posts, there is nothing that can escape the observation of the governor at Colombo; it being from hence, that the emperor is watched with the greatest care, and indeed is so narrowly observed by his own subjects, that all his words and actions are minutely reported in the governor's cabinet.

12. *Mature*, situate on the river Melipa, directly in the South, is a fort built of stone, in which there is a consul in the capacity of resident, who at the same time is *deffave*, or bailiff of the circumjacent country; he has a factor to assist him, and a lieutenant with a



hundred and forty men, besides necessary officers.

13. *Billigam* has an excellent bay, called the Red Bay. It is merely an out-post, like the Pagode of Tanaware, and the village of Curaca between this place and Mature. Sixteen miles to the Westward is seen the beautiful village of Coddogore, and four miles farther on, that of Oenevatte. Here the land bends towards the North, forming the bay of *Punto de Gale*. All these posts on the shore, and several other districts besides on this island, are the property of the Dutch Company, first by virtue of their contract, and afterwards, as the emperor Radja Singa thought proper to infringe the treaty, by force of arms. The Company exercises here all the powers of a sovereign, erecting and destroying fortifications when and where they chuse; laying imposts on the subject, and levying customs, excise and poll-taxes, and prohibiting the importation or exportation

tion of any article of commerce they think fit; passing sentence of life and death not only on their own natural subjects, but on the natives; and lastly, giving to Cæsar that which is Cæsar's, or just as much as they think proper: and in general, they have at present brought matters with the emperor to such a point, that whenever he is under the necessity of asking any favour of them, they never grant it to him without his having first ceded to them some of the remaining part of his dominions.

Besides this great island, the Company has still on the *coast of Madura*, to the westward of Ceylon, in a large bay to the south of Kaypatnam, and to the north of Cape Comoryn, 8 deg. 40 min. N. latitude, and likewise subject to the controul of Colombo;

14. *Tutocoryn*, which is a large open borough, without either gates, walls, or moat; most of the houses are of stone. The Company has a factory there, over  
which

which presides a consul in quality of resident, who has under him a factor, a lieutenant with eighty soldiers, and other officers. It was not before the year 1658, that the Company took this island, as well as that of Ramanocoyee, Adam's Bridge, &c.

The town of Tutocoryn brings in a large sum to government, on account of its valuable pearl-fishery, pearls of a tolerable size being got there, though not to be compared with those of Ormus and Bahrein, either for whiteness or polish. Siiankos or oblation-horns, which are in great request among the Moors, who make rings of them, are likewise taken out of the water here in great abundance; as likewise the famous muscles called cowries, which the Indians use as small money, though most of these latter are brought from the Maldivia islands.

15. The *Salt-pans* are low lands on the strand, which are overflowed twice  
a year



a year by the sea ; this is retained by the means of dams and dykes, and being dried up by the heat of the sun, produces salt enough for the consumption of all India. There are some of these salt-pans

1. Between Chilauw and Putelan : 2. between Cotjar and Baticalo: 3. between Leawawar and Waluwe.

When the Company first made themselves masters of this coast, they had only the two former in their possession, and the latter was under the direction of the emperor's subjects ; now they all belong to the Dutch, and are, in fact, in their hands become the most powerful weapons they can use against the emperor ; as neither he nor his subjects can at present have the least particle of salt without the permission of the Company : for as soon as the most trifling suspicion arises, either of an insurrection, or of disgust on the part of the emperor or the natives, immediately all sale or delivery of this  
 necessary

necessary article of life is prohibited; and a very accurate account is taken every year, of the quantity which must necessarily be consumed in the interior part of the island. In proportion to the result of this calculation, orders are issued for the salt to be delivered out, in order to prevent the emperor, or any body else, from laying up a store of it against the following year, or longer. As it is impossible either to make use of, or to sell all the salt that is produced in these salt-pans, as they are called, what remains, after a determinate portion is sent to the mountains, and to the Company's servants and own subjects, likewise after the magazine is filled, and the ships that come to buy it up, have got their lading, all the remainder is mixed with sand, and thrown back into the sea.

The Company has several salt-works of this kind, particularly at Tutocoryn and Java, at which places there is likewise

wife an amazing quantity of this article, and that much superior in quality to the produce of Ceylon : and in order to raise the price from three rixdollars the *last*, weighing 4500lb. to fifty rixdollars the *last*, of 3000lb. they have prohibited the boiling, or otherwise making of any salt in any way whatever, in all the coasts and places whither their dominions extend, e. g. in Sumatra, Malacca, Amboyna, Banda, &c. With a view to enforce this prohibition, certain *riders* are kept to visit the coasts in every part of their dominions without intermission, with orders to prevent the making of any salt there; and, if they find any works of that kind, to destroy them, and take up the offenders, that they may undergo the punishment ordained by the laws in this case, which is transportation to some very distant coast.

Not content with having erected forts all round the coast, the Company has likewise many fences and out-posts in  
the



the interior part of the island, which, since the conclusion of the last peace, are much increased, as the limits of their possessions were then greatly extended. Such are, Alauw, the key to the three principalities; the two, three, and seven Corles, and ten more strong places, which close up the way into the country, making a circle of about eighty miles. The fences and out-posts along the coast form a circuit of more than a hundred and sixty miles.

The cinnamon-woods are thirty in number; all these are the absolute and entire property of the Company; and besides these, there are many more woods in the middle of the country, which the emperor orders to be barked, and is obliged to deliver the cinnamon of them to the Company.

The *cinnamon-tree*, called by the Cingalese *curindogas*; and which produces the cinnamon, (in the Cingalese language *curindo potto*), for which this island is so famous,

famous, is frequently of a great size : some trees are, however, middling. The leaves bear a great resemblance to a limon or laurel-leaf, in thickness and colour ; these latter, however, have but one rib, but the leaves of the cinnamon-tree three. The leaves, when they first burst forth, are as red as scarlet, and smell, when rubbed between the fingers, more like cloves than cinnamon. This tree is very thick set with branches and leaves, and bears a white, sweet-scented, agreeable blossom, which is followed by a fruit of the size of an olive ; this is of a yellow colour, and is ripe in the month of June ; but neither in smell nor taste at all resembles the inner bark. However, the ripe fruit being boiled, yields a very fine oil, which, when cold, has the appearance of tallow, and is used in medicine, as well as to burn in lamps ; though none of the natives dare use it for this latter purpose but the emperor himself.

This tree grows wild in woods, like other trees, and is indeed in no higher estimation among the Cingalese. It has a double bast: the outer rind having not the least flavour, or other properties of cinnamon, is previously taken off with a knife; but the inner, which is the real genuine cinnamon, is with a crooked pointed knife first cut circularly, then longitudinally, and after being peeled off, is laid in the sun, by which means it becomes rolled up, and takes the form in which we have it in Europe.

When the tree is once deprived of its bark, it never grows again; but from the fruit that is fallen off, new trees shoot up in its stead, which in the space of six or eight years may be peeled again. The wood of this tree gives not the least smell when burned, being soft and white like our fire-wood. The inhabitants make use of it for their houses and furniture: from the root their physicians draw an excellent camphor-water, nay, they



they even understand the method of extracting the very best camphor from it ; but this must be done with the greatest privacy, as it is prohibited by the Company under the heaviest penalties, in order to prevent the camphor-trade in Borneo and Sumatra from being hurt by it.

There are three sorts of cinnamon.

1. The *fine*, which is peeled off from the young and middle-sized trees.

2. The *coarse*, which is taken from the large old trees.

3. The *wild*, which likewise grows in Sumatra, Borneo, the coast of Malabar, and other places, and costs but the fifth part of what the fine sort does. The Company in the mean while is in possession of all these places, and the finest sort grows no where but in Ceylon, though it must be owned, that much depends on the management of this drug; for I have more than once seen cinnamon in the possession of the English at Sumatra, that they have peeled off in

great quantities, and which, in point of colour, taste, and fineness, did not yield in the least to that of Ceylon. In the bay of Tappianoli, on the western coast, they have several *Cbialiaffes*, or cinnamon-peelers, whom they have enticed away from Ceylon, and persuaded them to enter into their service: these men bark the young trees there in such a manner, that there is no better cinnamon produced in the whole world. And in general, the English hurt the Dutch greatly by this method of procedure; for, though the wild cinnamon should not be quite so fine as their's, yet it may very well be used as a spice for the table, and is likewise just as good as the other for medical purposes.

The cinnamon is delivered out in Baharas, each of these weighing 744lb. the price of the wild being ten rix-dollars, and that of the fine, or genuine, fifty.

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The men, that have learned the art of barking the cinnamon, being brought up to it and nothing else, are commanded by their Malabaddes, and are called *Ghialiaffes*. The time for barking the tree commences in the months of June and July, and sometimes even in August: now as soon as they come out of their villages for this purpose, every district sends a detachment of Dutch soldiers, and another composed of the natives themselves, called *Lascaryns*, along with them, in order to guard the wood where they are to work; and this partly on account of the roving Cingalese mountaineers, which sometimes fall on the barked cinnamon, and make it their booty, but still more for the purpose of having an eye upon the *Chialiaffes* themselves, that they may not be able to conceal any of the cinnamon, and afterwards carry it off.

The bark that is peeled during the day, must be carried every evening to the Dutch guard belonging to their re-



spective districts; there cleansed, well dried, and made up into bundles, and afterwards taken in close cases to the factory, where they are weighed, and received by the Company as payment of the assessment or tax imposed on these people by government. A man must be a very good hand indeed, that can gather 30lb. of cinnamon in a day; whence it is easily calculated, how many persons it will take to gather 10 or 12,000,000lb. and that too of the best; for what is brought in, is looked over before it is weighed, and the refuse of it burned.

The best and finest cinnamon is brought from *Nigombo*. At the time for gathering this drug, the Company are obliged to draw out a *cordon* of seventy-two miles in circumference; and as there are a great many of these *corps de garde*, it follows, that the Company must pay a great many Europeans, as well as Cingalese. As soon as the cinnamon is weighed at the factory, it is divided  
into

into bales of 100 lb. each, packed up very close, and rolled up in a *Gongi*, or strong packing cloth woven for the purpose; instead of which they formerly used cows—or buffaloes—hides. The fine and whole cinnamon may be known from the coarse and broken, at first sight, and without opening the bale; the former bales being much smaller and more curiously packed, while the coarse is covered only with mats, though by no means in a slovenly or unhandsome manner.

These cinnamon-barkers are under the command of a captain, called a Malabadde, and are distributed into four different classes, Chialiaffes, Cœlis, Lascaryns, and Ihandarias; all these have their particular villages appointed for them, where they are to live; though there is yet another sort, called *Ranibhialiaffes*, or single barkers; these originate from the genuine Chialiaffes, but are dispersed all over the island. Under the captain are five vidans, or lieutenants,  
and



and under these again, sixteen grand officers, or ensigns, and thirty-four petty officers, called Durias. The business of these is, exclusively of their ordinary duty, to keep an exact register of the number of persons to be assessed (Tombes), as every chialias is bound to pay a poll-tax and other assessments to the company: the poll-tax (deccum) is levied upon them according to their respective strength of body and their age, rising from three stivers for eleven years of age, to a rixdollar for forty, and from this age falling gradually to one stiver. These imposts, as well as all the others, must be paid with cinnamon, or else with the value of that cinnamon in money.

All the Chialiaffes must be ready at all times to work at the governor's command, for on him it depends how much is to be barked and delivered in; and this again depends on the demand for it from Europe. When the cinnamon-tree is not in blossom, it is very easy to strip



it of its bark ; but in the flowering season, this latter adheres strongly to the tree, and is not easily taken off.

Not only all kind of commerce in this article, excepting the delivery of it to the Company, is prohibited on pain of death, but also all distillation or expression of its oil ; and in consequence of this prohibition, whenever any stills or other instruments for these purposes are found, not only the owners of them are strictly punished, but all their works entirely destroyed.

Exclusively of cinnamon, the Dutch have several lucrative articles of commerce in their own entire possession ; as,

1. Areek, 2. the pearl-fishery, 3. the elephants, 4. the fine manufactories for dying red, at Jaffanapatnam, and other kinds of manufactories. Besides all these, the net income arising to government from stamped paper ; from a tenth on the sale of all fixtures ; from certain duties farmed out ; from the monies paid for passes taken

out

out by every Moor and other merchant dwelling on the island, which is still more increased by the continual passing to and from Manaar, is considerable. The customs likewise produce a large revenue, as all the rice brought in by the Moors pays five per cent. and all other commodities imported by them, ten. All commodities brought into the island must be paid for with the produce of the country; and great care is taken, that no cash is carried out by the Moors, or other traders: on the other hand, the merchants, exclusively of areek, elephants, and other commodities of the country, which they contract for, must pay for every thing they want, with specie, a regulation which certainly is not a little in favour of the Company.

THE END,

















