

A  
V O Y A G E  
To the ISLANDS  
*Madera, Barbadoes, Nieves, S<sup>t</sup> Christophers,*  
AND  
J A M A I C A;  
WITH THE  
Natural History  
OF THE  
*Herbs and Trees, Four-footed Beasts, Fishes,*  
*Birds, Insects, Reptiles, &c.*  
Of the last of those ISLANDS.

To which is prefix'd, An  
INTRODUCTION,

Wherein is an Account of the  
*Inhabitants, Air, Waters, Diseases, Trade, &c.*

of that Place; with some Relations concerning the Neighbouring Continent, and Islands of *America*.

ILLUSTRATED WITH  
The FIGURES of the Things described,  
which have not been heretofore engraved.  
In large Copper-Plates as big as the Life.

By Sir HANS SLOANE, Bar<sup>t</sup>.

In Two Volumes. Vol. II.

*Many shall run to and fro, and Knowledge shall be increased. Dan. xii. 4.*

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To His Most Excellent Majesty  
The KING:

This Second VOLUME of the  
Natural History of Jamaica,  
*One of the Largest and most Considerable*  
OF  
His Majesty's PLANTATIONS  
IN  
AMERICA,

*Is with all Humility Dedicated,*

*As a Testimony of his Duty and Gratitude,*

*For the many great Blessings,*

*Which he with others enjoy,*

*Under His MAJESTY's Wise Government,*

*and Powerful Protection;*

*And for several particular Instances*

*Of His MAJESTY's Favours conferred on*

His Majesty's most obedient,

most dutiful,

and most faithful,

Subject and Servant,

*Hans Sloane.*



discolours variously the Sea-water in the day-time, and makes it, if dark, appear more or less shining, as it is more or less in quantity. *Lopes de Gomara Hist. Gener.* tells us, that about *Cubagua* the Sea is at some times Red by the Oysters *cap. 78.* Spawn or Purgation, and *Terry* takes notice of Sea-water white as Milk *Pag. 56.* not near Land. *Hatch* in his Voyage publish'd by *Purchas* speaks of Water *Pap. 618.* white as Whey, yet no Ground, and *Heynes* of White Water no Ground, in *Ib. p. 632.* 4°. South Lat. *Dountoun* tells us of Water muddy and thick, with spots of clear, *Ib. p. 310.* near *India*. And *Weymouth* of Water as black as Puddle, and clear again, *Ib. p. 810.* yet without bottom, at 120 Fathoms. And *Hall* Sailed in Black Puddle *and 811.* Water for three Hours. But to come nearer our matter in proving this *Ib. p. 815.* Conjecture. *Battell* in the Red-Sea falls in the Night on whitish Spots, *Ib. p. 1129.* raising and casting Flames like Lightning, he wondering at it, took in the Sails presently, believing they were on some Banks or Shoals, and commanded to cast the Lead, and found Twenty six Fathoms. Pilots of the Country not fearing went on again, *ib.* *Saris* met with Cuttle-Fish in *Apud Purchas, p. 352.* sailing from the Red-Sea to *India* in 8°. 12'; the Wind was at West-South-West, *Sep. 22.* at midnight very dark, saw shining Water, strange and fearful, so as to discern a Letter in the Book thereby, he sailed in it half an Hour, not without fear of Rocks, but he tells us it was from Cuttle-Fish; and *Cauche, p. 20.* tells us that the Worms that eat the Vessels, shine in the Night.

When we were about Forty Leagues off the Land, we had a Lark which had come, or been driven too far from Land by a Storm, perch'd on the Ships Rigging; it was so tir'd that it suffer'd any Body to come within Arms length of it before it would stir, and would have permitted us to have caught it rather than have gone into the Sea, had it not espied the other Ships, to some of which it went for resting itself when 'twas scar'd from ours. 'Tis very ordinary for Land-Birds thus to be driven off to Sea, and to light on Ships, being lean and wearied on the Wing; so *Martens, cap. 2.* tells us that Blackbirds, Starlings, and all small Birds lose their way in a Storm, and cannot recover it but either drop and are drowned, or sit on Ships: and that a Crow he saw (at *Spitzberg*) by mistake had thus come astray.

A Lark driven forty Leagues to Sea.

On Tuesday 11. When we were in about Forty six Degrees of Northern Latitude I first saw what the Seamen call a Caravel or Portuguese Man of War, which seems to be a Zoophytum, or of a middle Nature between a Plant and an Animal; it is of that kind of the soft Fishes called *Urtica* from their Stinging quality, and to me seems different from any describ'd by any natural Historian. I shall call it *Urtica Marina, soluta, purpurea, oblonga, cirrhis longissimis.*

A Caravel described.

It is taken notice of by *Stevens apud Hakluyt, p. 99.* where it is called a Ship of Guinea, and by *de Lery, p. 399.* under the name of *Immondicites Rouges.* *Martens* calls it the other sort of Sea-Nettle in the Spanish Seas that weighs several Pounds, of a Blue, Purple, Yellowish, and White colour, that burn more violently than those of the North-Sea, they do suck themselves so close to the Skin that they did raise Blisters, and cause sometimes *St. Antony's Fire.* He says further that one sort of this is called Sea-Spider, and is the Food of Whales, which may, by the way, explain a Passage of *Peyrere* in his Anonymous Book, called *Relation de Groenland,* where the Author tells us, that Whales feed on *Aranees du Mer.* *Ligon* calls it *Carvile,* and observ'd it *Pag. 6.* Five hundred Leagues from Land, and they are named *Grandes Urtica* by *de Laet,* who takes notice of them in *Brasil.*

Lib. 15. c. 11.

This floated on the Surface of the Water, and consisted of two parts, the one was an oblong Cylindrical Bladder not so big as a Turkey-Egg, it was as it were blown up, and full of Wind, almost like the Swim of a Fish, widest

p. 573.



at bottom, and grew straiter or narrower to its top, where round about was a corrugated or curled Ledge or Band, something like a Cocks-Comb, Convex on one side, and Concave on the other, which Seamen said was for its more convenient sailing; all this part of it was of a purple and bluish colour and Pellucid: the other part was a great number of blackish and Red Fibres, Strings or *Cirrh*i; they were long and White, here and there Purple, having several Knots like Nits on it; taking their Original from the bottom of this Bladder, which if stretched were several Feet long, but if curled up were very short, stinging much worse than Nettles, whence it is by some reckoned Poisonous. They are very often to be met with at Sea, and Seamen do affirm that they have great skill in sailing, managing their Bladder or Sail with judgment, as may be most for their purpose, according to their different Winds and Courses; allowing them more Reason, than I, at present, am willing to do of Life, there appearing to me no other parts than the Bladder and *Cirrh*i abovementioned.

On *Tuesday* the 18. at Night we lay by, because we were afraid of running upon the Island of *Madera*, or Rocks about it in the Night when dark, being in its Latitude, or very near it by observation, and by the Dead-Reckonings, Corrected by Observations, it appearing that we should be so far West as those Islands are placed. But after sailing several Leagues, next Morning we could not make any Land, and several of our Seamen being of Opinion that we were to the Westward of it; it was ev'n almost resolv'd that we should hold on for *Barbadoes* the nearest way, seeing with this Wind we could not easily get back thither, and that it might retard us considerably the going to *Palma*, or any of the *Canaries*; although Fresh Water, Provisions, and Wine were a great inducement to our going to one of them. One of the Captains who had made many Voyages to the *Canaries*, being call'd, and coming on Board with the others, (who according to their Instructions and Signals, were to come to consult for the Publick welfare) told the others, that having made this Island usually in his Voyage to the *Canaries*, he knew that as yet we were not come so far West, but if the Wind held we might be there to Morrow; and that the Reason to him seem'd this, that either the Island ought to be placed a Degree more West; or that we, as every Body else, sailing through this Sea at this time of the year had met with Westerly Winds, which bringing great Seas, and making a Current which always goes with Wind; \* and there being in the Ocean, we had sail'd through a great Current of Water to the Eastward, he thought we had had more Lee Way than we had allowed for, and been more Easterly carried than we computed, and therefore advis'd that we should persist till Night, then lie by for fear of the worst; which on his positive affirmation we did, and on *Thursday* the 20th. about Twelve at Noon we made the Desarts, which are three small Islands or great Rocks, lying on the East side of the Island of *Madera* about Three Leagues from the Land. Being about Ten Leagues from it, we came in sight of *Porto Santo*, an Island belonging to the *Portuguese*, Three Leagues long, and one and a half broad, in 33°. North Lat. Twelve Leagues to the North-East of *Madera*. It had Five hundred Inhabitants, and yet was taken by *Preston* with Sixty Men, as *Davies* tells us, *Purchas*, 579. It was first Discovered according to *Jo. de Barros*, by *Giovan Consalvo Larco*, and *Tristan Vaz*, who were sent out to discover *Guinea* beyond *Cape Bajador*, and were carried against their intention by a Tempest to *Porto Santo*, which they call'd so for their being saved thereby from Shipwreck. They return'd to *Portugal*, and gave an account of it, and went thither again with Three Barks, one *Bartolomeo Perestrello* (whose Widow *Christopher Columbus* married) joyning with them: they carry'd Fruits and

\* *Purchas*  
p. 10. *Tow-*  
*erson Voy. 1.*  
*to Guinea*  
*ap. Hacluyt,*  
*pag. 32.*

*Decad. 2. c. 2.*



*Fig. 5. Urtica marina foliata, pteroptera, oblonga, cirrhii  
longissimis, p. 7. A. Carvell.*

