

A

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T O

## CHINA AND THE EAST INDIES,

By P E T E R O S B E C K,

R E C T O R of H A S L O E F and W O X T O R P,

M e m b e r of the A C A D E M Y of S T O C K H O L M , and of the

S O C I E T Y of U P S A L .

## Together with A VOYAGE TO SURATTE;

By O L O F T O R E E N ,

C h a p l a i n of the G O T H I C L I O N E A S T I N D I A M A N .

A N D

## A N Account of the C H I N E S E H U S B A N D R Y ,

By Captain C H A R L E S G U S T A V U S E C K E B E R G .

T r a n s l a t e d from the G E R M A N ,

B y J O H N R E I N H O L D F O R S T E R , F . A . S .

To which are added,

A FAUNULA and FLORA SINENSIS.

V O L . II.

L O N D O N ,

P r i n t e d for B E N J A M I N W H I T E ,  
at Horace's Head, in Fleet-street.

M D C C L X X I .

A  
V O Y A G E  
T O  
S U R A T T E, C H I N A, &c.  
From the 1st of *April*, 1750, to the  
26th of *June*, 1752.

By O L O F T O R E E N,  
C H A P L A I N to a S h i p in the S W E D I S H E A S T I N D I A  
C o m p a n y's S e r v i c e.

I N  
A Series of L E T T E R S  
T O  
D O C T O R L I N N Å U S.



THE author of the following letters, a person of quick parts, took a resolution to leave Gothenburgh in the quality of chaplain to an *East Indiaman*. In order to qualify himself to make proper observations as a naturalist, whilst on this distant voyage, he went to *Upsal*, that he might profit by the instructions of the celebrated *Linnæus*. On his voyage he collected many scarce plants, which he presented to his instructor in natural history; who named the *Torenia Asiatica* after its discoverer. After his return, he published in a series of letters (from November the 20th, 1752, to May the 3d, 1753) this account of his voyage; but died near *Nasinge* in *Sweden*, on the 17th of *August*, 1753.



## TOREEN'S VOYAGE

TO

SURATTE, CHINA, &amp;c.

LETTER I.

SIR,

YOU will be so kind as to excuse my not complying sooner with your desire of seeing some account of my *East India* voyage. The causes of my delay have been owing to a necessary attendance on my own affairs and those of my family, and the bad state of my health. If what occurs to my memory can serve to amuse you in some of your leisure hours, I shall have more than sufficient reason to think my pains well bestowed.

THE

THE 1<sup>st</sup> of *April* we set sail on-board the ship called *The Gothic Lion*, after the west wind had continued to blow for five months together at *Gothenburgh*, and had almost induced us to believe that there is a trade-wind in the *Scaggerac Sea*. The wind made *April* fools of us<sup>a</sup>; for we were forced to return before *Skagen*, and to anchor at *Rifwefjol*.

THE 8<sup>th</sup> of *April* we had better success. A fairer wind than the former helped us out of this corner, and we continued our voyage in company with many other ships. We met with nothing extraordinary, except a *Danish* ship called *The Hereditary Prince*, which was bound for *China*, and had left *Copenhagen* the 4<sup>th</sup> of *December*, 1749; she had therefore a very perverse wind from the time of her departure.

THE high waves of the *German Ocean*, and the *Flemish Coasts*, hindered us from reaching *Dunkirk* before the 19<sup>th</sup> of *April*. I did not go on shore, for but few had that liberty al-

<sup>a</sup> It hence appears that the same practical wit of duping people on the first of *April* obtains in *Sweden*, as among our wags in *England*.

lowed them. But the situation of the place naturally brought to my mind the reasons why *England* would not permit it to continue fortified.

THE town is situated on an open harbour: the entrance is difficult; and the pilot asked six hundred *French* livres for his trouble. But besides that the privateers in time of war can do a great deal of harm from hence, it is very conveniently situated for the *English* smugglers, who run the *French liqueurs*, &c. over to *England*, where there is a high duty laid upon them. Not to mention that the *Austrian Netherlands* can be provided from this place, as a free port, in great plenty, to the disadvantage of a neighbouring nation.

FROM hence we sailed, the 22d of *April*, with so good a wind that we were able to anchor on the south side of *Madeira*, at *Funchal*, the 4th of *May*. The ship happened to be so stationed that the country exhibited the finest prospect I ever saw.

It rises like an amphitheatre: below is adorned with fine fields, gardens, and vineyards, to which nature has given an advantageous

tageous situation, both in regard to the rising and setting sun: at the top are steep hills covered with trees. Here and there are some country-seats, which make the prospect still more delightful: but below, as in a center, is the city of *Funchal*:

IF you go on shore, you have a battery at the water's edge on the right, and a castle on the left. Whoever lands here must carefully decline meddling with the tobacco-trade, in the same manner as in *Portugal*; a single roll of tobacco is enough to bring both men and ship into danger. The best thing is, that the custom-house officers are satisfied with any excuse almost, if it is but plausible. The town has a rampart, within it a castle, and besides this a commanding fortress on a rising ground: but all these are without a *terre-plein*, have only high banqueting-houses and very short flanks, as is usual when they are to be perpendicular to the curtains.

THE houses are pretty good, and three stories high, but the lowest are generally uninhabited. I saw no windows in private houses, but instead of them, iron grates.

THE many processions hindered me from looking about as much as I could have wished. I once saw the *Franciscan* monastery. It is not a regular building, but convenient, and shews that it has large revenues. The good fathers had retired from the world like the mouse into the cheese. I did not see one that had the least employment. It is easy to imagine that so fine a country in the hands of the *Portuguese* must have nunneries and colleges of jesuits.

My landlord, Mr. *Timothy Dowling*, assured me that he would willingly serve the *Swedish Academy of Sciences* in what he could procure from *Madeira* or *Brazil*; and it might be worth while to put him in mind of his promise, since he himself is curious. He had found some petrefactions, and a plant which he would have to be the *Laurus* which crowned the heads of the ancient *Romans*<sup>b</sup>. The particular plants which I saw on my short walks were :

A *Cactus*, on a steep hill. When this begins to ripen, I think it might be useful to ob-

<sup>b</sup> This is the *Alexandrian Laurel*.

serve with a good microscope whether the *pollen* goes down the whole *stylus* or not.

*Musa Paradisiaca*, which our Swedish sailors, together with the *Malacca* people, and the Dutch, call *Pisang*, the English *Plantain-tree*, and the Portuguese *Bananas*, bore larger fruit here than I have seen any where else; but a very lively imagination is required to see the figure of a cross in a plantain-tree.

*Passiflora* grew without the inclosures.

SOME *Chestnut-trees* were preserved on account of their great age and fine shade.

THE grapes of this island (which is scarce above ten Swedish miles round) yield, as I was told, between 30,000 and 50,000 pipes of wine.

IT would not be accurate to judge of any two nations by two of their cities alone; but since I have been at *Cadiz* and at *Funchal*, the difference to me seemed greater than could have been supposed, considering their religion, climate, neighbourhood, and language. A

<sup>c</sup> See note, vol. I. p. 2.

Sennor at *Cadiz* is tawny: if he is not a monk, he wears a coat reaching to the feet, a linen cap, and a hat upon it; every thing is solemn: but in *Funchal* they had fine complexions, full faces, and did not affect so much gravity. Their dress was *French*, except the long black coats and furtouts.

THE *Portuguese* ladies are scarce ever in the streets; but as far as could be discerned when they opened their windows in order to see and to be seen, they displayed a fine fair complexion and lively eyes. I think I saw five at *Cadiz*, and these were thin and tawny. I observed that the Virgin *Mary* had correspondent airs, complexions, and shape in her pictures; and I judged from thence, that this was the taste of the nation with regard to beauty.

AFTER we had provided ourselves with wet and dry provisions, we set sail, the 11th of *May*, and made the best use of the uniform weather and wind that subsist between *Africa* and *America*, which forward the voyage to the *East Indies* with more expedition than that to *Hudson's Bay* and the *North Cape*; because the wind in those latitudes is more changeable.

South of *Brasil* we were forced to turn east. We had here, for some days together, a sea which would have frightened any one who was not used to it. I should not exaggerate more than some poets, if I say, that in one moment we were afraid of pulling down the Magellan clouds from the skies with our top-sails, and in another of crushing Neptune and the Tritons with the keel of our ship. It will easily be conceived by those who have been at sea, or know how the sailors measure the wind, with what force it blew, when I say that we ran eight knots with a reefed fore and main-sail, though the ship was deeply laden, and none of the best sailors.

CAPE *Pigeons* are a species of birds which are frequently seen in great numbers in these latitudes. Perhaps they get their name from flying in a circle, and the resemblance they bear to pigeons in regard to the size and wings. I could not examine them near enough, but took them to be *Procellaria Capensis*. Their colour is like damask, white and black; for which reason the *English* call them *Pintado-birds*, from the *Spanish*. When the wind was high, we sometimes saw the less dark-brown *Storm-finches*, which is called *Malefit* by the *Portuguese*,

tugueze, and Petrel or Foul-weather-bird in English; it seemed larger than that which I saw in 1748 in the German Ocean (*Procellaria æquinoctialis*).

BELOW the *Cape of Good Hope* the waves frequently dashed over our deck, as is common in these parts. Once they threw somewhat shining in the dark upon the deck; I ran to it, and caught up this seeming curiosity; but upon a closer examination, found it was only a little crab.

## LETTER II.

BETWEEN *Africa* and *Madagascar* we found an *animalcule* in the water, which, whilst living in that element, resembled a worm; but when it was taken out and laid on a plate with water, all its articulations came asunder, and each moved by itself. We likewise caught a *By-the-wind-sailor* <sup>d</sup> (*Holothuria physalis*). Besides this, we likewise took an unusual sea animal of a slimy substance, which is difficult to describe, of which Mr. *Braad* has probably sent you a drawing.

WE had already seen *Madagascar*, *Maffota*, *Mobilla*, and the high *Comaro*, not without a longing desire of getting on shore; when we arrived in the *North-bay of St. Joanna*, on the 16th of *August*.

THIS country seems to be one of the most agreeable on the whole earth: and not only myself, but likewise far more experienced

<sup>d</sup> This is the name which the *Swedes* give to this kind of *Holothuria*. F.

travellers are of this opinion. The island is hilly and uneven; but this inequality only adds to its beauty, since both the little hills and steep mountains are covered with verdure. Cocoa-nuts, plaintain-trees, pine-apples, pomegranates, papayas, and other fruits, are in great plenty here. Oxen with humps on the fore-part of their backs, goats with pendent ears, common and *Guinea* hens, are sold at very reasonable prices.

THE inhabitants are *Mahometans*, and are descended from the *African Arabians*; but they are very civil, and more honest than any one could expect. As some of our people could speak *English*, they received us with their usual compliment: “*Englishmen, come; all of one brother, come.*” They are very different in colour. The chief officer in the village where we landed was almost quite black, but his nephew was only somewhat tawny: and the same difference is to be met with among the rest. Their hair curls (as the negroes) like wool, and will hardly become straight by cutting. They were but poorly dressed: a turban was very rare among them; and a great many could hardly afford to cover what ought to be covered.

WE here caught an animal (*Lemur catta* Linn. or *Macaco* of *Edwards*) whose colour was reddish, but its *back* of a greyish-brown: about the *ears* it looked like a fox: the *tail* was grey, with black rings, about one third part longer than the body, and is set an end by the animal like that of a squirrel; but has shorter hair: the *snout* was pointed. (The reason why I give this description, though so incomplete, is, because I fear that some might mistake it for a species of ape, to which the feet would lead one: for it has five flat round nails, but the thumb on the hind-feet is very large, and the first finger had a tapering nail<sup>e</sup>). The *teeth* were, as far as I could see, not like those of monkies; for I observed no canine ones: and when there was more than one serrated primary tooth in the upper-jaw, there were at least five little ones. Thus far I proceeded in my observations when it bit me. I was not present when it died and was thrown over-board. In curiosity and restlessness it was like a monkey; but it was more shy, not so

<sup>e</sup> I think it hath not been observed that the second toe of the hind-foot of *Lemur catta* has a bird's claw. This is perhaps a new species, *Linn.*

docile,

docile, nor so unseasonably officious. It lives in *Madagascar* and *Mauritius*. I might have had opportunity on this voyage of examining several more exactly; but they cannot be procured without paying for them.

THE most nauseous and troublesome animals are the lizards, which are, without any exaggeration, innumerable, and much more frequent than in *Madeira*: in one cocoa-tree of twenty yards high you may see at least sixty of them. In some places I could not advance a step without stirring whole troops of them, which sculked under the fallen leaves.

THE boats in this country are commonly single trees made hollow, and round at the bottom; and they have two out-riggers, which, by means of a board pointed at both ends fastened to them, prevent them from oversetting.

THE 20th of *August*, being provided with meat and water, we continued our voyage without hindrance; except that we were under arms on account of some *Portuguese* vessels.

THE 16th of September we anchored in the harbour of Suratte, about a *Swedish* mile from the shore, because the sands prevented our nearer approach. It was some time before the trade in *Swedish* cottons could be settled with the people of the country. But this was more the fault of the Christians than of the *Mahometans*. Perhaps the owners of the *Swedish* iron, which was already laid up in our neighbours storehouses, could not relish that which was just arrived, because it was carried on a *Swedish* keel. The old accusation of our being pirates, was too stale to make any impression on the nabob. The *Arabians* had applied this opprobrious appellation to the *Portuguese*, these made use of it against the *Dutch*, who it is said employed it against the *English*. After several efforts, the gentlemen and *Myne heeren*<sup>f</sup> at last respected his Majesty's pass, at least they left us quite at liberty.

THE sea runs commonly very high both in ebbing and flowing at this place, and is full of

<sup>f</sup> Mr. Toreen seems to mean the factors of the *English* and *Dutch East India* companies here; *Myne heeren* signifies Gentlemen in *Dutch*. F.

sea-worms, which not only keep above water, but likewise eat the wood of the anchor at the bottom of the sea ; and if their piercers were also strong enough to penetrate the paper, pitch, and hair, which compose the sheathing on the outside of the ships, they would soon sink them.

THE nearest land is every where very flat, and consists of alternate plains and woods. On the fields millet was commonly sown about this time. The cocoa-trees are almost sacred here ; their juice is drawn off by tapping, and therefore they bear no fruit.

*Banian-tree (Ficus Indica)* is that peculiar tree which shoots new roots from its branches which bend down to the earth. It seems to have obtained this name, because these idolaters look upon it as sacred. Perhaps, without this providential care, this sort of trees might be entirely destroyed. I observed very attentively, but could not find the least remains of fruit, flowers, or roots. It seems to grow but slowly ; and I think the high broad tree which serves as a sea mark on the harbour is very old. It would have been extremely hazardous at the time that we were here to have undertaken

taken botanical excursions ; for the attacks of the *Marattoes* and other nations were to be feared even before the gates of *Suratte*. What I was able to snatch up there in other places, (as the dog does the water of the Nile) is undoubtedly by this time in your hands.

T H E magnificent tombs in the country built with domes (which manner of architecture the *Mahometans* greatly affect) did not seem so extraordinary, when one recollects that pride subsists even beyond this life. Some exceeding deep wells, which were dug at a great expence, and with a great deal of labour, and had very good walls about them, deserved much more to bear the name of those who had thus supplied the inhabitants with so necessary an element. The water was drawn out of them by a rope and wheel, worked by means of two oxen; being then poured into leather bags, it is brought to town on buffaloes and sold there.

T H E soil is none of the best. The earth proper for vegetation composes but a thin stratum: below is very good potters clay, which is of good use to the inhabitants, who, like

like other *Asiatick* nations, make much use of earthen ware.

AFTER rowing or sailing from the anchoring-place, about three *Swedish* miles, you come on the river *Tapti* or *Tapta* to the city of *Suratte*. The thing that first strikes the eye is a considerable building, called the castle. It has formerly had four bastions, one of which is tumbled down; and the bad wall which has been built instead of it seems ready to follow its fate. It has a good number of cannons on several terraces; but their muzzles are dropping, and they are so ill ranged that often an eighteen pounder stands close by a six pounder.

THE castle is the centre of a low wall, which makes almost a semicircle, and has angular bastions, and a dry ditch, which includes the city. These are again surrounded by the suburbs, which have the same kind of fortification, and are said to contain above a hundred thousand inhabitants.

THE search at the gate for the first time seemed somewhat rigorous to us, because the custom-house officer would know how much

money we had in our pockets: for I was told there is a tax *per cent.* on the import of money. We escaped this tax; however, I could not sufficiently wonder at such odd politics.

LETTER

## L E T T E R III.

THE streets of *Suratte* are irregular, and many fine buildings have been destroyed by fire, which, according to the *Mahometan* doctrine of predestination, it is in vain to withstand. Street-pavements are unusual here; and though the owners and tenants of houses every day sprinkle the street before their doors, yet the dust is frequently troublesome. But should the streets be paved it would be in vain, for the rain which sometimes continues for half a year together would tear every thing up, and wash the whole work away. The houses are tolerably well built of bricks, mixed with wooden beams, but without braces: in the inside they are plastered with a fine white cement, which renders them as smooth as if they had been rubbed with pumice-stone. I was told that the cement was made of pounded egg-shells, and the dregs of sugar. Captain *Shierman* related, that he and the other captives had been forced to pound lime mixed with sugar dregs for the pirate *Angria*, which was probably for this use. In the lower stories

ries are no windows, and but few in the upper. In my opinion this is done merely through jealousy, and not out of any well-grounded fear of thieves; for he who steals five bottles full of rosewater is punished by the loss of both his hands, which punishment must probably deter from the commission of this crime.

I HAD little opportunity of seeing the dispositions of their houses, further than in the *Swedish* factory. This house was exactly quadrangular, and had some beds with flowers instead of a yard, in which a fine *Althaea frutex* (*Hibiscus Surattensis*) was in blossom towards the end of January. Round about it were stone walks of two steps high, and on the four sides as many halls, open towards the yard, with niches on the other three walls reaching from the roof within three feet of the floor. In the corners are bed chambers, or the kitchen. Those who live in the lowest story, have air-holes in the walls for their refreshment in the great heat. At the top is a terrace paved with stones, from which you have a fine prospect. Cisterns and artificial fountains are considered as the greatest luxury, partly on account of their refreshing coolness, and partly on account of the necessity of their ablutions.

The

The stair-cases are narrow and the steps high; as for the rest, the foundation is extremely expensive. We had in our quarters two wells twenty-four feet deep, neither of which afforded water that was drinkable. Under the *Swédiſh* latti or warehouse was a tank<sup>g</sup>, that was arched over.

THEIR architecture is neither borrowed from the *Greeks* nor *Italians*; yet there is taste and an agreeable proportion in their columns. Some ornaments on the capital and pedestal do not seem to be in the right places; but they have such confidence in their architecture, that they would make one believe that an whole building is supported by leaves or feathers. The *Indian* architects have proved by the tomb of baron *Rheëde von Drakenstein*<sup>h</sup>, that a building may look majestic without being either of the Corinthian or Tuscan order. Englishmen have such funerals here as a prince would not be ashamed of.

THE inhabitants are for the most part of three castes, of which the *Malabar*ian heathens are the first, which are called *Gentives*, *Gen-*

<sup>g</sup> A reservoir of water.

<sup>h</sup> This is the author of the celebrated book, *Hortus Indicus Malabaricus*. 12 vol. in folio.

*toos*, or *Gentiles*. These are the most ancient inhabitants of the country, and divide themselves, as is well known, into certain principal families, each of which has its peculiar trade. The *Bramins* and *Banians* religiously observe the law not to kill any thing which has life and sensation. I have seen them make the most moving petitions, in favour of loathsome vermin. The soldiers are not so tender, even towards their fellow creatures.

THOUGH the *Gentoos* eat nothing but milk, butter, and vegetables, yet they are rather fat. I have seen *Bramins* and *Banians* with very prominent bellies. Their persons are of a middle size, upright, and of an easy carriage; they have regular features, and an agreeable air, but are tawny.

THEIR women are generally very little, thick-set, and brown; I was told they marry early, but soon grow old. Their dress is somewhat singular: besides that their ears are quite full of rings, they have a ring with a ruby or garnet and two pearls in their left nostrils: a great number of rings are worn on the arms, both above and below the elbow; they have great silver setters above the feet; and almost

on every toe a ring of the same metal. Their half-jacket covers no more than the breast; to conceal the lower parts, they tie a piece of stuff (generally red-striped) about their middle, turn the two ends through between their legs, and fasten them before. On the head they have a cloth of the same stuff, which goes over the left and under the right arm, and is fastened to the girdle. All the rest is naked. They go so upright, that even a dancing master could not give them a better air. Perhaps this erect carriage is occasioned by their carrying water every day from the river, on their heads. A *Gentoo* woman can carry three pots one above another, without holding them with her hands, go backwards and forwards with them, turn about, stand and hold conversation, &c. Whether the ladies of quality and the rich are obliged to fetch their own water, I am not certain; however I have seen some coming with their pots, for the value of whose rings many a good farm might have been bought in our country. Their virtue is suspected by many, because all the dancing women of the *Mogul* empire are taken out of this nation.

I COULD not see their pagoda and religious ceremonies, but I observed their morning prayer

in the river. They were obliged to wash themselves before this ceremony, clean their mouths, and with their faces towards the sun say a prayer. They use rosaries for this purpose, as is usual in all countries where it is laid down for a principle of religion, that the repetition of a certain number of prayers will atone for any offence. The *Gentoos* say their prayers on their fingers, beginning at the most extreme joint of the little finger, and counting on downwards; when they have gone over all the fingers in this manner, they lay both their hands flat together, bow before the sun, and then get up and are painted by a *Bramin*.

THE *Bramins* themselves have some cross strokes of ashes over the forehead, with which they sometimes paint their whole body. The *Banians* have generally a red spot just above the nose, about the size of a silver two-pence, from which two yellow strokes run down; and on each flap of the ear is a yellow spot.

WHEN they carry their dead, they run in full career, and cry *Beyram Rānibolu*, which, as I have been told, signifies, *My brethren; call upon Rāma*. The corpses are burnt by the river side without the city, but the widow is not obliged

obliged to follow her husband into the fire. If we consider the great number of corpses that are burnt, it must necessarily follow that many thousand of *Gentoos* live in *Suratte*. They have likewise *Santons*, or living saints, who distinguish themselves from the multitude, and endeavour to make themselves pleasing to *Ram* and his brothers, by their ridiculous behaviour. Those fellows which *Bernier* has described and painted in all sorts of constrained postures, I have not seen; but you frequently meet with some who walk about more than half naked, and twist their long hair about their head in form of a turban, which must be very troublesome in this country. I once saw a novice of this order, begging in a very singular way. He placed himself before a shop, where he did nothing but stamp against the ground, and after he had very patiently lifted up and set down one foot after another, he quietly devoured the victuals he had received. It is peculiar that the hair of these fellows grows pale and turns straw-coloured; but I believe that they make it so by art; for those *Mahometan Santons* who do not cut their hair, preserve their black complexions, and have besides the advantage that they look like devils of the first order, for their hair stands an end like

a juniper bush on their heads. It is said the *Bramins* have many curious secrets; especially it is here looked upon as almost certain, that the renowned *Pedra de Cobra* is a composition known alone to them: and it may be that the *Pedra de Goa* or *Gasper Antonio*, and *Pedra de Porco* or swine, must come from the same hands. If their ceremonies are not sufficient to maintain a whole cast or tribe, they seek their livelihood another way. For this reason *Bramins* sometimes enter into the service of rich *Banians*: yet they keep their privilege; for the master is not allowed to touch the rice which his servant is to eat, because the latter would become impure by it.

LETTER

## L E T T E R IV.

THE Parthians or *Persees* (who are descended from the ancient *Perians*) are the second nation which lives here. They have been driven out of *Persia* long since, according to *Hamilton's* new account of *East India*. They adore the fire, the sun, the moon, and the stars. A *Persee* cannot be persuaded to put out a candle any other way than by blowing. I observed once a little boy, who sate a great while mumbling I know not what over a burning candle-snuff, which was purposely thrown on the ground : he snapt his fingers, and continued this till the last spark was extinguished. They ought not to be called *Gafres*, because *Gaur*, *Gause*, *Guebre*, or *Cafre*, signifies an heretic, unbeliever, or heathen. They have the whitest skins of any among the natives ; are lively, indefatigable, and are generally employed in the meanest offices by the *Europeans*, induced perhaps to undertake them through necessity ; for they are more oppressed than the *Gentoos*, get into no places of trust, and have not the resources which avail

the *Banians*, namely, a thorough experience in a thousand sorts of little arts. Their women have been found to be less corrupted than most others in *India*.

IN the state they are in, one would little expect divisions among them in religious matters. Nevertheless there was one of them who had read more than the others, and had found out that they did not celebrate the new year at the due time. He got a number of followers, but met with a great deal of vexation from the opposite party. And this is nothing uncommon; for formerly the disciples of *Thomas Aquinas* and of *Duns Scotus* could hardly every part without cuffing and boxing. There was a time when a *Jew* was preferred to an *Armenian*; and a *Siamese* to a *Jansenist*: some reverend fathers will overlook many failings in a *Chinese*, and yet will excommunicate any one who differs from them in opinion, with regard to the conception of the *Virgin Mary*.

THE third cast of people who frequent *Suratte* are the *Mahometans*, or rather, as the sailors call them, *Moors*, which may be contracted from *Mogors*, or *Persians*. Their colour is a medium between the other two.

Their

Their religion is the reigning one, especially that sect which honors *Omar*. But *Ali* cannot be without a great many followers here; for at a procession which was undertaken the 26th of *November*, in honour of the two last *Persian Imams*, I think I saw at least two thousand men. At this ceremony a great many faquires or begging friars were present, dressed in white jackets, to which were sewed several rags of different colors, and a cap resembling a sugar loaf. The *Dervises* generally officiated in the mosques and on other occasions. I observed a certain *Dervise* who was exceedingly well acquainted with the ceremonial part, and who was ordered to undertake a pilgrimage to the graves of the deceased *Imams*. He sauntered all the way along, and had besides his disciples several others about him, who beat a sort of drum, and sung *Ia allah*, &c. along with it. I saw a *Santon* who seemed to deserve a good thrashing for his sanctity. He did penance by going about the streets stark naked. He was by no means shunned; but on the contrary had always a reverend *Mahometan* with him, who received the alms and kept them for him.

BESIDES the aforementioned clothes of the *Bramins* and *Gentoo* women, they are almost all of them dressed in white cotton about the body. The parts of their dress are a pair of slippers which are pulled off at the door; a pair of trowsers; a short shirt which is open before, and above the breeches; and over this a coat reaching to the feet, which fits close to the body, and has folds below like a petticoat; it has long sleeves, which fold over the hands. The *Mohammedans* and *Heathens* observe this difference, that the former tie the fore part of their coat below the right, and the latter below the left arm. They tie a girdle about their waists of the same stuff of which the coat is made, or sometimes of richer; and in it they have a precious knife, or, according to the difference of customs, a dagger. The *Persees* have a string below the girdle, which seems to be a part of their religion; for at *Dombes* (a village near *Suratte*) I saw a *Persee*, who, before he saluted his guests, measured his forehead with this string, and made a bow to the moon.

THE turban is of all colours; the green here denotes nothing extraordinary in the rank of  
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the rank of the wearer. A turban of Suratte is easily distinguished from the *Persian* and *Arabian*, for though it requires above thirty yards of cloth, it fits very neatly on the head, except a great bolster which comes just over the right eye.

THE dress of the women who are seen in the streets differs from the dress of the men in regard to the coats, which are open before, and cannot be thrown back to the other side; and their breeches reach down to the very feet. They only throw a loose cloth over the head and shoulders. Poor people of both sexes wear both shorter and scantier clothes.

BOTH sexes salute in the same manner, namely, they lay the hand on the forehead or on the head. Some say *Salam* or *Sala Maleck* with it. If they intend to express submission, they first lay their hand on the ground or floor, and then on the left breast, and at last on the head. On the aforementioned festival in honor of the *Persian* martyrs, I saw another method of saluting their friends; they first put our heads on their left shoulder, then on the right, and then again on the left;

left; then we placed their hands between ours, and put them at last to our foreheads.

THE *Gentoos* make use of the *Malabaric* language; the *Moors* speak a dialect of the *Arabick*, which the *Persees* must learn; for which reason there are but few who know the language of their ancestors. As for other people, some broken *Portuguese* is sufficient in all the trading towns of the southern *Asia*. They eat sitting on a mat, spread on the floor; and lay the table-cloth on the same place. Rice serves them instead of bread, and is either boiled in pots, or kneaded and baked on plates, like the thin bread usual in *Babus Lan*<sup>1</sup>. I am unacquainted with the drink made use of by the rich; but the common people satisfy their thirst with water; if they will have any thing stronger, they procure toddy (or the juice drawn out of the cocoa-tree) at a very considerable price. Besides this, according to the account of *Bonaventura*, the roots of millet will likewise intoxicate. A singular scruple sometimes hinders these people from eating with others, out of the same dish. A *Mahometan* can make a bargain of a hundred

<sup>1</sup> A province in Norway on the Scaggerca. F.  
thousand

thousand rupees with a *Banian*; yet he cannot eat with him, nor go home with him. All the vessels which a *Bramin* has in his kitchen are sacred, and must not be touched by any one that does not belong to that cast. An old complaisant *Persee* woman, who gave us some milk as we travelled by, would not let her bottle come within a quarter of a yard of our glass.

THEY have flesh in plenty, but such probably as is not very wholesome, especially to those who come on shore from long sea voyages; for, if they indulge their appetites, they are subject to vomitings and diarrhoeas, and are in danger of losing their lives. It is probable that *Brama*, or whoever at first gave laws to the *Gentoos*, had discovered that these meats were very unwholesome to the *Malabarrians*. *Mahomet* found his account in the frequent ablutions, which in some cases are indispensably necessary, in order to prevent the chopping and parching of the skin, and perhaps worse accidents. If you go in the morning into the suburbs and lanes, you very soon see how busy these people are in washing the children with the left hand.

BESIDES

BESIDES the aforementioned disease, fevers frequently attack *Europeans*. The French at first lost a great many men by this disorder, and were at last (according to their own account) obliged to have recourse to the physicians of this country, who reject the use of bleeding and of tamarinds in agues. Tamarinds are not half so much in use in *East India* as in *Europe*. The *red-dog* is a disease which afflicts almost all foreigners in hot countries, especially if they reside near the shore, at the time when it is hottest. This distemper discovers itself by red spots which look like measles, itch and prickle, and then become little bladders, which, when they vanish, take the skin away along with them.

THE friction used among the ancients seems to have been very rational. A person of some consequence in *Suratte* is always rubbed at night by his servants, as an expedient of great use to promote the circulation of the blood.

THEIR music is but very mean. *Italian* pieces you are sure not to hear of in this country; but instead of it, the noise of brasen-bafons and little drums with one or two bottoms.

toms. Their wind instruments are a sort of straight trumpets, four or five Swedish ells long, which make a bleating sound. Sometimes they make use of a great horn in form of an S, which is however only played upon when the nabob or some other man of quality is coming. The reveille was played upon a flagelet from the castle. Guittars and fiddles were the instruments of beggars, who begged in verse, and accompanied them with vocal music. A war-like music is generally in use among the southern *Asiaticks*, and this they want very much; for softer tunes would make them more effeminate. Perhaps the *Spartans* had more than meer custom in view when they broke a string of the lyre which was above the usual number.

THEIR jugglers are not to be compared with those of *China*, except that they can fascinate in such a manner the *Cobra de Capello* (*Coluber Naja Linn.*) as to make it dance<sup>k</sup>. When the *Moors* or other people have a mind to divert themselves according to the custom

<sup>k</sup> *Kempferi Amœn. Exotic. Fascic. III. Obs. ix. p. 565—573*, gives the most credible and curious account of these tricks with the *Cobra de Capello*. F.

of the country, they get a band of dancing women (for such is their name though they stand still for the greatest part), who sing amorous songs, with all sorts of wanton gestures. Such a diversion is often very troublesome to the neighbourhood, because the instruments generally used at it will allow of no rest all the night.

I HAD seen no blue eyes either in the southern parts of *Europe*, or in *Asia*, till I found an *Arabian* at Suratte whose irides were not the common colour. I was told, that they were not esteemed in seraglios, perhaps because they do not sparkle so well; but dark eyes seldom look serious.

THE arms of the *Moors* consist of muskets with matches, bows, sabres, and daggers, the latter of which have a singular shape: for the handle consists of two pieces of iron, which are so far distant as easily to afford room for the hand to take hold of two cross iron bars. The breadth of the blade, near the handle, is three fingers, or about two inches three-quarters, and its length one quarter and half a quarter, or thirteen inches and a half. They like glittering arms and silver hilted sabres.

Besides

Besides this, they have a round hollow shield of buffalo skin, a yard in diameter. The *pions*, or the people which go before men of rank in this country both for parade and security, carry their swords drawn, and their shields on the left arm.

THE advantageous situation of *Suratte* for trade appears from a map. The *Arabian* merchandize can here be very conveniently bartered against the *Indian* and *Chinese* manufactured goods. But it is unlucky that the government is not stable : the court is inactive at *Delhi*, while the governors at *Suratte* fight with each other.

THE continual rains from *May* to *September* frequently change the sands, and the gulph is as full of pirates as the *Baltick Sea* was in the time of the *Wickinger*. These three obstructions, together with some others, have induced some *Europeans* to have entertained sanguine hopes of getting this trade to themselves ; which would not be difficult, if there was toleration in religious matters, if the government was less despotic, and the pirates were opposed with more vigor, who, it is said, have been purposely neglected by the powers

which wanted to be sovereign in the eastern and western oceans. But, notwithstanding this, many thousand rupees pass through the hands of the merchants for *Persian* and *Chinese* silks, and white striped checkered cottons; likewise for camboya, agates, and *Ceylon* stones, which are always soft; also for diamonds from *Vija Poor* and *Golconda*, and for many other goods. The *Moors* get a considerable part of the profit, because they enjoy the greatest protection from the government; but the *Banians* are the most cunning merchants in all the world, which is nothing extraordinary, since they have for a long space of time improved and derived down their skill in mercantile affairs from father to son. If what I have been told is true, they must certainly be enormous usurers: for they are said to take one rupee interest per month for nine rupees. Hence it is certainly not to be wondered at that *Shah Abbas* should expell them out of *Ispahan*, in order to admit a far more honest people, namely, the *Armenians*. It is pretty plain that the merchants have opportunities of gaining considerable fortunes here, when one of them had nineteen ships at sea on his own account: but it was looked upon by the *Mahometans* as a clear proof of  
the

the invincible power of fate, that he could never get to the twentieth. He is said to have been possessed of a whole *arip*, that is, 1000 millions of rupees; which is an incredible sum, when you observe that the invasion of the *Mogul's* empire by *Nadir Shah* did not cost more, when every thing which can be estimated by money was taken into the account.

Of the weights here usual, a *candee*, or *candy*, is twenty *maunds*, and a *maund* is forty *seer*<sup>1</sup>: a *seer* is little different from a *Swedish* grocery pound. Their less weights I could not get an exact knowledge of, but gold and silver they weigh by the seeds of the *Abrus precatorius*<sup>m</sup>, because they are light, hard, and durable. Their most usual coin is the *rupee*, which weighs about twenty-one pennyweights; and it is said, its silver is finer than that of the *piafres*, on which account the *Chinese* take them sooner than *piafres*<sup>n</sup>. A

<sup>1</sup> One *maund* is thirty-seven pounds and a half, and one *candy* is six hundred wt. two-thirds. See *Rolt's Dictionary*, under the article of weight. F.

<sup>m</sup> Formerly a *Glycine*, but since changed by *Linnæus* in Ed. 12th of his *Systema Naturæ*. F.

<sup>n</sup> A *rupee* is about 2s 6d sterling. F.

*rupee* is valued at forty-eight *poise* or *pice*, and a *poise* at forty-eight *almonds*. The coining is performed with an hammer, which is directed by the hand. This is the reason that the *rupees* sometimes crack, which makes them found ill in the hand of a banker, and lowers their value. There is a species of *rupees* which has the honour of being mentioned by our connoisseurs in coins: but what I have read in their books, was different from the account which was given me in the Indies. If it is right, it is as follows: “*Nour Mahal*, “the wife of an officer, was once undesignedly “seen by the Great Mogol *Jehan Ghir*, who, “since he could not come at her by any other “means, made away with her husband, and, “after many solicitations, at last prevailed “upon the deeply-afflicted widow to accept “of his own bed. Her step-children felt “how well this beautiful lady was skilled in “politics. *Jehan Ghir* changed her name, “and instead of *Nour Mehal* (Light of the “Ladies), called her *Nour Jehan* (the Light “of the World, or of *Jehan*). He likewise “once gave her the liberty of having *rupees*, “coined under her name; and added that “compliment to it that she might stamp the “eleven heavenly signs on them.” These coins

coins are already scarce in *Indostan*: and the reason, as I was told, is, because the *Moorish* ladies use them for necklaces; which is very probable, considering the great confidence the *Mahometans* repose in fascination, amulets, the influence of the stars, talismans, &c. The rupees are current along all the coast of *Asia*, but under different values. Thus a *Bombay* or *Pondicherry* rupee loses four *per cent.* in *Suratte*; and on the other hand, a *Suratte* rupee loses at *Mahee*. The orders of the magistrates seem to be insufficient to settle this difference, for the *Banian* will give a greater value than perhaps would be settled by regulation, if from the pureness of the silver he finds he can be a gainer. We new-comers were not the only ones who suffered inconvenience from the change of value, but even those who had already made a stay of some years here were not free from it. But besides this four *per cent.* you likewise lose two, three, up to four *per cent.* according to the sum, if you give money to your servant to barter it, or buy something with it. This he does not take clandestinely, but looks upon it as his perquisite, which he thinks the buyer or seller must pay him without making any difficulties.

THERE are many sorts of animals in this country, but this dry soil cannot support them in great numbers. The nabob had a very large and fierce tiger in a cage. In another place I saw a less one, marked with stripes across; but its snout, gait, and eyes, gave him the appearance of a wolf. If you sleep in a farmer's room at night, it is not uncommon to hear the howling of the jackcall<sup>\*</sup> (*Canis aureus* Linn.) round the house. The nabob had likewise some elephants in his possession, which are only made use of when he and his family have a mind to shew themselves on some festival. During our stay we saw the gratitude of an elephant: a soldier in the Dutch service used to go into the governor's stables, and to feed an old elephant with the rice which he had about him; he once came so drunk to him that he tumbled down under the animal, and fell asleep between its feet; but the elephant guarded him so carefully, that scarce a fly dared to come near him.

HORSES are very rare and valuable animals in *Indostan*. The best horses are brought

\* For jackcall see Hasselquist's *Travels*.

over sea from *Arabia*, where the *Arabians* sometimes esteem them above their wives and children I have been told, that sometimes they pay as much for the genealogy of a horse as for the horse itself.

WE did not see many camels. The goats are of that kind which have pendent ears. The oxen have a hump on the back like those at *Madagascar*, *Joanna*, and as far as the Straits of *Malacca*. The sheep have bent snouts and pendent ears, their wool is more coarse and stiff than the goats hair, which plainly convinced me that a warm climate does not always produce fine and soft wool. Higher up in the country *Gazells* are to be met with: you must already have seen, Sir, that their horns have rings all the way, and are screw-shaped, by the offensive and defensive arms which I bought of a *Patan*, and which M. *Lagerstrom* undoubtedly hath sent you before this time.

SOME Germans call the turkeys<sup>a</sup> *Calcutta* hens; for this reason I looked about for them here, and only found them in one place, and

<sup>a</sup> Turkies are altogether *American*.

to the best of my remembrance I was told that they were foreign in this country.

GREEN parrots with long tails (*Psittacus articularius*) are very numerous here. Their sagacity in knowing where to find a breakfast is remarkable: for the house of the *Shafdaar Khan* was built in such a manner, that through some holes contrived for that purpose the birds could get to the rice which was refused to the poor inhabitants.

THEY put oxen before their waggons and carts, and take as much care of them as a hackney-coachman of his horses. Their excrements are gathered, mixed with straw, and used as fuel; the ashes of it make the paint which the *Bramins* use. They want no whip to drive them, but in the *Portuguese* manner a stick with a spike at its end. Their carts are of a peculiar construction: the axle-tree is made of iron, and scarcely of the thickness of the last joint of the little finger; it is fastened to the axle-tree of the wheels: the wheel moves between an upright standing pole and two lynch-pins, which, together with an arch, carry the *bamboo* net or cover on which one sits; this is either with or without curtains.

curtains. The *bamboo* sticks bend upwards near the thill, and make a seat for the driver, on which he rides as on a saddle. This is the carriage of the common people. The *Armenians* and *Europeans* rode in coaches, but they were of such a construction as I suppose might have been in fashion in the year 1500.

THE greater nobility are carried in a *pale-kee*, which looks very like a hammock fastened to a crooked pole. When the ladies are carried, they are shut up in a box twisted of *bamboo*, which is afterwards covered at the top with double cloths. On each side goes a stout black eunuch, with a drawn sabre in his hand.

THOUGH dogs are held in abomination by the *Mahometans*, yet the streets are full of them. The *Persees* have a certain veneration for them; and I was told, that in a famine which happened some years ago, alms were given to the dogs.

THE houses are not so infested with lizards here as in other parts of *East India*; but even the stone walls in the uppermost stories are not free from a sort of little brownants. The *Gentoos* take

take great care not to kill any one, and feed them with powder sugar, which they throw on the floor.

I WAS told, that the heat was still greater at *Gamron* and *Bassora* than at *Suratte*: and if this is true, then it must be excessive; and I do not wonder that the *Dutch* have given up *Gamron*. Even in *October* the *Swedish* thermometer rose thirty-seven degrees. A *Florentine* thermometer was at half an hour past five o'clock in the morning at thirty-seven degrees, and in the afternoon it rose to seventy-five degrees. Father *Bonaventura* has observed that the cold is greater three days before and three days after the new moon. It is somewhat singular, that notwithstanding this place is but just north of the æquator, the time between the months of *May* and *September* should be called winter, and other months summer, only because it rains during the former.

THE Christians in *Suratte* are *Armenians*, of which the greatest part were natives of *Julfa*, and have their *Archimandrite* here. They have several books in their language, printed at *Amsterdam*. They are known in trade on account

account of their industry and cunning, and live very well on their profits. It is here necessary that a merchant should cut a great figure, some of them dress quite in the *Moorish* fashion, and wear a turban; others a callot and a velvet cap, with four prominent parts; the brim is two inches high, open behind and before. They have commonly their shroud from the sepulchre of CHRIST ready at hand <sup>q.</sup>

THE *Portuguese* are the only Roman catholics who live here. It is remarkable, however, that, notwithstanding the severity of the *Portuguese* inquisition against the *Jews*, the *Jew Kohen* has the management of the *Portuguese* affairs at Suratte.

THE *French* seem to endeavour to re-establish their declining trade. Three *French* capuchin friars hired a house, and were forced to get their bread as well as they could. Their superior father *Bonaventura* sometimes gained some small benefactions to the convent by his knowledge of medicine, though he was obliged to give many plasters away gratis.

<sup>q.</sup> A consecrated shirt perhaps from the sepulchre at Jerusalem.

These preachers of the gospel are obliged, by the commands of their despotic superiors, to continue here during their whole life<sup>on</sup>

THE Dutch have a director, with a council and officers, as is usual with them in *East India*.

THE chief factory of the English in these parts is *Bombay*; however, they have likewise a factory at *Suratte*, with the necessary officers. All the factories belonging to the English in the *East Indies* have chaplains.

HERE are likewise Jews possessed of considerable wealth. One, by name *Moses Tobias*, was distinguished on account of his liberality towards people of all religions; he is said to have commonly distributed in charity forty rupees per month. A *cakan*, or scribe, told us, that the long-sought-for sceptre of *Juda* could still be found; and that he had certain accounts of a great number of Jews in *Africa*, to the west of *Abyssinia*, who still were subject to their own magistrates.

THERE is an admiral at *Suratte*, but he has the misfortune of having no ships under his command.

command. The *English* and the *Dutch* exercise the privileges of admiralty in the harbour, so that ~~not~~ a single sloop can get up to the town without their permission. Their greatest merchant ships are built after the *European* manner. It is remarkable, that the older a ship is, the easier it procures a cargo, because it is thought to be lucky. The ships which they make use of against their enemies are called *goerabbs* by the *Dutch*, and *grabbs* by the *English*, have two or three masts, and are built like our ships, with the same sort of rigging, only their prows are low and sharp as in gallies, that they may not only place some cannons in them, but likewise, in case of emergency, fix a couple of oars, to push the *grabb* on in a calm. *Gallivates* are less, and are used, like the *grabbs*, in piracies and for trade. They have seldom more than one mast, and incline forwards sixteen or eighteen degrees: they have a sail, which at a certain distance looks triangular, though it has four corners. The boats which are called *burry* have the same sails. The ship sloops, which are worked on with saddles, are like the preceding, somewhat pointed before, and narrow behind. The planks of all these vessels are made so oblique, that they lie one above another:

other ; they are fastened with rails. Instead of tow and tar, they use cotton and a sort of thick oil, which is said to make them so tight that they have less occasion to use the pump than the *Europeans*. In the timber which they use to build ships of, iron does not rust so much as in oak ; for which reason they are forced to clinch the nails well on the inside, and therefore our short thick nails are of no use.

THIS nation has a peculiar agility in swimming ; I saw one swim a good way, and hold above water eight pound weight in his hand. Practice does much towards this feat ; but perhaps there is a slight in it, for they only make use of the right arm and left foot, and then the left arm and right foot alternately. During the time of our stay here we were not attacked by pirates. On the 20th of October a pirate, who was called *Budgero*, anchored in the harbour accompanied by about two hundred great and small vessels, which made a good appearance at a distance ; on their approaching and anchoring in part between us and the shore, we prepared every thing in order to receive them. However, they did not offer us the least insult, but after a day or two went their way

way and left us alone. Yet it must not be supposed that they are always so civil. In September some *Gallivates* sailed out of the port, having an *English* ship for their convoy. It was attacked before our eyes, and in the face of the other *English* ships, by eight or nine piratical *Gallivates* which kept up a continual fire for a couple of hours, without any body being able to give assistance, on account of the tide. The end of this was, that the pirates succeeded in taking two or three of the other *Gallivates*; upon which they left the *English* ship to pursue her voyage without any farther molestation.

I AM unwilling to omit one or two accounts belonging to political intelligence, though I cannot be answerable for their truth. Towards the end of April, 1748, died the great *Mogol Mahomed*, of the venereal disease according to the Jesuit *Tiefenthaler's* account. His only son *Achmed*, by a concubine, succeeded him, and was then on his march returning from *Seranda*, where he had defeated the army of the *Patans*, who had undertaken an irruption into the empire from the mountains of *Kandahar*. Of the state of the *Persian* empire, I had the following account. *Nadir Shab*

*Shah* put out his eldest son's eyes, from suspicion, and appointed his other son his successor. But after *Nadir Shah* was murdered on a hunting match, all his family were killed by his nephew called *Adel Shah*, only excepting *Sha Rock Shah*<sup>1</sup>, who was *Nadir Shah*'s grandson, and the son of the daughter of *Shah Houssain*. This *Adel Shah* is said to have been very mild towards his subjects, especially towards those who lived about *Ispahan*; for he not only freed them from paying any thing to the king for five years, but also gave them money to enable them to cultivate the soil. When he was visited by the law of retaliation, *Sha Rock Shah* took possession of *Kharazan*, and had, as I was told, the greatest part of the riches of *Nadir Shah* in his hands: *Solyman Shah*, who was formerly *Sha Rock*'s servant, took possession of *Ispahan*, and *Cely Mehemet Shah* took *Tauris*; the undertaking of prince *Heraclius* we first learnt at *Canton*, where the Armenians told it with great expressions of joy.

WE weighed anchor the 1<sup>st</sup> of *March*, 1751, after a stay of five months and a half;

Mr. Toreen seems to be mistaken here, since there is a repetition of the word *Shah* in *Sha Rock Shah*. F. during

during all which time I had no opportunity of being on shore more than twenty-three days. We sailed to *Mangulor* with land and sea winds, successively changing, and anchored there the 12th of the same month, with the same difficulty as at *Suratte*. After this, we did not anchor before we came to *Canton*. It would be but a small expence to make a good and convenient haven, behind a narrow inlet which would contain a whole fleet.

THE town of *Mangulor* is open and large; and contains many gardens. The houses are low, and generally made of a reddish topaceous stone, which, as I was told, is soft under ground and easily worked, but grows hard in the air.

THE tiles are shaped as those at *Suratte* and *Cadiz*. The brickmaker forms a hollow cylinder about twelve inches long, and four in diameter; this is cut into two equal parts lengthways, and burnt in little kilns. They tile here by single rows, and when one row of tiles is laid so that the concave part comes uppermost, the next is inverted, and so covers the ridges. There is a constant saltiness in the

earth, both here and in *Suratte*, which eats away the lime near the ground.

I SAW two waggons, which seemed to be intended to be carried about in a religious procession, besides a representation of a white elephant, which was placed on wheels, as I suppose for the same purpose. The wheels of the waggon were of one piece of wood, three feet in diameter, and of a proportionable thickness; thus they are more than sufficient to crush the poor people who expect to gain eternal happiness under the sacred wheels.

THE inhabitants are heathens: they dress like those at *Suratte*, except that the cottons with red stripes are more in use here, and that they go barefooted, or bind a wooden sole under their feet like the friars of the order of *St. Francis*. When they ride on horseback, they only put their great toes into the stirrups.

BANIAN trees (*Ficus Indica*) are very numerous and large: they are taken great care of. Round about this place are great and open woods; but I was told, that if I entered them

them I should be lost, because they were the habitations of many fierce tigers.

I COULD only be twelve hours on shore. The 17th of March we left this place, and having nothing to do at *Cananor*, we sailed to *Mahie*, where we stopped the 19th of the same month.

THIS town or plantation belongs to the French *E. I.* company. It is near the shore, and the mouth of the river is so covered with a ridge of rocks above the water, that a stranger cannot get up with a boat. Several redoubts with high ramparts serve as a defence, which in this country are esteemed a considerable fortification. At the top of one of the redoubts, blocks of wood were erected, which at a distance looked like men. I forgot to enquire into their use, but they seemed to me very proper to fill the holes when the garrison was forced to be on the ramparts. This would be an invention, which in some cases might be as useful as blocks of wood instead of cannons. I have often heard that wooden heads are placed in the advanced stations; but that they are likewise used as blind works in sieges, I never knew yet.

THE sun was exactly vertical to us ; the thunder was heard to make an exceeding great noise, especially on the *Cardomom* mountain : the heat was so intolerable, that even the natives were forced to keep in during the middle of the day. The poison of snakes and of other venomous animals seems to be more fatal in hot climates than in cold ; if the accounts we have in *Sweden* of the viper's bite, and in *East India* of the scorpion's sting, are true. The *French* therefore quite dissuaded me from going into the woods. Nor could I have made any useful observations there ; for the person that undertakes to amend and explain the *Hortus Malabaricus* ought to be master of the *Portuguese* and *Malabaric* names, which Baron *Rhede* has confounded ; and the time of one's stay here ought to be the whole rainy season ; because at other times the burnt-up *Malabaric* soil is unable to produce either flowers or fruits ; but this season is very dangerous for ships on account of the hurricanes.

IT is impossible to examine a plant in such a scorching heat, without one knows all its characteristics as it were by heart : for while you hold it between the fingers for a moment  
or

or two, it withers and becomes unfit for preservation. I learnt this on my former voyage by very irksome experience: and therefore, when I could not get several specimens of the same plant, it seemed best to me to keep single ones for our master. I here saw the thick bamboo in one place. Its height was scarce four fathoms, its stem, which is the thickness of a hand's breadth, is naked, and has only some digitated leaves at the top. Its numerous ears, which came out of their spathas on the middle of the stem, were then in bud. The other species of bamboo, grow to the height of six or seven fathoms, but they are not above an inch thick. They have branches on the stem, and those have again pinnated leaves.

I HAD here an opportunity of admiring an elephant. Its master had let it for a certain sum per day; its employment was to carry timber for building, out of the river, which business it dispatched very handily under the command of a boy, and afterwards laid each piece one upon another in such good order, that no man could have done it better.

IF all the *Malabaric* oxen are like those which we got, I do not wonder, that those heathens will not eat their flesh. The mere description of them would make the most hungry lose their appetites. If we must derive the badness of their flesh from the *oestrus*<sup>s</sup>, then either the cause or the effect is greater here than in *Sweden*. Perhaps this dainty meat was the occasion, or at least contributed to the following disease: viz. that many of our men were afterward exceedingly tormented by intolerable bloody ulcers.

THE ugliest animals we saw were the *Gentoo* women, who were quite naked except their thighs. Their naked and jetty bodies were not in the least alluring.

IN *Mabie* I obtained that curious insect, which has a long sinew between the thorax and body, and is in the little collection which I have sent you.

<sup>s</sup> The *oestrus bovis* deposits its eggs in the backs of cows, which turn to maggots as large as the end of one's finger, called in some counties of *England*, wornils. When cattle are pestered with these, they are always out of condition. See *Derham's Physico Thcol.*

THOUGH I am not disposed to judge of the European nations, merely by their behaviour towards each other in the *East Indies*; yet I cannot omit taking notice, that the French have every where been very civil to us. They always called us *leurs grands alliés*, that is, their great allies; and their civility extended so far as to give us leave to bury one of our dead in their church at *Mahie*.

OUR superiors had made no regulations on shore; for which reason, every one who went on shore was forced to procure as he could every thing for himself; which made it more advantageous to stay on board.

BESIDES the gold coin, called pagoda, which is valued at four rupees, their silver coins are rupees of which each contains five *fanno*. *Tar* is a copper coin of different values.

THE boats, which are made use of here and at *Mangulor*, have flat bottoms, like common boats, and are pointed at both ends. For fear of oversetting, one ought to know how to keep an exact equilibrium. I was told that the *Malabaric* rowers at *Mahie* were obliged

to give head for head, if an *European* was drowned in their boats.

AFTER we had provided ourselves with the aforementioned animals, which were only *like* oxen, and with other things, we set sail the 21st of April. Nothing particular happened, except our losing the main yard, and another yard. This damage was easily repaired; but we lost four ship boys on this occasion. Afterwards our voyage to *Queda*, in the straits of *Malacca*, was very fortunate; and we cast anchor there the 13th of May.

THE country is very low to a great distance from the sea shore, and every where covered with thick forests. Among the trees was the tamārind tree; the papay tree; the *Abrus precatorius* (the seeds of which the inhabitants of the *Malacca* coast put into rings for want of stones, because it is not usual among the eastern nations to wear mere gold rings); a tree, which I could not get to, but observed that it sent branches towards the earth from the top, different from its common branches. The *English* call it mangroves in the *West Indies*.

AN unfinished castle was situated on the mouth of a smooth river. The engineer seemed to be no disciple of *Vauban*. The faces were parallel to the curtains, and the walls so thin that half a dozen six pounders would have made a breach. In the inside were some houses, the roofs of which served for batteries. The cannons were most of them from an *English* ship which was lost just before the river, but so leisurely that there was even time to get those heavy goods out. Though this castle has such a miserable appearance in the eyes of *Europeans*; yet it is sufficient to keep the nations hereabouts in awe, merely because it looks *European*. I saw here some prisoners, whose necks and hands were fastened to a pole with willow-twigs. They had coined money, and seemed not to hope for pardon: but did by no means shew any fear; a foolish insensibility must be the effect of the doctrine of unavoidable destiny.

THE other houses are generally built on poles, four feet above ground, on account of the high tide. The walls and floors are frequently made of bamboo sticks split in pieces.

MAHMUD

MAHMUD *Houssain Basha*, who was master of the place, was a vassal to the king of Siam. He was exceedingly interested for the promotion of trade in his country. He was (as all the other Malayans) a *Mohammedan*; but tolerated heathens and Christians. He would not permit the widow of a *Frenchman* to go away; but made up matters so well, that she married a *Chinese Christian*, in order to have the *Europeans* who come there well received, for he wanted to ingratiate himself with them. We could not take in the quantity of tin that we intended, as he insisted on keeping some for the ships that were coming after us.

OXEN, buffaloes, and chicken, are very reasonable. The woods are the habitations of tigers, which are said not to attack men: but as they carry off the dogs from the houses, one dares not venture out far. Monkeys are very numerous; some are large, with very long tails, grey hairs, white beards, and black skin; some less ones have short tails bending upwards. A parrot (*Psittacus galgulus*) was no bigger than a goldfinch. Its colour was dark green on the back, and light green under

nder the belly: the upper side of the tail and the throat were red; the bill was black. Some had a blue spot on the head. When they sleep, they always hang in the cage so as to point with their head downwards. We observed that their nests were remarkable for their exceeding fine texture; but we did not see the birds. If they had a different construction, the monkeys would be very mischievous to them; but now, before they can get to the opening, the lowest part as the weakest breaks in pieces, and the visitor falls to the ground without any danger to the young birds.

THERE are several sorts of crabs in the sea, besides various other fishes. I should be sorry if one species which I sent you by Mr. Lagerstrom should be injured; its eyes were on long pedunculi, and it had peculiar feet (*Cancer granarius*). While it was alive, its eyes sparkled in the dark, like cat's eyes. In and by the side of the river are whole cart-loads of oysters, and likewise crocodiles by hundreds. When the water during the tide fills all the ponds and ditches, with which nature has divided this low country, the crocodiles go up a good way into

into the woods ; therefore, when a great motion is heard in these pools of water, the best way is to make off immediately.

TIN is not found in this *Bashaw's* country, that I know of : but he has the toll and custom of what is brought there. I am told, that in the places where it comes from, they do not fetch it out of the mountains, but dig it out of the ground, together with the sand. It is reckoned better than *English* tin, at least a *Chinese* likes it better.

THE coins are *rupees*. A *rupee* contains three *cupang*, and a *cupang* four *condorin*. They are all silver.

THE 27th of May we set sail : before *Salingor* we staid in vain from the 30th of May to the 2d of June : but afterwards we sailed among the many fine islands in the Straits of *Sonda*. On one of these islands is a species of stones very like the sand-stone from *Oland*, but it burst into little cubic pieces, scarce above one foot and a half long, and as much broad.

IN the beginning of *July* we first saw *China*. We passed *Macao*, were searched by the custom-house officers, who are in the castle near the narrow mouth called *Bocca Tigris*, and anchored near *Wampoo* the 7th of *July*.

## LETTER

## LETTER V.

THE 17th of March I sent the continuation of my accounts by a friend. I will now relate what I have seen in *China*.

A PERSON who for the first time visits this country, thinks he has a new world before him; for almost every thing looks different from what he has seen in other places, unless where climate renders some similarity of customs necessary.

THE rocks and the shore, even a good way into the sea, are covered with fishermen and their tackle; which sight immediately leads one to conclude, that the country must be very populous. The naked and uninhabited islands hereabouts seem at first to occasion other thoughts; but, on advancing a little further, the plains and vallies speak the number and the industry of the inhabitants.

THE lowest fields are sowed with rice, because it requires a great deal of water, which it

it gets by the tide without any trouble to the husbandman. These fields are crossed by such great canals, that during the flood one may go in boats on them. Rice is sowed and reaped twice a year. During its growth, it is pulled out and planted into serpentine lines, to admit the water more freely to the roots. Those who have not the advantage of the tide, are forced to carry or lead the water, or bring it up by machines, of which Mr. William Chambers made a drawing on a former voyage, and has probably communicated it to the superintendant Baron Horlemann.

THE high places are likewise employed to great advantage: for there are mountains whose declivity amounts even to forty degrees; but they are divided into several terraces, on which are planted *Convolvulus Batatas*<sup>t</sup>, *Dioscorea*<sup>u</sup>, *Gossypium*<sup>w</sup>, sugar-canæ, and many other plants, according to the time of the year, or quality of the foil. When it rains, the rain water is preserved, and conveyed from one story to another. If it rains too much, a ditch is opened, through which the water may run away freely. The use of dung may be judg-

<sup>t</sup> Spanish potatoes.

<sup>u</sup> Yams.

<sup>w</sup> Cotton.

ed of by the careful manner of gathering of it at *Canton*, and by the stinking sampanes, or boats, which daily pass by our ships. But on the fields which were near the ships, we seldom saw any other manure than the roots of rice, which, together with the clay sticking to them, are thrown on the higher soil, which is mixed with spar.

THOSE places which cannot be tilled, are planted with trees, if the high situation and dry soil will allow of it. But a great part of such places are destined for burying-grounds ; which practice would induce one at first to suppose that the *Chinese* acted against their own principles, in leaving so much ground for burying-places, and by that means making them unfit for use ; since the graves must not be disturbed. But for this very reason most people are buried on steep mountains, or other places which cannot be used for other purposes. The respect which children and posterity shew to their parents and ancestors, even after death, is to be considered as a consequence of the implicit obedience to which they are obliged in their life time ; and which is the foundation of their exceeding great submission towards the magistrates, without which it would

would be impossible to rule such a number of unmannerly, stubborn subjects. Over their graves are generally little open stone-buildings, which are almost semicircular, and have a niche for a perfuming vessel. I only found one single grave more magnificent than the rest, on the northern side of the town; it was covered by two round vaults, and shut up by a wall.

ON some high hills there are towers. They have all of them eight sides, are nine stories high, are almost every where of equal breadth within, have every where windows, and terminating in a point. I was told, that in time of war they were used as watch towers: they are therefore so dispersed, that the given signals can easily be seen from one tower to another. In the villages were less square towers, three stories high; but the *Chinese* said, that they were *pagodas*.

ONE of the first things on arriving here is to procure a *bancshall*; this is, a great house constructed of *bamboo* and mats on a place appointed for that purpose, in which the stores of the ship are laid up, and whatever is not absolutely necessary on-board, or whatever

would be in the way during the cleansing, lading, and clearing of the ship. The *Dutch* say, that they will spend no money in building a *bancshal*; but others say, that the *Chinese* will not give them leave. Those who have been confined to a ship so long as we had been, would easily be attracted by the adjacent isles to go on shore. The *French* island, where the *French* have their *bancshals*, is almost the only one where we enjoy the liberty of burying our dead. It is dangerous for a single person to venture too far, because he is in danger of being stripped to the very shirt. Though the curiosity of the *Europeans* may not be perhaps void of blame; yet the natives look as if they were glad to find a pretence to use violence against a stranger, especially when they are sure of over-powering him.

ON the passage from the place where the ships ride at anchor to *Canton*, which is one *Swedish* mile and a half, you are obliged to have your baggage visited three or four times. The custom-house officer, who lies in his boat continually, quite close to the ship, gives an inventory of every thing you take with you; and all that you carry besides is to be confiscated according to the laws at the three custom-houses,

houses, where you are obliged to stop; except you go in a sloop with a flag. The river is at first on both sides bordered with rice-fields; and this is the fatal scene on which many lascivious *Europeans* have lost their health.

THE further you advance up the river, the more the number of both great and small vessels increased, part of which lie still, and part go up and down the river. Nearer to the town they have scarce room upon the river; but are forced to bear hard one against another behind and before; and to form, as it were, streets, length-ways and cross-ways. Those who in this manner spend their time on the water, are not all of them sailors or fishermen: the ferrymen, who come and set off at certain times, are in great numbers; but the rowers, or oar-men, are still more numerous. The others are tradesmen, such as carry on some sort of business; they keep wives and children, hogs, and chicken, together with all their utensils, in these boats; for which reason they need not come on shore: and there are particular people appointed by the government to overlook them. I can say no more of the city of *Canton* itself, than that its drawing in Lord *Anson's* Voyage round the

world is inaccurate, and taken from an old drawing which I had already seen in *Sweden* before Lord *Anson* left *England*; and the original itself is very faulty. It is surrounded by a smooth, round, high rampart, which has at the top loop-holes, or *crenaux*, very close together. In the river are three little islands, with castles in the same manner; with this addition, that in the inside a cavalier two stories high is raised, which commands the works within and without, and likewise serves as a retirade. The other redoubts on the neighbouring hills on the country side are of such a construction, as shews that the plan is designed for security, but not to shew their genius for war. A work like this might be defended for a long while in this country by good officers and valiant soldiers: but when a *Chinese* knows there is a place of retreat, he would hardly dare to perform heroic achievements on the out-works.

THE suburbs, in which the *Europeans* have their factories, are divided by many canals, and crowded with buildings as full as possible; for several of the houses are even a great way over the water, built on piles. The lodgings are spacious, and the yards narrow and long,  
and

and therefore they have been obliged to make shift as they can. Since they like to lead their foughs underground, the foundations of their houses must cost a great deal ; but the super-structures are not very durable. Here and there you meet with open yards, in the midst of which the floors of lodging-rooms are laid, and covered with nothing else but a tile-roof. The stairs are under the same inconvenience with those at *Suratte*, viz. they are narrow, and the steps are high and likewise narrow. When the rooms cannot get light enough from the doors and open walls, they have windows of mother-of-pearl : for which reason the cathedral church at *Goa*, on account of such windows, need not be thought one of the wonders of the world. The walls are covered with fine white or painted paper, and ornamented with some *Chinese* or *European* drawings. The *Chinese* in their own houses fix up generally some tables of proverbs. Almost close to each room is a little garden, in which are some flower-beds, and scaffolds for flower-pots, and greater vessels for shells, gold-fishes, &c.

THEIR pillars or columns serve only to bear the rafters. Mr. *Chambers*, I suppose, has al-

ready given us the proportion of the parts. To judge by the appearance of a triumphal arch, the width of the middlemost portico seemed to be two thirds of the whole height: the side porticos were in the same proportion to the middlemost, with regard to height and breadth. The populace hindered me from taking a more exact measure.

You find no trees trained up by art, nor walks, nor flower-pieces of several figures, in a *Chinese* garden; but every thing is in an agreeable natural confusion. Instead of grottoes they throw a heap of a porous sort of stones together, which look like rocks and mountains. This taste of the romantic in gardens extends even to the small flower-beds, and flower-pots in houses.

ONE of the principal *pagodas* is in a fine wood in the suburbs; on the outside it is like the others, but it is higher and more spacious. I was told, that it formerly belonged to the jesuits. The structure and stories are entirely according to a correct *Chinese* taste. In the lowest division, or in the hall, were four gigantic statues, one of a white, one of a brown, one of a black, and one of a red colour,

colour, in the attitude of flourishing about them with their swords: this has no *Chinese* appearance; for, even supposing they knew the complexion of the *Americans* (of which, however, I greatly doubt), they would most probably be of opinion that the honour of attending upon the gods belonged to themselves alone, exclusive of all others. These statues have likewise wider eyes than are to be met with among the *Chinese*. Perhaps they were intended to shew the universality of the church of *Rome*, about which they give themselves more trouble than about all its other qualities. In the back-parts is a court surrounded with low buildings; before it stands an high, open, large house, which is broader than long, as is usual in *pagodas*. Steps surround the whole building, as is usual in the South of *Europe*. Nobody is allowed to pass through the door, for reasons unknown: therefore I decline advancing any uncertain surmises concerning the idols, which could hardly be discerned in so dark a room. On advancing somewhat further, you again come to a yard, which is divided by a canal, and has likewise a *pagoda* of two stories high on the other side. In the lower story a squat, fat, half-naked idol, is seated upon an altar or sofa; it seems to be

breaking out into an horse laugh ; and is sitting on one leg, and holding up the other knee : in short, it is in a very indecent posture. Before it stands an iron perfuming vase, on which matches made of wood-shavings are burning. In the upper story is a female figure, sitting with her legs across, and smiling very decently with downcast eyes. Both statues are of a gigantic size, and gilt all over. Out of town, in the outward apartments of a *pagoda* situated on a hill, are two white equestrian statues. In the most outward room is a little statue representing a woman with a child in her arms ; in the inner room is a larger idol on a chair, which, after the *Chinese* fashion, has a long beard ; and before it are four other statues. In each house, and aboard all ships and sampans, is a little chapel on the larboard side, in which they burn incense, or put orange-trées, &c. Sometimes the whole chapel consists of painted, sometimes of torn, paper, and a vessel with ashes and matches.

THE sailors, and even some books of voyages (as may be seen from *de Uris's* notes), call the *pagodas*, *Yoss-houses* : for, on enquiring of a *Chinese* for the name of the idol, he answers, *Grande Yoss*, instead of *Gran Dios*. I have not seen

seen the deformed idols of which *Pinto* speaks. The *bonzes*, who minister in the *pagodas*, wear long grey cloaths, reaching down to the feet, with wide sleeves; their heads and beards are shaved; their caps are black and round. On the other side the river is a great *pagoda*, where near 100 *bonzes* are kept. They have such a great field, that they are not only able to sow the necessary rice and fruits for themselves, but likewise to keep cattle; which, it is said, they only feed and bury. They have all the necessary tradesmen among themselves, wherefore they do not seem to be troublesome or chargeable to others. Processions with idols, masks, plays, and jugglers tricks, are frequent enough. As for the rest, the *Chinese* trouble themselves very little about their gods and *pagodas*.

THE people differ very much in size, but are seldom tall. The men have a yellowish skin; the ladies are fair, but the common women tawny. The bone above the eyes projects very far, and forms a triangle with the chin. Most of them never quite open their eyes: and I am told, that the custom of bearing the children at their backs, with their heads hanging down, occasions as it were a swelling

swelling of the eye-lids; for the orbits are the same with them as with other people. Their noses are somewhat flat: their lips middling; and their looks, when they hope to gain any thing, as sweet as possibly can be.

THE children are at first shaved, that their hair may grow the thicker; afterwards one or three locks are left. The men, as is well known, are obliged to shave their heads, excepting a tuft of hair on the crown, which they plait into three traces. Their high value for their locks of hair seems to abate in some measure; for at *Queda* I saw two *Chinese*, who, living there, and having laid aside all thoughts of seeing *China* again, had shaved their heads: whereas their neighbour, who was likewise a *Chinese*, had all his hair tied in the old fashion. Their beards do not grow well; but perhaps they chuse to have a thin beard. If a *Chinese* is asked what sum would induce him to part with his tuft of hair? he again asks, what you would take for your head? And no wonder that they are so very careful of an ornament which they have perhaps nourished for twenty, thirty, or more years together. The women tie their hair above the top of the head; and to make the

tuft

tuft of a considerable thickness, they fasten some false hair to it, and stick as many and as costly pins or bodkins in it as their circumstances will allow of. They take a great deal of pains to have smooth and glossy hair; but this is perhaps the reason why their hair wears off and becomes thin, and straggling when they grow old. Both sexes let their nails grow as long as possible, if they do not interfere with their business.

You see many blind men \* in the streets; and they are the only beggars which are to be observed. The alms which the *Chinese* give them, consist of a spoonful of rice. The most common disease here is that which naturally proceeds from promiscuous lust. A grave *Chinese* asserted that they cure this disease in a hundred days, *per τεκνοφαγίαν alternis diebus, alternis jejunio*. I cannot be answerable for the truth of this account; but so much I know, that it is possible to procure a sufficient quantity of this food. A *Chinese* would like better to take money for his children, than to

\* Perhaps the blindness of the *Chinese* is for the greatest part the effect of their voluptuous irregularities; there may be also other causes. Compare with this *Tissot de febr. bilios.* p. 187, 189.

be obliged to throw them into the water for nothing. I have no reason to doubt of the fact I hint at ; since I have seen several children floating on the water : but I cannot pretend to say whether they are destroyed with or without the permission of the magistrate.

THEIR cloaths are wide and long, generally consisting of gawze or other thin stuffs. Their boots are embroidered, and made of a species of silk, have thick soles and no heels. Their head is covered with a hat plaited of canes and lined with tiffany ; the hat is cone-shaped or like a cover of a dish. On the top of it is a tuft of red silk, which covers the hat on all sides ; and on the tuft is a button, by which is distinguished the quality of the wearer, as father *Du Halde* mentions. In winter they wear round caps of black velvet or fattin, with a shallow brim, on which is a tuft of red silk threads : they likewise wear warmer cloaths. The common people wear coarser stuffs, stockings of nankin, shoes without buckles of the same stuff, and go generally bareheaded. The poorest of all wear only breeches. The women go bare-headed ; their cloaths fit somewhat closer to the body, but stays are unknown among them. An *Englishman* had his wife

wife with him at *Canton* this year : but the *Chinese* could find no proportion between her spacious hoop-petticoat and her waist. Their shoes are pointed ; and have high heels, on which they go crippling as upon stilts ; because the unnatural position of the foot takes off all the strength and use of the toes. The poor only wear a short petticoat over their breeches.

THE whole world knows how difficult a matter it is to learn the *Chinese* language ; but you can have no true idea of it, till you hear it spoken yourself. Their various accents occasion the great difficulty. They pronounce one word as if they were quarrelling, and prolong the next as if their tongue was fixed to their gums. Their strong aspirations, even before the initial consonants, cannot be pronounced by every tongue. The *European* languages are not very difficult to the *Chinese*, if only the D and R could be rejected. For they say instead of *doctor* and *padri*, *locta* and *pali*. They can in some measure avail themselves of the D, but as to the R it is too difficult for them. They generally converse with the *Swedes* in broken *English* ; and sometimes in broken *Portuguese*, *French*, and *Dutch* : and some

some of them speak a few words of *Swedish*. A *Chinese* merchant being asked whether he had any stockings? Answered, *no habb*. A person pointed to a pair of stockings and said what is that? *Ob*, said he, *telumbo, telumbo*. When he is to say great or small, he says *grande* or *galande*, and *pequenini*; and so in other instances.

OF their genius and character, others have given accounts. I can but wonder that the missionaries, when they speak of their reigning vices, such as avarice, voraciousness, great and petty thefts, should mention nothing of their beastly lust. It is incredible to suppose them not to have known any thing about it. Though the *Chinese* are too cautious to boast of their irregularities, like some *Europeans*; yet, if you have resided some time at *Canton*, you will understand the *Latin* bard, who imagined that he tasted the waters of *Aganippe*, while he was drinking something which should not be named. Some perhaps may think that such sins are looked upon by the missionaries as peccadillos or little offences, which are of small account; but that would be judging too hardly of the reverend fathers. Without doubt, they did not chuse to discredit the nation,

tion, and mention such disadvantageous circumstances. But be this as it will, yet we cannot attribute this vice to the climate, as we might have been rashly led to do: for the whole argument falls to nothing, when it is seen that the *Persees*, which are patterns of chastity at *Suratte*, are in the same climate with the *Moors*, and have a warmer air than the *Italians*.

THEY are courageous only when they are set on stealing; for then they venture their backs, and even their lives. They are, however, revengeful and malicious, like all narrow minded people. You look in vain among the greatest part of them for disinterested gratitude, pity, placability, and a generous manner of thinking. Had *Rochefoucault* been born and bred among the *Chinese*, he would probably have denied the existence of virtue: yet with all these faults they are very civil, and are obliged to be so, because private ceremonies are the object and business of one of the most considerable colleges of the empire. The following is the manner of saluting among them. They clench their left fist, put the right hand on it, drop it down, bow, and lift it up again. Those who have accustomed themselves to  
the

the more free manners of the *Europeans*, only clench their fists, and say *kin, kin*. They use much ceremony at coming in ; and before they sit down, will be entreated to do it several times. If you visit them, they entertain you with tea, comfits, and even with *European* and Cape wine, adapting every thing to the expectations they have of the traffic you are to carry on with them. You are at liberty to walk about their rooms, but must not approach their females : for the *Chinese*, like all nations among whom polygamy prevails, are jealous. All that I have said relates only to merchants and tradesmen. How it is with the noblemen, I know not : for what the common people say of them is not to be relied on, and travellers are apt to add somewhat of their own invention.

## L E T T E R VI.

AS I have acquired some knowledge of botany by your kind assistance, and have heard and read of the merits of Baron *Rheede* in this branch of learning, I should have been inexcuseably negligent if I had passed over his epitaph in silence. As it was inconvenient for me to keep pions, I experienced on this, as on many other occasions, the difficulty of waiting till I could get company: but even these would not always stop, when I met with any thing which according to my judgement appeared remarkable. When I came the second time to Baron *Rheede's* grave, I found the shutters fastened. Therefore I could not copy the whole epitaph <sup>y</sup>, but only the principal things, which I should have communicated long ago, had I thought they were not known.

I HOPE I shall be able to say openly in Sweden what they make no great secret of in that country, namely that he had been poisoned: nor is it unlikely; for so great power in the hands of an honest man must be very dreadful

<sup>y</sup> The translator does not think the epitaph interesting to an English reader.

to some people. If you were to hear some anecdotes told in *East India* of the *Dutch* manner of governing there, you would by no means be astonished to find that the interest of the company is but seldom trusted to any but those who have given undeniable proofs of the good attachment to their own. One is apt to expect that the magistrates will take cognizance of these things: but they bring this excellent maxim with them out of their own country, *leven en leven laten*<sup>2</sup>; which keeps them from making any strict enquiries.

WITH your leave, I now intend to proceed to describe our voyage, and add the rest of my observations on the behaviour of the *Chinese*.

THEY are either incapable of, or not used to, an habit of intense investigation. Many *Europeans* are likewise obliged to confess with father *Loubere*, that one is incapable of thinking much in hot climates. On the other hand, their application to trade is so much the greater; they pursue gain, without being tired; and as their expectations are frequently boundless, so bankruptcies are frequent among them. All men here traffick; and

<sup>2</sup> To live, and to let others live.

when

when a journeyman comes from his work, he goes about selling trifles, or stolen goods. They have in common with many other nations, the art of cheating in accounts, in measure, weight, and quality of goods ; and likewise know how to raise the price of their goods at certain junctures. At the arrival of the ships from *Emden*, the exchange never fails to alter.

THEY are always ready to sell or to exchange ; but they seldom pay away any silver, except for provocatives, of which there is a great sale. It is very peculiar, and one would hardly believe, that they should set so great a value on antique paintings, and *Porcellane*. I once asked a merchant the price of a common tea-pot, which would hardly have cost three dollars of copper money in *Sweden*, but he demanded ten pieces of eight, and shewed me a stamp at the bottom of it, according to which, he said, it was made in the times of some emperor, who lived four thousand years ago : as if such poor frail vessels had at that time been made use of to assist chronology. The occasion of this high price is, probably, because the government esteems antiquities.

HERE are many artists who are diligent, and reasonable as to their prices, especially if you do not suffer yourselves to be cheated, as frequently happens to new comers.. Their open shops have this advantage, that no trade remains a mystery, or is looked upon as difficult by the people passing by: this, is certainly a great advantage to the inhabitants of the south; and might probably take effect in the north, if that custom was established, that no one must come into a shop who does not intend to make some purchase. I am almost led to believe that this stubbornness and suspicion comes from the usages of the artists <sup>a</sup>.

THE *Cantoneſe* take great pains to make their goods strike the eye, and sell well: but they do not take the same care to make them good and strong; nor do they offer them as the best and finest; for when they have a mind to praise their goods, they say that they come from *Nanking*, viz. *Nanking* ſilk, *Nanking* ink, *Nanking* fans, and even *Nanking* hams.

<sup>a</sup> In Sweden and in many northern countries the artists and tradesmen have often certain silly customs and ceremonies, through which the apprentices must pass, when they are to be declared journeymen. F.

THEIR painters would acquit themselves very well, if they knew how to shade. You meet with very fine drawings painted on paper and glass; and likewise the very worst. Japanned wood and enameled copper is seldom to be got elsewhere at the price which it bears here. I have not heard of any carvers in wood or stone; but images and busts of clay are cheap.

THE joiners copy almost every thing that is shewn them. They have but few tools; and what should they do with a joiner's-bench, when their foot serves the same purpose? The chief strength of their joints is from the glue. Nor do the smiths undertake any great pieces of work: for when they intend to make rings or buckles, they do not beat them round, but cast the metal.

BOTH weavers and such persons as prepare silk and cotton are in great numbers. Here are likewise goldsmiths, pewterers, *Porcellane* painters, and tinkers, together with many others. Those persons who cut peoples nails and corns make use of an instrument, which is like that of a turner.

THEIR barbers have an exceeding light hand at shaving; but a person who is not used to their customs, will be astonished when they afterwards pull him by the nose, and begin to thump his back with their clenched fists.

THEIR physicians seem to be very attentive, because they spend an hour in feeling the pulse; but they must likewise make use of quacks tricks, when they pretend to tell by it the number of stools which the patient has had.

THE dropping and weak eyes of the *Chinese* are occasioned by the rice, which is their most usual food, as the *Europeans* say. Next to rice, their most usual diet is bacon and salt fish; both are cut into little bits, and eaten together with the rice: they convey the viands to their mouths with a couple of sticks. People of higher quality feast upon birds-nests<sup>b</sup>, sinews of deer, and the like corroborative dainties. Between meals they make use of tea, sweet-meats, betle, and tobacco, which is almost as small as snuff, and is smoaked in brass tobacco pipes by persons of both sexes. The *Chinese*,

<sup>b</sup> See note, p. 258, vol. I.

as well as all other eastern nations, love opium, though it is strongly prohibited.

THEY love to play with dice, at a sort of draughts<sup>c</sup>, and with wooden cards, &c.; yet the liberty of playing is under some restrictions among them. Their jugglers are exceedingly dexterous; one of them produced a piece of wood, and after some *hocus pocus* brought a living snake and a tortoise before us. They act plays in the streets, between two of the upper stories, or in other places where there is room for the spectators. In the representation of their plays, they run into many gross absurdities; such as representing two armies by eight or ten persons, who, instead of climbing up rocks, get upon chairs, and so on. However, the companies, which consist merely of little boys, possess a wondrous fluency of language; for they often act whole days together without stopping, making grimaces without end, now singing, now speaking, and all together keeping exactly in time. When they fight and wrestle, they must exactly know how to hit the

<sup>c</sup> This is perhaps the *Chinese chess* or *siang-ki*, of which, see *Hyde Syntagma Dissert.* vol. II. p. 143. seqq. et tab. ad p. 144. F.

blow, and to throw themselves down with as exact cadence as in a dancing school. They can represent some passions as well as if they were real. One boy was once representing a very suspicious man, who was however to be very submissive to his wife; and another a wife who was somewhat of a coquette, yet knew how to make use of her power, and was very artful. At first they came to blows; but when madam began to sob, cry and sigh so that her whole body shook, the husband could hardly make her pardon him, though he fell down on his knees several times; and the articles of peace seemed to be very disadvantageous to him. The musical instruments usual on this occasion are first a couple of pieces of wood half a foot long, tied together at one end, and put across the thumb; which when shaken, make a clattering noise like castanets. Besides these they have little drums, great and small kettle drums, *gungungs* or round brass bassons like frying pans, flutes, guittars, metal hautboys, strait horns, and an instrument which I sent over formerly, and which consists of a hemisphere to which thirteen or fourteen pipes are applied, catching the air blown into the cavity by valves. If the pastoral flute of *Pan* was not made in this manner, I do not know how

how he could express thirty-two parts. How bad soever their musical tunes may be, yet they put a higher value on them than on those of Corelli: and they deserve some commendation for their skill in keeping time, for when five or six play together you scarce distinguish more than one.

## LETTER

## LETTER VII.

THOUGH I have taken care not to mention what I have already found well described in other authors, yet I see from the *Stockholm gazette*, that I have either relied too much on my memory, or on the heads in the *English collections*.

THE *Chinese ell*, or cubit as it is called, contains about fourteen inches three-fifths. I doubt whether they have any solid measure; since they weigh every thing, even wood and water. A *pekul* is about 142 pounds and a half, *Swedish* weight: 100 *katty* make one *pekul*: with this they weigh heavy goods. Gold, silver, and the like, are weighed by the *tel*, of which sixteen make a *katty*. A *tel* contains ten *mess*; ten *kanderins* make one *mess*, and a *kanderin* weighs ten *kas*. Father *Du Halde* mentions yet eight gradual less weights; so that a *fun*, which is the least of all, seems only to be of use to those who will try by cutting and weighing whether matter is infinitely divisible. They have, as is well known,

a brass coin of the size of a Swedish piece of two groats, which has a square hole in the middle. In value it is proportionable to the *kas* of silver; however, at present, they only give eight such brass *kas* for a *kanderin*; in the same manner as gold for some reasons is always valued fourteen times and a half more than silver on this voyage.

THEIR *Simpun*, or table of accounts, is a square frame, which is longitudinally divided by a small piece of wood, not exactly in the middle. In it are 11, 13, 21, or more wires, on which roll little balls, namely, two on one, and five on the other side: the latter signifies 1, 10, 100, &c. and the other two opposite to these five shew the units, tens, &c. They go on very readily with adding and subtracting; but as for the rest, it will not do so well. I now am sorry that I cannot draw; but if I remember right there is a drawing of the *Simpun* in *Loubere's Description of Siam*, and besides that, I sent you such a *Simpun* the last time. They write with a pencil, which they hold perpendicularly, between the thumb and the two last fingers, and only lean their hand on the table, or on the paper. One would be led to think that they must write very slowly;

ly; however, their pencil runs as quickly as the pen of one of the readiest European clerks. They have likewise a current sort of writing, which they only make use of when they write fast.

To keep 900,000 *Cantoneſe* in order, no measures can be so effectual as those taken by the *Chinese*. Justice is done very speedily, especially when the fact is quite recent; but injustice as frequently takes place. It sometimes happens that several objections delay their giving satisfaction to the *Europeans*. The *Europeans* do not easily give up any of their privileges; but when they cannot succeed, the fault is in the *Chinese* officers, who do not take a right cognizance of the affair. Of this you find examples in Lord *Anfon's Voyage*. But if one threatens to apply for justice in higher courts, they are afraid that their superiors will punish them with heavy fines. The sale of the lowest places of trust, even that of a *mandarin*, is so common, that every one speaks of it, and they venture to mention it in the most public manner. A surveyor, who lay along-side our ship, took a considerable sum of money from the master of the boat, with whom he lodged, for the money which

the fellow could make from our crew: and the surveyor said, that he was forced to pay money to the custom-house officer: and so it seems to go round. It often happens here just as I was told it does in the *Portuguese* regulation of the custom-houses, namely, that the revenue from it looks well on paper, but actually is worth little or nothing. The police, however, is excellent: for it keeps every thing quiet at night both in the town and on the water, where an officer goes his round regularly. The gates in the streets, which are shut up at night, are always open near the factories, for the convenience of the *Europeans*: and in those places where in day time you must be on your guard for fear of pick-pockets, you may pass without danger in the night time.

IF you go further up into the town, they call you names, and pelt you with stones, which fly about your ears as thick as hail. If you intend to go out of town, you must have company, walk fast, and carry a good stick.

BOTH petty larceny and theft are punished by a certain number of lashes with a *bamboo* stick. The prisoners are so fettered about the head

head and on one hand, that they cannot lift it to their head. In *August*, in the year 1748, they dispatched some rebels at *Canton* by tying a rope twice round them, and fastening a horse to each end, and so cutting the body quite through. And as both high and low officers are the sovereign masters of their vas-  
sals, criminals are obliged, even for trivial faults, to suffer with the greatest submission; and on their knees to hear themselves reprimanded, and to suffer themselves to be spit on.

As for wild beasts, tigers are said to frequent the mountains over which the northern roads pass: for fear of them it is, that in winter nights you see hundreds of lanthorns carried before the travellers. Their dogs can do no more than bark, little dogs especially. *Spanish* ones are the delight of the *Chinese* ladies; and their husbands pay dearly for them: and I think there is some husband-craft in it; for the affections must be fixed on some object.

HERE are buffaloes, oxen, and sheep whose tails are a hand's breadth long, and very broad. Swine are numerous, and their flesh is daily eaten. Here are few horses, nor do

do they want any, because people of quality are carried in chairs: and those commodities which cannot be carried in boats, are borne on mens shoulders: and on this occasion the feeble *Chinese* shews the advantage of a knack or sleight: they have an easy smooth step; and always lay the poles obliquely on their shoulders, by which means the collar-bone is left unhurt. They can very easily change shoulders, and three of them know how to share an equal part of a weight too heavy for two, and too light for four persons.

CATS are very necessary, on account of the number of mice. The *Chinese* judge of the goodness of a cat by the colour of her eyes, and their changes; for they say a cat changes them twice a day.

QUAILS, geese, and chicken, are plentiful. I likewise saw some *Siamese* fowls, which have a double back-toe. Ducks are bred by hundreds in one boat, and at certain signals either go out or come in. *Cockado* is a species of white parrots, with a yellow crest (*Psittacus cristatus*). They often expose rare birds and animals to sale in the factories: but

I am

I am not fond of looking at what I cannot buy.

THOUGH the *Chinese* dress ever so light, yet they are troubled with insects. The gnats, or *musquitos*, are so troublesome to the *Europeans* at night, that they must be kept off by curtains : for the place which they sting becomes painful, and swells. A species of *blattas*, called *cockroaches* in *English* (*Blatta orientalis*) are brought to *Europe* in great numbers.

As you are better acquainted than I am with the vegetables hereabouts, I shall only remark that I saw no cocoa-trees about *Canton* : perhaps they will not grow so near the tropic ; for if they could be planted here, the *Chinese* would certainly not forget to do it. We took two tea shrubs with us on our return : both of them died, notwithstanding all our care. The one was *Ankay*, and the other *Soatchun* : the former had oblong, and the latter lanceolated leaves.

THE smaller vessels of the *Chinese* are called *sampanes*. They have a flat bottom, without a keel, are broad, and not very deep in proportion to the length. They have several divisions,

divisions, and are so convenient that you are secure from rain and sun shine under the reed-mats, which are spread like an awning over the boat, and are supported with *bamboo* sticks. Such boats as these would be very useful in many places of our *Malar Lake*. They are rowed in a peculiar way, by one or more persons: the oars are neater than could be expected from people who have no theory in their mechanicks: in the middle it is composed of two pieces, but somewhat obliquely; and turns on a swivel, so that the oar turns both on the swivel and in the water; and the rower need only direct it. The part of the oar which goes in the water is very broad, such as is necessary to flat vessels, which have no keel to cut the water, but must only float on it. On the larger *sampanes*, besides this, is a stiff oar fixed to the bending of the *sampane*, with which they may be easily turned, even when they are deep laden. Their anchors (as is well known) are made of wood, sometimes plated with iron on the ends; and have frequently only one arm. Instead of the stern, they fasten a piece of wood cross-ways to the arm, which answers the same purpose, as the angle grows sharper by the conjunction. The sails consist of mats, which are expanded by

poles, on the ends of which are ropes which come together in a knot ; so that all the parts of the sail may be pulled at the same time.

THEIR merchant ships, which are destined for long voyages, are deep, pretty short, and will carry about 200 *Swedish* tons. We call them *yunks*<sup>4</sup>. They are likewise without keels; and have generally three masts, of which the greatest is six fathoms long from the deck; without the top-masts. The standing ropes are made of twisted canes ; the sails are up. The space under deck is divided into several partitions; and each partition is so close, that if even a leak should spring, the ship would not be in danger. Instead of tow, they make use of a cement, which to me seemed to be mixed with ground *bamboo*. As the *Chinese* greatly admire the figures of dragons, and prefer the most ugly ones, their pendants have the same form. If you go on board them, or take leave of them, they play on the *gungung*; but they know nothing of striking their colours, or of what is to be done on that occasion. The sailors climb and tie what is needful with canes instead of hempen ropes.

<sup>4</sup> See Lord *Anson's* Voyage round the World, Book III.  
Chap. 10. Table xxxiv.

WHEN the whole naval force of the *Chinese* Emperor is estimated at 9999 sail by his subjects, a great part must be at *Canton*: but at that place are only great boats, which would sink with ten twelve pounders: Nor are any larger ships of war required, while the *Chinese* government has no intentions of making conquests by sea.

FIVE or six of the above-mentioned boats lie about the *European* ships, to prevent acts of violence and smuggling. Their arms are shields of the useful *bamboo*, little sabres, halbersts, bows, pikes of a tremendous form, for their point is almost a yard long, and exactly like a *Westrogothic* knife, and little slings which stand on a kind of bow.

IT is however very amusing (at least for a person that finds pleasure in observing the dispositions of men, and their universal vanity) to see some place-men row by each other: every one who goes up or down the river has his flag and his distinction, by which the others immediately know his rank: and if he who lies in the river, or passes by, is of a lower quality, he must beat his *gungung* first, to

which the other answers with the same instrument ; after which they wish each other an happy voyage.

THE *Chineſe* can certainly make gun-powder : neither do they seem to be mistaken when they dispute the invention of printing and of making gun-powder with *Holland*, *Italy*, and *Germany*. But their powder will hardly serve for any thing but fireworks ; for though it gives a report, and soon takes fire, yet it leaves a good deal of the charcoal on the paper, and seems to have but little strength. It is very peculiar that sky-rockets, squibs, &c. and even air-guns, may be purchased at very reasonable prices at *Canton* ; while the people themselves are so afraid of fire-arms, that they would even run from a black *bamboo* stick.

IF any body had told me before-hand, that water would freeze naturally at twenty-three degrees and an half of latitude, I could not have believed it. But now I had the testimony of my own eyes, and the *Swedish* thermometer. Having staid eighteen months in this hot climate, the cold was somewhat troublesome in the open harbour, where we were exposed

exposed to the north east wind. We got clear of this and other inconveniences when we sailed through the passage at *Bocca Tigris*, the 4th of January 1752. We were provided with a *Chinese* pass-port and pilot, and accompanied by many white porpoises; and, on the 6th, we quite left the *Chinese* shore. On the 19th of this month we were so happy as to reach the place which the *English* call *New-bay*, which is situated on the south-west of *Java*: there we were to take in a store of the good water of that place. Half a quarter of a *Swedish* mile from the shore is a little island, called *Cantaye* in the *French* charts, which I proposed to myself to visit in our return: but, unluckily, the only time that I was allowed to go on shore, the water was so high that I was forced to wade up to my middle; and for all my trouble got nothing but a great piece of a *millepora*. I was therefore obliged to content myself with sitting and observing the *Javanese*, who are *Mahometans*; they speak the *Malaic* language, are of a tawny complexion, and let their hair grow about as low as their shoulders, and tie it with bast of trees. They chew *betle* in plenty, and are ready to run a mile for a little piece of opium. Their boats have large sails, and on the lar-

board a bamboo stem, which is fastened to two outriggers, and keeps the boat from oversetting, as it otherwife would do on the account of its lightness. The Javanese brought cocoanuts, plaintains, citrons, lemties or lemontyes (as the Dutch and our sailors call them), on board. The latter of these fruits is found to be very plentiful in all southern *East India*, and is like a citron; I never saw its flower, but both Mr. Osbeck and myself have always found the fruit to be ten *locular*<sup>e</sup>. Besides this, they had a sort of coarse brown sugar made of palm-trees, which the crew was forbid to purchase, because it occasions strong dysenteries; they likewise brought fowls, fishes, tortoises, fertularia, and some daggers of good workmanship, the blades of which were undulated, and, as I was told, poisoned.

THE 21<sup>st</sup> of January we left this place, and experienced the weather at the Cape in March, which as usual was very disagreeable, and shifting from storms to calms. We here saw one of those tortoises called *Hawksbills* by the

\* The same is observable in lemons: and this number of *loculi* seems to be the most natural in proportion to the *petals* and *stamina*, though they are also found eight and twelve *locular*. D. S. See vol. i. p. 506.

*English*; its head is flat, and the upper jaw like the bill of an hawk. Its shields lie above one another almost like scales; on the fore paws are three nails, and on the hind feet are two. The shell is thicker and more variegated than that of any others, for which reason it serves for all sorts of work. Further on we saw *whales*, and a *zoophyte*, which the Swedes call *by-de-wind-seglare* (*Holothuria physalis*); the *English* call it *man of war*; the *Dutch* *be-santyes*; and *Dampier*, if I am not mistaken, *cut-lers* <sup>f</sup>. The body is half round, stands directly upwards, has many long and many short *tentacula*, is slimy, transparent; somewhat bluish; shines in dark nights; is poisonous, as I myself have experienced; and so light that it will scarce sink in *Spanish* brandy. Beyond the Cape they are small, in the ocean they are larger, and very numerous especially in *March*. The old sailors who have often been to the *Indies* affirm that they have seen what *Thevenot* calls *Carnasse*. I cannot determine whether these or the men of war are the true *Baharras*, which, according to your desire, Mr. *Lagerstrom* enjoined me to look for.

<sup>f</sup> *Linnaeus* places this animal among the *Mollusca* class of his worms; and therefore I cannot account for the author's mistake in calling it a *zoophyte*. F.

ON our approach to the tropick, we again saw flying fishes. I must remark that all the flying fishes which I saw eastward of the Cape had short *pectoral-fins*; and their *ventral-fins* were expanded while they flew, because they could not otherwise have preserved an *equilibrium*. There is yet another sort of flying fish, which has *antennæ* ♀, and a vessel containing an inky matter; but I cannot tell whether it is the *Sepia loligo*.

THIS time we did not touch at St. Helena, but bore for the Island of *Ascension*, where we anchored the 6th of April. This country has no other fresh water than what the rain sometimes affords; for which reason it is dry and barren, and only seems to be destined by Providence to be the habitation of tortoises, and to serve as a place of some refreshment for seamen. Goats, pelicans, and many sea birds breed here, notwithstanding the intolerable heat of the day, and the coldness of the night. The few low shores where we can land are covered with a loose pearl sand, in which the tortoises bury their eggs. I did not see how

¶ Not *antennæ*; but, as *Linnæus* calls them, *tentacula*. F.  
much

much the tide falls, nor could any estimation be made, on account of the strong breakers; these are likewise so violent against the wind, that in 1749 a sloop with four men sunk very near the shore.

I FOUND nothing particular in the *Sargasso*, besides that peculiar animal, the drawing of which resembles a spider: perhaps this was only the skin which some animal had cast off.

THE 22d of *May* we spoke with a *Frenchman*, who had received accounts from *St. Helena* of such events as had happened during our absence. It was peculiar, that an officer from the *French* ship asked us whether the *Swedes* believed in the *Apostles Creed*? When a *Frenchman* has such mean thoughts of a *Lutheran*, the *Spaniards* and *Portuguese* may well think us *Turks* and *Heathens*.

THE 30th of *May* we saw the western islands, or *Azores*, on which every one of us expected to breathe some fresh air; but the resolution was changed, and we sailed for *England*. In the mean time the scurvy had attacked some of our men. It was very happy that they were

were all *Swedes*. The 14th of June we saw *England*; and after we had bought some refreshments and greens, we left *Dover* the 19th of June. The 26th of June the *Gothenburgh* rocks were the most agreeable sight we had met with during a voyage of twenty-seven months.

## OLOF TOREEN.

*Stromstad,*  
the 3d of May, 1753.

A SHORT