Memoirs of a smuggler, compiled from his diary and journal

J. Harvey - Memoirs of a Smuggler: Compiled from His Diary and Journal



Description: -

Germany -- Description and travel.

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Jack Rattenbury

Some other of my shipmates had the good fortune to do the same, among whom were two men completely spent with fatigue, who had taken in so much water, that two or three days elapsed before they perfectly recovered: We then mustered the men, and upon calling over their names, found with regret that two were missing. Misfortunes, it is said, seldom come alone, and the truth of this adage we were doomed to experience; for the vessel, which I have before mentioned, that was hauled up on the beach, having been repaired, was at sea in this violent gale, and put into Brixham; when the officers, suspecting what she was, went on board and seized her; and I, being bondsman for her, in the sum of one hundred and sixty pounds, was arrested for the same, a few months afterwards, and was obliged to pay it, without being able to obtain the smallest mitigation.

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In the same room were a sergeant and several privates belonging to the South Devon militia, and also some horse-soldiers, amounting in the whole to nine or ten in number; who, after drinking two or three pots of beer, the sergeant, whose name was Hill, having heard my name mentioned by some of my companions, went out with his men, and soon after they returned again, having armed themselves with swords and muskets. We then steered again for Alderney; and when I landed, I sent a pilot off, to take charge of the vessel, with instructions to sail round about the island, while I got the goods ready to put on board; we were not however able to load the vessel as soon as I expected, through the revenue officers keeping a very sharp lookout, in consequence of which, they took the vessel out to sea again, leaving me ashore.

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One instance in which I very narrowly eluded his pursuit was attended with such extraordinary, and at the same time ludicrous circumstances, that I will insert it here, as I think it will amuse the reader.

Memoirs of a smuggler, compiled from his diary and journal: containing the principle events in the life of John Rattenbury, of Beer, Devonshire, commonly called Rob Roy of the West.: Rattenbury, John: 9781240063642: ne-x.uni.rf.gd: Books

There the captain sold the schooner, and having taken a brig belonging to his brother-in-law, pressed me very kindly to be his mate; but I had

another object on 23 which I was much bent. If the original book was published in multiple volumes then this reprint is of only one volume, not the whole set.

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