AN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA,

Abridged from the Portugueze Original.

To which is added,

An Account of the present State OF THE ISLAND, IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

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M,DCC,L.

PREFACE

WHEN *we hear of any place diſtinguiſhed for its people or productions, which a few years ago was uncultivated, uninhabited, and unknown; we are naturally led to enquire, how the diſcovery of it was made, and by what ſtages it has arrived at its preſent ſtate of perfection and importance. Nor is this inquiry an effect of meer curioſity, but is in part prompted by an inſeparable intereſt in the welfare of mankind, which the acceſſion of new territory is generally believed to promote, as immediately ſubſiſting individuals, and conſequentially extending commerce, learning, manners, and the mutual intercourſe of kind offices.*

THE *accounts of all important diſcoveries gratify this curioſity, and this benevolence: but among theſe there are a few that go ſtill farther, and by their peculiar circumſtances excite that ſpecies of wonder, and produce thoſe effects upon the paſſions, from which a romance derives its power to pleaſe, even at the expence of truth. The danger and diffi-*

culties

culties of a great enterprize, the motives for engaging in it, and the prudence, fortitude, and resolution, with which it is conducted, afford a pleasing example of the power of perseverance, the success of human wisdom, and human virtue, when properly applied and exerted.

OF *this kind is the discovery of* MADEIRA; *which, for the incidents that produced it, the difficulties that obstructed the progress of the undertaking, and the spirit and constancy with which it was at length accomplished, is eminent above every other that history has afforded us. And the relation of it becomes peculiarly interesting to an Englishman, as an Englishman was the first discoverer, tho' by accident and misfortune; and remotely the second, since the Portugueze engaged in the expedition, solely upon the knowlege which they had obtained of that event.*

SOME *loose and general accounts of this discovery have already been offered to the public: but many of them have a studied air of romance and fable, which, in the judgment of superficial and careless readers, destroys the credibility of the story; and the rest, tho' they have the plainness of a narrative, are written*

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with a professed suspicion of the truth of the facts, and with formal objections against them.

THE *writers of the first may, perhaps, plead the turn and spirit of the Portugueze original, which, if admitted to be faulty in this respect, should, therefore, have been corrected, and the stile reduced, rather than heightened. But tho' they have fallen far beneath the true spirit of this original, and have not been able to preserve the lofty manner in which it describes the important events, yet, by an impotent endeavour to imitate beauties which they but imperfectly discovered, they have given an air of extravagance and fiction to the most trivial occurrences. The original, however, tho' it be allowed to want simplicity, cannot justly be suspected as a relation of facts; because facts can neither lose or acquire much by the pomp of the description. That the Portugueze discovered* MADEIRA, *is a general truth, for which there are more evidences than this history; and that this history contains a faithful relation of the particular manner of the discovery, is clearly attested by the records of the nation.*

BUT

BUT *there are* * *formal objections to the authenticity of this relation, which may be ſtated thus.*

" Firſt, FRANCISCO ALCAFORADO, e-
" ſquire to Don HENRY infant of Portugal,
" and a voluntier in the expedition to MA-
" DEIRA, wrote a complete relation of the
" diſcovery of that iſland, which was after-
" wards publiſhed by Don FRANCISCO
" MANOEL. But there are certain cir-
" cumſtances in this relation, which do not
" quadrate with the time of the author;
" and prove, either that it is not genuine,
" or that it has been interpolated: ſuch as,
" the taking notice of the invention of the
" aſtrolabe, and other inſtruments uſed in
" ſailing, page 25; Funchal being men-
" tioned as formerly the metropolis of the
" weſtern iſlands in ſpiritualities, page 37;
" the name of Agravados given to the Ara-
" bian Sea, page 39; the title of marquiſs,
" ſaid to have been hitherto enjoyed by
" GONSALVO's heirs, page 42; and the
" confutation of De Barros's aſſertion, that
" GONSALVO ſet fire to the woods of MA-
" DEIRA, page 44: all which circum-
" ſtances

* Notes to the collection of voyages in 4 vols 4to, printed for T. Aſtley. vol. 1. page 566-572.

"ſtances refer to a time long after ALCA-
"FORADO, and, therefore, cannot be a
"part of his genuine relation."

"Secondly, MORALES is ſaid to be a
"priſoner in Morocco, when the compa-
"nions of MACHIN were driven thither,
"page 18: and as MACHIN's arrival at
"MADEIRA is ſuppoſed to be in the reign
"of Edward the third, who died in 1378,
"MORALES muſt have been a priſoner
"more than forty two years, when he was
"met by GONSALVO, in his return from
"captivity, in 1420, page 22: which is
"not only highly improbable, but contrary
"to the ſenſe of the hiſtorian, who ſup-
"poſes but a ſhort ſpace of time to have
"elapſed between both events. And this
"is an objection to the truth of the hiſtory."

THE *refutation of the firſt objection is ſhort. It proceeds wholly upon a miſtake with regard to the real author of the hiſtory, whom the objector ſuppoſes to be* ALCAFORADO. *But this is ſo far from being aſſerted, or even implied, in any part of the hiſtory, that the contrary is declared in plain terms; for the writer, taking occaſion at the mention of* ALCAFORADO, *to acknowledge his obligations to him,*

him, says, that to this gentleman he was indebted for the materials of his account, *page* 24. *And the structure of the whole narrative is such as obviates all possible mistake in this respect, and leaves not the shadow of a difficulty about the opposition of time and fact. But compilers of voyages would be buryed under the works of others, which they so industriously heap together, if they did not appear sometimes in a note, and by a happy observation convince the reader, not of their existence only but their importance.*

THE *case of the writer of the history before us is evidently this:* ALCAFORADO *kept a journal of the whole expedition, which was presented to the infant* DON HENRY, *and afterwards enlarged by the addition of minutes of all the transactions that immediately succeeded their return to Lisbon, and of* GONSALVO's *second voyage to* MADEIRA, *when he went to establish a colony there: and these papers were carefully preserved by the* INFANT, *as the original and circumstantial records of an event in which he was deeply interested. But no use was made of them for public information, till about two hundred years after; when* DON FRANCISCO MANOEL *having acquired the possession of them, was induced to use them as*

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the ſtamina of a hiſtory of this diſcovery; and without injuring his materials, he might juſtly incorporate any remark or illuſtration of his own, and particularly the obſervations which are made the foundation of this objection. DON FRANCISCO MANOEL, *then, is the real author of the hiſtory; and* ALCAFORADO *ſtands in no other relation to it, than as the perſon who accidentally furniſhed the materials for compiling it: in which view, the firſt objection totally diſappears.*

THE *ſecond objection is plauſible: but as it relates to a particular circumſtance very trifling in itſelf, and which cannot invalidate the general truth of the hiſtory; there could be no cauſe for making it, but the objector's vigilance to introduce himſelf. And this appears to be the real caſe; for he immediately ſuggeſts an argument to ſhew that his objection has little or no weight.* * MORALES, *if he will have it ſo, might impoſe upon* GONSALVO *and the* INFANT, *and, in order to ingratiate himſelf, take advantage of their predominant paſſion for new diſcoveries, and re-*

* Nor can we ſee, how it is poſſible to obviate this objection, but by ſuppoſing, either that MORALES told a lye, in ſaying he had the account of the diſcovery from the Engliſh themſelves, inſtead of other ſlaves, among whom the tradition might have run many years after; or that ALCAFORADO, the hiſtorian, miſtook the report of MORALES in this particular. vol. 1. p. 569. note.

represent an event that took place seventy years ago, and which he only gained the knowledge of by report, as a recent fact, and what he was informed of by the persons concerned. Or ALCAFORADO *might be remiss and inaccurate in taking down the account which* MORALES *delivered: for it does not appear, that* DON MANOEL *was indebted to* ALCAFORADO *for the story of* LIONEL *in the same order and dependence of one circumstance upon another, in which it is here related; nor is it probable that such a minute detail of events, that had no immediate connexion with the expedition, made any part of* ALCAFORADO'S *journal; but* DON MANOEL *might have recourse to tradition, or employ his own judgment and invention, for the improvement of that geneual information which* ALCAFORADO *only gave him.*

BUT *waving this, and allowing the difficulty its full force, it may be justly asked, how a mistake in point of time with regard to a single circumstance of small moment, can amount to an objection to the truth of the history. It is sufficiently evident, that* MADEIRA *was discovered by* MACHIN *an Englishman, in the manner here related: Galvano mentions the reports in the kingdom of Arragon,*

gon, about that time, in attestation of the fact; the tradition among the inhabitants of MADEIRA, *recited by Ovington, corroborates it; and the testimony of* GONSALVO *and his people, who found the tree, the grave, and the inscription, place it beyond all doubt. It is as evident also, that the attempt of the Portugueze to discover* MADEIRA, *was made solely upon the information of a Spanish pilot, that* MACHIN *had discovered it before them: but whether his discovery preceeded theirs seventy, or seven, or two years, is a circumstance not worth notice, as it cannot be adjusted; and appears exceedingly trifling, when urged as an objection to the truth of the history, which stands yet unshaken, so far as regards the fact of* MACHIN's *discovery, the attempt of the* PORTUGUEZE *upon the knowledge of it, and the reality and principal circumstances of their discovery: and the only point that admits of any degree of doubt, is the precise time of* MACHIN's *adventure, which, according to this history, happened probably in the year* 1349, *between the surrender of Calais, and the great plague; but, according to* Galvano, *in the year* 1344, *and to Herbert in* 1328.

As *this single circumstance of time, therefore,*

fore, is wrapt up in ſuch thick obſcurity as no hiſtorian has yet been able to penetrate; it muſt be left to the judgment of the reader, whether it is of conſequence enough, to diffuſe uncertainty and diſcredit over other facts, that are conſiſtent in themſelves and with each other, and clearly and powerfully atteſted.

ERRATA.

Page 18. line 17. for JEAN, read JUAN. p. 19. line 9. dele the comma after *John*, and inſert it after *firſt*. p. 23. l. 15. dele the comma after *order*. p. 24 l. 6. dele the comma after *Alcaforado*.

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ENGLAND having obtained a ſafe and honourable peace, under her victorious monarch Edward the third; London, the metropolis, drew together the young gentlemen of every province, by the variety of its pleaſures: among whom appeared LIONEL MACHIN, a younger brother of a good family, but greatly impoveriſhed by the late wars. As he had a virtuous ambition, and a true ſenſe of propriety and decency of character, extravagance and riot were but ill ſuited either to his

taſte or his views; and, in conſequence of a deliberate purpoſe to preſerve his honour free from ſtain or imputation, he preſently withdrew himſelf from the ſports and revellings to which his companions were devoted. This regularity of conduct, joined to the generoſity of his temper, and the gracefulneſs of his perſon, endeared him to every heart, and rendered him eminent above every one of his age and condition.

BUT he had not long enjoyed the public eſteem, and the tranquillity of prudence and virtue, before he unfortunately became enamoured of ARABELLA DARCY, the moſt diſtinguiſhed beauty not only of the court but kingdom; who, by the virtues of her mind, the charms of her perſon, the dignity of her family, and the greatneſs of her fortune, had attracted a number of admirers among the principal nobility. Yet, notwithſtanding ſuch powerful obſtacles to the ſucceſs of his wiſhes, LIONEL induſtriouſly cheriſhed his paſſion, and even ventured to make a public declaration of it; and ſo great was the force of his exalted merit, that the lady ſoon preferred him to all his

rivals,

rivals, and professed her willingness to receive him as her husband.

An inclination so repugnant to the pride and ambition of Arabella's family, could not fail of being discouraged. Her father and mother exerted all their authority to suppress it: but finding every endeavour fruitless, they at length preferred their complaint to the king, representing the disgrace that such an alliance would bring upon their house, and the great injury it would do to their daughter's fortune, as they had before concluded a very advantageous match for her, which she now refused to accept: they, therefore, humbly besought his majesty to interpose his royal authority, and save their family from a stain, which they should never be able to wipe off. The king gave a favourable ear to their petition, and determined that Lionel should be arrested, and, that, during his confinement, Arabella should be compelled to marry the nobleman for whom her father had designed her. Accordingly Lionel was sent to prison, and the poor lady, in spight of all her reluctance, forced to take Lord * * * for her husband, who immediately after retired to his seat at Bristol.

LIONEL, at the news of this marriage, was ſeized with the keeneſt anguiſh: but being ſatisfied that ARABELLA's affection for him could not be abated, he loſt all patience at his reſtraint, and immediately employed his friends to ſupplicate the king for his liberty; which, as his majeſty had no end in his confinement, but to gratify the lady's parents, and ſecure her marriage, they eaſily obtained. His paſſion was rendered more ardent by his impriſonment; and having revolved in his mind, during the latter part of that painful interval, various ſchemes of revenge, and fixed upon one not leſs difficult than bold, he was determined, now he had gained his liberty, to put it in execution. To this end he ſecretly called together thoſe of his friends and kinſmen, in whom he could repoſe the greateſt confidence, and addreſſed them in the following manner.

" YOU cannot but conclude, my friends,
" that the indignity I have ſo lately ſuffered
" is the cauſe of my aſſembling you toge-
" ther; and I am perſuaded, that if I were
" baſe enough to forget it, you have too
" much honour to neglect a juſt revenge.

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" The forcing the Lady ARABELLA to own
" an usurped title, is surely an affliction as
" deeply felt by her as by me, and I am
" determined to deliver her out of the power
" of the man she hates. The attempt, I con-
" fess, is bold and hazardous, and I would
" willingly make it alone, and not expose you
" to the dangers that attend it : but it would
" be unjust, my worthy kinsmen, if I under-
" took singly to revenge abuses done us all ;
" if I did not allow you to share in the re-
" dress, as you share in the wrong ; for
" tho' I alone am sensible to its keen ran-
" cour, yet the dishonour of it stains deep-
" ly our whole house. But were you not
" thus interested, I would not doubt your
" concurrence : avowed enemies, who
" openly offend, are more excusable than
" those specious friends, who, when we
" are depressed by difficulties, withold their
" assistance ; and should any one of you a-
" bandon me, I would discard him from
" my heart for ever. But of this I have
" no suspicion. Let us, then, immediately
" prepare to execute a just and noble re-
" venge.

THIS speech produced the desired effect, and they unanimously bound them-

ſelves, by the moſt ſolemn engagements, to ſhare all his fortunes. It was then reſolved, that they ſhould immediately diſperſe, and take ſeveral roads to Briſtol, there to contrive the neceſſary meaſures, and watch every opportunity for relieving the diſtreſſed ARABELLA. The neighbourhood and conveniency of the ſea, promiſed greatly to facilitate their ſcheme. France was fixed upon as a commodious retreat, and the antipathy then ſubſiſting between that crown and England, offered them all the ſecurity they could deſire. They did not queſtion their ſucceſs, as it depended chiefly upon their courage, which was highly raiſed, from the conſideration of the many heroic actions that had been glorioufly atchieved, when love was the motive for attempting them.

AFTER their arrival at Briſtol, the firſt thing concluded upon was, to introduce one of the company into the ſervice of ARABELLA's lord, and he was accordingly entertained by him as his groom; in the exerciſe of which office, he had the good fortune to have aſſigned to his care a beautiful horſe, which ARABELLA always rode, when ſhe went out to take the air, either

either in company with her husband, or alone; for ſuch was the innocence of thoſe times, that a lady's honour was eſteemed ſufficient to protect the conjugal rights from violation.

HAVING thus ſucceſsfully completed the firſt ſtep, the next ſubject of conſultation was the ſeizure of a ſtrong veſſel, of which there were many conſtantly riding in the harbour; and the probability of accompliſhing this, was grounded on their own vigilance and activity, and the common negligence of the ſailors. The more effectually to cover their deſign, they purchaſed a ſhallop, with which they every day rowed out to ſea, as on a party of pleaſure; ſo that when it was to take place, they would be able to conduct it with leſs ſuſpicion, both from the people on ſhore, and thoſe on board the veſſels which rode at anchor near to that which they intended to make uſe of.

ARABELLA, who had been informed of the ſcheme, and approved it, received conſtant intelligence of all theſe reſolutions from her new domeſtic, and regulated her meaſures by the information. And, in a ſhort time, all things being favourable, and the wind

come

come about fair at north, ſhe had notice that LIONEL and his companions waited for her in the ſhallop; ſhe therefore ordered her horſe to be got ready, and, attended only by the fictitious groom, who ſerved her as a guide, rode directly to the place where the impatient lover ſtood waiting to receive her.

THE only point which they had now to gain, was the ſeizure of the veſſel, and this they had no difficulty to accompliſh, as the owners of that they made choice of, gave a farewel feaſt on ſhore, to which all the ſhip's company, except one man and a boy, were invited. As ſoon as they were all embarked, they looſed the ſails, cut the cables, and, the wind blowing a freſh gale, they ſteered directly for the coaſt of *France*.

THE eyes of love are not always blind. LIONEL, conſidering the quality and power of ARABELLA's huſband, did not doubt but he would immediately engage all the ſhips in the harbour to purſue the raviſhers of his wife. He, therefore, made all the ſail he could, and, the more effectually to perplex the ſearch, varied at night the courſe he had ſteered in the day. His motions had all that irregularity and precipitation, which

uſually

usually attend a breach of civil justice, and a dread of its consequences; and in forty-eight hours he found himself safe from pursuit. But the wind, which had hitherto been favourable, grew impetuous, and seemed to threaten a violent and dangerous storm.

ARABELLA, who had found leisure for reflection, began to compare her former condition with the present. But to divert the melancholy that was invading her, she came for the first time upon deck, where observing nothing but a tempestuous sea, and feeling the rudeness of a wind to which she had never before been exposed, she was struck with the misery to which she had reduced herself. And as the vessel was now become the sport of the sea and winds, grief and consternation took possession of every breast.

AFTER five days sailing, without discovering a place of shelter to which they might retreat, the storm became so vehement, that it drove them far wide of the coast of France, where all their hopes were centred. And now the companions of LIONEL, having no object in view but their own safety, vented aloud their complaints at the unequal

unequal treatment of fortune, who made no difference between the innocent and the guilty, but threatened them all with one common ruin. But LIONEL had not the privilege of complaint to relieve his mind, which love, friendſhip, and deſpair, filled with the moſt complicated diſtreſs. He not only found his own high raiſed hopes of happineſs threatened with ſpeedy and total diſappointment; but he conſidered his brave and generous aſſociates, and, more than all, his dear ARABELLA, as the devoted prey of the mercileſs ſea.

THIRTY days had they continued in this dreadful ſituation, toſſing on the wide and boiſterous ocean, and expecting death from every guſt and every wave, when, the morning after, the ſtorm happily ſubſided, and they imagined that they ſaw land. As they approached nearer, their confidence encreaſed, and they ſoon diſcovered a ſhore, which appeared high, craggy, and covered with trees. Their joy was now as great as their deſpair had been. Poor ARABELLA could not conceal her tranſports; ſhe hoped to find ample conſolation for her paſt diſtreſſes, and a manner of life in ſome degree

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ſuited to the tenderneſs and delicacy of her conſtitution.

LIONEL, fearing that he might ſplit againſt ſome rock, ſounded with great circumſpection, and at laſt came ſafely to an anchor. As they could not perceive any human creature, they conjectured that the place was uninhabited, and they were the more confirmed in this opinion, as a great number of birds, differing in ſize and colour, came familiarly and perched upon the maſts, yards, and ſhrouds of the ſhip. But curioſity and neceſſity prompted them to make a cloſer examination, and a few of the moſt daring got out the boat and ventured to ſhore. Upon their return they reported, that it was indeed uninhabited, but that the air was good, and the earth fertile. Encouraged by this account, LIONEL and ARABELLA, with their whole company, except a few who were left on board to take care of the ſhip, went into the boat, and landed ſafely upon that ſhore where never man had ſet his foot.

AS the ſun roſe higher, it preſented to the view of our adventurers a moſt beautiful country. The hills were covered with

with ſtately trees, and the valleys abounded with ſmall currents, and many bubbling ſprings of pure and delicious water. Some diſtance from the place of their landing, they found a beautiful level, ſurrounded with laurels and other ſhady trees, whoſe ſpreading branches were ſo interwoven, as to form a delightful bower. As they had reſolved, after ſuch a ſeries of hardſhips, to taſte the pleaſures which ſo ſweet a country ſeemed to promiſe, they choſe this ſpot for the place of their reſidence, and by ſeveral improvements rendered it ſecure againſt the inclemencies of the weather. And now every one addreſſed himſelf to ſuch employments as he was prompted to by particular fancy, or the common good: ſome penetrated the woods in ſearch of food, others ranged the adjacent hills for new diſcoveries, while the reſt were buſied in exchanging neceſſaries with their friends aboard. They had forgot the perils of the ſea, they had forgot even their native country, and ſeemed to enjoy here the innocent felicity of the purer ages of the world.

BUT the ſevere fate of our fugitives did not ſuffer this tranquillity to laſt long; for on the night of the thirteenth day of

their

their arrival, there blew ſuch a horrible ſtorm from the north-eaſt, as baffled all the induſtry of thoſe on board the veſſel, and they were forced to abandon her to the fury of the wind and ſea. For two days they experienced the ſame diſtreſs from which they had been ſo lately delivered, at the end of which they once more diſcovered land: but as the veſſel was leaky, and they were but unſkilful mariners, they were reduced to run her aſhore. This proved the beginning of new ſorrows; for they had no ſooner landed, than they found themſelves upon the coaſt of Africa, in the kingdom of Morocco. The Moors, who beheld this ſhipwreck from the mountains, deſcended and ſeized upon the poor Chriſtians, whom they dragged to the priſon of their capital city.

THE ſucceeding day-light proved more comfortleſs to thoſe on ſhore, than the darkneſs or the ſtorm had been terrible to thoſe on board. No ſhip appeared in view, nor did any return after five days anxious expectation; for till then they had hoped, that the extremity of the weather had only driven her out to ſea. They ſaw themſelves deprived of all the means of leaving that

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ſolitary and unknown part of the world; their ſtock of proviſions was juſt exhauſted, their apparel could not laſt long, and they muſt ſoon be reduced to depend upon the productions of an iſland, of which they had no knowledge, for a covering for their bodies, and the ſupports of life : their courage was diſſipated, and they again became the victims of deſpair.

And now the chief inſtruments of this accumulated diſtreſs beheld their precipitate conduct in its worſt appearances. A deep melancholy ſeized the ſpirits of the tender Arabella, who from that moment ſpoke no more ; and at the end of three days ſhe reſigned her breath and her miſeries together. But Lionel felt a larger portion of affliction. He threw himſelf at the feet of the lifeleſs Arabella, and abandoned himſelf to the agonies of hopeleſs grief, and ineffectual remorſe. Not all the tender endeavours of his friends could prevail on him to take any ſuſtenance, or admit the leaſt degree of conſolation. The fifth day, however, put a period to his ſorrows, and he expired in their arms ; beſeeching them with his lateſt breath to bury him

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and his beloved miſtreſs at the foot of a ſtately tree, that roſe in the center of their habitation. They religiouſly fulfilled the injunction, and adorned this ruſtic monument with a large croſs as a token of his faith, under which they placed an inſcription containing the ſtory of his love, and a requeſt that if ever any Chriſtians ſhould inhabit that ſolitary place, they would over his grave erect a church to the honour of the bleſſed Jeſus, and pray for the ſouls of the unhappy lovers.

An event ſo melancholy in itſelf, and ſo deſtructive of every plan of future happineſs, was naturally adapted to inſpire the followers of this wretched pair with the moſt piercing ſorrow, which every object and every thought renewed. The place ſoon became intolerable to them. Beſides, they dreaded the indolent inactive life, to which a continuance in it muſt reduce them. They, therefore, fitted up the boat in the beſt manner they could, and having ſtored it with as many neceſſaries as it would hold, boldly ventured out to ſea. But, unfortunately ſteering the ſame courſe which the late ſtorm had forced their friends to take, they were, like them, brought upon the

coaſt of Afric, and, like them, freed from the dangers of the ſea, to experience the more ſavage cruelty of unrelenting man. After becoming ſucceſſively the property of many tyrants, and feeling the ſeverities of ſlavery, in all its painful varieties, they were at length bought by the king of Morocco, and in this new ſituation they had the conſolation of meeting with their old companions, whom till now they had believed to be ſhipwrecked.

THE priſon for ſlaves in Morocco was of the ſame kind with that uſed now in Algiers, in which were always many Chriſtians of different nations, and, amongſt others at that time, a Spaniard born at Seville, whoſe name was JEAN DE MORALES, a man very ſkilful in navigation, having been employed for many years in the buſineſs of a pilot. His curioſity was greatly raiſed by the converſation of our Engliſh captives upon the ſubject of their adventures, and the long time they were together gave him ſufficient opportunities to gratify it. He treaſured up in his mind every particular circumſtance of their voyage, and, comparing their account of the place with his own obſervations, he

could

could no longer doubt, but that he had found out its exact ſituation, and hoped in time to make an advantageous uſe of the diſcovery.

BUT, in order to ſhew how his purpoſe was accompliſhed, it will be neceſſary to look back upon ſome tranſactions of a publick nature.

THE illuſtrious Don John, the firſt king of Portugal, having ſucceſsfully finiſhed his wars with Caſtile, and not thinking it expedient to abandon his troops to the enervating ſoftneſs of peace, reſolved to turn the force of his arms againſt the avowed enemies of his religion. He therefore invaded Africa, and, in the year 1415, made himſelf maſter of Ceuta, ſituate in the ſtraights of Gibraltar; in which expedition his ſubjects behaved with the affection of children, and his children with the ſubmiſſive duty of the loweſt ſubjects. The Infant DON HENRY his youngeſt ſon, grand maſter of the order of Chriſt, particularly ſignalized himſelf by his bravery and enterpriſing genius. He had been always much devoted to the ſtudy of the mathematics, but, more particularly, to Coſmography,

which induced him, while at Ceuta, to ſollicit the converſation of thoſe Moors and Jews, who, by their travels, had acquired a knowledge of the remoter parts of the earth. From them he learned the ſituation of ſeveral places of conſequence which he had never before heard of, and the information did not fail to inſpire him with a moſt ardent inclination to diſcover, and poſſeſs them; not ſo much to gratify his ambition, as to extend the knowledge of the true God. With an immediate view to accompliſh this great deſign, after the conqueſt of Ceuta, he retired to the Algarves, and, on a convenient part of Cape St Vincent, erected a town to ſerve him as an arſenal for his ſhipping, which he named Terca Nabal: It was alſo called the town of the Infant. Here he made preparations for his future diſcoveries and conqueſts, and fitted out fleets for the Atlantic and Southern oceans, which were then deemed unnavigable, and, but for him, might have been deemed ſo till now.

JUAN GONSALVO ZARCO, gentleman of the bed-chamber to DON HENRY, was the perſon who principally aſſiſted him in his diſcoveries, to which he applied the large revenues

of

of the order of Chriſt. This gentleman was the firſt on whom the king conferred the honour of knighthood at the taking of Ceuta. He ſerved the Infant in all his African expeditions, with a ſucceſs proportioned to his great abilities, and the conſtancy of his reſolution; and, it is ſaid, that he firſt introduced the uſe of artillery in ſhips. He paſſed the ſtreights in the year 1420, as he had in the year 1418 diſcovered the iſland of Puerto Santo, while he was proſecuting his ſearch after cape Bajador.

On the fifteenth of *March*, in the year 1416, Don Sancho, youngeſt ſon of Don Ferdinand king of Arragon, and grand maſter of the order of Calatrava, died in Caſtile, and left by will conſiderable ſums of money for the redemption of Chriſtian Spaniſh ſlaves in Morocco. With a part of this noble legacy a foiſt was ſent to Africa, and was returning to Tariff with a number of ranſomed Chriſtians (among whom was our Juan de Morales) when Gonsalvo happened to be cruizing in the ſtreights with his maſter's fleet. And as the differences between the two crowns of Caſtile and Portugal were not yet wholly removed, the

ſubjects of the two kings ſtill plundered each other without ceremony.

GONSALVO no ſooner obſerved the foiſt, than he ordered out ſome light veſſels, which after a ſhort chace came up with, boarded, and without reſiſtance took her. But reflecting upon the extreme miſery in which he ſhould involve theſe unhappy creatures, by ſuffering their late deliverance to be ſucceeded by a new captivity, and knowing the extraordinary clemency of his prince, he generouſly releaſed all, but JUAN DE MORALES; his profound ſkill in maritime affairs, of which GONSALVO had received intimation, rendering him too valuable a prize to be given up, without the prince's expreſs conſent.

TO be alone excepted in an act of mercy like this, was a circumſtance that could not but aggravate the calamity by encreaſing regret. MORALES, however, who had been inured to the viciſſitudes of fortune, preſerved the ſteadineſs of his mind, and, when he learnt the motives of ſuch a ſeeming ſeverity, rejoiced in the event. He made a voluntary offer of his beſt ſervices to the Infant, promiſing to ſupport the cha-

racter

racter that had been given of him. And the more to ingratiate himself with his new master, he communicated to him the story of LIONEL and ARABELLA, and his determined purpose to go in quest of the place to which they had been driven, which he proved to be an attempt as practicable as it was advantageous. GONSALVO was delighted with the project, and returned to Terca Nabal, more rich in hope, than in all the prizes he had taken in his cruize. He flew to the infant, presented JUAN DE MORALES to him, extolled his great abilities, and expatiated on the glory and utility of the discovery which he had proposed. DON HENRY received him with great kindness and respect, and having heard from his own mouth a particular relation of every circumstance, conceived an impatience equal to that of his admiral, for engaging in the enterprize. He therefore resolved, that GONSALVO should immediately set out for Lisbon, to obtain the concurrence of the king his father, and the aid of the state, in a business of such importance to the nation; and, in order, to obviate the objections which a spiritless and selfish ministry are generally disposed to make to every undertaking that is attended

with expence and difficulty, he ſent MORALES with him.

WHILST GONSALVO was on his journey to court, accompanied by the captains Juan Laurence, Francis Caravalaile, Ruy Paes, Alvare Alfons, and Francis de Alcaforado, (to whom we are indebted for the materials of this account) and with two other gentlemen ſkilful in navigation, named Anthony Gago, and Lorenzo Gomez; DON HENRY gave orders for the equipping a fleet to effect this diſcovery, which, if the king ſhould refuſe his aſſiſtance, he reſolved to proſecute at his own expence.

BUT the moderate ſupplies required for it, and the great advantages it ſeemed to promiſe the nation, gained our embaſſy a very favourable reception from the king. Some ſtateſmen, however, jealous of the riſing greatneſs of the Infant, exerted all their power to obſtruct the ſcheme. They made light of the treaſures propoſed by it for the uſe of the ſtate, and inſinuated, that, admitting the reality of the acquiſition, the prince had it in his power to ſecrete the greater part of it, and convert it to his own uſe. GONSALVO did not fail to remonſtrate

to his maſter, that his project would probably periſh under this malignant influence; and the continual delays it occaſioned, at length ſo exaſperated DON HENRY, that he left Terca Nabal to ſollicit in perſon what his officers could not obtain. He was no ſooner arrived at court than he removed every difficulty in the mind of the king, and in the begining of June, in the year 1420, GONSALVO put to ſea with only one ſhip well-manned, and two ſmall veſſels with oars, very neceſſary in theſe expeditions. So inconſiderable was the force that parted from Liſbon upon a diſcovery of ſuch great importance.

IT was known as a fact in Puerto-Santo, the place GONSALVO intended firſt to make, that towards the north eaſt there appeared a perpetual obſcurity, which extended itſelf from the ſea to the ſky, without ever altering either in its ſhape or its ſituation. And becauſe in that infancy of navigation they wanted the aſtrolabe and other inſtruments ſince invented, it was judged impoſſible to return ſhould they paſs this black cloud, and that they who ventured through it muſt inevitably periſh. Some called it an unfathomable abyſs, others ſaid it was the

mouth

mouth of hell, and were ſupported in the aſſertion by the prieſts, who laboured to prove it both by argument and authority. The hiſtorians, not leſs ſuperſtitious, maintained that it was the Iſland antiently called Cipango, which God had miraculouſly hidden in a cloud, to protect the Spaniſh and Portugueze biſhops, who fled thither from the perſecutions of the Moors and Saracens; that it was directly contrary to the divine will to endeavour a farther diſcovery, for if he had pleaſed to have it take place, he would have manifeſted his approbation by ſuch miracles as uſually precede his permiſſion of great events; and that, above all, divers antient prophecies, under ſevere penalties, forbad the enquiry into this ſacred myſtery.

GONSALVO ſet ſail in very fair weather; but not being willing that any thing ſhould eſcape his notice, he every night lowered his ſails and lay at hull, proceeding only in the day, that he might the better obſerve any land that ſhould accidentally preſent itſelf. This did not retard them ſo much, but that in a ſhort time they arrived at Puerto-Santo, where they were ſhewn the horrid obſcurity which had before been deſcribed to them.

UPON

UPON ſight of this extraordinary phænomenon, they reſolved to ſtay in the iſland that quarter of the moon, to obſerve if there was any variation either in its ſhape or ſize; but as it conſtantly retained the ſame form and magnitude, the majority of them began to dread the event, and to give up the expedition as preſumptuous and deſperate. A council was therefore called, when MORALES, fearing that this glorious attempt ſhould be fruſtrated by meer cowardice and ſuperſtition, immediatly roſe up, and urged every argument he could think of to engage them to proceed. He told them, that by the information he had gained from the Engliſh, the courſe he had ſteered, and other ſtrong tokens, he was confident the place they wiſhed to diſcover could not be far off; and added, that the dark cloud which ſo terribly alarmed them, was nothing more than a vaſt quantity of humid vapours (common to thoſe places the ſhores of which like this are covered with trees) exhaled by the exceſſive heat of the ſun, and formed into a large body, that at ſuch a diſtance always ſeemed to retain the ſame form and place.

THIS

THIS did not fail to raiſe a general and moſt violent oppoſition. They tumultuouſly exclaimed againſt the poor pilot, and inſinuated, that as he was a Caſtilian, and of courſe an enemy, he was fond of an expedition that expoſed their people to imminent danger. They urged, that it was enough for men to encounter men, without commencing war againſt the Almighty. That the king and Infant were greatly injured by having a ſett of brave fellows, who might render them many uſeful ſervices, forced into certain ruin upon no better grounds than the idle dreams of a ſtranger. That GONSALVO might reaſonably expect the full reward of his great merit, without precipitating himſelf into ſuch exceſs of peril; for that it was not valour, but raſhneſs, to ruſh on danger in hopeleſs enterprizes. That they ought to be content with the lands which providence had allotted them, and not, under pretence of religion, ſeek the conqueſt of new countries, and alienate the poſſeſſion of them, which proved that they were more bent upon purſuing their own glory and advantage, than the cauſe of heaven. And, laſtly, that they were but men, and therefore

would

would not encounter difficulties which they knew to be above mortal ſtrength.

THESE multiplied clamours did not in the leaſt ſhake the reſolution of GONSALVO, who, communicating his deſign only to MORALES, gave immediate orders for weighing anchor, and with all the ſail he could make ſteered directly towards the cloud, the terror of the crew increaſing in proportion as they drew nearer to it. As they crowded all their ſail, they were ſoon advanced ſo far, that, altho' it was mid-day, the whole horizon was darkned, nor were land, ſea, or ſky, any longer to be diſcerned. A dreadful conſternation ſeized them all, and with tears, and the moſt earneſt ſupplications, they beſought their chief to take pity on them, and not expoſe ſo many innocent people to inevitable death.

GONSALVO expected this event. But to juſtify his own conſtancy more than to diſpel their fears, he ordered up the whole ſhip's company, and placing himſelf ſo as to be diſtinctly heard by all, he addreſſed them in the following manner.

" Do you think, my friends, that I eſteem
" my life leſs than you do yours? If not,
" what can have perſuaded you, that if you
" periſh

" perish I have any possible means left to
" save myself? It would be unparallel'd in-
" justice for me to enjoy all the glory, while
" you only suffer the hazards of this enter-
" prize: no, we will equally participate
" in both. And if I pursue this business
" with a steadiness and resolution insensible
" to all you feel, it is because I love you,
" because I value your fame more than I do
" your lives. I would have you sensible of
" every evil that now surrounds you, that
" it may hereafter be said, you deliberately,
" and of choice, not by accident, confronted
" more than human dangers.

" It is not therefore your fears that I con-
" demn, but the method you would take to
" remove them. For with what justice can
" we pretend to more glory than other na-
" tions, if we rate our safety at so high a
" price? Or how can we pursue the foot-
" steps of our noble ancestors, if we do not
" trace them in such adventures as these?
" Why did our master send us hither? Where-
" fore among thousands, who sollicited for
" this employment, did he make choice of us?
" Wherefore, with the most lively gratitude,
" did he acknowledge our obedience? And
" why, in our absence, doth he shew him-
" self

" ſelf a father to our families? Not, ſurely,
" that we ſhould do our buſineſs by halves,
" that we ſhould give up our enterpriſe
" when it was ſo near completion, and
" bring home diſappointment to him, and
" diſhonour to our country.

" REFLECT, that as there is but one life,
" ſo there is but one death; and it is with-
" out any ſhew of reaſon, that you fear the
" elements more than men, for twice by
" either of them you cannot die. You
" make light of expoſing your lives in the
" field againſt the enemies of your king, and
" what is there in the wind and water more
" to be dreaded? Can a wave, or a ſudden
" guſt, be more fatal than the ſword or
" lance?

" CONSIDER the end of the ſervice in
" which we are engaged. Is it not to diſ-
" cover provinces, to conquer them, and
" lay them with honour at our maſter's feet?
" And ſhall this be defeated thro' fear and
" diſobedience? No, let me rather periſh
" inſtantly, than carry back a uſeleſs life to
" Liſbon, the object of everlaſting diſgrace
" and ſcorn.

" Be

"BE perſuaded then, my friends, to take "the glory that ſues for your acceptance. "If nature and fortune both declared againſt "us, I ſhould be the firſt to ſecure your "lives by declining the attempt. But, as "we have nothing but meer darkneſs to en-"counter, or rather only the creatures of "fear and ſuperſtition, let us, in the name "of God, proceed."

THIS ſpeech operated ſo powerfully upon the hearers, that they immediately cried out, GONSALVO ſhould not only command them as their chief, but have the abſolute diſpoſal of their lives and liberties: they would yield him a blind obedience, and ſubmit to all his directions without murmur or diſpute.

UPON this full diſplay of courage orders were given for proceeding. But tho' the weather was fair, the ſea, as they approached, proved ſo extremely rapid, that the ſhip was driven quite wide of its courſe. To remedy this, GONSALVO fitted out the two ſhallops to take the large veſſel in tow, committing one to the care of Anthony Gago, and the other to Gonſalvo Lewis, men of known valour and experience. In this manner they

boldly

boldly penetrated the thickeſt darkneſs, which, after ſome progreſs, ſeemed to leſſen and break off towards the eaſt. And tho' the waters made a dreadful roaring, and their imagination had found ample ſcope for the exerciſe of its former terrors, they with the ſame ſteady perſeverance got paſt the obſcurity.

THE air being now clear, and the ſun ſhining out, they preſently diſcovered a high point of land, to which GONSALVO gave the name of Cape St Laurence. When they had doubled this point, they beheld a rich and fertile country, full of beautiful high trees, which extended themſelves quite from the ſummit of the hills, through the valleys, to the ſea ſide; while the formidable cloud, the cauſe of all their anxiety and terror, ſeemed now ſo far retired, as only to crown the tops of the mountains. So glorious a proſpect filled every mind with unſpeakable delight; their terrors were totally forgotten, and they embraced each other with tears of joy, pouring out their thanks to God, and to their commander, by whoſe example and perſuaſion their labours had iſſued in ſo happy a period: the pilot too, whoſe ſkill had ſo ſucceſsfully conducted them hither, was re-

ſtored to perfect confidence, and received his ſhare of gratitude and praiſe.

SAILING onwards, they ſaw a large bay; and as MORALES conjectured that it was the place where theEngliſh had formerly reſided, he came here to an anchor. Some were inſtantly ſollicitous to go aſhore, but the ſun being then ſet, it was judged proper to defer it till the morning. Accordingly, the next day, Ruy Paes, with a company of well-armed ſoldiers, landed in the very ſame place where LIONEL landed before, and by certain tokens, which MORALES gave him, found, with great ſatisfaction, the footſteps of the Engliſh. Being led on by a plain and beaten track, they preſently diſcovered the great tree, and, approaching nearer, perceived the croſs and the inſcription. They read the mournful exhortation with tears of unfeigned compaſſion, confirming the truth of Seneca's obſervation, that pity is the firſt degree of kindneſs among men.

AFTER ſuch indubitable teſtimonies of ſucceſs, they returned to JUAN GONSALVO, who being now fully convinced of the truth of every circumſtance of MORALES's account, prepared immediately for a general diſembarkation, which he conducted with great

ſolem-

ſolemnity; taking poſſeſſion of the place in the name of Don John king of Portugal, and of the Infant DON HENRY, knight and maſter of the order of Chriſt. The earth was bleſſed by two Religious, and the air and water purified by calling on the name of God. This ceremony was performed on the feaſt day of St Elizabeth.

GONSALVO could not expreſs the ſatisfaction he felt at having made ſo eaſy a purchaſe. But being anxious to know that his title to it was clear and indiſputable, he commanded his people to penetrate as far as they judged neceſſary, and ſtrictly ſearch hill, dale, and wood, for inhabitants. But there was no living creature to be found, except a prodigious quantity of birds of various ſhape and colour, which ſuffered themſelves to be taken without any ſigns of fear or reſiſtance.

HE now returned aboard, where having called a council, it was judged expedient, as they had leiſure and a favourable ſeaſon, to make a more particular examination of the place before their return to Liſbon. But as the ſhore was full of rocks, many of which did not riſe above the ſurface of the water,

they were obliged to profecute their ſearch in the ſhallops. GONSALVO, therefore, taking one, and committing the charge of the other to captain Alvare Alfons, paſſed the point and the valley towards the weſt, from whence iſſued four beautiful ſmall rivers, the water of which being exceedingly clear and good, he ordered ſeveral bottles to be filled with it as a preſent to the Infant.

THE next object that attracted their notice, was another valley, watered alſo by a fine rivulet. Here they landed ſome ſoldiers, who diſcovered nothing but a great number of ſprings, and a vaſt tuft of trees that grew together like a bower. One of the largeſt of theſe GONSALVO formed into a croſs, from whence the place derived its name of Santa-Cruz, or Holy-Croſs. Proceeding onwards, they weathered a point of land, that extended itſelf ſtill farther into the ſea. It was remarkable for the many large birds that inhabited it, the number of which was ſo formidable, that the men were afraid of being devoured by them; they, therefore, called this place Punta dos Gralhos. A little further was another valley, full of beautiful cedar-trees, the talleſt

of

of which rose upon the summit of an adjacent hill, and made a useful sea-mark.

FROM this valley they came to a fourth, where they found a spacious lake, which seemed to promise something extraordinary. Gonsalvo Ayvez was therefore ordered out with a party of soldiers, who having ascended the mountains, returned without any farther knowledge, than that they could discover the place from whence they first set out, by which they knew it to be an island, and no part of Africa, as many of them had before conjectured.

GONSALVO, not yet perfectly satisfied that the island was uninhabited, did not fail to send out parties at every convenient place, to observe if there were any traces of human creatures. In the course of this search they came to a fair and extensive plain, free from the trees which covered almost every other part, and only over-run with most beautiful fennel, called in Portugueze Funcho. Here was afterwards built the town which adopted the name of FUNCHAL, once the metropolis of the western islands as to spiritualities, and still so in point of temporalities.

IT is obſervable of the Portugueze, that, more modeſt than other nations, who beſtow pompous titles upon their new plantations, they either transfer to them the names of their old colonies, or give them new ones expreſſive of the nature and productions of the place; of which, among many others, this remarkable town of FUNCHAL is an inſtance. There are three large rivers that terminate in this valley, and, where they diſembogue themſelves, form two ſmall iſlands, which in a manner land-lock the haven, and ſecure it from the ſea and winds.

GONSALVO, continuing to coaſt the country, came to a large rock, which he named Praya formoſa, or the beautiful rock; becauſe of its vaſt ſize, and the delicious water that runs from it. They next diſcovered, between two points, a moſt rapid torrent, the waters of which, notwithſtanding the impetuoſity of their motion, were ſo clear, as to excite the attention of the whole company. There were preſent two ſoldiers of Lagos, very expert ſwimmers, who, willing to give an extraordinary proof of their ſkill, reſolved to paſs the torrent: but they

they had no ſooner plunged in, than, in ſpight of all their art and ſtrength, they found themſelves hurried down by the extreme violence of the waters, and had inevitably periſhed, but for the immediate help of their companions. This adventure gave the torrent the name of Soccoridos, more happily than that of Agravados was given to the Arabian ſea.

THEY were now got round to cape St Laurence, near which ran a fine river, that before had eſcaped their obſervation. GONSALVO, imagining that he ſaw upon the ſand the footſteps of ſome extraordinary animals, was induced to enter it, in hope of making an important diſcovery. But he had not proceeded far, before a prodigious number of ſea-wolves ruſhed furiouſly out of a cavity at the foot of a mountain, and plunged themſelves into the ſea. As this was the moſt ſtriking event they had met with, GONSALVO received from it the title of CAMERA DOS LOBOS, as Scipio Africanus and Germanicus did theirs from the provinces they reſpectively conquered.

THE night after their arrival in this place, the wind roſe ſo very violently, as

to force even the rivers almoſt back to their ſource; and at length produced ſo dreadful a tempeſt, that the veſſels were in the utmoſt danger, and this uſeful diſcovery, and the brave authors of it, had like to have periſhed together. But it happily ſubſiding towards day, GONSALVO, to ſecure himſelf againſt the return of ſuch an accident, retreated cloſe under the two ſmall iſlands before-mentioned; where he ſtored himſelf with wood, water, birds, plants, and even earth itſelf, which he intended to preſent to the king and Infant. Having compleated every neceſſary task, and fully gratified his curioſity, he ſet ſail for Portugal, and, at the end of the month of Auguſt, in the ſame year, arrived ſafely in the port of Liſbon, where he found his maſter in anxious expectation of him. This expedition was accompliſhed without the loſs of a ſingle man, and by it was added to his majeſty's dominions, the poſſeſſion of the beſt iſland in the weſtern ocean.

THE king and Infant received the brave GONSALVO with unfeigned affection and joy, and appointed thankſgivings in all the churches for his return, and the acceſſion made by his labours to the national intereſt,

and

and to the true religion, which would now be extended to the remoter parts of the globe. Public rejoicings were alſo made throughout the whole city, which laſted a conſiderable time; and no mark of diſtinction was omitted, neceſſary to impreſs upon the minds of the people a juſt ſenſe of this important acquiſition.

DURING theſe teſtimonies of gratitude to heaven and to GONSALVO, the king ordered that the relation of ſo extraordinary a voyage ſhould be made in a full aſſembly of the nobles of the court and foreign miniſters. Accordingly, on the day appointed for that purpoſe, GONSALVO was introduced into the audience chamber, and after having kiſſed the king's hand, and paid the uſual reſpects to every one preſent, he began an exact detail of the whole expedition, from the hour of his ſetting ſail from Puerto Santo, to the very day of his return to Liſbon; in which he did not omit a ſingle circumſtance, but took frequent occaſion to expatiate on the advantages of the acquiſition, and the neceſſity of an immediate improvement. He then preſented his majeſty with the ſeveral productions of the iſland,

who,

who, without any meditation, gave it the name of MADEIRA, on account of that vaſt quantity of wood, for which it was chiefly remarkable.

THIS account was received with marks of general approbation and applauſe. The King paid high atteſtations to GONSALVO's merit, and ſoon after conſented that he ſhould return with a plantation the following ſpring, appointing him governor of the place; which, together with the title of Marquis, the eldeſt of his family have hitherto enjoyed.

GONSALVO's ſecond voyage took place in the month of May 1421, when he parted from Lisbon with his lady Conſtantia Rodriguez de Sa, deſcended from the antient family of Almeyda, Juan Gonſalvo his ſon, and Helen and Beatrix his two daughters. He arrived at MADEIRA in a few days, and having moored his anchors exactly in the place where the Engliſh and he had landed before, in honour of LIONEL MACHIN, whom he deemed the firſt diſcoverer, he called the harbour Puerto Machico, or Machino, which name it ſtill retains. After they

they had formed a proper place for their present accommodation, the governor immediately began to lay the foundation of a church, resolving that the first edifice in the island should be dedicated to our Saviour Jesus Christ, as LIONEL had requested in the inscription. And to be strictly just to his memory, he raised the structure exactly over the grave where he and ARABELLA lay buried, supplying the place of the high tree with a fine altar, on which were recorded the chief circumstances of their lives. Such an honourable repository did these unhappy lovers at length obtain.

WHEN this last office of humanity was thus nobly discharged, his next care was to erect a town, and the valley of Fennel was judged most convenient for the purpose; for, besides the beauty of the situation, the two small islands formed a most safe and convenient port for trade. Such was the original of the illustrious town of FUNCHAL, which, in this infant state, had but two churches, the first dedicated by GONSALVO to God our Saviour, and the second to St Catherine by Constance his lady; contrary to what Juan de Barros has advanced, who supposes the foundation

foundation of two other churches. This miſtake inclines me to doubt his aſſertion elſewhere, where he ſays, " that GONSALVO " ſet fire to the woods, which continued burn- " ing for ſeven years, and could not be ex- " tinguiſhed, while there was a tree left to " feed the flame;" which he aſſigns as the cauſe of the preſent exceſſive ſcarcity of fuel. But all this is evidently a fable; ſince there are trees in great abundance and of full growth, and fuel enough to keep at work one hundred and fifty mills.

AFTER the death of Don John king of Portugal, his ſon and ſucceſſor Don Duart, conſidering the great expence his brother HENRY had been at, in diſcovering and peopling this iſland, made him a grant of the iſſues and profits of it during life, which was executed at Cintra the twenty-ſixth day of September, in the year 1433; and upon the ſame account he gave in perpetuity the ſpiritual juriſdiction of it to the order of Chriſt, which was afterwards confirmed by king Don Alphonſo in the year 1439.

AND to encourage his other ſubjects to take the ſame worthy method of obtaining the diſtinctions of his favour, he gave to

JUAN

JUAN GONSALVO ZARCO, a new coat of arms, the blazon of which was, a caſtle argent, in a field ſinople, ſupported by ſea-wolves, and the title of Marquiſs do Camara dos Lobos, from the ſea-wolves taken notice of above; both which marks of honour are ſtill enjoyed by the deſcendants of our WORTHY DISCOVERER.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA,

IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLAND OF MADEIRA, IN A LETTER TO A FRIEND.

DEAR SIR,

I HAD a favourable voyage to MADEIRA; where I have now reſided three months. And that you may not juſtly accuſe me of an indolence and inattention, too prevalent among young travellers, but reproachful to their underſtanding, and deſtructive of the advantages, for which travelling is at firſt undertaken, I have drawn up the following ſhort account of the preſent ſtate of this iſland; an account, of which I cannot boaſt either the regularity or exactneſs; but ſuch as it is, I give it to your curioſity, and ſubmit it to your candor.

THE firſt diſtinct view we had of this iſland was at the diſtance of three leagues, from whence it made a very hideous appearance, occaſioned by ſeveral vaſt mountains, the lower parts of which ſeemed of a red gravelly colour and quite barren, and the ſummits of a dark dirty green.

AS we approached nearer, the ſcene became more diſtinct and varied. By the aid of our glaſſes, we could diſcern a multitude of ſmaller hills, covered with vegetables of different kinds, about which were ſcattered many ſingle houſes, that looked white and uniform, and at the bottom, cloſe to the ſhore, ſtood ſeveral little towns and villages. This, together with the large ſtreams of freſh water which poured in caſcades down the mountains, formed a new and very entertaining proſpect, aud made me impatient to be on ſhore.

UPON our arrival in the harbour of FUNCHAL, ſeveral of the Portugueze came to viſit us, ſome out of curioſity, and others to traffic proviſions, *&c.* for old black cloaths. The boats they make uſe of, are about the ſize of our yawl, and reſemble the Venetian gondola, having carved pieces of wood fixed perpendicularly

at

at head and ſtern, the uſe of which I cannot conceive, unleſs it is occaſionally to hold by in this rough ſea, or to faſten them the more ſecurely to ſhips. Their oars are ſhaped like ours, but much larger, and, towards the middle, there are additional pieces of wood, in which are made holes to fix them upon two pegs, placed on the edge of the boat for the greater convenience in rowing. The workmanſhip is very mean, and their boats are fitted up in the ſame wretched manner, without the leaſt ornament, except a ſort of painted margin on the inſide, that time has almoſt defaced. But the boatmen make yet a much worſe appearance, being in colour like Mulattoes, and having ſcarce any cloaths to cover them.

FROM the latter end of November to the beginning of March, the wind blows from SSW. during which period the weather is generally ſtormy, and the harbour, which lies open to the ſea, becomes extremely dangerous; for ſo violent and ſudden are the winds, that it is fortunate for the ſhips that lie there, if they have time to cut away their anchors, and run to ſea. Indeed there is no place where ſhips can ride with any degree of ſafety, unleſs within

ſhelter of a very high rock called the Leeuw.

We had not been long in the harbour before we experienced one of theſe ſtorms, which cauſed ſo dreadful a commotion in the ſea, that we expected every moment to be driven upon the rocks. A Dutch veſſel, notwithſtanding ſhe lay behind the Leeuw, could not reſiſt the violence of the tempeſt, but being preſently drove from her moorings, was daſhed in pieces, and the crew with great difficulty were ſaved. Our ſtream cable ſoon parted from us, and we had nothing left for our ſecurity but our ſmall bower, which, upon examination, we found half worn aſunder by the chaffing of the ſhip: ſo that if the ſtorm had continued much longer, we muſt have ſhared the fate of the Dutchman; for, as the wind ſtood in ſhore, we could not poſſibly cut cable and run to ſea, but were reduced to ride it out or periſh. When the ſtorm was abated, the harbour appeared all over of a muddy red colour, occaſioned by a loamy earth, which the great rains had waſhed from the mountains. The natives informed me, that ſix weeks before three ſhips were caſt away in one of theſe ſtorms; but, as I have already intimated,

intimated, they happen only in the winter ſeaſon.

THE ſurf upon the coaſt of the road is the greateſt I ever beheld; for it frequently riſes higher than the houſes, attended with a moſt violent noiſe, which is principally occaſioned by the beating together of a vaſt quantity of large pebbles that line the ſhore. This, added to the clinking of bells, which in different parts of the town are continually ſummoning their Religious to prayers, never failed to break my reſt for the firſt month I lay upon the iſland.

THIS extraordinary agitation of the ſea makes the landing of their boats a work of great labour and difficulty. The men, when they come near the ſhore, turn the ſtern towards it, and wait the riſing of the ſurf, with which they endeavour to force in: but if the firſt attempt fails, as it generally does, they are driven back to ſea again by the falling wave, and are reduced to wait for the next riſing. The ſecond effort ſometimes proves ſucceſsful, when they inſtantly hoiſt the boats upon the ſtones out of the reach of the ſurf, where they leave them till they have occaſion to put to ſea again.

It muſt be acknowledged, that their boats, however inelegant, are very conveniently built for this boiſterous harbour; for they have a ſort of joice or under-lidge fixed upon the outſide near the bottom, which prevents their overſetting, and enables them to endure almoſt the greateſt ſea.

Madeira is ſituated in thirty-two degrees thirty minutes north latitude, is high land, very rocky and ſteep, eighteen leagues long, and ſixteen broad. It is inhabited by Portugueze, who are very numerous, making at this time near fifty thouſand. The air is peculiarly healthy, for moſt of the people live to a very old age; and the winters are ſo temperate, that the ſnow ſeldom lies except on the tops of the mountains, and hail is very rarely to be ſeen. It yields a great variety of fruits, and ſome corn; has a ſufficient ſtock of black cattle, but lean; ſwine, goats, and ſheep, whoſe wool is long and hairy, differing much from ours: but the chief productions are its wines, which ſeem depoſited here by nature for the comfort and refreſhment of the hot countries that ſurround it.

There are only three towns of note in this iſland, Funchal, Manchico, and

Santa

SANTA CRUZ. The principal of theſe is FUNCHAL, which is the ſee of the archbiſhop, and the chief reſidence of the governor. Beſides the cathedral, it contains three pariſh churches, two monaſteries dedicated to St Francis, a college of Jeſuits, a nunnery of the order of Santa Clara, and ſeveral hoſpitals.

THE houſes, which are ſcattered about the mountains, and are the villas or country-ſeats of the principal merchants, are indeed neat and elegant; but the houſes in FUNCHAL are in general very mean, being built with pieces of rock and pebbles, covered over with an exceeding hard mortar made of the limeſtone. The walls are very thick, the windows not glazed but latticed, and the window frames are compoſed of a reddiſh ſtone like our oker, which conſtitutes the chief external ornament of their buildings.

THE roofs, which are nearly flat and uniform, are covered with pantiles much harder and ſmoother than thoſe uſed in England, upon which are laid large pebble ſtones, to keep them from falling, or being blown down. Their rooms are large and lofty, and the cielings formed of boards neatly wrought. Over the door of every cham-

ber, and indeed over the gate of every vineyard, is fixed a wooden croſs, but made with the greateſt ſimplicity, conſiſting only of two laths nailed very inaccurately together.

THE houſe doors are large, and the entries ſpacious, but neither of them very elegant; the one on account of their conſtruction, and the other becauſe of a particular uſe to which in the day-time they are conſtantly appropriated: for the natives deem the making water, when expoſed to common obſervation, an indecent action, and the effect of drunkenneſs, which they have in great abhorrence.

THEIR churches are worthy of ſome attention, being ornamented withinſide with fine paintings, and elegant carvings richly gilt; but they are the labors of Italian and Flemiſh maſters, purchaſed by the inhabitants themſelves, or ſent to them as oblations and endowments. The charnel-houſe alſo deſerves to be particularly noticed; it conſiſts of human ſculls regularly and curiouſly placed, and is perhaps as remarkable an edifice as any that Europe can produce.

THE

THE nunnery of Santa Clara is a neat building, and pleasantly situated: we were admitted up stairs, and had the privilege of talking with the novitiates through a private grate, who, after a little conversation, suddenly squirted rose-water upon us, a diversion they are allowed to take in holyday-times. In Lent the streets are continually infested with religious processions, in which some saint, dressed extreamly fine, is carried under a canopy supported upon mens shoulders, and preceded by several children habited like angels. The priests of the different orders succeed, and a great number of penitents, scourging themselves with knotted cords till the blood streams down their backs, form the rear. These wretches make a most horrid appearance, each having a peculiar mark of disgrace and punishment suited to the nature of his offence; but they are all naked, excepting a mask, and a garment which reaches from the middle to the knee.

THE students live a very recluse life, and are perpetually counting their beads, and muttering over their prayers in miserable Latin. During Lent they devote themselves to peculiar mortification and severity, exercising

exercifing the fcourge every other night without mercy: and at other feafons they have no kind of relaxation except two games, one called Tocambocco, which is beating a ball through an iron ring fixed in the ground; and the other called Dammer, much like our draughts; but thefe they ufe very fparingly.

THE furface of the country is one entire piece of irregularity, compofed of rocks of different eminence, upon which is a very fhallow ftratum of earth, but rich and fertile, and extremely well adapted to the culture of their vines. From the tops of thefe mountains run many fine ftreams of frefh water, which, about FUNCHAL and the other towns, are received in refervoirs with large brafs cocks and aqueducts, for the more convenient fupply of the people.

IN thefe currents the labouring women ftand the whole day to wafh linnen, which they perform by beating it againft the ftones at the bottom, and afterwards laying it out to dry and whiten upon the adjacent rocks. Thefe women, and indeed all the common people, are exceffively fond of fnuff, which, on account of its fcarcity and value, will

purehafe

purchaſe almoſt any favour from them; and if any difference ariſes in paying them for their labour, it is always in the power of a little ſnuff to adjuſt it.

THE people belonging to the vineyards exert great skill and application in the management of their vines, and this ſeems to be the principal ſubject of emulation among the natives. They faſten a number of them together to poles about five feet high, ſuſtained within ſquares, made of reed or cane, and raiſed a little above the ſurface of the earth, which, as they ſtand connected in long rows, form an agreeable kind of lattice-work.

THE labourers, during the month of February, are chiefly employed in refitting the old reeds, or ſupplying with new ones the place of thoſe that are totally decayed. And it is very obſervable, that from the time they begin work, to the time they leave off, they are inceſſantly ſinging, and always in the ſame melancholy ſtrain. I was induced to enquire what could be the ſubject of theſe ditties, which they were ſo univerſally fond of, and found it nothing more than their Pater-noſters and Ave Marys, a certain

certain number of which is daily impoſed upon them by the prieſts.

A COMMON vineyard generally conſiſts of three or four roods ſquare, in the center of which ſtands the family-houſe, but miſerably built with large pebble ſtones, heaped up without any cement, a thatched roof, a door, and ſometimes a window. As theſe places are not at all adapted to the exerciſe of any ſort of buſineſs, but ſeem intended chiefly to ſleep in, their wives and children all day long ſit before the door, employed either in ſpinning flax, or making lace upon cuſhions. They behave very courteouſly to ſtrangers, inviting them into their huts, and offering them dried figs, raiſins, and other fruits.

A SMALL part of their plantations is diſpoſed into kitchen gardens, which, when they require weeding or planting, are ordered with great expedition. A gardener, with an inſtrument ſhaped like our narrow hough, turns up the earth, plucks out the weeds, and forms the mould into riſings and hollows; he then plants or ſows, as he thinks proper, and harrows with the ſame inſtrument, and the aſſiſtance of his feet; the next day it is watered, and thus the whole proceſs

ceſs is completed. There are a few plantations of ſugar canes, and the ſugar is extremely fine: but as the people make a prodigious quantity of ſweetmeats, there is ſcarcely enough produced for home-conſumption.

THE iſland abounds with fruits of various kinds, and moſt delicious to the taſte; bananas, opuntias, yams, guavos, figs, quinces, apples, bays, oranges, limes, dates, and citrons, cheſnuts, walnuts, and kitchen-fruits in great quantities.

THE banana tree, which flouriſhes all the year round, is from fifteen to twenty feet high. The leaves are large and pendulous. The trunk is about a foot in diameter, but of ſo ſoft and ſpungy a texture, that it may be cut thro' with a ſingle ſtroke of a large knife. The fruit, in ſhape and ſize, reſembles our cucumber, and generally grows in two large bunches, of thirty, ſixty, and a hundred each. When the bunch is gathered, it is neceſſary to cut off the ſtalk, as the omiſſion would prevent its bearing again. It is of an oily, ſaponaceous, and luſcious nature, which renders the taſte at firſt

diſagree-

disagreeable; but when become familiar, it proves more and more delicious.

THE opuntia is a kind of pear; and, as it was said to turn the urine red, I was induced to eat plentifully of it, for the sake of making the experiment; and I found that it really produced that effect. The yam is a root much like our potatoe, and made use of in the same way.

THE guavo is a fine acid fruit, in form resembling the peach, but the outside is much rougher, and it has no stone, but kernels smaller even than those of apples. It is esteemed an excellent remedy for the flux, and grows in great plenty. The quince and apple too abound much, but they are generally dry and husky. The citron is constantly kept for confection, in which state great quantities are exported. The onions, cabbages, and sallads, excel those of all other countries; but the oil that is used with them is bad, and yet it is substituted upon all occasions in the place of butter.

THE pine apple is sometimes to be met with; but not being a native production, it is cultivated only in particular gardens. I

have

have alſo ſeen the true cinamon tree, tranſplanted from the Eaſt Indies to the Brazils, from whence they were brought to Madeira, and are now growing in the Providore's garden.

ALL over the iſland grows a tree from which the dragon's blood is procured. This is performed by making inciſions in the bark, from whence the gum iſſues very plentifully into pots hung upon the branches to receive it. The people uſe it as a ſovereign remedy for bruiſes, to which they are very much expoſed by traverſing this rocky country; and this, with one panacea more, completes their whole Materia medica; that is, balſam of Peru, imported from the Brazils in ſmall gourds by their annual ſhips. Theſe two they imagine have power to cure almoſt all diſorders, eſpecially thoſe that are external.

WINES, candy'd citron-peel, and a ſtrong ſort of brandy are the principal commodities that are exported from this iſland. The wines are of two ſorts, the common Madeira, and the Malmſey; the firſt of which is generally bought from ten to thirteen pounds ſterling the pipe; but the latter not being near ſo plentiful, is conſequently much dearer.

dearer. The village of Pauol, where it is chiefly produced, and two or three other places contiguous, afford only about ſixty pipes in a year, which generally ſell for thirty pounds ſterling each.

THE wines are brought from the mountains upon mules and aſſes in long barrels, one on each ſide of the beaſt; in the manner that goat-ſkins are uſed for the ſame purpoſe in Spain and Portugal. But as there are few horſes in the iſland, oxen are employed to draw the wines from the preſs to the warehouſes or the ſhore, which they yoke in pairs to large ſledges, extremely well adapted to the buſineſs.

MY long reſidence among this people has by degrees reconciled me to their manner of diet, which at firſt was diſguſtful to me. Permit me to give you a bill of fare, as I found it in Lent. It is ſo novel and curious, that you will be apt perhaps to condemn the reluctance of my appetite.

OUR breakfaſt conſiſted of dried figs, preſerved pears, oranges, and other fruits in their original ſtate. For dinner we were ſerved with rock-fiſh, baccalaio or New-

foundland

foundland cod, and with various other kinds of fiſh taken daily upon their own coaſts, and dreſſed with oil and vinegar, or ſallads ſhred fine and boiled eggs. Sometimes we had a hodge podge, which is in high eſteem with the natives, compoſed of pears, raiſins, bread, and eggs, boiled together, with parſley and other herbs: of this ſome eat only the decoction, and ſome the fæcula; but it was not till after many ineffectual efforts that I was brought to eat either.

The ſecond courſe generally conſiſted of grapes confected like tamarinds, and mixed with walnut kernels, or marmalade of quinces; yams boiled and roaſted; and a kind of fritters, over which was poured a large quantity of treacle. Some of theſe diſhes I ſhould at firſt have reliſhed very well, but for the ſwarms of ants that covered them; an inſect with which the whole iſland is much infeſted.

The deſerts were made up of the ſeveral fruits I have elſewhere enumerated. And our liquor was principally wine and water; to which brandy was added, whenever it was called for. The people are indeed exemplary with regard to drink, never urging it

upon their company, nor insisting upon that exact rotation which is so strictly maintained in England. And yet this is not the effect of an illiberal spirit, but purely of the love of sobriety; for there is constantly a plentiful supply of wine and other liquors, and servants stand ready to bring them when they are called for.

THIS custom is so truly polite, and so worthy of universal imitation, that I cannot without regret mention another in which they betray great indelicacy, and that is, the disuse of forks; for, whatever be the reason for excluding this necessary implement, it is certain I never saw any even in the best families, and the consequences of the want of it appear very disagreeable and shocking to an European. They are as regardless of decency too with respect to their beds, which they seldom make, but leave them from day to day, till they become solid lumps, as hard and as unpropitious to the rest of a stranger as a board, but a most comfortable residence for the fleas that inhabit them by myriads.

THE people who constantly live in the country are almost strangers to the taste of

bread

bread or flesh. Their principal food, during the four months of winter, is yams; in the spring and summer the fruits then in season; and, in autumn, chesnuts, walnuts, &c.

THE poorer natives are afflicted with a disease which is almost hereditary to them, a kind of leprosy, that always itches, and appears in a hard, dry scab, surrounded with watry blisters. The prevailing opinion is, that it proceeds from the venereal disease ill cured; and the salt fish, upon which they chiefly subsist, does not a little contribute to heighten its malignity.

THERE is an hospital set apart for the reception of these unhappy people, that is situated directly opposite to the Leeuw, upon the rocks of the shore, where they lie basking in the sun, and eating the opuntia, which grows in great plenty all round them, and is esteemed efficacious in abating the virulency of their distemper.

TIME, who seldom fails to leave behind him some visible effects of his power, seems to attack, with uncommon rigour, the faces of the women of this island: for, I think, I never saw an old woman here, that did not

bear much ſtronger marks of his ſeverity, than are to be obſerved in any other place. This is recompenſed, however, by the oppoſite extreme; and the young ladies may boaſt an equal ſuperiority of beauty, grace, and elegance. Perhaps, the eaſe and ſymmetry, for which they are ſo remarkable, may in a great degree be owing to their not wearing ſtays, that prepoſterous and unnatural part of dreſs, known only in Europe, which reſtrains the growth of the body, deprives it of its native beauty and proportion, adds nothing externally but an awkward ſtiffneſs, confirms natural and inherent defects, brings with it a train of new diſorders, and intails upon poſterity weakneſs, diſeaſe, and deformity.

BUT the prevailing prejudice, in favour of this garment, will ſcarcely allow you to admit, that the diſuſe of it can be the foundation of any degree of delicacy; and I am not very willing to conteſt a point, that may ſhake my reputation among the fair-ones of your family. This, however, I will maintain, with all the ſpirit and reſolution of a knight-errant, that the ladies of MADEIRA may as juſtly put in their claim to the prize of beauty, as any ſet of ladies in the world.

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It is not ſtays only that they ſo prudently reject, but hoops and caps meet with equal diſcouragement. Their hair, which is generally long and very black, either flows looſely upon their ſhoulders, or is plaited in a tail, or tied up in a roſe; but always ornamented with bent combs, large ſilver pins, or artificial flowers.

They put on divers petticoats, ſome of which are finely embroidered; and, in the place of ſtays, they wear a thin waiſtcoat that laces before. Above this is a cappota, much like our ladies capuchins, which is trimmed with gold or ſilver lace, and made large and looſe about the neck and ſhoulders, in order to conceal upon occaſion the chin and mouth. Their ears are adorned with large pendents, and their wriſts with bracelets. They wear ſlippers with very narrow heels; and their gowns, and almoſt all their external apparel, are black; a colour they are extravagantly fond of.

These ladies are never permitted to walk abroad, except to maſs; and then only in the company of three or four old women, who are retained by the father, brother, or huſband, as the guardians of female

honour. Nor is this restraint in the least alleviated by any innocent freedoms at home, where they might reasonably claim an equal share of those tender social delights, which are the truest sweetners of human life, and which they seem completely qualified to relish and improve.

THIS unaccountable severity shocked me exceedingly the moment I was witness to it: but reflecting, that it might be only the novelty of the practice, and my own native prejudices in favour of its blessed opposite, that raised this violent indignation in me, I set myself very sagely to examine the subject to the bottom. And the result was, that nature, by the frame and constitution of this most exquisite of her productions, had invested it with such peculiar and unalienable rights, and that man's most refined social happiness depended so much upon the perfect exercise of these rights; that the infringement of them was equally an act of injustice, and an evidence of folly. Indeed, however high the pretensions of Italy, Spain, and Portugal, may be, in other respects, to politeness and humanity, this arbitrary conduct towards their women, in every possible light in which we can consider the motives to it,

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is a ſpecies of the loweſt corruption and barbarity.

WELL now, am I not a ſtout philoſopher? In truth, the inquiry has ſuggeſted a train of new and uſeful thoughts, and you may tell Maria that I hope we ſhall mutually enjoy its happy fruits.

THERE is nothing very peculiar in the dreſs of the men, except that their coats are generally made of black cloth, notwithſtanding its ſcarcity and high price; that they never ſtir from home without an enormous eſpado in their hands, or under their arms, and a monſtrous roccolet thrown careleſly over their ſhoulders, which they profeſs to wear in winter to defend them from the cold, and in ſummer from the rays of the ſun.

UPON the moſt cool and impartial review of the ſtate of this iſland, the commercial advantages of its ſituation, the temperature of the climate, the fertility of the ſoil; the variety and nature of its productions, which, in general, are ſome of the moſt ſalutary, and the moſt pleaſing to the ſenſe; the romantic form of its external appearance, in which

hill, dale, wood, and water, have united all their beauties; in ſhort, the aſſemblage of every thing that can render the outward condition peculiarly happy: I could be induced to fix my reſidence in it rather than in any place which reading or travelling has yet brought to my knowledge. But then the ſocial principle would be ſacrificed, and man, as a benevolent and rational being, muſt be wretched. This is a natural conſequence of the manners and religion of the people, the manners of a ſordid race of beings made worſe by their religion; for ſuperſtition is carried here to the laſt exceſs of folly and barbarity, and the prieſts, who are the loweſt I ever knew, hold an abſolute ſway over the conſciences, the poſſeſſions, and the actions of the laity.

My labours I ſee are drawing near their period: for every thing I could urge in ſupport of this aſſertion is effectually ſuperſeded by Mr Ovington's* faithful account of this people, inſerted in the relation of his voyage to Suratt, to which I refer you. You laugh, and ſuſpect that lazineſs has ſuggeſted this as an expedient for its relief: but read that part of

* The obſervations in the account here mentioned are ſo much to the purpoſe, and wrote with ſo maſterly a ſpirit, that it may not be improper to add a few extracts from it.

of the book, which I aſſure you is ſtrictly juſt in point of character, and then determine. If you perſiſt in laughing, why I muſt join in the mirth; for I think I have acquitted myſelf admirably well for ſo young a traveller. And therefore, without any further ceremony, I will conclude with aſſuring you, that I am, with the moſt cordial wiſhes for your happineſs, and the welfare of your whole family,

APRIL 7,
1748.

DEAR SIR,
YOUR, &c.

EXTRACTS
FROM A
VOYAGE TO SURATT
In the YEAR 1689.

BY J. OVINGTON, M. A.
Chaplain to his MAJESTY.

Printed ANNO 1696. Page 18-37.

THE fertility of this island is much abated from what it was in the time of its first plantation; and the present barrenness of much of the land, reminds the people of the growth of their vices, to which they ingenuously ascribe it. Among which, their effeminate lewdness may very well stand in the front of their accusations, which prevails not a little, even among those whose double obligations, of christians and married persons, should mightily deter them from that sin; especially considering how they may satisfy all their desires at home, and double their pleasures by their innocence. This inconstancy in the husband encourages (tho' it cannot legitimate) the same levity in the wife, the weakness of whose sex is

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not ſo much proof againſt the charms of alluring temptations. Therefore are the women here as apt to defraud their huſbands, as the huſbands are to defraud their wives, and both equally kind to ſtrangers, eſpecially the women, whoſe proneneſs that way, is more excited by their being cloiſtered and kept in, and reſtrained from all company.

ANOTHER reaſon that offers for their mutual infidelity, is the ignorance they have of each others perſonal humours, and unacquaintance with their diſpoſitions before marriage, which ſometimes is celebrated before a mutual interview has preceded the engagement. Whereas a competent time of courtſhip, and frequent viſits, gives them ſome inſpection into each others genius and inclinations, engages their mutual paſſions and good liking, by their conſtant endearing preſents and converſation, which by degrees unites their hearts, and ripens their affections for a happy marriage. For which purpoſe it is practiſed in ſome parts of the world, in the very minority of their children, who are engaged by contract at the years of five or ſix, as in the Indies.

DURING our ſtay upon the iſland, a young gentleman of an advanced fortune, which

which was valued at ſixty thouſand dollars, was engaged in the courtſhip of a lady of eight thouſand, and proceeded to marriage, without the opportunity of one ſight of her before the ſolemnity, beſides what was allowed him the day before. He was then, as it happened, in the company of her brother, and eſpied thro' a lattice two young ladies, and imagining one of them to be his miſtreſs, was curious to enquire, whether of them it was? To which he received no more ſatisfaction, than, "To morrow, ſir, is time enough for that."

In treating about marriage, their principal enquiries are into the family and deſcent of the courtier, for prevention of all occaſions of the deteſtable affinity with Moors and Jews, which among them are very numerous. To join in matrimony with any of them, is eſteemed a debaſement of her lineage and extraction, eſpecially in a woman that pretends to family and education. But the Engliſh merchant is on the other ſide as reputable, and ſtands as fair in their accounts; his very name makes way for his admittance, and incorporating into the beſt families, eſpecially if any equality appears in his fortune; for their ſubtle caſuiſts

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make ſometimes an inequality of fortune a juſt plea for diſſolving a contract. But then, alas! the Engliſh merchant, if he marries, muſt firſt renounce his religion, and abandon the care of his ſoul, for the enjoyment of her in whom he delights. But that which much ſurpriſed me, was the prohibition of an old gentlewoman, to the proceedings of a young pretender to her daughter, upon this account; becauſe ſhe was informed of the health and ſoundneſs of his conſtitution, of the moderation and chaſtity of his manners, ſo that he was never known to labour under any venereal diſeaſe, which ſhe concluded to ariſe only from the weakneſs of his conſtitution; for it ſeems ſhe preſumed there was no need of the reſtraints of conſcience for ſo venial an offence, the committing of which, in her opinion, was meritorious.

The execrable ſin of murder has gained too not only an impunity but reputation among them, and it is made the characteriſtic of any gentleman of rank or faſhion, to have dipt his hands in blood. To this they frequently are obnoxious, and readily incline, by reaſon of the eaſy recourſe they have to their churches, which ſhelter them from any proceſs, and are met with at every

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turn. Theſe chriſtians are as licentious in commiting this crime, as remiſs in inflicting due penalties for it, and indulge the guilt of it, even beyond what the Almighty did the Jews, though it is voluntary, by ſparing the criminal, if he can lay hold of the horns of the altar; and make baniſhment or confinement his utmoſt penalty, both which by a large preſent are bought off.

The numbers of their clergy increaſe here, as well as in other popiſh countries, even to the oppreſſion of the laity, with whom they ſeem to vie for multitude. It is ſcarce imaginable, how ſo many rich eccleaſtics can be ſupported by the labours of ſo few people. But to abate this wonder, they tell us, that none of their nation is admitted to the prieſt-hood, who is not poſſeſsed of ſome patrimony, to avoid a burden to the church. They are totally averſe here from admitting any into ſacred orders, whoſe originals are either Jews or Moors, and yet this caution is not obſerved by them at St Jaques, where native Africans officiate as prieſts.

The Jeſuits, among all the reſt of their orders, are the only men in ſupream repute,

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which they aſpire to by the eaſy abſolutions of their penitents, and pretenſions to ſtricter ſanctity, and a more unblemiſhed character, than the reſt of the orders. For this end, they cloſely conceal from public notice all the enormities and irregularities of their order; and all their failures, but what are legible in their ignorance, which was ſo remarkable, that ſcarce one in three of thoſe I converſed with underſtood Latin. If any delinquent is expelled the convent, his faults are ſtifled and kept as ſecret as confeſſion, leſt the noiſe of them among vulgar ears ſhould ſcandalouſly reflect upon their ſociety, and diminiſh that veneration they ſo zealouſly affect. And the only anſwer which is vouchſafed to any queriſt, for the reaſon of their expulſion, is, "He was unworthy "of our ſociety". This is a maxim worthy the wiſdom of that order, and the imitation of all others, and highly juſtifies the prudent concealment of ſuch mens' faults, whoſe examples might eminently ſcandalize any kind of profeſſion.

NEAR the Jeſuits chapel is a certain hoſpital, much frequented by the natives, erected for the entertainment and cure of ſuch as have ſmarted for their feminine

pleaſures;

pleaſures; whoſe miſerable ſpectacles are ſo ghaſtly and frightful, that were there nothing of future puniſhment, theſe only might very well curb men in their higheſt career to thoſe foul ſins. Among the reſt of the female penitents, we eſpied one near the altar, weeping bitterly, with a ſorrowful dejected countenance, and in deep anguiſh of heart. This ſight produced ſomething of the ſame melancholy effects upon us, till I recovered myſelf at the hopes I had of her happy condition, which ſuch floods of tears ſeemed to promiſe. Had all the reſt evidenced the like ſorrow and concern ſhe did, this infamous ſociety (for aught I know) had been the moſt honourable upon the iſland. But their meaſures herein are very unequal, for a modeſt ſalute is an offence inſufferable, whilſt this abominable vice many of them ſcarce ſtand to parly with.

THEIR churches are moſt commonly made uſe of for repoſitories of their dead; in the interment of whom they mix ſtore of lime with the earth, to haſten the conſumption of the corps, by whoſe ſudden mouldering away, upon this account, there is room made within a fortnight for a freſh funeral. To ſignalize their reſpect for the

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deceaſed, the corps is curiouſly trimmed and adorned, as a faint emblem of its glorious and triumphant reſurrection, in imitation of the wiſe king, who buried with his royal father an invaluable treaſure.

BUT as their church allows no charitable thoughts to the ſouls of heretics, ſo does it forbid all kindneſs to their dead bodies, and proſecutes the Engliſh that die there, with more inexorable hatred, than what they ſhew to the carcaſſes of beaſts and birds, which may find a reſting place on ſhore, and quietly remain upon common ground; both which are ſtrictly forbid the Engliſh, who are caſt into the ſea, and committed to the waves. And, accordingly, an Engliſh merchant falling ſick of a ſudden diſtemper at MADEIRA, was unfortunately carried off by it; which moved the reſt of our nation that were there, to contrive for his decent interment. And therefore, leſt a public burial might expoſe him to the rage of the people, or the clergy's indignation, they concluded to depoſit him among the rocks, in order to his better concealment. But the rocks were unable to ſhelter him from their tyranny, which was exerciſed upon him in this barbarous manner:

they dragged him from the place where he lay, up and down the island, and exposed him to the contempt of the inhabitants, till they threw him into the ocean. This inhumanity, which is carried even beyond the grave, is propagated as far as their plantations in the East; where if any Protestant chance to die among the nation of the Portugueze, no place is allowed for his reception, nor vile enough for his sepulchre, but the very corps of a rank heretic annoys the dominions of a catholic country, tho' it were buried under ground. And yet a powerful sum of money, which is said to blind the world, prevailed to open the eyes of the priests intellectuals in this very case; for thus they stated the difficulty concerning an English child, which had been clandestinely interred there; that if it were immediately taken up, and then baptized after their manner, and so made a member of their church, it might be admitted among their dead. This conclusion was approved of as canonical, for the child was baptized, buried after their manner, and deposited where it was taken up.

The canons of the cathedral church, which stands about the midst of the city, are

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as exquiſite in their contrivance for their eaſe, as the others were for burying money. The conſtitutions of their church oblige their attendance at prayers by four o'clock in the morning: but becauſe ſuch early riſing is very troubleſome, eſpecially to corpulent men, therefore they agree, that the clock ſhall never in the morning ſtrike four, till it really be five; and order its motions by this method, always an hour or ſo ſlower than the ſun, that they may punctually indulge their own repoſe, by this mock obedience to the orders of their church.

YET how negligent ſoever they may appear in this inſtance, they all pretend a mighty zeal for their faith, eſpecially in the meritorious converſion of any ſtranger, upon which we ſuſpected they had been too intent, by the loſs we had of ſome few of our men, whom no ſearch could diſcover to us. The Jeſuits we conjectured muſt be concerned in it, becauſe their love for the cauſe is generally more flaming than that of the other orders among them; and therefore we reſolved upon addreſſing to the governor for demanding an enquiry after them in the college of the Jeſuits: but we found his power could not reach it. The time grew on that we muſt depart, and we were much

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concerned to leave our men, when we were engaged to ſet ſail, becauſe the want of them on board might be very prejudicial in a tedious voyage. Our commander, therefore, having got without gun-ſhot of their citadels, manned out his pinnace with twelve or fourteen hands, well provided with ſwords and fire arms, and appointed them to row along the ſhore, to apprehend, if poſſible, ſome few of their fiſhers, to ſupply the places of our ſailors. As they cruiſed along, they met by chance with another prize, *viz.* a comely abbot and a vicar, coming up to Funchal from the country in a boat. They were ſtrangely ſurpriſed, to find themſelves unexpectedly taken, and pirated by a boat's crew; but much more concerned, when we told them they muſt bid farewel to all their friends and feſtivities at MADEIRA, and imbarque with us in an Indian voyage, or at leaſt remain our priſoners on board till the Jeſuits reſtored our men on ſhore. The thought of this amazed and ſtruck them with confuſion, and forced from their breaſt many a groan and ſigh, for their ſorrow ſeemed to ſurpaſs its expreſſion by any tears. And yet they were not ſo far loſt in this conſternation of mind, but that they kept within limits of reflection,

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and recollecting a method for their releaſe. Therefore they ſpeeded an expreſs to the governor, and paſſionately implored him, for the ſake of God, and the virgin Mary, to bethink himſelf of ſome project for their liberty, for which their prayers ſhould continually aſcend for his deliverance from ſuch diſaſters. And our commander valuing his ſailors above the prieſts, directed a letter to the Engliſh conſul on ſhore.

THIS epiſtle was no ſooner received and read, but the whole place was in an uproar about their prieſts; either their prieſts muſt be returned, or all the Engliſh muſt ſuffer for it. This ſtartled the Engliſh merchants on ſhore, and awakened their care of contriving ſome means for their ſafety; for they perceived the inraged multitude, who ſtood upon the ſtrand, would not be pacified without them. And therefore leſt our commander ſhould prove inexorable, and ſeriouſly reſolved upon what he writ, the Engliſh merchants brought along with them money for a voyage, after they had prevailed to get on board. For they durſt nor return without their prieſts; and they knew not where the voyage would end. After their difficult paſſage on board, they related the confuſion

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the place was in, and how tumultuous the people had ſuddenly grown, upon the account of the detention of their prieſts; and how they were upon the bank of the ſea, repeating their exclamations, Our Padres! Our Padres! A ſudden Joy ſprung up in the faces of the prieſts upon the ſight of our Engliſh merchants, from whom they aſſured themſelves of ſome relief, and releaſe from the confinement they were under; and with ſorrowful accents repreſented to them the unhappy minute they ſet forwards for Funchal; but withal, the hopes they had that their coming on board would prove favourable to their misfortune. The commander, who heard all this, reflecting upon the extreme inconvenience attending the Engliſh upon this occaſion, reſolved to ſend them all on ſhore, to remove that diſturbance which he ſaw was otherwiſe unavoidable; for he thought the prieſts would be as uſeleſs to him at ſea, as they commonly are at land, and a burden to either element; and ſo diſmiſsed them all to their great ſatisfaction.

After this we ſtood off from ſhore, and, without any ceremonious adieu, either to the governor or the fort, left the iſland.

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For it is eaſier to depart, than to be admitted into the harbour: becauſe when any ſhip arrives there, two or three of the inquiſitors, who wear the ſacred garb, are ſent to examine it about any ſickneſs, or other objection, which might hinder the liberty of traffic; not ſuffering any ſailor's ſetting his foot on ſhore, till they pronounce the ſhip healthful.

In our way we were entertained with an unuſual proſpect, which to freſh navigators was very divertive; it was ſeveral winged fiſh, which took flight in the air, while their finns were moiſt, but dropt into the ocean as ſoon as they grew dry, and thereby unactive. Their wings are always ſpread while they move in the air, where they ſometimes ſuſtain themſelves the ſpace of a furlong. When they drop into the ocean, the watchful dolphins are generally ready to devour them, whoſe ſwiftneſs in the water equals almoſt the flight of the others in the air. And as timorous animals at land ſeek for ſhelter from men, when they find themſelves in apparent danger from a mercileſs perſecutor; ſo the flying fiſh will betake themſelves to our ſhips, and fall upon our decks and ſhrouds, upon a hot purſuit of

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the deſtructive dolphin. Here likewiſe w were affrighted with a tornado, which, without care and ſpeedy handing of our ſails, might have endangered our ſhip. It came ſuddenly, without any previous ſigns of its approach, till a quarter of an hour before it came. It is a violent ſurpriſing ſtorm of rain and wind; and that which adds to render it more formidable, is its unexpected riſe, at ſuch times as the weather is ſedate and temperate; but its precipitant motion renders it leſs tedious, being as ſoon a dying, as it is ſhort in its growth and increaſe.

F I N I S.