

ance and support, should attempt to set up for instructors of those that gave them bread; intimating, it seems, that none should set up for instructors of others, but those who could live without them.

They gave me dismal accounts of the extremities they were driven to; how sometimes they were many days without any food at all; the island they were upon being inhabited by a sort of savages that lived more indolent, and, for that reason, were less supplied with the necessaries of life, than they had reason to believe others were in the same part of the world; and yet they found, that these savages were less ravenous and voracious than those who had better supplies of food.

Also they added, that they could not see with what demonstrations of wisdom and goodness the governing providence of God directs the event of things in the world; which, they said, appeared in their circumstances; for if, pressed by the hardships they were under, and the barrenness of the country where they were, they had searched after a better place to live in, they had been out of the way of the relief that happened to them by my means.

Then they gave me an account, how the savages, whom they lived among, expected them to go out with them into their wars. And it was true, that, as they had fire arms with them, had they not had the disaster to lose their ammunition, they should not have been serviceable only to their friends, but have made themselves terrible both to friends and enemies; but being without powder and shot, and yet in a condition that they could not in reason deny to go out with their landlords to their wars, when they came in the field of battle, they were in a worse condition than the savages themselves; for they neither had bows nor arrows, nor could they use those the savages gave them; so that they could do nothing but stand still, and be wounded with arrows, till they came up to the teeth of their enemy; and then, indeed, the three halberts they had, were of use to them, and they would often drive a whole little army before them, with those halberts and sharpened sticks put into the muzzles of their muskets; but

that, for all this, they were sometimes surrounded with multitudes, and in great danger from their arrows; till at last they found the way to make themselves large targets of wood, which they covered with skins of wild beasts, whose names they knew not; and these covered them from the arrows of the savages. That, notwithstanding these, they were sometimes in great danger, and were once five of them knocked down together, with the clubs of the savages, which was the time when one of them was taken prisoner; that is to say, the Spaniard, whom I had relieved. That at first they thought he had been killed, but when afterwards they heard he was taken prisoner, they were under the greatest grief imaginable, and would willingly have all ventured their lives to have rescued him.

They told me, that when they were so knocked down, the rest of their company rescued them, and stood over them, fighting till they were come to themselves, all but he, who they thought had been dead; and then they made their way with their halberts and pieces, standing close together in a line, through about a body of above a thousand savages, beating down all that came in their way, got the victory over their enemies, but to their great sorrow, because it was with the loss of their friend, whom the other party, finding him alive, carried off with some others, as I gave an account in my former.

They described most affectionately, how they were surprized with joy at the return of their friend and companion in misery, who they thought had been devoured by wild beasts of the worst kind, viz. by wild men; and yet, how more and more they were surprized with the account he gave them of his errand, and that there was a Christian in any place near, much more one that was able, and had humanity enough to contribute to their deliverance.

They described how they were astonished at the sight of the relief I sent them, and at the appearance of loaves of bread, things they had not seen since their coming to that miserable place; how often they crossed it, and blessed it as bread sent from heaven; and what a reviving cordial it was to their

their spirits to taste it; as also, of the other things I had sent for their supply. And, after all, they would have told me something of the joy they were in, at the sight of a boat and pilots to carry them away to the person and place from whence all these new comforts came; but they told me it was impossible to express it by words; for their excessive joy naturally driving them to unbecoming extravagancies, they had no way to describe them, but by telling me, that they bordered upon lunacy, having no way to give vent to their passion suitable to the sense that was upon them; that in some it worked one way, and in some another; and that some of them, through a surprize of joy, would burst out into tears, others be half mad, and others immediately faint. This discourse extremely affected me, and called to my mind Friday's extasy when he met his father, and the poor people's extasy when I took them up at sea after their ship was on fire; the mate of the ship's joy, when he found himself delivered in the place where he expected to perish; and my own joy, when, after twenty-eight years captivity, I found a good ship ready to carry me to my own country. All these things made me more sensible of the relation of these poor men, and more affected with it.

Having thus given a view of the state of things, as I found them, I must relate the heads of what I did for these people, and the condition in which I left them. It was their opinion, and mine too, that they would be troubled no more with the savages; or that, if they were, they would be able to cut them off, if they were twice as many as before; so that they had no concern about that. Then I entered into a serious discourse with the Spaniard, whom I called governor, about their stay in the island; for, as I was not come to carry any of them off, so it would not be just to carry off some, and leave others, who, perhaps, would be unwilling to stay, if their strength was diminished.

On the other hand, I told them, I came to establish them there, not to remove them; and then I let them know, that I had brought with me relief of sundry kinds for them; that I had been at a great charge to supply them

with all things necessary, as well for their convenience as their defence; and that I had such and such particular persons with me, as well to increase and recruit their number, as by the particular necessary employments which they were bred to, being artificers, to assist them in those things, in which, at present, they were to seek.

They were all together when I talked thus to them; and before I delivered to them the stores I had brought, I asked them, one by one, if they had entirely forgot and buried the first animosities that had been among them, and could shake hands with one another, and engage in a strict friendship and union of interest, so that there might be no more misunderstandings or jealousies.

William Atkins, with abundance of frankness and good-humour, said, they had met with afflictions enough to make them all sober, and enemies enough to make them all friends; that, for his part, he would live and die with them; and was so far from designing any thing against the Spaniards, that he owned they had done nothing to him but what his own bad humour made necessary, and what he would have done, and perhaps much worse, in their case; and that he would ask them pardon, if I desired it, for the foolish and brutish things he had done to them; and was very willing and desirous of living in terms of entire friendship and union with them, and would do any thing that lay in his power to convince them of it: and as for going to England, he cared not if he did not go thither these twenty years.

The Spaniards said they had indeed, at first, disarmed and excluded William Atkins and his two countrymen, for their ill conduct, as they had let me know; and they appealed to me, for the necessity they were under to do so; but that William Atkins had behaved himself so bravely in the great fight they had with the savages, and on several occasions since, and had shewed himself so faithful too, and concerned for the general interest of them all, that they had forgotten all that was past, and thought he merited as much to be trusted with arms, and supplied with necessaries, as any of them; and that they had testified their satisfaction in him, by committing



ting the command to him, next to the governor himself; and as they had an entire confidence in him, and all his countrymen, so they acknowledged they had merited that confidence, by all the methods that honest men could merit to be valued and trusted; and they most heartily embraced the occasion of giving me this assurance, that they would never have any interest separate from one another.

Upon these frank and open declarations of friendship, we appointed the next day to dine all together; and indeed we made a splendid feast. I caused the ship's cook and his mate to come on shore and dress our dinner; and the old cook's mate we had on shore assisted. We brought on shore six pieces of good beef, and four pieces of pork, out of the ship's provision, with our punch-bowl, and materials to fill it; and, in particular, I gave them ten bottles of French claret, and ten bottles of English beer; things that neither the Spaniards or the Englishmen had tasted for many years, and which it may be supposed they were exceeding glad of.

The Spaniards added to our feast five whole kids, which the cooks roasted; and three of them were sent, covered up close, on board our ship, to the seamen, that they might feast on fresh meat from on shore, as we did with their salt meat from on board.

After this feast, at which we were very innocently merry, I brought out my cargo of goods, wherein, that there might be no dispute about dividing, I shewed them there was sufficient for them all; and desired, that they might all take an equal quantity of the goods that were for wearing; that is to say, equal when made up. As first, I distributed linen sufficient to make every one of them four shirts; and, at the Spaniard's request, afterwards made them up six: these were exceeding comfortable to them, having been what, as I may say, they had long since forgot the use of, or what it was to wear them.

I allotted the thin English stuffs, which I mentioned before, to make every one a light coat like a frock, which I judged fittest for the heat of the season, cool and loose; and ordered, that whenever they decayed,

they should make more, as they thought fit: the like for pumps, shoes, stockings, and hats, &c.

I cannot express what pleasure, what satisfaction, sat upon the countenances of all these poor men, when they saw the care I had taken of them, and how well I had furnished them. They told me, I was a father to them; and that, having such a correspondent as I was, in so remote a part of the world, it would make them forget that they were left in a desolate place: and they all voluntarily engaged to me, not to leave the place without my consent.

Then I presented to them the people I had brought with me; particularly the taylor, the smith, and the two carpenters, all of them most necessary people; but, above all, my general artificer, than whom they could not name any thing that was more needful to them. And the taylor, to shew his concern for them, went to work immediately, and, with my leave, made them every one a shirt the first thing he did; and, which was still more, he taught the women not only how to sew and stitch, and use the needle, but made them assist to make the shirts for their husbands, and for all the rest.

As to the carpenters, I scarce need mention how useful they were, for they took in pieces all my clumsy unhandy things, and made them clever convenient tables, stools, bedsteads, cupboards, lockers, shelves, and every thing they wanted of that kind.

But, to let them see how nature made artificers at first, I carried the carpenters to see William Atkins's basket-house, as I called it; and they both owned, they never saw an instance of such natural ingenuity before; nor any thing so regular, and so handily built, at least of it's kind: and one of them, when he saw it, after musing a good while, turning about to me, 'I am sure,' says he, 'that man has no need of us; you need do nothing but give him tools.'

Then I brought them out all my store of tools, and gave every man a digging-spade, a shovel, and a rake, for we had no harrows or ploughs; and, to every separate place, a pick-ax, a crow, a broad-ax, and a saw: always appointing, that as often as any were broken, or worn out, they should

should be supplied, without grudging, out of the general stores that I left behind.

Nails, staples, hinges, hammers, chissels, knives, scissars, and all sorts of tools and iron-work, they had without tale, as they required; for no man would care to take more than they wanted; and he must be a fool that would waste or spoil them on any account whatever: and, for the use of the smith, I left two tons of unwrought iron for a supply.

My magazine of powder and arms, which I brought them, was such, even to profusion, that they could not but rejoice at them; for now they could march, as I used to do, with a musquet upon each shoulder, if there was occasion; and were able to fight a thousand savages, if they had but some little advantages of situation; which also they could not miss of, if they had occasion.

I carried on shore with me the young man, whose mother was starved to death, and the maid also. She was a sober, well-educated, religious young woman; and behaved so inoffensively, that every one gave her a good word. She had, indeed, an unhappy life with us, there being no woman in the ship but herself; but she bore it with patience. After a while, seeing things so well ordered, and in so fine a way of thriving upon my island; and considering they had neither business nor acquaintance in the East-Indies, or reason for taking so long a voyage; I say, considering all this, both of them came to me, and desired I would give them leave to remain on the island, and be entered among my family, as they called it.

I agreed to it readily; and they had a little plot of ground allotted to them, where they had three tents or houses set up, surrounded with a basket-work, pallisadoed like Atkins's, and adjoining to his plantation: their tents were contrived so, that they had each of them a room apart to lodge in, and a middle tent, like a great store-house, to lay all their goods in, and to eat and drink in. And now the other two Englishmen removed their habitation to the same place; and so the island was divided into three colonies, and no more; viz. the Spaniards with old

Friday, and the first servants, at my old habitation under the hill; which was, in a word, the capital city; and where they had so enlarged and extended their works, as well under, as on the outside of the hill, that they lived, though perfectly concealed, yet full at large. Never was there such a little city in a wood, and so hid, I believe, in any part of the world: for, I verily believe, a thousand men might have ranged the island a month, and, if they had not known there was such a thing, and looked on purpose for it, they would not have found it; for the trees stood so thick and so close, and grew so fast matted into one another, that nothing but cutting them down first could discover the place; except the two narrow entrances where they went in and out could be found, which was not very easy. One of them was just down at the water's edge, on the side of the creek; and it was afterwards above two hundred yards to the place; and the other was up the ladder at twice, as I have already formerly described it; and they had a large wood, thick planted also, on the top of the hill, which contained above an acre, which grew apace, and covered the place from all discovery there, with only one narrow place between two trees, not easy to be discovered, to enter on that side.

The other colony was that of Will Atkins's, where there were four families of Englishmen; I mean, those I had left there with their wives and children; three savages that were slaves; the widow and children of the Englishman that was killed; the young man and the maid; and, by the way, we made a wife of her also, before we went away: there were also the two carpenters and the taylor, who I brought with me for them; also the smith, who was a very necessary man to them, especially as a gunsmith, to take care of their arms; and my other man, whom I called Jack of all Trades, who was himself as good almost, as twenty men, for he was not only a very ingenious fellow, but a very merry fellow; and, before I went away, we married him to the honest maid that came with the youth in the ship whom I mentioned before.

And now I speak of marrying, it brings



brings me naturally to say something of the French ecclesiastick that I had brought with me out of the ship's crew whom I took at sea. It is true, this man was a Roman; and, perhaps, it may give offence to some hereafter, if I leave any thing extraordinary upon record of a man whom, before I begin, I must (to set him out in just colours) represent in terms very much to his disadvantage in the account of Protestants: as first, that he was a Papist; secondly, a popish priest; and, thirdly, a French popish priest.

But justice demands of me to give him a due character; and I must say, he was a grave, sober, pious, and most religious person; exact in his life, extensive in his charity, and exemplary in almost every thing he did. What then can any one say against my being very sensible of the value of such a man, notwithstanding his profession? though it may be my opinion, perhaps, as well as the opinion of others, who shall read this, that he was mistaken.

The first hour that I began to converse with him, after he had agreed to go with me to the East-Indies, I found reason to delight exceedingly in his conversation: and he first began with me about religion, in the most obliging manner imaginable.

'Sir,' says he, 'you have not only, under God,' (and at that he crossed his breast) 'saved my life, but you have admitted me to go this voyage in your ship; and, by your obliging civility, have taken me into your family, giving me an opportunity of free conversation. Now, Sir,' says he, 'you see by my habit, what my profession is; and I guess by your nation, what yours is. I may think it is my duty, and, doubtless, it is so, to use my utmost endeavours, on all occasions, to bring all the souls that I can to the knowledge of the truth, and to embrace the Catholick doctrine; but, as I am here under your permission, and in your family, I am bound in justice to your kindness, as well as in decency and good manners, to be under your government; and therefore I shall not, without your leave, enter into any debates on the points of religion in which we may not agree, farther than you shall give me leave.'

I told him his carriage was so modest, that I could not but acknowledge it; that it was true we were such people as they called hereticks; but that he was not the first Catholick that I had conversed with, without falling into any inconveniences, or carrying the questions to any height in debate; that he should not find himself the worse used for being of a different opinion from us; and if we did not converse without any dislike on either side, upon that score, it would be his fault, not ours.

He replied, that he thought our conversation might be easily separated from disputes; that it was not his business to cap principles with every man he discoursed with; and that he rather desired me to converse with him as a gentleman than as *religieux*; that if I would give him leave at any time to discourse upon religious subjects, he would readily comply with it; and that then he did not doubt but I would allow him also to defend his own opinions as well as he could; but that, without my leave, he would not break in upon me with any such thing.

He told me farther, that he would not cease to do all that became him in his office as a priest, as well as a private Christian, to procure the good of the ship, and the safety of all that was in her; and though, perhaps, we would not join with him, and he could not pray with us, he hoped he might pray for us, which he would do upon all occasions. In this manner we conversed; and as he was of a most obliging gentleman-like behaviour, so he was, if I may be allowed to say so, a man of good sense, and, as I believe, of great learning.

He gave me a most diverting account of his life, and of the many extraordinary events of it; of many adventures which had befallen him in the few years that he had been abroad in the world, and particularly this was very remarkable; viz. That during the voyage he was now engaged in, he had the misfortune to be five times shipped and unshipped, and never to go to the place whither any of the ships he was in were at first designed: that his first intent was to have gone to Martinico; and that he went on board a ship bound thither at St. Maloe's; but being forced into Lisbon in bad weather,

the

the ship received some damage, by running aground in the mouth of the River Tagus, and was obliged to unload her cargo there: that finding a Portugueze ship there bound to the Madeiras, and ready to sail, and supposing he should easily meet with a vessel there bound to Martinico, he went on board in order to sail to the Madeiras; but the master of the Portugueze ship, being but an indifferent mariner, had been out in his reckoning, and they drove to Fial; where, however, he happened to find a very good market for his cargo, which was corn, and therefore resolved not to go to the Madeiras, but to load salt at the Isle of May, to go away to Newfoundland. He had no remedy in this exigence but to go with the ship; and had a pretty good voyage as far as the Banks, (so they call the place where they catch the fish) where meeting with a French ship bound from France to Quebec, in the River of Canada, and from thence to Martinico, to carry provisions, he thought he should have an opportunity to compleat his first design; but when he came to Quebec, the master of the ship died, and the ship proceeded no farther: so the next voyage he shipped himself for France in the ship that was burnt, when we took them up at sea, and then shipped himself with us for the East-Indies, as I have already said. Thus he had been disappointed in five voyages, all as I may call it, in one voyage, besides what I shall have occasion to mention farther of the same person.

But I shall not make digressions into other men's stories, which have no relation to my own. I return to what concerns our affairs in the island. He came to me one morning, for he lodged among us all the while we were upon the island, and it happened to be just when I was going to visit the Englishmen's colony at the farthest part of the island; I say, he came to me, and told me, with a very grave countenance, that he had for two or three days desired an opportunity of some discourse with me, which, he hoped, would not be displeasing to me, because he thought it might, in some measure, correspond with my general design, which was the prosperity of my new colony; and, perhaps, might

put it, at least more than he yet thought it was, in the way of God's blessing.

I looked a little surprized at the last part of his discourse; and turning a little short, 'How, Sir,' said I, 'can it be said that we are not in the way of God's blessing, after such visible assistances and wonderful deliverances as we have seen here, and of which I have given you a large account?'

'If you had pleased, Sir,' said he, with a world of modesty, and yet with great readiness, 'to have heard me, you would have found no room to have been displeased, much less to think so hard of me, that I should suggest that you have not had wonderful assistances and deliverances: and, I hope, on your behalf, that you are in the way of God's blessing, and your design is exceeding good, and will prosper. But, Sir,' said he, 'though it were more so than is even possible to you, yet there may be some among you that are not equally right in their actions: and you know, that in the story of Israel, one Achan, in the camp, removed God's blessing from them, and turned his hand so against them, that thirty-six of them, though not concerned in the crime, were the objects of Divine Vengeance, and bore the weight of that punishment.'

I was sensibly touched with this discourse, and told him his inference was so just, and the whole design seemed so sincere, and was really so religious in it's own nature, that I was sorry I had interrupted him, and begged him to go on; and in the mean time, because it seemed that what we had both to say might take up some time, I told him I was going to the Englishmen's plantations, and asked him to go with me, and we might discourse of it by the way. He told me, he would more willingly wait on me thither, because there, partly, the thing was acted which he desired to speak to me about. So we walked on, and I pressed him to be free and plain with me in what he had to say.

'Why then, Sir,' says he, 'be pleased to give me leave to lay down a few propositions, as the foundation of what I have to say, that we may not differ in the general principles,

cles,



ciples, though we may be of some differing opinions in the practice of particulars. First, Sir, though we differ in some of the doctrinal articles of religion, and it is very unhappy that it is so, especially in the case before us, as I shall shew afterwards, yet there are some general principles in which we both agree; viz. First, that there is a God; and that this God, having given us some stated general rules for our service and obedience, we ought not willingly and knowingly to offend him, either by neglecting to do what he has commanded, or by doing what he has expressly forbidden: and let our different religions be what they will, this general principle is readily owned by us all; that the blessing of God does not ordinarily follow a presumptuous sinning against his command; and every good Christian will be affectionately concerned to prevent any that are under his care living in a total neglect of God and his commands. It is not your men being Protestants, whatever my opinion may be of such, that discharges me from being concerned for their souls, and from endeavouring, if it lies before me, that they should live in as little distance from, and enmity with, their Maker as possible; especially if you give me leave to meddle so far in your circuit.'

I could not yet imagine what he aimed at, and told him, I granted all he had said; and thanked him, that he would so far concern himself for us: and begged he would explain the particulars of what he had observed, that, like Joshua, (to take his own parable) I might put away the accursed thing from us.

'Why, then, Sir,' says he, 'I will take the liberty you give me; and there are three things which, if I am right, must stand in the way of God's blessing upon your endeavours here, and which I should rejoice, for your sake and their own, to see removed. And, Sir,' says he, 'I promise myself that you will fully agree with me in them all as soon as I shall name them; especially, because I shall convince you that every one of them may with great ease, and very much to your satisfaction, be remedied.'

He gave me no leave to put in any more civilities, but went on. 'First, Sir,' says he, 'you have here four Englishmen, who have fetched women from among the savages, and have taken them as their wives, and have had many children by them all, and yet are not married to them after any stated legal manner, as the laws of God and man require; and therefore are yet, in the sense of both, no less than adulterers, and living in adultery. To this, Sir,' says he, 'I know you will object, that there was no clergyman, or priest of any kind, or of any profession, to perform the ceremony; nor any pen and ink, or paper, to write down a contract of marriage, and have it signed between them. And I know also, Sir, what the Spaniard governor has told you; I mean, of the agreement that he obliged them to make when they took these women; viz. That they should chuse them out by consent, and keep separately to them; which, by the way, is nothing of a marriage, no agreement with the women as wives, but only an agreement among themselves to keep them from quarrelling.'

'But, Sir, the essence of the sacrament of matrimony,' (so he called it, being a Roman) 'consists not only in the mutual consent of the parties to take one another as man and wife, but in the formal and legal obligation that there is in the contract, to compel the man and woman; at all times, to own and acknowledge each other; obliging the man to abstain from all other women, to engage in no other contract while this subsists, and on all occasions, as ability allows, to provide honestly for them and their children; and to oblige the woman to the same, or like conditions, *mutatis mutandis*, on their side.'

'Now, Sir,' says he, 'these men may, when they please, or when occasion presents, abandon these women, disown their children, leave them to perish, and take other women and marry them whilst these are living.' And here he added, with some warmth, 'How, Sir, is God honoured in this unlawful liberty? And how shall a blessing succeed your endeavours in this place, how-

ever

ever good in themselves, and how ever sincere in your design; while these men, who at present are your subjects, under your absolute government and dominion, are allowed by you to live in open adultery?'

I confess, I was struck at the thing itself, but much more with the convincing arguments he supported it with; for it was certainly true, that though they had no clergyman on the spot, yet a formal contract on both sides, made before witnesses, and confirmed by any token which they had all agreed to be bound by, though it had been but the breaking a stick between them, engaging the men to own these women for their wives upon all occasions, and never to abandon them or their children, and the women to the same with their husbands, had been an effectual lawful marriage in the sight of God; and it was a great neglect that it was not done.

But I thought to have gotten off with my young priest, by telling him that all that part was done when I was not here; and they had lived so many years with them now, that if it was an adultery, it was past remedy; they could do nothing in it now.

'Sir,' says he, 'asking your pardon for such freedom, you are right in this; that it being done in your absence, you could not be charged with that part of the crime: but, I beseech you, flatter not yourself that you are not therefore under an obligation to do your uttermost now to put an end to it. How can you think but that, let the time past lie on whom it will, all the guilt, for the future, will lie entirely upon you? because it is certainly in your power now to put an end to it; and in nobody's power but yours.'

I was so dull still that I did not take him right; but I imagined, that by putting an end to it he meant that I should part them, and not suffer them to live together any longer: and I said to him I could not do that by any means, for that it would put the whole island in confusion. He seemed surprized that I should so far mistake him. 'No, Sir,' says he, 'I do not mean that you should separate them; but legally and effectually marry them now: and, Sir, as my way of marrying may not be so easy to re-

concile them to, though it will be as effectual, even by your own laws; so your way may be as well before God, and as valid among men; I mean, by a written contract, signed by both man and woman, and by all the witnesses present; which all the laws of Europe would decree to be valid.'

I was amazed to see so much true piety, and so much sincerity of zeal, besides the unusual impartiality in his discourse, as to his own party or church; and such a true warmth for the preserving people that he had no knowledge of, or relation to; I say, for preserving them from transgressing the laws of God; the like of which I had, indeed, not met with any where. But recollecting what he had said of marrying them by a written contract, which I knew would stand too; I returned it back upon him, and told him, I granted all that he had said to be just, and on his part very kind; that I would discourse with the men upon the point now, when I came to them. And I knew no reason why they should scruple to let him marry them all; which I knew well enough would be granted to be as authentick and valid in England, as if they were married by one of our own clergymen. What was afterwards done in this matter, I shall speak of by itself.

I then pressed him to tell me what was the second complaint which he had to make; acknowledging, that I was very much his debtor for the first, and thanked him heartily for it. He told me, he would use the same freedom and plainness in the second; and hoped I would take it as well: and this was, that, notwithstanding these English subjects of mine, as he called them, had lived with these women for almost seven years, and had taught them to speak English, and even to read it; and that they were, as he perceived, women of tolerable understanding, and capable of instruction; yet they had not to this hour taught them any thing of the Christian religion; no, not so much as to know that there was a God, or a worship; or in what manner God was to be served; or that their own idolatry, and worshipping they knew not who, was false and absurd.

This, he said, was an unaccountable neglect,

D d

neglect,



neglect, and what God would certainly call them to an account for; and, perhaps, at last take the work out of their hands. He spoke this very affectionately and warmly. 'I am persuaded,' says he, 'had those men lived in the savage country whence their wives came, the savages would have taken more pains to have brought them to be idolaters, and to worship the devil, than any of these men, so far as I can see, has taken with them to teach them the knowledge of the true God. Now, Sir,' said he, 'though I do not acknowledge your religion, or you mine, yet we should be all glad to see the devil's servants, and the subjects of his kingdom, taught to know the general principles of the Christian religion; that they might, at least, hear of God and of a Redeemer, and of the resurrection and of a future state, things which we all believe; they had, at least, been so much nearer coming into the bosom of the true church, than they are now in the publick profession of idolatry and devil-worship.'

I could hold no longer; I took him in my arms and embraced him with an excess of passion. 'How far,' said I to him, 'have I been from understanding the most essential part of a Christian; viz. to love the interest of the Christian church, and the good of other men's souls? I scarce have known what belongs to being a Christian!'—'O, Sir, do not say so,' replied he; 'this thing is not your fault.'—'No!' said I, 'but why did I never lay it to heart as well as you?'—'Tis not too late yet,' said he; 'be not too forward to condemn yourself.'—'But what can be done now?' said I; 'you see I am going away.'—'Will you give me leave,' said he, 'to talk with these poor men about it?'—'Yes, with all my heart,' said I; 'and will oblige them to give heed to what you say too.'—'As to that,' said he, 'we must leave them to the mercy of Christ; but it is our business to assist them, encourage them, and instruct them; and, if you will give me leave, and God his blessing, I do not doubt but the poor ignorant souls shall be brought home into the great circle of Christianity, if not into the particular faith that we all embrace;

and that even while you stay here.' Upon this I said, 'I shall not only give you leave, but give you a thousand thanks for it.' What followed on this account I shall mention also again in it's place.

I now pressed him for the third article in which we were to blame. 'Why, really,' says he, 'it is of the same nature, and I will proceed (asking your leave) with the same plainness as before. It is about your poor savages yonder, who are, as I may say, your conquered subjects. It is a maxim, Sir, that is, or ought to be received among all Christians, of what church or pretended church soever; viz. that Christian knowledge ought to be propagated by all possible means, and on all possible occasions. It is on this principle that our church sends missionaries into Persia, India, and China; and that our clergy, even of the superior sort, willingly engage in the most hazardous voyages, and the most dangerous residence among murderers and barbarians, to teach them the knowledge of the true God, and to bring them over to embrace the Christian faith. Now, Sir, you have such an opportunity here to have six or seven and thirty poor savages brought over from idolatry to the knowledge of God, their Maker and Redeemer, that I wonder how you can pass such an occasion of doing good, which is really worth the expence of a man's whole life.'

I was now struck dumb indeed, and had not one word to say. I had here a spirit of true Christian zeal for God and religion before me, let his particular principles be of what kind soever. As for me, I had not so much as entertained a thought of this in my heart before; and, I believe, should not have thought of it; for I looked upon these savages as slaves and people whom, had we any work for them to do, we would have used as such, or would have been glad to have transported them to any other part of the world; for our business was to get rid of them; and we would all have been satisfied if they had been sent to any country, so they had never seen their own. But to the case: I say, I was confounded at his discourse, and knew not what answer to make him. He looked earnestly

at

at me, seeing me in some disorder. 'Sir,' said he, 'I shall be very sorry if what I have said gives you any offence.'—'No, no,' said I, 'I am offended with nobody but myself; but I am perfectly confounded, not only to think that I should never take any notice of this before, but with reflecting what notice I am able to take of it now. You know, Sir,' said I, 'what circumstances I am in; I am bound to the East-Indies in a ship freighted by merchants, and to whom it would be an insufferable piece of injustice to detain their ship here, the men lying all this while at victuals and wages upon the owner's account. It is true, I agreed to be allowed twelve days here; and if I stay more I must pay 3l. sterling per diem demurrage: nor can I stay upon demurrage above eight days more; and I have been here thirteen days already; so that I am perfectly unable to engage in this work, unless I would suffer myself to be left behind here again; in which case, if this single ship should miscarry in any part of her voyage, I should be just in the same condition that I was left in here at first, and from which I have been so wonderfully delivered.'

He owned the case was very hard upon me as to my voyage; but laid it home upon my conscience, whether the blessing of saving seven and thirty souls was not worth my venturing all I had in the world for. I was not so sensible of that as he was; and I returned upon him thus: 'Why, Sir, it is a valuable thing indeed, to be an instrument in God's hand to convert seven and thirty heathens to the knowledge of Christ; but as you are an ecclesiastick, and are given over to that work, so that it seems naturally to fall into the way of your profession, how is it then that you do not rather offer yourself to undertake it, than preis me to it?'

Upon this he faced about, just before me, as he walked along, and putting me to a full stop, made me a very low bow. 'I most heartily thank God and you, Sir,' says he, 'for giving me so evident a call to so blessed a work; and if you think yourself discharged from it, and desire me to undertake it, I will most

readily do it, and think it a happy reward for all the hazards and difficulties of such a broken disappointed voyage as I have met with, that I have dropped at last into so glorious a work.'

I discovered a kind of rapture in his face, while he spoke this to me; his eyes sparkled like fire, his face glowed, and his colour came and went as if he had been falling into fits: in a word, he was fired with the joy of being embarked in such a work. I paused a considerable while before I could tell what to say to him; for I was really surprized to find a man of such sincerity and zeal, and carried out in his zeal beyond the ordinary rate of men, not of his profession only, but even of any profession whatsoever: but after I had considered it a while, I asked him seriously, if he was in earnest, and that he would venture on the single consideration of an attempt on those poor people, to be locked up in an unplanted island for perhaps his life; and, at last, might not know whether he should be able to do them any good or not.

He turned short upon me, and asked me, what I called a venture. 'Pray, Sir,' said he, 'what do you think I consented to go in your ship to the East-Indies for?'—'Nay,' said I, 'that I know not, unless it was to preach to the Indians.'—'Doubtless it was,' said he; 'and do you think, if I can convert these seven and thirty men to the faith of Christ, it is not worth my time, though I should never be fetched off the island again? Nay, is it not infinitely of more worth to save so many souls, than my life is, or the life of twenty more of the same profession? Yes, Sir,' says he, 'I would give Christ and the blessed Virgin thanks all my days, if I could be made the least happy instrument of saving the souls of these poor men, though I was never to set my foot off this island, or see my native country any more. But, since you will honour me,' says he, 'with putting me into this work, (for which I will pray for you all the days of my life) I have one humble petition to you besides.'—'What is that?' said I. 'Why,' says he, 'it is, that you will leave your man Friday with me to be my interpreter to them,



and to assist me; for, without some help, I cannot speak to them, or they to me."

I was sensibly troubled at his requesting Friday, because I could not think of parting with him, and that for many reasons. He had been the companion of my travels; he was not only faithful to me, but sincerely affectionate to the last degree; and I had resolved to do something considerable for him, if he outlived me, as it was probable he would. Then I knew, that as I had bred Friday up to be a Protestant, it would quite confound him, to bring him to embrace another profession; and he would never, while his eyes were open, believe that his old master was an heretick, and would be damned; and this might, in the end, ruin the poor fellow's principles, and so turn him back again to his first idolatry.

However, a sudden thought relieved me in this strait, and it was this; I told him, I could not say that I was willing to part with Friday on any account whatever; though a work, that to him was of more value than his life, ought to me to be of much more value than the keeping or parting with a servant. But, on the other hand, I was persuaded that Friday would by no means consent to part with me; and then to force him to it, without his consent, would be manifest injustice; because I had promised I would never put him away; and he had promised and engaged to me that he would never leave me, unless I put him away.

He seemed very much concerned at it; for he had no rational access to these poor people, seeing he did not understand one word of their language, nor they one word of his. To remove this difficulty, I told him, Friday's father had learned Spanish, which I found he also understood; and he should serve him for an interpreter; so he was much better satisfied, and nothing could persuade him but he would stay to endeavour to convert them; but Providence gave another and very happy turn to all this.

I come back now to the first part of his objections. When we came to the Englishmen, I sent for them all together; and after some accounts given them of what I had done for

them; viz. what necessary things I had provided for them, and how they were distributed, which they were sensible of, and very thankful for; I began to talk to them of the scandalous life they led, and gave them a full account of the notice the clergyman had already taken of it; and, arguing how unchristian and irreligious a life it was, I first asked them, if they were married men or batchelors. They soon explained their condition to me, and shewed me that two of them were widowers, and the other three were single men or batchelors. I asked them, with what conscience they could take these women, and lie with them, as they had done, call them their wives, and have so many children by them, and not be married lawfully to them.

They all gave me the answer that I expected; viz. that there was nobody to marry them; that they agreed before the governor to keep them as their wives; and to keep them, and own them, as their wives; and they thought, as things stood with them, they were as legally married as if they had been married by a parson, and with all the formalities in the world.

I told them, that no doubt they were married in the sight of God, and were bound in conscience to keep them as their wives; but that the laws of men being otherwise, they might pretend they were not married, and so desert the poor women and children hereafter; and that their wives, being poor desolate women, friendless and moneyless, would have no way to help themselves. I therefore told them, that unless I was assured of their honest intent, I could do nothing for them; but would take care that what I did should be for the women and children, without them; and that unless they would give some assurances that they would marry the women, I could not think it was convenient they should continue together as man and wife; for that it was both scandalous to men and offensive to God, who they could not think would bless them if they went on thus.

All this passed as I expected; and they told me, especially Will Atkins, who seemed now to speak for the rest, that they loved their wives as well as if they had been born in their own na-

tive

country, and would not leave them upon any account whatever; and they did verily believe their wives were as virtuous, and as modest, and did, to the utmost of their skill, as much for them, and for their children, as any women could possibly do; and they would not part with them on any account. And William Atkins, for his own particular, added, if any man would take him away, and offer to carry him home to England, and make him captain of the best man of war in the navy, he would not go with him, if he might not carry his wife and children with him; and if there was a clergyman in the ship, he would be married to her now with all his heart.

This was just as I would have it. The priest was not with me at that moment, but was not far off: so, to try him farther, I told him, I had a clergyman with me, and, if he was sincere, I would have him married the next morning; and bade him consider of it, and talk with the rest. He said, as for himself, he need not consider of it at all; for he was very ready to do it, and was glad I had a minister with me; and he believed they would be all willing also. I then told him, that my friend, the minister, was a Frenchman, and could not speak English; but that I would act the clerk between them. He never so much as asked me whether he was a Papist or Protestant; which was, indeed, what I was afraid of. But, I say, they never enquired about it. So we parted. I went back to my clergyman; and Will Atkins went in to talk with his companions. I desired the French gentleman not to say anything to them, till the business was thorough ripe; and I told him what answer the men had given me.

Before I went from their quarter, they all came to me, and told me, they had been considering what I had said; that they were very glad to hear I had a clergyman in my company; and they were very willing to give me the satisfaction I desired, and to be formally married as soon as I pleased; for they were far from desiring to part from their wives; and that they meant nothing but what was very honest when they chose them. So I appointed them to meet me the next morning; and that, in the mean time, they

should let their wives know the meaning of the marriage-law; and that it was not only to prevent any scandal, but also to oblige them, that they should not forsake them, whatever might happen.

The women were easily made sensible of the meaning of the thing, and were very well satisfied with it, as, indeed, they had reason to be; so they failed not to attend all together at my apartment the next morning, where I brought out my clergyman. And though he had not on a minister's gown, after the manner of England, or the habit of a priest, after the manner of France; yet having a black vest, something like a cassock, with a fash round it, he did not look very unlike a minister; and as for his language, I was interpreter.

But the seriousness of his behaviour to them, and the scruples he made of marrying the women, because they were not baptized and professed Christians, gave them an exceeding reverence for his person; and there was no need after that to enquire whether he was a clergyman or no.

Indeed I was afraid his scruple would have been carried so far, as that he would not have married them at all; nay, notwithstanding all I was able to say to him, he resisted me, though modestly, yet very steadily; and at last refused absolutely to marry them, unless he had first talked with the men, and the women too. And though, at first, I was a little backward to it, yet at last I agreed to it with a good will, perceiving the sincerity of his design.

When he came to them, he let them know, that I had acquainted him with their circumstances, and with the present design: that he was very willing to perform that part of his function, and marry them, as I had desired; but that, before he could do it, he must take the liberty to talk with them. He told them, that in the sight of all different men, and in the sense of the laws of society, they had lived all this while in an open adultery; and that it was true, that nothing but the consenting to marry, or effectually separating them from one another now, could put an end to it; but there was a difficulty in it too, with respect to the laws of Christian matrimony, which he was not fully satisfied about; viz.

that



that of marrying one that is a professed Christian to a savage, an idolater, and a heathen, one that is not baptized; and yet that he did not see, that there was time left for it, to endeavour to persuade the women to be baptized, or to profess the name of Christ, whom they had, he doubted, heard nothing of, and without which they could not be baptized.

He told me, he doubted they were but indifferent Christians themselves; that they had but little knowledge of God or his ways; and therefore he could not expect, that they had said much to their wives on that head yet; but that unless they would promise him to use their endeavours with their wives, to persuade them to become Christians, and would, as well as they could, instruct them in the knowledge and belief of God that made them, and to worship Jesus Christ that redeemed them, he could not marry them; for he would have no hand in joining Christians with savages; nor was it consistent with the principles of the Christian religion; and was, indeed, expressly forbidden in God's law.

They heard all this very attentively, and I delivered it very faithfully to them from his mouth, as near his own words as I could, only sometimes adding something of my own, to convince them how just it was, and how I was of his mind: and I always very faithfully distinguished between what I said from myself, and what were the clergyman's words. They told me, it was very true what the gentleman had said, that they were but very indifferent Christians themselves, and that they had never talked to their wives about religion. 'Lord, Sir,' says Will Atkins, 'how should we teach them religion? Why, we know nothing ourselves. And besides, Sir,' said he, 'should we go to talk to them of God, and Jesus Christ, and heaven and hell, it would be to make them laugh at us, and ask us what we believe ourselves. And if we should tell them, we believe all the things that we speak of to them; such as of good people going to heaven, and wicked people to the devil; they would ask us, where we intended to go ourselves, who believe all this, and yet are such wicked fellows as we indeed are. Why, Sir,

said Will, 'it is enough to give them a surfeit of religion at first hearing. Folks must have some religion themselves, before they pretend to teach other people.'—'Will Atkins,' said I to him, 'though I am afraid what you say has too much truth in it, yet can you not tell your wife that she is in the wrong? That there is a God, and a religion better than her own; that her Gods are idols; that they can neither hear nor speak; that there is a great Being that made all things, and that can destroy all that he has made; that he rewards the good, and punishes the bad; that we are to be judged by him, at last, for all we do here? You are not so ignorant, but even nature itself will teach you, that all this is true; and I am satisfied you know it all to be true, and believe it yourself.'

'That's true, Sir,' said Atkins; 'but with what face can I say any thing to my wife of all this, when she will tell me immediately it cannot be true?'

'Not true,' said I; 'what do you mean by that?'—'Why, Sir,' said he, 'she will tell me it cannot be true, that this God (I shall tell her of) can be just, or can punish, or reward, since I am not punished and sent to the devil, that have been such a wicked creature as she knows I have been, even to her and to every body else; and that I should be suffered to live, that have been always acting so contrary to what I must tell her is good, and to what I ought to have done.'

'Why truly, Atkins,' said I, 'I am afraid thou speakest too much truth.' And with that I let the clergyman know what Atkins had said; for he was impatient to know. 'O!' said the priest, 'tell him there is one thing will make him the best minister in the world to his wife; and that is repentance; for none teach repentance like true penitents. He wants nothing but to repent; and then he will be so much the better qualified to instruct his wife; he will then be able to tell her, that there is not only a God, and that he is the just rewarder of good and evil, but that he is a merciful Being, and, with infinite goodness and long-suffering, forbears to punish those that offend;

offend; waiting to be gracious, and willing not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should return and live; that he often suffers wicked men to go on a long time, and even reserves damnation to the general day of retribution. That it is a clear evidence of God, and of a future state, that righteous men receive not their reward, or wicked men their punishment, till they come into another world; and this will lead him to teach his wife the doctrine of the resurrection, and of the last judgment. Let him but repent for himself, he will be an excellent preacher of repentance to his wife.'

I repeated all this to Atkins, who looked very serious all the while, and who, we could easily perceive, was more than ordinarily affected with it: when being eager, and hardly suffering me to make an end, 'I knew all this, Master,' says he, 'and a great deal more; but I ha'n't the impudence to talk thus to my wife; when God, and my own conscience knows, and my wife will be an undeniable evidence against me, that I have lived as if I had never heard of a God, or a future state, or any thing about it: and to talk of my repenting, alas!' (and with that he fetched a deep sigh; and I could see that tears stood in his eyes) 'it is past all that with me.'—'Past it! Atkins,' said I, 'what dost thou mean by that?'—'I know well enough what I mean, Sir,' says he; 'I mean, it is too late; and that is too true.'

I told my clergyman, word for word, what he said. The poor zealous priest (I must call him so; for be his opinion what it will, he had certainly a most singular affection for the good of other men's souls; and it would be hard to think he had not the like for his own: I say, this zealous affectionate man) could not refrain tears also. But, recovering himself, he said to me, 'Ask him but one question, Is he easy, that it is too late; or is he troubled, and wishes it were not so?' I put the question fairly to Atkins; and he answered with a great deal of passion, how could any man be easy in a condition that certainly must end in eternal destruction; that he was far from being easy; but that,

on the contrary, he believed it would one time or other ruin him.

'What do you mean by that?' said I. Why, he said, he believed he should, one time or another, cut his own throat, to put an end to the terror of it.

The clergyman shook his head, with a great concern in his face, when I told him all this; but turning quick to me upon it, said, 'If that be his case, you may assure him it is not too late; Christ will give him repentance. But pray,' says he, 'explain this to him, That as no man is saved but by Christ, and the merit of his passion procuring Divine Mercy for him, how can it be too late for any man to receive mercy? Does he think he is able to sin beyond the power or reach of Divine Mercy? Pray tell him, there may be a time when provoked Mercy will no longer strive, and when God may refuse to hear; but that it is never too late for men to ask mercy: and we that are Christ's servants are commanded to preach mercy at all times, in the name of Jesus Christ, to all those that sincerely repent; so that it is never too late to repent.'

I told Atkins all this, and he heard me with great earnestness; but it seemed as if he turned off the discourse to the rest; for he said to me, he would go and have some talk with his wife. So he went out a while, and we talked to the rest. I perceived they were all stupidly ignorant as to matters of religion, much as I was when I went rambling away from my father; and yet that there were none of them backward to hear what had been said; and all of them seriously promised that they would talk with their wives about it, and do their endeavour to persuade them to turn Christians.

The clergyman smiled upon me when I reported what answer they gave, but said nothing a good while; but, at last, shaking his head, 'We that are Christ's servants,' says he, 'can go no farther than to exhort and instruct; and when men comply, submit to the reproof, and promise what we ask, it is all we can do; we are bound to accept their good words. But, believe me, Sir,' said he, 'whatever you may have known



known of the life of that man you call William Atkins, I believe he is the only sincere convert among them; I take that man to be a true penitent: I won't despair of the rest; but that man is perfectly struck with the sense of his past life; and I doubt not but when he comes to talk religion to his wife, he will talk himself effectually into it; for attempting to teach others, is sometimes the best way of teaching ourselves. I knew a man, added he, who, having nothing but a summary notion of religion himself, and being wicked and profligate to the last degree in his life, made a thorough reformation of himself by labouring to convert a Jew. And if that poor Atkins begins but once to talk seriously of Jesus Christ to his wife, my life for it, he talks himself into a thorough convert, makes himself a penitent; and who knows what may follow!

Upon this discourse, however, and their promising, as above, to endeavour to persuade their wives to embrace Christianity, he married the other three couple; but Will Atkins and his wife were not yet come in. After this, my clergyman, waiting a while, was curious to know where Atkins was gone; and turning to me, says he, I intreat you, Sir, let us walk out of your labyrinth here, and look; I dare say we shall find this poor man, somewhere or other, talking seriously with his wife, and teaching her already something of religion. I began to be of the same mind: so we went out together; and I carried him a way which none knew but myself, and where the trees were so thick set, as that it was not easy to see through the thicket of leaves, and far harder to see in than to see out. When coming to the edge of the wood, I saw Atkins, and his tawny savage wife, sitting under the shade of a bush, very eager in discourse. I stopped short, till my clergyman came up to me; and then, having shewed him where they were, we stood and looked very steadily at them a good while.

We observed him very earnest with her, pointing up to the sun, and to every quarter of the heavens; then down to the earth, then out to the sea, then to

himself, then to her, to the woods, to the trees. 'Now,' says my clergyman; 'you see my words are made good.' The man preaches to her; mark him! Now he is telling her, that our God has made him, and her, and the heavens, the earth, the sea, the woods, the trees, &c.—'I believe he is,' said I. Immediately we perceived Will Atkins start up upon his feet, fall down upon his knees, and lift up both his hands. We supposed he said something, but we could not hear him; it was too far for that. He did not continue kneeling half a minute, but comes and sits down again by his wife, and talks to her again. We perceived then the woman very attentive; but whether she said any thing or no we could not tell. While the poor fellow was upon his knees, I could see the tears run plentifully down my clergyman's cheeks; and I could hardly forbear myself. But it was a great affliction to us both, that we were not near enough to hear any thing that passed between them.

Well, however, we could come no nearer, for fear of disturbing them: so we resolved to see an end of this piece of still conversation; and it spoke loud enough to us without the help of voice. He sat down again, as I have said, close by her, and talked again earnestly to her; and two or three times we could see him embrace her passionately; another time we saw him take out his handkerchief and wipe her eyes, and then kiss her again, with a kind of transport very unusual. And after several of these things, we saw him on a sudden jump up again, and lend her his hand to help her up, when immediately, leading her by the hand a step or two, they both kneeled down together, and continued so about two minutes.

My friend could bear it no longer, but cries out aloud, 'Saint Paul! Saint Paul! behold he prayeth!' I was afraid Atkins would hear him; therefore I intreated him to withhold himself a while, that we might see an end of the scene, which, to me, I must confess, was the most affecting, and yet the most agreeable, that ever I saw in my life. Well, he strove with himself, and contained himself for a while, but was in such raptures of joy, to think that the poor heathen woman

was

was become a Christian, that he was not able to contain himself: he wept several times; then throwing up his hands, and crossing his breast, said over several things ejaculatory, and by way of giving God thanks for so miraculous a testimony of the success of our endeavours; some he spoke softly, and I could not well hear; others audibly; some in Latin, some in French; then two or three times the tears of joy would interrupt him, that he could not speak at all. But I begged that he would compose himself, and let us more narrowly and fully observe what was before us; which he did for a time, and the scene was not ended there yet; for, after the poor man and his wife were risen again from their knees, we observed he stood talking still eagerly to her, and we observed by her motion that she was greatly affected with what he said, by her frequent lifting up her hands, laying her hand to her breast, and such other postures as usually express the greatest seriousness and attention. This continued about half a quarter of an hour, and then they walked away too; so that we could see no more of them in that situation.

I took this interval to talk with my clergyman; and first, I told him, I was glad to see the particulars we had both been witnesses to; that though I was hard enough of belief in such cases, yet that I began to think it was all very sincere here, both in the man and his wife, however ignorant they both might be; and I hoped such a beginning would have yet a more happy end. 'And who knows,' said I, 'but these two may in time, by instruction and example, work upon some of the others?'—'Some of them!' said he, turning quick upon me, 'aye, upon all of them. Depend upon it, if those two savages (for he has been but little better, as you relate it) should embrace Jesus Christ, they will never leave till they work upon all the rest; for true religion is naturally communicative; and he that is once made a Christian, will never leave a Pagan behind him, if he can help it.' I owned it was a most Christian principle to think so, and a testimony of a true zeal, as well as a generous heart in him. 'But, my friend,' said I, 'will you give me liberty to start one difficulty here? I

cannot tell how to object the least thing against that affectionate concern which you shew for the turning the poor people from their paganism to the Christian religion. But how does this comfort you, while these people are, in your account, out of the pale of the catholick church; without which you believe there is no salvation; so that you esteem these but hereticks still; and, for other reasons, as effectually lost as the Pagans themselves?

To this he answered with abundance of candour and Christian charity, thus: 'Sir, I am a catholick of the Roman church, and a priest of the order of St. Benedict, and I embrace all the principles of the Roman faith; but yet, if you will believe me, and this I do not speak in compliment to you, or in respect to my circumstances, or your civilities; I say, nevertheless, I do not look upon you, who call yourselves Reformed, without some charity. I dare not say, though I know it is our opinion in general, yet, I dare not say, that you cannot be saved; will by no means limit the mercy of Christ, so far as to think that he cannot receive you into the bosom of his church, in a manner to us imperceptible, and which it is impossible for us to know; and I hope you have the same charity for us: I pray daily for your being all restored to Christ's church, by whatsoever methods He, who is All-wise, is pleased to direct. In the mean time, sure you will allow it to consist with me, as a Roman, to distinguish far between a Protestant and a Pagan; between one that calls on Jesus Christ, though in a way which I do not think is according to the true faith; and a savage, a barbarian, that knows no God, no Christ, no Redeemer at all; and if you are not within the pale of the Catholick church, we hope you are nearer being restored to it than those that know nothing at all of God, or his church. I rejoice, therefore, when I see this poor man, who you say has been a profligate, and almost a murderer, kneel down and pray to Jesus Christ, as we suppose he did, though not fully enlightened; believing that God, from whom every such work

E c

pre-



proceeds, will sensibly touch his heart, and bring him to the further knowledge of the truth in his own time; and if God shall influence this poor man to convert and instruct the ignorant savage and his wife, I can never believe that he shall be cast away himself. And have I not reason then to rejoice, the nearer any are brought to the knowledge of Christ, though they may not be brought quite home into the bosom of the catholick church just at the time when I may desire it; leaving it to the goodness of Christ to perfect his work in his own time, and his own way? Certainly I would rejoice if all the savages in America were brought, like this poor woman, to pray to God, though they were to be all Protestants at first, rather than they should continue Pagans and Heathens; firmly believing, that he who had bestowed that first light upon them, would farther illuminate them with a beam of his heavenly grace, and bring them into the pale of his church when he should see good?

I was astonished at the sincerity and temper of this truly pious Papist, as much as I was oppressed by the power of his reasoning: and it presently occurred to my thoughts, that if such a temper was universal, we might be all Catholick Christians, whatever church or particular profession we joined to or joined in; that a spirit of charity would soon work us all up into right principles; and, in a word, as he thought, that the like charity would make us all Catholicks, so I told him, I believed, had all the members of his church the like moderation, they would soon be all Protestants. And there we left that part, for we never disputed at all.

However, I talked to him another way; and, taking him by the hand, 'My friend,' said I, 'I wish all the clergy of the Roman church were blessed with such moderation, and an equal share of your charity. I am entirely of your opinion; but I must tell you, that if you should preach such doctrine in Spain or Italy, they would put you into the Inquisition.'

'It may be so,' said he; 'I know not what they might do in Spain and

Italy; but I will not say they would be the better Christians for that severity; for I am sure there is no heresy in too much charity.'

Well, as Will Atkins and his wife were gone, our business there was over: so we went back our own way; and when we came back, we found them waiting to be called in. Observing this, I asked my clergyman, if we should discover to him that we had seen him under the bush, or no; and it was his opinion we should not; but that we should talk to him first, and hear what he would say to us. So we called him in alone, nobody being in the place but ourselves; and I began with him thus.

'Will Atkins,' said I, 'pr'ythee what education had you? What was your father?'

W. A. A better man than ever I shall be. Sir, my father was a clergyman.

R. C. What education did he give you?

W. A. He would have taught me well, Sir; but I despised all education, instruction, or correction, like a beast as I was.

R. C. It is true, Solomon says, 'He that despiseth reproof is brutish.'

W. A. Ay, Sir, I was brutish indeed; I murdered my father. For God's sake, Sir, talk no more about that, Sir; I murdered my poor father!

PRIEST. Ha! a murderer!

[Here the priest started (for I interpreted every word as he spoke it) and looked pale. It seems, he believed that Will had really killed his own father.]

R. C. No, no, Sir; I do not understand him so.—Will Atkins, explain yourself; you did not kill your father, did you, with your own hands?

W. A. No, Sir; I did not cut his throat; but I cut the thread of all his comforts, and shortened his days; I broke his heart by the most ungrateful unnatural return for the most tender affectionate treatment that ever father gave or child could receive.

R. C. Well, I did not ask you about your father, to extort this confession: I pray God give you repentance for it, and forgive you that, and all your other sins; but I asked you, because I see, that though you have not much

learning,

learning, yet you are not so ignorant as some are, in things that are good; that you have known more of religion a great deal than you have practised.

W. A. Though you, Sir, did not extort the confession that I make about my father, conscience does; and whenever we come to look back upon our lives, the sins against our indulgent parents are certainly the first that touch us; the wounds they make, lie deepest; and the weight they leave, will lie heaviest upon the mind, of all the sins we can commit.

R. C. You talk too feelingly and sensible for me, Atkins: I cannot bear it.

W. A. You bear it, master! I dare say you know nothing of it.

R. C. Yes, Atkins; every shore, every hill, nay, I may say, every tree in this island is witness to the anguish of my soul for my ingratitude and base usage of a good tender father; a father much like yours, by your description; and I murdered my father as well as you, Will Atkins; but think, for all that, my repentance is short of yours too by a great deal.

[I would have said more, if I could have restrained my passions; but I thought this poor man's repentance was so much sincerer than mine, that I was going to leave off the discourse, and retire: for I was surprized with what he said; and thought, that instead of my going about to teach and instruct him, the man was made a teacher and instructor to me, in a most surprizing and unexpected manner.]

I laid all this before the young clergyman, who was greatly affected with it, and said to me, 'Did I not say, Sir, that when this man was converted, he would preach to us all? I tell you, Sir, if this one man be made a true penitent, here will be no need of me; he will make Christians of all in the island.' But, having a little composed myself, I renewed my discourse with Will Atkins.

'But, Will,' said I, 'how comes the sense of this matter to touch you just now?'

W. A. Sir, you have set me about a work that has struck a dart through my very soul: I have been talking about God and religion to my wife,

in order, as you directed me, to make a Christian of her; and she has preached such a sermon to me, as I shall never forget while I live.

R. C. No, no; it is not your wife has preached to you; but when you were moving religious arguments to her, conscience has flung them back upon you.

W. A. Ay, Sir, with such a force as it is not to be refuted.

R. C. Pray, Will, let us know what passed between you and your wife; for I know something of it already?

W. A. Sir, it is impossible to give you a full account of it; I am too full to hold it, and yet have no tongue to express it; but let her have said what she will, and though I cannot give you an account of it, this I can tell you of it, that I resolve to amend and reform my life.

R. C. But tell us some of it. How did you begin, Will? For this has been an extraordinary case, that is certain; she has preached a sermon, indeed, if she has wrought this upon you.

W. A. Why, I first told her the nature of our laws about marriage, and what the reasons were, that men and women were obliged to enter into such compacts, as it was neither in the power of one or other to break; that otherwife order and justice could not be maintained, and men would run from their wives, and abandon their children, mix confusedly with one another, and neither families be kept entire, nor inheritances be settled by a legal descent.

R. C. You talk like a civilian, Will. Could you make her understand what you meant by inheritance and families? They know no such thing among the savages, but marry any how, without any regard to relation, consanguinity, or family; brother and sister; nay, as I have been told, even the father and daughter, and the son and the mother.

W. A. I believe, Sir, you are misinformed; and my wife assures me of the contrary, and that they abhor it; perhaps, for any farther relations, they may not be so exact as we are; but she tells me, they never touch one another in the near relations you speak of.



R. C. Well, what did she say to what you told her?

W. A. She said, she liked it very well, and it was much better than in her country.

R. C. But, did you tell her what marriage was?

W. A. Ay, ay; there began all our dialogue. I asked her, if she would be married to me our way? She asked me, what way that was? I told her, marriage was appointed of God; and here we had a strange talk together, indeed, as ever man and wife had, I believe.

[N. B. This dialogue between Will Atkins and his wife, as I took it down in writing, just after he told it me, was as follows:]

WIFE. Appointed by your God! Why, have you a God in your country?

W. A. Yes, my dear; God is in every country.

WIFE. No your God is my country; my country have the great old Benamuckee god.

W. A. Child, I am very unfit to shew you who God is; God is in heaven, and made the heaven and the earth, the sea, and all that in them is.

WIFE. No makee de earth; no you God makee de earth; no makee my country.

[Will Atkins laughed a little at her expression of God not making her country.]

WIFE. No laugh: why laugh me? This no ting to laugh.

[He was justly reproved by his wife; for she was more serious than he at first.]

W. A. That's true, indeed; I will not laugh any more, my dear.

WIFE. Why you say, you God make all?

W. A. Yes, child, our God made the whole world, and you, and me, and all things; for he is the only true God; there is no God but he; he lives for ever in heaven.

WIFE. Why you no tell me long ago?

W. A. That's true, indeed; but I have been a wicked wretch, and have not only forgotten to acquaint thee with any thing before, but have lived without God in the world myself.

WIFE. What have you de great God in your country, you no know

him? No say O! to him? No do good ting for him? That no impossible!

W. A. It is too true though, for all that: we live as if there was no God in heaven, or that he had no power on earth.

WIFE. But why God let you do so? Why he no makee you good live?

W. A. It is all our own fault.

WIFE. But you say me, he is great, much great, have much great power; can makee kill when he will; why he no makee kill when you no serve him? No say O! to him? No be good mans!

W. A. That is true; he might strike me dead, and I ought to expect it; for I have been a wicked wretch, that is true; but God is merciful, and does not deal with us as we deserve.

WIFE. But then, do not you tell God tankee for that too?

W. A. No, indeed; I have not thanked God for his mercy, any more than I have feared God for his power.

WIFE. Then you God no God; me no think, believe he be such one; great much power, strong; no makee kill you, though you makee him much angry.

W. A. What! - will my wicked life hinder you from believing in God! What a dreadful creature am I! And what a sad truth is it, that the horrid lives of Christians hinders the conversion of heathens.

WIFE. How me tink you have great much God up there, and yet no do well, no do good ting? Can he tell? Sure he no tell what you do.

[She points up to heaven.]

W. A. Yes, yes, he knows and sees all things; he hears us speak, sees what we do, knows what we think, though we do not speak.

WIFE. What! he no hear you swear, curse, speak the great damn?

W. A. Yes, yes, he hears it all.

WIFE. Where be then the muchee great power strong?

W. A. He is merciful; that is all we can say for it: and this proves him to be the true God; he is God and not man; and therefore we are not consumed.

[Here, Will Atkins told us, he was struck with horror, to think how he could tell his wife so clearly, that God sees, and hears, and knows the secret thoughts of the heart;

heart, and all that we do; and yet that he had dared to do all the vile things he had done.]

WIFE. Merciful! what you call dat?

W. A. He is our father and maker; and he pities and spares us.

WIFE. So then he never makee kill, never angry when you do wicked; then he no good himself, or no great able.

W. A. Yes, yes, my dear; he is infinitely good, and infinitely great, and able to punish too; and sometimes, to shew his justice and vengeance, he lets fly his anger to destroy sinners, and make examples; many are cut off in their sins.

WIFE. But no makee kill you yet. Then he tell you, may be, that he no makee you kill; so you make de bargain with him, you do bad ting, he no be angry at you when he be angry at other mans?

W. A. No, indeed, my sins are all presumptions upon his goodness; and he would be infinitely just if he destroyed me, as he has done other men.

WIFE. Well, and yet no kill, no makee you dead! What you say to him for that? You no tell him tankee for all that too!

W. A. I am an unthankful, ungrateful dog, that is true.

WIFE. Why he no makee you much good better? You say he makee you?

W. A. He made me as he made all the world; it is I have deformed myself, and abused his goodness, and have made myself an abominable wretch.

WIFE. I wish you makee God know me; I no makee him angry; I no do bad wicked ting.

[Here, Will Atkins said, his heart sunk within him, to hear a poor untaught creature desire to be taught to know God; and he such a wicked wretch that he could not say one word to her about God, but what the reproach of his own carriage would make most irrational to her to believe; nay, that already he could not believe in God, because he that was so wicked was not destroyed.

W. A. My dear, you mean you wish I could teach you to know God,

not God to know you; for he knows you already, and every thought in your heart.

WIFE. Why then he know what I say to you now; he know me wish to know him. How shall me know who makee me?

W. A. Poor creature! he must teach thee; I cannot teach thee: I'll pray to him to teach thee to know him; and to forgive me that I am unworthy to teach thee.

[The poor fellow was in such an agony at her desiring him to make her know God, and her wishing to know him, that, he said, he fell down on his knees before her, and prayed to God to enlighten her mind with the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to pardon his sins, and accept of his being the unworthy instrument of instructing her in the principles of religion; after which he sat down by her again; and their dialogue went on.

N. B. This was the time when we saw him kneel down and lift up his hands.]

WIFE. What you put down the knee for? What you hold up the hand for? What you say? Who you speak to? What is that?

W. A. My dear, I bow my knees in token of my submission to him that made me. I said O to him, as you call it, and as you say your old men do to their idol Benamuckee; that is, I prayed to him.

WIFE. What you say O to him for?

W. A. I prayed to him to open your eyes and your understanding, that you may know him, and be accepted by him.

WIFE. Can he do that too?

W. A. Yes, he can; he can do all things.

WIFE. But he no hear what you say?

W. A. Yes, he has bid us pray to him; and promised to hear us.

WIFE. Bid you pray? When he bid you? How he bid you? What I you hear him speak?

W. A. No, we do not hear him speak; but he has revealed himself many ways to us.

[Here he was at a great loss to make her understand, that God had revealed



vealed himself to us by his word, and what his word was; but at last he told her thus.]

W. A. God has spoken to some good men in former days, even from heaven, by plain words; and God has inspired good men by his Spirit; and they have written all his laws in a book.

WIFE. Me no understand that. Where is book?

W. A. Alas! my poor creature, I have not this book; but I hope I shall one time or other get it for you to read it.

[Here he embraced her with great affection, but with inexpressible grief that he had not a bible.]

WIFE. But how you makee me know that God teachee them to write that book?

W. A. By the same rule that we know him to be God.

WIFE. What rule, what way you know?

W. A. Because he teaches and commands nothing but what is good, righteous, and holy; and tends to make us perfectly good as well as perfectly happy; and because he forbids and commands us to avoid all that is wicked, that is evil in itself, or evil in it's consequences.

WIFE. That me would understand, that me fain see; if he reward all good thing, punish all wicked thing, he teachee all good thing, forbid all wicked thing, he make all thing, he give all thing; he hear me when I say O to him, as you go to do just now; he makee me good, if I wish be good; he spare me, no makee kill me when I no be good; all this you say he do; yes, he be great God; me take, think, believe him be great God; me say O to him too, with you, my dear.

[Here, the poor man said, he could forbear no longer; but, raising her up, made her kneel by him; and he prayed to God aloud, to instruct her in the knowledge of himself by his Spirit; and that by some good providence, if possible, she might some time or other come to have a Bible, that she might read the word of God, and be taught by him to know him.]

This was the time that we saw him lift her up by the hand, and

saw him kneel down by her, as above.]

They had several other discourses, it seems, after this, too long to set down here; and particularly she made him promise, that since he confessed his own life had been a wicked abominable course of provocation against God, that he would reform it, and not make God angry any more, lest he should make him dead, as she called it, and then she should be left alone, and never be taught to know this God better; and lest he should be miserable, as he had told her wicked men should be after death.

This was a strange account, and very affecting to us both, but particularly the young clergyman: he was indeed wonderfully surprized with it; but under the greatest affliction imaginable, that he could not talk to her; that he could not speak English to make her understand him; and as she spoke but very broken English, he could not understand her. However, he turned himself to me, and told me, that he believed there must be more to do with this woman than to marry her. I did not understand him at first, but at length he explained himself; viz. that she ought to be baptized.

I agreed with him in that part readily, and was for going about it presently. 'No, no; hold, Sir,' said he; 'though I would have her baptized by all means, yet I must observe, that Will Atkins, her husband, has, indeed, brought her in a wonderful manner to be willing to embrace a religious life; and has given her just ideas of the being of a God, of his power, justice, and mercy; yet I desire to know of him, if he has said anything to her of Jesus Christ, and of the salvation of sinners; of the nature of faith in him, and the redemption by him; of the Holy Spirit, the resurrection, the last judgment, and a future state.'

I called Will Atkins again, and asked him; but the poor fellow fell immediately into tears, and told us, he had said something to her of all those things, but that he was himself so wicked a creature, and his own conscience so reproached him with his horrid ungodly life, that he trembled at the apprehensions that her know-

ledge

ledge of him should lessen the attention she should give to those things, and make her rather contemn religion than receive it. But he was assured, he said, that her mind was so disposed to receive due impressions of all those things, that if I would but discourse with her she would make it appear to my satisfaction, that my labour would not be lost upon her.

Accordingly I called her in, and placing myself as interpreter between my religious priest and the woman, I intreated him to begin with her: but sure such a sermon was never preached by a Popish priest in these latter ages of the world! and, as I told him, I thought he had all the zeal, all the knowledge, all the sincerity of a Christian, without the errors of a Roman Catholic; and that I took him to be such a clergyman as the Roman bishops were before the church of Rome assumed spiritual sovereignty over the consciences of men.

In a word, he brought the poor woman to embrace the knowledge of Christ, and of redemption by him; not with wonder and astonishment only, as she did the first notions of a God, but with joy and faith, with an affection, and a surprizing degree of understanding, scarce to be imagined, much less expressed; and at her own request she was baptized.

When he was preparing to baptize her, I intreated him that he would perform that office with some caution, that the man might not perceive he was of the Roman church, if possible; because of other ill consequences which might attend a difference among us in that very religion which we were instructing the other in. He told me, that as he had no consecrated chapel, nor proper things for the office, I should see he would do it in a manner that I should not know by it that he was a Roman Catholic myself, if I had not known it before: and so he did; for saying only some words over to himself in Latin, which I could not understand, he poured a whole dish full of water upon the woman's head, pronouncing in French very loud, 'Mary,' (which was the name her husband desired me to give her, for I was her godfather) 'I baptize thee in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.' So that none could

know any thing by it what religion he was of. He gave the benediction afterwards in Latin; but either Will Atkins did not know but it was in French, or else did not take notice of it at that time.

As soon as this was over, he married them. And after the marriage was over, he turned himself to Will Atkins, and in a very affectionate manner exhorted him, not only to persevere in that good disposition he was in, but to support the convictions that were upon him, by a resolution to reform his life; told him it was in vain to say he repented, if he did not forsake his crimes; represented to him how God had honoured him with being the instrument of bringing his wife to the knowledge of the Christian religion; and that he should be careful he did not dishonour the grace of God; and that if he did, he would see the heathen a better Christian than himself; the savage converted, and the instrument cast away.

He said a great many good things to them both, and then recommended them, in a few words, to God's goodness, gave them the benediction again, I repeating every thing to them in English: and thus ended the ceremony. I think it was the most pleasant agreeable day to me that ever I passed in my whole life.

But my clergyman had not done yet; his thoughts hung continually upon the conversion of the thirty-seven savages; and fain he would have staid upon the island to have undertaken it; but I convinced him, 1st. That his undertaking was impracticable in itself; and, 2dly, That, perhaps, I would put it into a way of being done, in his absence, to his satisfaction. Of which by and by.

Having thus brought the affairs of the island to a narrow compass, I was preparing to go on board the ship, when the young man, whom I had taken out of the Spanish ship's company, came to me, and told me, he understood I had a clergyman with me; and that I had caused the Englishmen to be married to the savages, whom they called wives; that he had a match too, which he desired might be finished before I went, between two Christians; which, he hoped, would not be disagreeable to me.

I knew



I knew this must be the young woman who was his mother's servant, for there was no other Christian woman on the island; so I began to persuade him not to do any thing of that kind rashly, or because he found himself in this solitary circumstance. I represented, that he had some considerable subsistence in the world, and good friends, as I understood by himself, and by his maid also; that the maid was not only poor, and a servant, but was unequal to him, she being twenty-six or twenty-seven years old, and he not above seventeen or eighteen; that he might, very probably, with my assistance, make a remove from this wilderness, and come into his own country again; and that then it would be a thousand to one but he would repent his choice; and the dislike of that circumstance might be disadvantageous to both. I was going to say more, but he interrupted me, smiling, and told me, with a great deal of modesty, that I mistook in my guesses; that he had nothing of that kind in his thoughts, his present circumstances being melancholy and disconsolate enough; and he was very glad to hear, that I had thoughts of putting them in a way to see their own country again; and that nothing should have set him upon staying there, but that the voyage I was going was exceeding long and hazardous, and would carry him quite out of the reach of all his friends; that he had nothing to desire of me, but that I would settle him in some little property in the island where he was; give him a servant or two, and some few necessaries, and he would settle himself here like a planter, waiting the good time when, if ever I returned to England, I would redeem him, and hoped I would not be unmindful of him when I came to England; that he would give me some letters to his friends in London, to let them know how good I had been to him, and what part of the world, and what circumstances I had left him in. And he promised me, that whenever I redeemed him, the plantation, and all the improvements he had made upon it, let the value be what it would, should be wholly mine.

His discourse was very prettily delivered, considering his youth; and was the more agreeable to me, because

he told me positively the match was not for himself. I gave him all possible assurances, that if I lived to come safe to England, I would deliver his letters, and do his business effectually; and that he might depend I would never forget the circumstances I left him in; but still I was impatient to know who was the person to be married: upon which he told me, it was my Jack of all Trades and his maid Susan.

I was most agreeably surprized when he named the match; for, indeed, I had thought it very suitable. The character of that man I have given already; and as for the maid, she was a very honest, modest, sober, and religious young woman; had a very good share of sense; was agreeable enough in her person; spoke very handsomely, and to the purpose; always with decency and good manners, and not backward to speak, when any thing required it, or impertinently forward to speak when it was not her business; very handy and housewifely in any thing that was before her; an excellent manager, and fitted indeed to have been governess to the whole island; she knew very well how to behave herself to all kind of folks she had about her, and to better, if she had found any there.

The match being proposed in this manner, we married them the same day; and, as I was father at the altar, as I may say, and gave her away, so I gave her a portion; for I appointed her and her husband a handsome large space of ground for their plantation; and, indeed, this match, and the proposal the young gentleman made to me, to give him a small property in the island, put me upon parcelling it out among them, that they might not quarrel afterwards about their situation.

This sharing out the land to them I left to Will Atkins; who, indeed, was now grown a most sober, grave, managing fellow, perfectly reformed, exceeding pious and religious, and, as far as I may be allowed to speak positively in such a case, I verily believe, was a true, sincere penitent.

He divided things so justly, and so much to every one's satisfaction, that they only desired one general writing under my hand for the whole; which I caused

I caused to be drawn up, and signed and sealed to them, setting out the bounds and situation of every man's plantation, and testifying, that I gave them thereby, severally, a right to the whole possession and inheritance of the respective plantations or farms, with their improvements, to them and their heirs; reserving all the rest of the island as my own property, and a certain rent for every particular plantation, after eleven years, if I or any one from me, or in my name, came to demand it, producing an attested copy of the same writing.

As to the government and laws among them, I told them I was not capable of giving them better rules than they were able to give themselves; only made them promise me, to live in love and good neighbourhood with one another. And so I prepared to leave them.

One thing I must not omit; and that is, that being now settled in a kind of commonwealth among themselves, and having much business in hand, it was but odd to have seven and thirty Indians live in a nook of the island, independent, and indeed unemployed; for, excepting the providing themselves food, which they had difficulty enough in sometimes, they had no manner of business or property to manage. I proposed therefore to the governor Spaniard, that he should go to them with Friday's father, and propose to them to remove, and either plant for themselves, or take them into their several families as servants, to be maintained for their labour, but without being absolute slaves; for I would not admit them to make them slaves by force by any means, because they had their liberty given by capitulation, and, as it were, articles of surrender, which they ought not to break.

They most willingly embraced the proposal, and came all very cheerful along with him. So we allotted them land and plantations, which three or four accepted of, but all the rest chose to be employed as servants in the several families we had settled; and thus my colony was in a manner settled; as follows. The Spaniards possessed my original habitation, which was the capital city, and extended their plantation all along the side of the brook, which made the creek that I have so often described, as far as my bower;

and as they increased their culture, it went always eastward: the English lived in the north-east part, where Will Atkins and his comrades began; and came on southward and south-west, towards the back part of the Spaniards; and every plantation had a great addition of land to take in, if they found occasion; so that they need not jostle one another for want of room.

All the west end of the island was left uninhabited, that if any of the savages should come on shore there, only for their usual customary barbarities, they might come and go; if they disturbed nobody, nobody would disturb them: and no doubt but they were often ashore, and went away again; for I never heard that the planters were ever attacked or disturbed any more.

It now came into my thoughts; that I had hinted to my friend the clergyman, that the work of converting the savages might, perhaps, be set on foot in his absence, to his satisfaction: and I told him, that now I thought it was put in a fair way; for the savages being thus divided among the Christians, if they would but every one of them do their part with those which came under their hands, I hoped it might have a very good effect.

He agreed presently in that, 'If,' said he, 'they will do their part; but how shall we obtain that of them?' I told him, we would call them all together, and leave it in charge with them, or go to them one by one, which he thought best; so we divided it; he to speak to the Spaniards, who were all Papists; and I to the English, who were all Protestants; and we recommended it earnestly to them, and made them promise, that they would never make any distinction of Papist or Protestant, in their exhorting the savages to turn Christians; but teach them the general knowledge of the true God, and of their Saviour Jesus Christ; and they likewise promised us, that they would never have any differences or disputes, one with another, about religion.

When I came to Will Atkins's house, (if I may call it so, for such a house, or such a piece of basket-work, I believe, was not standing in the world again; I say, when I came thither) I found the young woman I have men-



tioned above, and Will Atkins's wife, were become intimates; and this prudent, religious young woman, had perfected the work Will Atkins had begun; and though it was not above four days after what I have related, yet the new baptized savage woman was made such a Christian, as I have seldom heard of any like her in all my observation or conversation in the world.

It next came into my mind, in the morning, before I went to them, that among all the needful things I had to leave with them, I had not left a Bible; in which I shewed myself less considering for them, than my good friend the widow was for me, when she sent me the cargo of 100*l.* from Lisbon, where she packed up three Bibles and a Prayer-book. However, the good woman's charity had a greater extent than ever she imagined; for they were reserved for the comfort and instruction of those that made much better use of them than I had done.

I took one of the Bibles in my pocket, and when I came to William Atkins's tent or house, I found the young woman, and Atkins's baptized wife, had been discoursing of religion together; (for William Atkins told it me with a great deal of joy.) I asked, if they were together now, and he said, 'Yes.' So I went into the house, and he with me, and we found them together very earnest in discourse. 'O, Sir!' says William Atkins, 'when God has sinners to reconcile to himself, and aliens to bring home, he never wants a messenger: my wife has got a new instructor; I knew I was unworthy, as I was incapable of that work. That young woman has been sent hither from heaven; she is enough to convert a whole island of savages.' The young woman blushed, and rose up to go away, but I desired her to sit still. I told her she had a good work upon her hands, and I hoped God would bless her in it.

We talked a little, and I did not perceive they had any book among them, though I did not ask; but I put my hand in my pocket, and pulled out my Bible. 'Here,' said I to Atkins, 'I have brought you an assistant, that, perhaps, you had not before.' The man was so confounded, that he

was not able to speak for some time; but, recovering himself, he takes it with both his hands, and turning to his wife, 'Here, my dear,' says he; 'did not I tell you, our God, though he lives above, could hear what we said! Here is the book I prayed for, when you and I kneeled down under the bush; now God has heard us, and sent it.' When he had said thus, the man fell into such transports of a passionate joy, that between the joy of having it, and giving God thanks for it, tears ran down his face like a child that was crying.

The woman was surprized, and was like to have run into a mistake that none of us were aware of; for she firmly believed God had sent the book upon her husband's petition. It is true, that providentially it was so, and might be taken so in a consequent sense; but I believe it would have been no difficult matter, at that time, to have persuaded the poor woman to have believed, that an express messenger came from heaven on purpose to bring that individual book; but it was too serious a matter, to suffer any delusion to take place: so I turned to the young woman, and told her, we did not desire to impose upon the new convert in her first and more ignorant understanding of things; and begged her to explain to her, that God may be very properly said to answer our petitions, when, in the course of his providence, such things are, in a particular manner, brought to pass as we petitioned for; but we do not expect returns from Heaven in a miraculous and particular manner; and that it is our mercy it is not so.

This the young woman did afterwards effectually; so that there was, I assure you, no priestcraft used here; and I should have thought it one of the most unjustifiable frauds in the world, to have had it so. But the surprize of joy upon Will Atkins is really not to be expressed; and there, we may be sure, was no delusion. Sure no man was ever more thankful in the world for any thing of it's kind than he was for this Bible; and, I believe, never any man was glad of a Bible from a better principle; and though he had been a most profligate creature, desperate, headstrong, out-

rageous,

rageous, furious, and wicked, to a great degree; yet this man is a standing rule to us all for the well instructing children; viz. that parents should never give over to teach and instruct, or ever despair of the success of their endeavours, let the children be ever so obstinate, refractory, or, to appearance, insensible of instruction; for, if ever God in his providence touches the consciences of such, the force of their education returns upon them, and the early instruction of parents is not lost, though it may have been many years laid asleep; but, some time or other, they may find the benefit of it.

Thus it was with this poor man: however ignorant he was, or divested of religion and Christian knowledge, he found he had some to do with now more ignorant than himself; and that the least part of the instruction of his good father, that could now come to his mind, was of use to him.

Among the rest, it occurred to him, he said, how his father used to insist much upon the inexpressible value of the Bible; the privilege and blessing of it to nations, families, and persons; but he never entertained the least notion of the worth of it till now; when, being to talk to heathens, savages, and barbarians, he wanted the help of the written oracle for his assistance.

The young woman was very glad of it also, for the present occasion, though she had one; and so had the youth on board our ship, among the goods which were not yet brought on shore. And now, having said so many things of this young woman, I cannot omit telling one story more of her and myself, which has something in it very informing and remarkable.

I have related to what extremity the poor young woman was reduced; how her mistress was starved to death, and did die on board that unhappy ship we met at sea; and how the whole ship's company being reduced to the last extremity, the gentlewoman and her son, and this maid, were first hardly used as to provisions, and at last totally neglected and starved; that is to say, brought to the last extremity of hunger.

One day, being discoursing with her upon the extremities they suffered, I asked her if she could describe, by

what she felt, what it was to starve, and how it appeared. She told me, she believed she could; and she told her tale very distinctly thus:

'First, Sir,' said she, 'we had for some days fared exceeding hard, and suffered very great hunger; but now, at last, we were wholly without food of any kind, except sugar, and a little wine, and a little water. The first day, after I had received no food at all, I found myself towards evening, first empty and sickish at my stomach; and nearer night, mightily inclined to yawning, and sleepy. I laid down on a couch in the great cabin to sleep, and slept about three hours, and awaked a little refreshed, having taken a glass of wine when I laid down. After being about three hours awake, it being about five o'clock in the morning, I found myself empty, and my stomach sickish again, and laid down again; but could not sleep at all, being very faint and ill: and thus I continued all the second day, with a strange variety; first hungry, then sick again, with reachings to vomit. The second night, being obliged to go to bed again without any food more than a draught of fair water, and being asleep, I dreamed I was at Barbadoes, and that the market was mightily stocked with provisions; that I bought some for my mistress, and went and dined very heartily.

'I thought my stomach was as full after this, as it would have been after, or at a good dinner; but when I waked, I was exceedingly sunk in my spirits, to find myself in the extremity of famine. The last glass of wine we had I drank, and put sugar into it, because of it's having some spirit to supply nourishment; but there being no substance in the stomach for the digesting office to work upon, I found the only effect of the wine was, to raise disagreeable fumes from the stomach into the head; and I lay, as they told me, stupid and senseless, as one drunk, for some time.

'The third day in the morning, after a night of strange and confused inconsistent dreams, and rather dozing than sleeping, I awaked, ravenous and furious with hunger; and I question, had not my under-







cried, 'Land to the westward!' but whether it was the continent, or islands, we could not tell by any means.

But the third day, towards evening, the sea smooth, and the weather calm, we saw the sea, as it were, covered, towards the land, with something very black, not being able to discover what it was; but, after some time, our chief mate going up the main shrouds a little way, and looking at them with a perspective, cried out it was an army. I could not imagine what he meant by an army, and spoke a little hastily, calling the fellow a fool, or some such word. 'Nay, Sir,' says he, 'don't be angry, for it is an army, and a fleet too; for I believe there are a thousand canoes, and you may see them paddle along, and they are coming towards us too apace, and full of men.'

I was a little surprized then, indeed, and so was my nephew the captain; for he had heard such terrible stories of them in the island; and having never been in those seas before, that he could not tell what to think of it, but said two or three times we should all be devoured. I must confess, considering we were becalmed, and the current set strong towards the shore, I liked it the worse. However, I bade him not be afraid, but bring the ship to an anchor as soon as we came so near as to know that we must engage them.

The weather continued calm, and they came on apace towards us; so I gave orders to come to an anchor, and furl all our sails. As for the savages, I told them they had nothing to fear from them but fire; and therefore they should get their boats out, and fasten them, one close by the head, and the other by the stern, and man them both well, and wait the issue in that posture. This I did, that the men in the boats might be ready, with sheets and buckets, to put out any fire these savages might endeavour to fix upon the outside of the ship.

In this posture we lay by for them, and in a little while they came up with us; but never was such a horrid sight seen by Christians. My mate was much mistaken in his calculation of their number; I mean, of a thousand canoes; the most we could make of them when they came up being about a hundred and twenty-six, and a great many

of them too; for some of them had fifteen or seventeen men in them, some more, and the least six or seven.

When they came nearer to us, they seemed to be struck with wonder and astonishment, as at a sight which they had, doubtless, never seen before; nor could they at first, as we afterwards understood, know what to make of us. They came boldly up, however, very near to us, and seemed to go about to row round us; but we called to our men in the boats not to let them come too near them.

This very order brought us to an engagement with them without our designing it; for five or six of their large canoes came so near our long-boat, that our men beckoned with their hands to them to keep back; which they understood very well, and went back; but at their retreat about five hundred arrows came on board us from those boats; and one of our men in the long-boat was very much wounded.

However, I called to them not to fire by any means; but we handed down some deal boards into the boat, and the carpenter presently set up a kind of a fence, like waste-boards, to cover them from the arrows of the savages, if they should shoot again.

About an hour afterwards they came all up in a body astern of us, and pretty near, so near that we could easily discern what they were, though we could not tell their design. I easily found they were some of my old friends, the same sort of savages that I had been used to engage with; and in a little time more they rowed somewhat farther out to sea, till they came directly broadside with us, and then rowed down straight upon us, till they came so near, that they could hear us speak. Upon this I ordered all my men to keep close, lest they should shoot any more arrows, and make all our guns ready; but, being so near as to be within hearing, I made Friday go out upon the deck, and call out aloud to them in his language, to know what they meant; which accordingly he did. Whether they understood him or not, that I knew not; but as soon as he had called to them, six of them, who were in the foremost or nearest boat to us, turned their canoes from us, and stooping down, shewed us their

their naked backsides; just as if, in English, (saying your presence) they had bid us kiss ——. Whether this was a defiance or challenge we knew not; or whether it was done in mere contempt, or a signal to the rest; but immediately Friday cried out, they were going to shoot; and unhappily for him (poor fellow) they let fly about three hundred of their arrows; and, to my inexpressible grief, killed poor Friday, no other man being in their sight. The poor fellow was shot with no less than three arrows, and about three more fell very nigh him; such unlucky marksmen they were.

I was so enraged with the loss of my old servant, the companion of all my sorrows and solitudes, that I immediately ordered five guns to be loaded with small shot, and four with great; and gave them such a broadside as they had never had in their lives before to be sure.

They were not above half a cable's length off when we fired; and our gunners took their aim so well, that three or four of their canoes were overset, as we had reason to believe, by one shot only.

The ill manners of turning up their bare backsides to us gave us no great offence; neither did I know for certain, whether that which would pass for the greatest contempt among us, might be understood so by them or not; therefore, in return, I had only resolved to have fired four or five guns with powder only, which I knew would fright them sufficiently. But when they shot at us directly with all the fury they were capable of, and especially as they had killed my poor Friday, whom I so entirely loved and valued, and who indeed so well deserved it, I not only had been justified before God and man, but would have been very glad, if I could, to have overset every canoe there, and drowned every one of them.

I can neither tell how many we killed, or how many we wounded, at this broadside; but sure such a fright and hurry never was seen among such a multitude. There were thirteen or fourteen of their canoes split and overset in all, and the men all set a swimming; the rest, frightened out of their wits, scoured away as fast as they

could, taking but little care to save those whose boats were split or spoiled with our shot; so I suppose that there were many of them lost; and our men took up one poor fellow swimming for his life, above an hour after they were all gone.

Our small shot from our cannon must needs kill and wound a great many; but, in short, we never knew any thing how it went with them; for they fled so fast, that in three hours, or thereabouts, we could not see above three or four straggling canoes; nor did we ever see the rest any more, for a breeze of wind springing up the same evening, we weighed and set sail for the Brazils.

We had a prisoner indeed, but the creature was so sullen, that he would neither eat nor speak, and we all fancied he would starve himself to death; but I took a way to cure him; for I made them take him and turn him into the long-boat, and make him believe they would toss him into the sea again, and so leave him where they found him, if he would not speak; nor would that do, but they really did throw him into the sea, and came away from him; and then he followed them, for he swam like a cork, and called to them in his tongue, though they knew not one word of what he said. However, at last, they took him in again, and then he began to be more tractable; nor did I ever design they should drown him.

We were now under sail again; but I was the most disconsolate creature alive for want of my man Friday, and would have been very glad to have gone back to the island, to have taken one of the rest from thence for my occasion, but it could not be; so we went on. We had one prisoner, as I have said; and it was a long while before we could make him understand any thing; but, in time, our men taught him some English, and he began to be a little tractable. Afterwards we enquired what country he came from, but could make nothing of what he said; for his speech was so odd, all gutturals, and spoken in the throat in such a hollow and odd manner, that we could never form a word from him; and we were all of opinion, that they might speak that language as well if they were gagged as



as otherwise; nor could we perceive that they had any occasion either for teeth, tongue, lips, or palate; but formed their words just as a hunting-horn forms a tune, with an open throat. He told us, however, some time after, when we had taught him to speak a little English, that they were going with their kings to fight a great battle. When he said kings, we asked him how many kings. He said, there were five nation, (we could not make him understand the plural *S*) and that they all joined to go against two nation. We asked him, what made them come up to us. He said, 'To makee te great wonder look.' Where it is to be observed, that all those natives, as also those of Africa, when they learn English, they always add two *e*'s at the end of the words where we use one, and place the accent upon the last of them, as *makee*, *takee*, and the like; and we could not break them of it; nay, I could hardly make Friday leave it off, though at last he did.

And now I name the poor fellow once more, I must take my last leave of him. Poor honest Friday! We buried him with all decency and solemnity possible, by putting him into a coffin, and throwing him into the sea; and I caused them to fire eleven guns for him. And so ended the life of the most grateful, faithful, honest, and most affectionate servant, that ever man had.

We now went away with a fair wind for Brazil; and, in about twelve days time, we made land in the latitude of five degrees south of the line, being the north-eastermost land of all that part of America. We kept on S. by E. in sight of the shore, four days, when we made the Cape St. Augustine, and in three days came to an anchor-off the Bay of All-Saints, the old place of deliverance, from whence came both my good and evil fate.

Never ship came to this part that had less business than I had; and yet it was with great difficulty that we were admitted to hold the least correspondence on shore: not my partner himself, who was alive, and made a great figure among them; not my two merchant trustees, nor the fame of my wonderful preservation in the island, could obtain me that favour. But my

partner remembering that I had given five hundred moidores to the prior of the monastery of the Augustines, and three hundred and seventy-two to the poor, went to the monastery, and obliged the prior that then was to go to the governor, and beg leave for me presently, with the captain and one more, besides eight seamen, to come on shore, and no more; and this upon condition absolutely capitulated for, that we should not offer to land any goods out of the ship, or to carry any person away without licence.

They were so strict with us, as to landing any goods, that it was with extreme difficulty that I got on shore three bales of English goods, such as fine broad-cloths, stuffs, and some linen, which I had brought for a present to my partner.

He was a very generous broad-hearted man, though (like me) he came from little at first; and though he knew not that I had the least design of giving him any thing, he sent me on board a present of fresh provisions, wine, and sweetmeats, worth above thirty moidores, including some tobacco, and three or four fine medals in gold. But I was even with him in my present, which, as I have said, consisted of fine broad-cloth, English stuffs, lace, and fine Hollands. Also I delivered him about the value of 100*l.* sterling, in the same goods, for other uses; and I obliged him to set up the sloop which I had brought with me from England, as I have said, for the use of my colony, in order to send the refreshments I intended to my plantation.

Accordingly, he got hands, and finished the sloop in a very few days, for she was already framed, and I gave the master of her such instructions as he could not miss the place; nor did he miss it, as I had an account from my partner afterwards. I got him soon loaded with the small cargo I had sent them; and one of our seamen, that had been on shore with me there, offered to go with the sloop, and settle there, upon my letter to the governor Spaniard to allot him a sufficient quantity of land for a plantation; and giving him some cloaths and tools for his planting-work, which he said he understood, having been an old planter in Maryland, and a buccaneer into the bargain.

I en-

I encouraged the fellow by granting all he desired; and, as an addition, I gave him the savage which we had taken prisoner of war, to be his slave, and ordered the governor Spaniard to give him his share of every thing he wanted with the rest.

When we came to fit this man out, my old partner told me, that there was a certain very honest fellow, a Brazil planter of his acquaintance, who had fallen into the displeasure of the church: 'I know not what the matter is with him,' says he; 'but, on my conscience, I think he is a heretick in his heart, and he has been obliged to conceal himself for fear of the inquisition;' that he would be very glad of such an opportunity to make his escape, with his wife and two daughters; and if I would let them go to the island, and allot them a plantation, he would give them a small stock to begin with; for the officers of the inquisition had seized all his effects and estate, and he had nothing left but a little household-stuff and two slaves. 'And,' adds he, 'though I hate his principles, yet I would not have him fall into their hands; for he will assuredly be burnt alive if he does.'

I granted this presently, and joined my Englishman with them; and we concealed the man, and his wife and daughters, on board our ship, till the sloop put out to sea; and then (having put all their goods on board the sloop some time before) we put them on board the sloop after she was got out of the bay.

Our seaman was mightily pleased with this new partner; and their stock, indeed, was much alike rich in tools, in preparations, and a farm; but nothing to begin with but as above. However, they carried over with them (which was worth all the rest) some materials for planting sugar-canes, with some plants of canes; which he (I mean, the Portugal man) understood very well.

Among the rest of the supplies sent my tenants in the island, I sent them, by this sloop, three milch cows and five calves, about twenty-two hogs among them, three sows big with pig, two mares and a stone-horse.

For my Spaniards, according to my promise, I engaged three Portugal wo-

men to go; and recommended it to them to marry them, and use them kindly. I could have procured more women, but I remembered, that the poor persecuted man had two daughters, and there were but five of the Spaniards that wanted; the rest had wives of their own, though in another country.

All this cargo arrived safe; and, as you may easily suppose, very welcome to my old inhabitants, who were now (with this addition) between sixty and seventy people, besides little children; of which there were a great many. I found letters at Lisbon, when I came back to England, being sent back to the Brazils by this sloop; of which I shall take some notice in its place.

I have now done with my island, and all manner of discourse about it; and whoever reads the rest of my memorandums, would do well to turn his thoughts entirely from it, and expect to read only of the follies of an old man, not warned by his own harms, much less by those of other men, to beware of the like; not cooled by almost forty years misery and disappointments; not satisfied with prosperity beyond expectation; not made cautious by affliction and distress beyond imitation.

I had no more business to go to the East-Indies, than a man at full liberty, and having committed no crime, has to go to the turnkey at Newgate, and desire him to lock him up among the prisoners there, and starve him. Had I taken a small vessel from England and went directly to the island; had I loaded her, as I did the other vessel, with all the necessaries for the plantation, and for my people; took a patent from the government here, to have secured my property, in subjection only to that of England, which, to be sure, I might have obtained; had I carried over cannon and ammunition, servants, and people to plant, and taking possession of the place, fortified and strengthened it in the name of England, and increased it with people, as I might easily have done; had I then settled myself there, and sent the ship back laden with good rice, as I might also have done in six months time, and ordered my friends to have fitted her out again for our supply; had I done this,

G g

and



and stayed there myself, I had, at least, acted like a man of common sense: but I was possessed with a wandering spirit, scorned all advantages, pleased myself with being the patron of these people I had placed there, and doing for them in a kind of haughty majestic way, like an old patriarchal monarch; providing for them, as if I had been father of the whole family as well as of the plantation. But I never so much as pretended to plant in the name of any government or nation, or to acknowledge any prince, or to call my people subjects to any one nation more than another; nay, I never so much as gave the place a name; but left it as I found it, belonging to no man, and the people under no discipline or government but my own; who, though I had an influence over them as father and benefactor, had no authority or power to act or command one way or other, farther than voluntary consent moved them to comply; yet even this, had I stayed there, would have done well enough; but as I rambled from them, and came thither no more, the last letters I had from any of them were by my partner's means, who afterwards sent another sloop to the place, and who sent me word, though I had not the letter till five years after it was written, that they went on but poorly; were discontent with their long stay there; that Will Atkins was dead; that five of the Spaniards were come away; and that though they had not been much molested by the savages, yet they had had some skirmishes with them; that they begged of him to write to me, to think of the promise I had made to fetch them away, that they might see their own country again before they died.

But I was gone a wild-goose chase indeed; and they who will have any more of me, must be content to follow me through a new variety of follies, hardships, and wild adventures; wherein the justice of Providence may be duly observed, and we may see how easily Heaven can gorge us with our own desires, make the strongest of our wishes to be our affliction, and punish us most severely with those very things which we think it would be our utmost happiness to be allowed in.

Let no wise man flatter himself with the strength of his own judgment, as

if he was able to chuse any particular station of life for himself. Man is a short-sighted creature, sees but a very little way before him; and as his passions are none of his best friends, so his particular affections are generally his worst counsellors.

I say this with respect to the impetuous desire I had from a youth to wander into the world; and how evident it now was, that this principle was preserved in me for my punishment. How it came on, the manner, the circumstance, and the conclusion of it, it is easy to give you historically, and with it's utmost variety of particulars. But the secret ends of Divine Providence, in thus permitting us to be hurried down the stream of our own desires, are only to be understood of those who can listen to the voice of Providence, and draw religious consequences from God's justice, and their own mistakes.

Be it, had I business, or no business, away I went. It is no time now to enlarge any farther upon the reason or absurdity of my own conduct; but to come to the history, I was embarked for the voyage, and the voyage I went.

I shall only add here, that my honest and truly pious clergyman left me here; a ship being ready to go to Lisbon, he asked me leave to go thither; being still, as he observed, bound never to finish any voyage he began. How happy had it been for me, if I had gone with him!

But it was too late now: all things Heaven appoints are best. Had I gone with him, I had never had so many things to be thankful for, and you had never heard of the second part of the Travels and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe. So I must leave here the fruitless exclaiming at myself, and go on with my voyage.

From the Brasils we made directly away over the Atlantick Sea, to the Cape de Bonne Esperance, or, as we call it, the Cape of Good-Hope; and had a tolerable good voyage, our course generally south east; now and then a storm, and some contrary winds. But my disasters at sea were at an end; my future rubs and crofs events were to befall me on shore, that it might appear, the land was as well prepared to be our scourge as the sea, when Heaven,

then, who directs the circumstances of things, pleases to appoint it to be so.

Our ship was on a trading voyage, and had a supercargo on board, who was to direct all her motions after she arrived at the Cape; only being limited to certain number of days for stay, by charter-party, at the several ports she was to go to. This was none of my business, neither did I meddle with it at all; my nephew, the captain, and the supercargo, adjusting all those things between them, as they thought fit.

We made no stay at the Cape, longer than was needful to take in fresh water, but made the best of our way for the coast of Coromandel. We were indeed informed, that a French man of war of fifty guns, and two large merchant ships, were gone for the Indies; and, as I knew we were at war with France, I had some apprehensions of them; but they went their own way, and we heard no more of them.

I shall not pester my account, or the reader, with descriptions of places, journals of our voyages, variations of the compass, latitudes, meridian distances, trade-winds, situation of ports, and the like; such as almost all the histories of long navigation are full of, and which make the reading tiresome enough, and are perfectly unprofitable to all that read, except only to those who are to go to those places themselves.

It is enough to name the ports and places which we touched at, and what occurred to us upon our passing from one to another. We touched first at the island of Madagascar; where, though the people are fierce and treacherous, and, in particular, very well armed with lances and bows, which they use with inconceivable dexterity, yet we fared very well with them a while; they treated us very civilly; and, for some trifles which we gave them, such as knives, scissars, &c. they brought us eleven good fat bullocks, middling in size, but very good in flesh; which we took in, partly for fresh provisions for our present spending, and the rest to salt for the ship's use.

We were obliged to stay here for some time, after we had furnished ourselves with provisions; and I, that was always too curious to look into every

nook of the world wherever I came, was for going on shore as often as I could. It was on the east side of the island that we went on shore one evening; and the people, who, by the way, are very numerous, came thronging about us, and stood gazing at us at a distance. As we had traded freely with them, and had been kindly used, we thought ourselves in no danger; but when we saw the people, we cut three boughs out of a tree, and stuck them up at a distance from us, which, it seems, is a mark in that country, not only of truce and friendship, but, when it is accepted, the other side set up three poles or boughs also, which is a signal that they accept the truce too; but then this is a known condition of the truce, that you are not to pass beyond their three poles towards them, nor they come past your three poles or boughs toward you; so that you are perfectly secure within the three poles, and all the space between your poles and theirs is allowed, like a market, for free converse, traffick and commerce. When you go thither, you must not carry your weapons with you; and if they come into that space, they stick up their javelins and lances all at the first poles, and come on unarmed; but if any violence is offered them, and the truce thereby broken, away they run to the poles, and lay hold of their weapons, and then the truce is at an end.

It happened, one evening, when we went on shore, that a greater number of their people came down than usual; but were all very friendly and civil. They brought with them several kinds of provisions, for which we satisfied them with such toys as we had; their women also brought us milk and roots, and several things very acceptable to us, and all was quiet; and we made us a little tent or hut, of some boughs of trees, and lay on shore all that night.

I know not what was the occasion, but I was not so well satisfied to lie on shore as the rest; and the boat lying at an anchor, about a stone's cast from the land, with two men in her to take care of her, I made one of them come on shore; and getting some boughs of trees to cover us also in the boat, I spread the sail on the bottom of the boat, and lay on board, under the co-



'one.' Jack said he would; and another followed, and then another: and, in a word, they all left me but one, whom, with much difficulty, too, I persuaded to stay. So the supercargo and I, with one man, went back to the boat, where, I told them, we would stay for them, and take care to take in as many of them as should be left; for I told them, it was a mad thing they were going about, and supposed most of them would run the fate of Thomas Jeffries.

They told me, like seamen, they would warrant it they would come off again; and they would take care, &c. So away they went. I intreated them to consider the ship and the voyage; that their lives were not their own, and that they were intrusted with the voyage in some measure; that if they miscarried, the ship might be lost for want of their help; and that they could not answer it to God and man. I said a great deal more to them on that head, but I might as well have talked to the main-mast of the ship: they were mad upon their journey; only they gave me good words, and begged I would not be angry; said they would be very cautious, and they did not doubt but they would be back again in about an hour at farthest; for the Indian town, they said, was not above half a mile off; though they found it above two miles before they got to it.

Well, they all went away, as above; and though the attempt was desperate, and such as none but madmen would have gone about, yet, to give them their due, they went about it warily as well as boldly. They were gallantly armed, that is true; for they had every man a fusil or musquet, a bayonet, and every man a pitoil; some of them had broad cutlasses, some of them hangers, and the boatwain and two more had pole-axes: besides all which they had among them thirteen hand-grenades. Bolder fellows, and better provided, never went about any wicked work in the world.

When they went out, their chief design was plunder; and they were in mighty hopes of finding gold there; but a circumstance which none of them was aware of, set them on fire with revenge, and made devils of them all. When they came to the few Indian houses, which they thought had been

the town, which were not above half a mile off, they were under a great disappointment; for there were not above twelve or thirteen houses; and where the town was, or how big, they knew not: they consulted therefore what to do, and were some time before they could resolve; for if they fell upon these, they must cut all their throats; and it was ten to one but some of them might escape, it being in the night, though the moon was up; and if one escaped, he would run away and raise all the town, so they should have a whole army upon them. Again, on the other hand, if they went away, and left those untouched (for the people were all asleep) they could not tell which way to look for the town.

However the last was the best advice; so they resolved to leave those houses, and look for the town as well as they could. They went on a little way, and found a cow tied to a tree. This they presently concluded would be a good guide to them; for they said the cow certainly belonged to the town before them, or the town behind them; and if they untied her, they should see which way she went: if she went back, they had nothing to say to her; but, if she went forward, they had nothing to do but to follow her. So they cut the cord, which was made of twisted flags, and the cow went on before them. In a word, the cow led them directly to the town, which, as they reported, consisted of above two hundred houses or huts; and in some of these they found several families living together.

Here they found all silent; as profoundly secure as sleep and a country that had never seen an enemy of that kind could make them. Upon this they called another council, to consider what they had to do; and, in a word, they resolved to divide themselves into three bodies, and to set three houses on fire in three parts of the town, and as the men came out, to seize them and bind them, if any resisted; they need not be asked what to do then; and so search the rest of the houses for plunder; but resolved to march silently first through the town, and see what dimensions it was of, and consider if they might venture upon it or no.

They did so, and desperately resolved that they would venture upon them,

them. But while they were animating one another to the work, three of them, that were a little before the rest, called out aloud, and told them they had found Thomas Jeffries. They all ran up to the place, and so it was indeed; for there they found the poor fellow hanged up naked by one arm, and his throat cut. There was an Indian house just by the tree, where they found sixteen or seventeen of the principal Indians, who had been concerned in the fray with us before, and two or three of them wounded with our shot; and our men found they were awake, and talking one to another in that house, but knew not their number.

The sight of their poor mangled comrade so enraged them, as before, that they swore to one another they would be revenged, and that not an Indian who came into their hands should have quarter: and to work they went immediately; and yet not so madly as, by the rage and fury they were in, might be expected. Their first care was to get something that would soon take fire; but after a little search, they found that would be to no purpose, for most of the houses were low, and thatched with flags or rushes, of which the country was full: so they presently made some wildfire, as they call it, by wetting a little powder in the palms of their hands; and, in a quarter of an hour, they set the town on fire in four or five places, and particularly that house where the Indians were not gone to bed. As soon as the fire began to blaze, the poor frightened creatures began to rush out to save their lives; but met with their fate in the attempt, and especially at the door, where they drove them back, the boatwain himself killing one or two with his pole-ax. The house being large, and many in it, he did not care to go in, but called for a hand-grenade, and threw it among them, which, at first, frightened them; but when it burst, made such havock among them, that they cried out in a hideous manner.

In short, most of the Indians who were in the open part of the house were killed or hurt with the grenade, except two or three more, who pressed to the door, which the boatwain and two more kept with the bayonets in the muzzles of their pieces, and dis-

patched all who came that way. But there was another apartment in the house, where the prince or king, or whatsoever he was, and several others were; and they kept in, till the house, which was by this time all of a light flame, fell in upon them, and they were smothered or burnt together.

All this while they fired not a gun, because they would not waken the people faster than they could master them; but the fire began to waken them fast enough, and our fellows were glad to keep a little together in bodies; for the fire grew so raging, all the houses being made of light combustible stuff, that they could hardly bear the street between them; and their business was to follow the fire for the surer execution. As fast as the fire either forced the people out of those houses which were burning, or frightened them out of others, our people were ready at their doors to knock them on the head, still calling and hallooing to one another to remember Thomas Jeffries.

While this was doing, I must confess I was very uneasy, and especially, when I saw the flames of the town, which, it being night, seemed to be just by me.

My nephew, the captain, who was roused by his men too, seeing such a fire, was very uneasy, not knowing what the matter was, or what danger I was in; especially hearing the guns too; for by this time they began to use their fire-arms. A thousand thoughts oppressed his mind concerning me and the supercargo, what should become of us. And at last, though he could ill spare any more men, yet, not knowing what exigence we might be in, he takes another boat, and with thirteen men and himself comes on shore to me.

He was surprized to see me and the supercargo in the boat, with no more than two men, for one had been left to keep the boat: and though he was glad that we were well, yet he was in the same impatience with us, to know what was doing; for the noise continued, and the flame increased. I confessed, it was next to an impossibility for any men in the world to restrain their curiosity of knowing what had happened, or their concern for the safety of the men. In a word, the captain

told



told me, he would go and help his men, let what would come. I argued with him, as I did before with the men, the safety of the ship, and the danger of the voyage, the interest of the owners and merchants, &c. and told him, I would go, and the two men, and only see if we could, at a distance, learn what was like to be the event, and come back and tell him.

It was all one to talk to my nephew, as it was to talk to the rest before; he would go, he said, and he only wished he had left but ten men in the ship; for he could not think of having his men lost for want of help. He had rather, he said, lose the ship, the voyage, and his life, and all. And so away went he.

Nor was I any more able to stay behind now, than I was to persuade them not to go before; so, in short, the captain ordered two men to row back the pinnace, and fetch twelve men more from the ship, leaving the long-boat at an anchor; and that when they came back, six men should keep the two boats, and six more come after us. So that he left only sixteen men in the ship; for the whole ship's company consisted of sixty-five men, whereof two were lost in the first quarrel, which brought this mischief on.

Being now on the march, you may be sure we felt little of the ground we trod on; and being guided by the fire, we kept no path, but went directly to the place of the flame. If the noise of the guns were surprizing to us before, the cries of the poor people were now quite of another nature, and filled us with horror. I must confess, I never was at the sacking of a city, or at the taking of a town by storm. I have heard of Oliver Cromwell taking Drogheda in Ireland, and killing man, woman, and child; and I had read of Count Tilly sacking of the city of Magdeburg, and cutting the throats of twenty-two thousand of both sexes; but I never had an idea of the thing itself before; nor is it possible to describe it, or the horror which was upon our minds at hearing it.

However, we went on, and at length, came to the town, though there was no entering the streets of it for the fire. The first object we met with was the ruins of a hut or house,

or rather the ashes of it, for the house was consumed; and just before it, plain now to be seen by the light of the fire, lay four men and three women killed, and, as we thought, one or two more lay in the heap among the fire. In short, these were such instances of rage altogether barbarous, and of a fury something beyond what was human, that we thought it impossible our men could be guilty of it; or, if they were the authors of it, we thought that every one of them ought to be put to the worst of deaths. But this was not all; we saw the fire increased forward, and the cry went on just as the fire went on, so that we were in the utmost confusion. We advanced a little way farther, and beheld, to our astonishment, three women naked, crying in a most dreadful manner, and flying as if they had indeed had wings, and after them sixteen or seventeen men, natives, in the same terror and consternation, with three of our English butchers (for I can call them no better) in the rear; who, when they could not overtake them, fired in among them, and one that was killed by the shot fell down in our sight: when the rest saw us, believing us to be their enemies, and that we would murder them, as well as those that pursued them, they set up a most dreadful shriek, especially the women; and two of them fell down as if already dead with the fright.

My very soul shrank within me, and my blood ran chill in my veins when I saw this; and I believe, had the three English sailors that pursued them come on, I had made our men kill them all. However, we took some ways to let the poor flying creatures know that we would not hurt them; and immediately they came up to us, and kneeling down, with their hands lifted up, made piteous lamentations to us to save them, which we let them know we would do; whereupon they kept all together in a huddle, close behind us, for protection. I left my men drawn up together, and charged them to hurt nobody, but, if possible, to get at some of our people, and see what devil it was possessed them, and what they intended to do; and, in a word, to command them off; assuring them, that if they stayed till day-light, they would have a hundred thousand

thousand men about their ears. I say, I left them, and went among those flying people, taking only two of our men with me; and there was, indeed, a piteous spectacle among them. Some of them had their feet terribly burnt with trampling and running through the fire; others their hands burnt: one of the women had fallen down in the fire, and was almost burnt to death before she could get out again; two or three of the men had cuts in their backs and thighs, from our men pursuing; and another was shot through the body, and died while I was there.

I would fain have learned what the occasion of all this was, but I could not understand one word they said; though by signs I perceived, that some of them knew not what was the occasion themselves. I was so terrified in my thoughts at this outrageous attempt, that I could not stay there, but went back to my own men. I told them my resolution, and commanded them to follow me; when in the very moment came four of our men, with the boatswain at their head, running over the heaps of bodies they had killed, all covered with blood and dust, as if they wanted more people to massacre; when our men hallooed to them as loud as they could halloo, and with much ado one of them made them hear; so that they knew who we were, and came up to us.

As soon as the boatswain saw us, he set up a halloo like a shout of triumph, for having, as he thought, more help come; and, without bearing to hear me, 'Captain,' says he, 'noble captain, I am glad you are come; we have not half done yet. Villains! hell-hound dogs! I will kill as many of them as poor Tom has hairs upon his head. We have sworn to spare none of them; we will root out the very nation of them from the earth.' And thus he ran on, out of breath too with action; and would not give us leave to speak a word.

At last, raising my voice, that I might silence him a little: 'Barbarous dog!' said I, 'what are you doing? I won't have one creature touched more, upon pain of death. I charge you; upon your life, to stop your hands, and stand still here, or you are a dead man this minute!'

'Why, Sir,' says he, 'do you know what you do, or what they have done? If you want a reason for what we have done, come hither.' And with that he shewed me the poor fellow hanging upon a tree; with his throat cut.

I confess, I was urged then myself, and at another time should have been forward enough; but I thought they had carried their rage too far, and thought of Jacob's words to his sons Simeon and Levi, 'Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel.' But I had now a new task upon my hands; for when the men I carried with me saw the sight, as I had done, I had as much to do to restrain them, as I should have had with the others; nay, my nephew himself fell in with them, and told me, in their hearing, that he was only concerned for fear of their men being overpowered; for, as to the people, he thought not one of them ought to live; for they had all glutted themselves with the murder of the poor man, and that they ought to be used like murderers. Upon these words, away ran eight of my men, with the boatswain and his crew, to compleat their bloody work. And I, seeing it quite out of my power to restrain them, came away penfive and sad; for I could not bear the sight, much less the horrible noise and cries of the poor wretches that fell into their hands.

I got nobody to come back with me but the supercargo and two men, and with these I walked back to the boats. It was a very great piece of folly in me, I confess, to venture back as it were alone; for, as it began now to be almost day, and the alarm had run over the country, there stood about forty men armed with lances and bows at the little place where the twelve or thirteen houses stood, mentioned before; but by accident I missed the place, and came directly to the sea-side; and by that time I got to the sea-side, it was broad day. I immediately took the pinnace, and went on board, and sent her back to assist the men in what might happen.

I observed, that about the time I came to the boat-side the fire was pretty well out; and the noise abated; but in about half an hour after I got on board, I heard a volley of our

H h men's



men's fire-arms, and saw a great smoke. This, as I understood afterwards, was our men falling upon the forty men, who, as I said, stood at the few houses in the way; of whom they killed sixteen or seventeen, and set all those houses on fire, but did not meddle with the women or children.

By that time the men got to the shore again with the pinnace, our men began to appear; they came dropping in, some and some; not in two bodies, and in form, as they went out, but all in heaps, straggling here and there, in such a manner, that a small force of resolute men might have cut them all off.

But the dread of them was upon the whole country. The people were amazed and surprized, and so frightened, that I believe a hundred of them would have fled at the sight of but five of our men. Nor in all this terrible action was there a man who made any considerable defence: they were so surprized between the terror of the fire, and the sudden attack of our men in the dark, that they knew not which way to turn themselves; for if they fled one way, they were met by one party; if back again by another; so that they were every where knocked down. Nor did any of our men receive the least hurt, except one who strained his foot, and another had one of his hands very much burnt.

I was very angry with my nephew, the captain, and indeed with all the men, in my mind, but with him in particular; as well for his acting so out of his duty, as commander of the ship, and having the charge of the voyage upon him, as in his prompting, rather than cooling, the rage of his men in so bloody and cruel an enterprise. My nephew answered me very respectfully; but told me, that when he saw the body of the poor seaman, whom they had murdered in such a cruel and barbarous manner, he was not master of himself, neither could he govern his passion. He owned he should not have done so, as he was commander of the ship; but, as he was a man, and nature moved him, he could not bear it. As for the rest of the men, they were not subject to me at all, and they knew it well

enough, so they took no notice of my dislike.

The next day we set sail; so we never heard any more of it. Our men differed in the account of the number they killed; some said one thing, some another; but, according to the best of their accounts, put all together, they killed or destroyed about a hundred and fifty people, men, women and children, and left not a house standing in the town.

As for the poor fellow, Thomas Jeffries, as he was quite dead, for his throat was so cut that his head was half off, it would do him no service to bring him away; so they left him where they found him, only took him down from the tree where he was hanged by one hand.

However just our men thought this action to be, I was against them in it; and I always, after that time, told them God would blast the voyage; for I looked upon the blood they shed that night to be murder in them: for though it is true that they killed Thomas Jeffries, yet it was as true that Jeffries was the aggressor, had broken the truce, and had violated or debauched a young woman of theirs, who came to our camp innocently, and on the faith of their capitulation.

The boatswain defended this quarrel when we were afterwards on board. He said, it was true, that we seemed to break the truce, but really had not; and that the war was begun the night before by the natives themselves, who had shot at us, and killed one of our men without any just provocation; so that, as we were in a capacity to fight them, we might also be in a capacity to do ourselves justice upon them in an extraordinary manner; that though the poor man had taken liberty with a wench, he ought not to have been murdered, and that in such a villainous manner; and that they did nothing but what was just, and that the laws of God allowed to be done to murderers.

One would think this should have been enough to have warned us against going on shore among heathens and barbarians; but it is impossible to make mankind wise but at their own experience, and their experience seems to be always of most use to them when it is dearest bought.

We

We were now bound to the Gulph of Persia, and from thence to the coast of Coromandel, only to touch at Surat; but the chief of the supercargo's design lay at the Bay of Bengal, where, if he missed of the business outward-bound, he was to go up to China, and return to the Coast as he came home.

The first disaster that befel us was in the Gulph of Persia, where five of our men, venturing on shore on the Arabian side of the Gulph, were surrounded by the Arabs, and either all killed, or carried away into slavery. The rest of the boat's crew were not able to rescue them, and had but just time to get off their boat. I began to upbraid them with the just retribution of Heaven in this case; but the boatswain very warmly told me, he thought I went farther in my censures than I could shew any warrant for in Scripture, and referred to the 13th of St. Luke, ver. 4. where our Saviour intimates, that those men on whom the Tower of Siloam fell, were not sinners above all the Galileans. But that which indeed put me to silence in this case was, that none of these five men who were now lost, were of the number of those who went on shore to the massacre of Madagascar, (so I always called it, though our men could not bear the word massacre with any patience;) and, indeed, this last circumstance, as I have said, put me to silence for the present.

But my frequent preaching to them on this subject had worse consequences than I expected; and the boatswain, who had been at the head of the attempt, came up boldly to me one time, and told me, he found that I continually brought that affair upon the stage; that I made unjust reflections upon it, and had used the men very ill on that account, and himself in particular; that as I was but a passenger, and had no command in the ship, or concern in the voyage, they were not obliged to bear it; that they did not know but I might have some ill design in my head, and, perhaps, call them to an account for it when they came to England; and that therefore, unless I would resolve to have done with it, and also not to concern myself farther with him, or any of his affairs, he would leave the ship; for he did not think it was safe to sail with me among them.

I heard him patiently enough till he had done, and then told him, that I did confess I had all along opposed the massacre of Madagascar, for such I would always call it; and that I had on all occasions spoken my mind freely about it, though not more upon him than any of the rest: that as to my having no command in the ship, that was true, nor did I exercise any authority, only took the liberty of speaking my mind in things which publicly concerned us all. As to what concern I had in the voyage, that was none of his business; I was a considerable owner of the ship, and in that claim I conceived I had a right to speak, even farther than I had yet done, and would not be accountable to him or any one else; and began to be a little warm with him. He made but little reply to me at that time, and I thought the affair had been over. We were at this time in the road to Bengal; and, being willing to see the place, I went on shore with the supercargo, in the ship's boat, to divert myself; and towards evening was preparing to go on board, when one of the men came to me, and told me, he would not have me trouble myself to come down to the boat, for they had orders not to carry me on board. Any one may guess what a surprize I was in at so insolent a message; and I asked the man, who bade him deliver that errand to me. He told me the cockswain. I said no more to the fellow, but bid him let them know he had delivered his message, and that I had given him no answer to it.

I immediately went, and found out the supercargo, and told him the story, adding, what I presently foresaw, viz. that there would certainly be a mutiny in the ship; and intreated him to go immediately on board the ship in an Indian boat, and acquaint the captain of it. But I might have spared this intelligence; for, before I had spoken to him on shore, the matter was effected on board. The boatswain, the gunner, the carpenter, and in a word, all the inferior officers, as soon as I was gone off in the boat, came up to the quarter-deck, and desired to speak with the captain; and there the boatswain, the captain; and there the boatswain, making a long harangue, (for the fellow talked very well) and repeating all he had said to me, told the cap-

H h 2

tain



tain in a few words, that as I was now gone peaceably on shore, they were loth to use any violence with me; which, if I had not gone on shore, they would otherwise have done, to oblige me to have gone. They therefore thought fit to tell him, that as they shipped themselves to serve in the ship under his command, they would perform it faithfully; but if I would not quit the ship, or the captain oblige me to quit it, they would all leave the ship, and sail no farther with him. And at that word ALL, he turned his face about towards the main-mast, which was, it seems, the signal agreed on between them; at which all the seamen being got together, they cried out, 'One and all! one and all!'

My nephew, the captain, was a man of spirit, and of great presence of mind; and though he was surprized, you may be sure, at the thing, yet he told them calmly, he would consider of the matter; but that he could do nothing in it till he had spoken to me about it. He used some arguments with them, to shew them the unreasonableness and injustice of the thing; but it was all in vain: they swore, and shook hands round, before his face, that they would go all on shore, unless he would engage to them, not to suffer me to come on board the ship.

This was a hard article upon him, who knew his obligation to me, and did not know how I might take it. So he began to talk cavalierly to them: told them, that I was a very considerable owner of the ship, and that in justice he could not put me out of my own house; that this was next door to serving me as the famous pirate Kid had done, who made the mutiny in the ship, set the captain on shore in an uninhabited island, and ran away with the ship; that, let them go into what ship they would, if ever they came to England again, it would cost them dear; that the ship was mine, and that he would not put me out of it; and that he would rather lose the ship, and the voyage too, than disoblige me so much: so they might do as they pleased. However, he would go on shore, and talk with me there; and invited the boatswain to go with him, and perhaps they might accommodate the matter with me.

But they all rejected the proposal; and said, they would have nothing to do with me any more, neither on board nor on shore; and if I came on board, they would go on shore. 'Well,' said the captain, 'if you are all of this mind, let me go on shore and talk with him.' So away he came to me with this account, a little after the message had been brought to me from the cockpit.

I was very glad to see my nephew, I must confess; for I was not without apprehensions that they would confine him by violence, set sail, and run away with the ship; and then I had been stripped naked in a remote country, and nothing to help myself: in short, I had been in a worse case than when I was all alone in the island.

But they had not come to that length, it seems, to my great satisfaction. And when my nephew told me what they had said to him, and how they had sworn, and shook hands, that they would one and all leave the ship if I was suffered to come on board, I told him he should not be concerned at it at all, for I would stay on shore. I only desired he would take care and send me all my necessary things on shore, and leave me a sufficient sum of money, and I would find my way to England as well as I could.

This was a heavy piece of news to my nephew; but there was no way to help it, but to comply with it. So in short he went on board the ship again, and satisfied the men that his uncle had yielded to their importunity, and had sent for his goods from on board the ship. So the matter was over in a very few hours; the men returned to their duty, and I began to consider what course I should steer.

I was now alone in the remotest part of the world, as I think I may call it; for I was near three thousand leagues by sea farther off from England than I was at my island; only, it is true, I might travel here by land over the Great Mogul's country to Surat; might go from thence to Bassora by sea, up the Gulph of Persia; and from thence might take the way of the caravans, over the Desarts of Arabia, to Aleppo and Scanderoon; from thence by sea again to Italy, and so over land into France; and this, put together, might

be, at least, a full diameter of the globe; but, if it were to be measured, I suppose it would appear to be a great deal more.

I had another way before me, which was to wait for some English ships, which were coming to Bengal, from Achin, on the island of Sumatra, and get passage on board them for England. But as I came hither without any concern with the English East-India company, so it would be difficult to go from hence without their licence, unless with great favour of the captains of the ships, or of the company's factors; and to both I was an utter stranger.

Here I had the particular pleasure, speaking by contrarieties, to see the ship set sail without me; a treatment, I think, a man in my circumstances scarce ever met with, except from pirates running away with a ship, and setting those that would not agree with their villainy on shore: indeed, this was the next door to it both ways. However, my nephew left me two servants, or rather one companion and one servant: the first was clerk to the purser, whom he engaged to go with me; and the other was his own servant. I took me also a good lodging in the house of an English woman, where several merchants lodged, some French, two Italians, or rather Jews, and one Englishman. Here I was handsomely enough entertained; and, that I might not be said to run rashly upon any thing, I stayed here above nine months, considering what course to take, and how to manage myself. I had some English goods with me of value, and a considerable sum of money; my nephew furnishing me with a thousand pieces of eight, and a letter of credit for more, if I had occasion, that I might not be straitened, whatever might happen.

I quickly disposed of my goods, and to advantage too; and, as I originally intended, I bought here some very good diamonds, which, of all other things, were the most proper for me in my circumstances, because I might always carry my whole estate about me.

After a long stay here, and many proposals made for my return to England, but none falling to my mind, the English merchant, who lodged with me, and with whom I had contracted an intimate acquaintance, came

to me one morning. 'Countryman,' says he, 'I have a project to communicate to you, which, as it suits with my thoughts, may, for aught I know, suit with yours also, when we shall have thoroughly considered it.'

'Here we are posted,' say he; 'you by accident, and I by my own choice, in a part of the world very remote from our own country; but it is in a country where, by us who understand trade and business, a great deal of money is to be got. If you will put a thousand pounds to my thousand pounds, we will hire a ship here, the first we can get to our minds; you shall be captain, I'll be merchant, and we will go a trading voyage to China; for what should we stand still for? The whole world is in motion; rolling round and round; all the creatures of God, heavenly bodies and earthly, are busy and diligent: why should we be idle? There are no drones,' says he, 'living in the world but men: why should we be of that number?'

I liked this proposal very well, and the more, because it seemed to be expressed with so much good will, and in so friendly a manner. I will not say but that I might, by my loose and unhinged circumstances, be the fitter to embrace a proposal for trade, and indeed for any thing else; or otherwise trade was none of my element: however, I might perhaps say with some truth, that if trade was not my element, rambling was; and no proposal for seeing any part of the world which I had never seen before could possibly come amiss to me.

It was, however, some time before we could get a ship to our mind; and when we got a vessel, it was not easy to get English sailors; that is to say, so many as were necessary to govern the voyage, and manage the sailors which we should pick up there. After some time we got a mate, a boatswain, and a gunner, English; a Dutch carpenter, and three Portuguese foremast men. With these we found we could do well enough, having Indian seamen, such as they are, to make up.

There are so many travellers who have written the history of their voyages and travels this way, that it would be but very little diversion to any body, to give a long account of



the places we went to, and the people who inhabit there. Those things I leave to others, and refer the reader to those journals and travels of Englishmen, many of which I find are published, and more promised every day. It is enough for me to tell you, that we made the voyage to Achin, in the island of Sumatra, first; and from thence to Siam, where we exchanged some of our wares for opium, and for some arrack; the first, a commodity which bears a great price among the Chinese, and which, at that time, was very much wanted there. In a word, we went up to Suham, made a very great voyage, were eight months out, and returned to Bengal: and I was very well satisfied with my adventure. I observe, that our people in England often admire how the officers which the company send into India, and the merchants which generally stay there, get such very good estates as they do, and sometimes come home worth sixty to seventy, and a hundred thousand pounds at a time.

But it is no wonder: or, at least we shall see so much farther into it, when we consider the innumerable ports and places where they have a free commerce, that it will then be no wonder; and much less will it be so, when we consider, that at all those places and ports where the English ships come, there is so much and such constant demand for the growth of all other countries, that there is a certain vent for the return, as well as a market abroad for the goods carried out.

In short, we made a very good voyage, and I got so much money by the first adventure, and such an insight into the method of getting more, that had I been twenty years younger, I should have been tempted to have stayed here, and sought no farther for making my fortune. But what was all this to a man on the wrong side of threescore; that was rich enough, and came abroad more in obedience to a restless desire of seeing the world, than a covetous desire of getting in it? And, indeed, I think it is with great justice that I now call it a restless desire; for it was so. When I was at home, I was restless to go abroad; and now I was abroad, I was restless to be at home. I say, what was this gain to me? I was rich enough alrea-

dy; nor had I any uneasy desires about getting more money; and therefore the profits of the voyage to me were things of no great force to me, for the prompting me forward to farther undertakings. Hence I thought, that by this voyage I had made no progress at all; because I was come back, as I might call it, to the place from whence I came, as to an home; whereas my eye, which, like that which Solomon speaks of, was never satisfied with seeing, was still more desirous of wandering and seeing. I was come into a part of the world which I never was in before; and that part in particular which I had heard much of, and was resolved to see as much of it as I could; and then, I thought, I might say, I had seen all the world that was worth seeing.

But my fellow-traveller and I had different notions. I do not name this to insist upon my own, for I acknowledge his was most just, and the most suited to the end of a merchant's life; who, when he is abroad upon adventures, it is his wisdom to stick to that as the best thing for him, which he is like to get the most money by. My new friend kept himself to the nature of the thing, and would have been content to have gone like a carrier's horse, always to the same inn, backward and forward, provided he could, as he called it, find his account in it. On the other hand, mine, as old as I was, was the notion of a mad rambling boy, that never cares to see a thing twice over.

But this was not all. I had a kind of impatience upon me to be nearer home, and yet the most unsettled resolution imaginable which way to go. In the interval of these consultations, my friend, who was always upon the search for business, proposed another voyage to me; viz. among the Spice Islands; and to bring home a load of cloves from the Manillas, or thereabouts; places where, indeed, the Dutch do trade, but the islands belong partly to the Spaniards: though we went not so far, but to some other, where they have not the whole power, as they have at Batavia, Ceylon, &c. We were not long in preparing for this voyage; the chief difficulty was, in bringing me to come into it: however, at last, nothing else offering, and finding

finding that really stirring about and trading, the profit being so great, and, as I may say, certain, had more pleasure in it, and more satisfaction to the mind than sitting still, which, to me especially, was the unhappiest part of life, I resolved on this voyage too; which we made very successfully, touching at Borneo, and several islands whose names I do not remember, and came home in about five months. We sold our spice, which was chiefly cloves, and some nutmegs, to the Persian merchants, who carried them away for the gulph; and, making near five of one, we really got a great deal of money.

My friend, when we made up this account, smiled at me. 'Well now,' said he, with a sort of an agreeable insult upon my indolent temper, 'is not this better than walking about here, like a man of nothing to do, and spending our time in staring at the nonsense and ignorance of the Pagans?' 'Why, truly,' said I, 'my friend, I think it is; and I begin to be a convert to the principles of merchandizing; but I must tell you,' said I, 'by the way, you do not know what I am a doing; for if once I conquer my backwardness, and embark heartily, as old as I am, I shall harrafs you up and down the world till I tire you; for I shall pursue it so eagerly, I shall never let you lie still.'

But to be short with my speculations, a little while after this there came in a Dutch ship from Batavia; she was a coaster, not an European trader, and of about two hundred tons burden. The men, as they pretended, having been so sickly, that the captain had not men enough to go to sea with, he lay by at Bengal; and, as if having got money enough, or being willing, for other reasons, to go for Europe, he gave public notice that he would sell his ship. This came to my ears before my new partner heard of it; and I had a great mind to buy it: so I went home to him, and told him of it. He considers a while, for he was no rash man neither; but musing some time, he replied, 'She is a little too big; but, however, we will have her.' Accordingly, we bought the ship; and, agreeing with the master, we paid for her, and took possession. When we had done so, we

resolved to entertain the men, if we could, to join them with those we had, for the pursuing our business; but on a sudden, they having not received their wages, but their share of the money, as we afterwards learnt, not one of them was to be found. We enquired much about them, and at length were told, that they were all gone together by land, to Agra, the great city of the Mogul's residence; and from thence were to travel to Surat, and so by sea to the Gulph of Persia.

Nothing had so heartily troubled me a good while, as that I missed the opportunity of going with them; for such a ramble, I thought, and in such company as would both have guarded me and diverted me, would have suited mightily with my great design; and I should both have seen the world, and gone homewards too. But I was much better satisfied a few days after, when I came to know what sort of fellows they were; for, in short, their history was, that this man they called captain, was the gunner only, not the commander; that they had been a trading voyage, in which they were attacked on shore by some of the Melaccans, who had killed the captain and three of his men; and that after the captain was killed, these men, eleven in number, had resolved to run away with the ship, which they did, and had brought her in at the Bay of Bengal, leaving the mate and five men more on shore; of whom we shall hear farther.

Well; let them come by the ship how they would, we came honestly by her as we thought; though we did not, I confess, examine into things so exactly as we ought; for we never enquired any thing of the seamen, who, if we had examined, would certainly have faulted in their accounts, contradicted one another, and, perhaps, contradicted themselves; or, one how or other, we should have seen reason to have suspected them: but the man shewed us a bill of sale for the ship to one Emanuel Clostershoven, or some such name, (for I suppose it was all a forgery) and called himself by that name; and we could not contradict him; and, being withal a little too unwary, or at least having no suspicion of the thing, we went through with our bargain.

However, we picked up some English



English seamen here after this, and some Dutch; and we now resolved for a second voyage to the south-east, for cloves, &c. that is to say, among the Philippine and Malacca isles; and, in short, not to fill this part of my story with trifles, when what is yet to come is so remarkable, I spent, from first to last, six years in this country, tracing from port to port, backward and forward, and with very good success; and was now the last year with my partner, going in the ship above-mentioned on a voyage to China; but designing first to Siam to buy rice.

In this voyage being, by contrary winds, obliged to beat up and down a great while in the Straits of Malacca, and among the islands, we were no sooner got clear of those difficult seas, but we found our ship had sprung a leak, and we were not able, by all our industry, to find out where it was. This forced us to make for some port; and my partner, who knew the country better than I did, directed the captain to put into the River of Cambodia; for I had made the English mate, one Mr. Thompson, captain, not being willing to take the charge of the ship upon myself. This river lies on the north-side of the great bay or gulph which goes up to Siam.

While we were here, and going often on shore for refreshment, there comes to me one day an Englishman, and he was, it seems, a gunner's mate on board an English East-India ship, which rode in the same river, up, at, or near the city of Cambodia. What brought him hither we knew not; but he comes up to me, and speaking English, 'Sir,' says he, 'you are a stranger to me, and I to you; but I have something to tell you that very nearly concerns you.'

I looked steadily at him a good while, and he thought at first I had known him, but I did not. 'If it very nearly concerns me,' said I, 'and not yourself, what moves you to tell it me?'—'I am moved,' says he, 'by the imminent danger you are in; and, for aught I see, you have no knowledge of it.'—'I know no danger I am in,' said I, 'but that my ship is leaky, and I cannot find it out; but I propose to lay her aground to-morrow, to see if I can find it.'—'But, Sir,' says he, 'leaky,

or not leaky, find it or not find it, you will be wiser than to lay your ship on shore to-morrow, when you hear what I have to say to you. Do you know, Sir,' said he, 'the town of Cambodia lies about fifteen leagues up this river? and there are two large English ships about five leagues on this side, and three Dutch.'—'Well,' said I, 'and what is that to me?'—'Why, Sir,' says he, 'is it for a man that is upon such adventures as you are, to come into a port and not examine first what ships there are there, and whether he is able to deal with them? I suppose you do not think you are a match for them.' I was amused very much at his discourse, but not amazed at it; for I could not conceive what he meant; and I turned short upon him, and said, 'Sir, I wish you would explain yourself; I cannot imagine what reason I have to be afraid of any of the company's ships, or Dutch ships; I am no interloper; what can they have to say to me?'

He looked like a man half angry, half pleased; and, pausing a while, but smiling, 'Well, Sir,' says he, 'if you think yourself secure, you must take your chance. I am sorry your fate should blind you against good advice; but assure yourself, if you do not put to sea immediately, you will the very next tide be attacked by five long-boats full of men; and perhaps, if you are taken, you will be hanged for a pirate, and the particulars be examined into afterwards. I thought, Sir,' added he, 'I should have met with a better reception than this for doing you a piece of service of such importance.'—'I can never be ungrateful,' said I, 'for any service, or to any man that offers me any kindness; but it is past my comprehension, what they should have such a design upon me for. However, since you say there is no time to be lost, and that there is some villainous design in hand against me, I will go on board this minute, and put to sea immediately, if my men can stop the leak, or if we can swim without stopping it. But, Sir,' said I, 'shall I go away ignorant of the reason of all this? Can you give me no farther light into it?'

I can tell you but part of the story,

story, Sir,' says he; 'but I have a Dutch seaman here with me, and I believe I could persuade him to tell you the rest; but there is scarce time for it: but the short of the story is this, the first part of which I suppose you know well enough, viz. that you were with this ship at Sumatra; that there your captain was murdered by the Melaccans, with three of his men; and that you, or some of those that were on board with you, ran away with the ship, and are since turned pirates. This is the sum of the story, and you will all be seized as pirates, I can assure you, and executed with very little ceremony; for you know merchants ships shew but little law to pirates, if they get them in their power.'

Now you speak plain English,' said I, 'and I thank you; and though I know nothing that we have done like what you talk of, but I am sure we came honestly and fairly by the ship, yet, seeing such work is a doing as you say, and that you seem to mean honestly, I will be upon my guard.'—'Nay, Sir,' said he, 'do not talk of being upon your guard; the best defence is to be out of the danger. If you have any regard to your life, and the lives of all your men, put out to sea without fail at high-water; and as you have a whole tide before you, you will be gone too far out before they can come down; for they will come away at high water; and as they have twenty miles to come, you get near two hours of them by the difference of the tide, not reckoning the length of the way: besides, as they are only boats, and not ships, they will not venture to follow you far out to sea, especially if it blows.'

'Well,' said I, 'you have been very kind in this: what shall I do for you to make you amends?'—'Sir,' says he, 'you may not be so willing to make me amends, because you may not be convinced of the truth of it: I will make an offer to you. I have nineteen months pay due to me on board the ship —, which I came out of England in; and the Dutchman that is with me has seven months pay due to him; if you will make good our pay to

us, we will go along with you; if you find nothing more in it, we will desire no more; but if we do convince you, that we have saved your life, and the ship, and the lives of all the men in her, we will leave the rest to you.'

I consented to this readily; and went immediately on board; and the two men with me. As soon as I came to the ship-side, my partner, who was on board, came out on the quarter-deck, and called to me with a great deal of joy, 'O ho! O ho! we have stopped the leak! we have stopped the leak!'—'Say you so,' said I; 'thank God! but weigh the anchor then immediately.'—'Weigh!' says he: 'what do you mean by that?'—'What is the matter?'—'Ask no questions,' said I, 'but all hands to work, and weigh without losing a minute.' He was surprized: but, however, he called the captain, and he immediately ordered the anchor to be got up; and though the tide was not quite done, yet a little land breeze blowing, we stood out to sea. Then I called him into the cabin, and told him the story at large; and we called in the men, and they told us the rest of it; but as it took us up a great deal of time, so before we had done, a seaman comes to the cabin-door, and calls out to us, that the captain bade him tell us we were chased. 'Chased,' said I, 'by whom and by what?'—'By five sloops, or boats,' said the fellow, 'full of men.'—'Very well,' said I; 'then it is apparent there is something in it.' In the next place I ordered all our men to be called up; and told them, that there was a design to seize the ship, and to take us for pirates; and asked them, if they would stand by us and by one another. The men answered cheerfully, that, one and all, they would live and die with us. Then I asked the captain, what way he thought best for us to manage a fight with them: for resist them I resolved we would, and that to the last drop. He said, readily, that the way was to keep them off with our great shot as long as we could, and then to fire at them with our small arms, to keep them from boarding us; but when neither of these would do any longer, we should retire to our



close quarters: perhaps they had not materials to break open our bulk-heads, or get in upon us.

The gunner had in the mean time orders to bring two guns to bear fore and aft out of the steerage, to clear the deck, and load them with musquet-bullets and small pieces of old iron, and what next came to hand: and thus we made ready for fight; but all this while kept out to sea with wind enough, and could see the boats at a distance, being five large long-boats following us with all the sail they could make.

Two of these boats, which, by our glasses we could see were English, had out-failed the rest, were near two leagues a-head of them, and gained upon us considerably; so that we found they would come up with us: upon which we fired a gun without a shot, to intimate that they should bring to; and we put out a flag of truce, as a signal for parley; but they kept crouding after us till they came within shot. Upon this we took in our white flag, they having made no answer to it, hung out the red flag, and fired at them with shot. Notwithstanding this, they came on till they were near enough for us to call to them with a speaking trumpet, which we had on board; so we called to them, and bade them keep off at their peril.

It was all one, they crouded after us, and endeavoured to come under our stern, so to board us in our quarter. Upon which, seeing they were resolute for mischief, and depending upon the strength that followed them, I ordered to bring the ship to, so that they lay upon our broadside, when immediately we fired five guns at them; one of which had been levelled so true as to carry away the stern of the hindermost boat, and bring them to the necessity of taking down their sail, and running all to the head of the boat to keep her from sinking; so she lay by and had enough of it; but seeing the foremost boat still croud on after us, we made ready to fire at her in particular.

While this was doing, one of the three boats that was behind, being forwarder than the other two, made up to the boat which we had disabled, to relieve her, and we could afterwards see her take out the men. We called again to the foremost boat, and offered a truce to parley again, and to know

what was her business with us; but had no answer; only she crouded close under our stern. Upon this our gunner, who was a very dexterous fellow, run out his two chase guns, and fired at her; but the shot missing, the men in the boat shouted, waved their caps, and came on; but the gunner getting quickly ready again, fired among them a second time; one shot of which, though it missed the boat itself, yet fell in among the men, and we could easily see had done a great deal of mischief among them; but we, taking no notice of that, weared the ship again, and brought our quarter to bear upon them, and firing three-guns more, we found the boat was split almost to pieces; in particular, her rudder and a piece of her stern was shot quite away; so they handed their sail immediately, and were in great disorder; but to compleat their misfortune, our gunner let fly two guns at them again: where he hit them we could not tell, but we found the boat was sinking, and some of the men already in the water. Upon this I immediately manned out our pinnace, which we had kept close by our side, with orders to pick up some of the men, if they could, and save them from drowning, and immediately to come on board with them; because we saw the rest of the boats began to come up. Our men in the pinnace followed their orders, and took up three men; one of which was just drowning, and it was a good while before we could recover him. As soon as they were on board, we crouded all the sail we could make, and stood farther out to sea; and we found, that when the other three boats came up to the first two, they gave over their chase.

Being thus delivered from a danger, which, though I knew not the reason of it, yet seemed to be much greater than I apprehended, I took care that we would change our course, and not let any one imagine whither we were going. So we stood out to sea eastward, quite out of the course of all European ships, whether they were bound to China, or any where else within the commerce of the European nations.

When we were now at sea, we began to consult with the two seamen, and enquire first, what the meaning of all

all this should be. The Dutchman let us into the secret of it at once; telling us, that the fellow that sold us the ship, as we said, was no more than a thief that had run away with her. Then he told us how the captain, whose name too he mentioned, though I do not remember it now, was treacherously murdered by the natives on the coast of Malacca, with three of his men; and that he, this Dutchman, and four more, got into the woods, where they wandered about a great while; till at length he in particular, in a miraculous manner, made his escape, and swam off to a Dutch ship, which sailing near the shore, in its way from China, had sent their boat on shore for fresh water; that he durst not come to that part of the shore where the boat was, but made shift in the night to take in the water farther off, and swimming a great while, at last the ship's boat took him up.

He then told us, that he went to Batavia, where two of the seamen belonging to the ship had arrived, having deserted the rest in their travels; and gave an account, that the fellow who had run away with the ship sold her at Bengal to a set of pirates, which were gone a cruising in her; and that they had already taken an English ship, and two Dutch ships, very richly laden.

This latter part we found to concern us directly, and though we knew it to be false, yet, as my partner said very well, if we had fallen into their hands, and they had had such a prepossession against us beforehand, it had been in vain for us to have defended ourselves, or to hope for any good quarters at their hands; especially considering that our accusers had been our judges, and that we could have expected nothing from them but what rage would have dictated, and ungoverned passion have executed. And therefore it was his opinion, that we should go directly back to Bengal, from whence we came, without putting in at any port whatever; because there we could give an account of ourselves, and could prove where we were when the ship put in, whom we bought her of, and the like; and, which was more than all the rest, if we were put to the necessity of bringing it before the proper judges, we should be sure to have some justice,

and not be hanged first and judged afterwards.

I was some time of my partner's opinion; but after a little more serious thinking, I told him, I thought it was a very great hazard for us to attempt returning to Bengal, for that we were on the wrong side of the Straits of Malacca; and that if the alarm was given, we should be sure to be way-laid on every side, as well by the Dutch of Batavia, as the English elsewhere; that if we should be taken, as it were running away, we should even condemn ourselves, and there would want no more evidence to destroy us. I also asked the English sailor's opinion, who said he was of my mind, and that we should certainly be taken.

This danger a little startled my partner, and all the ship's company; and we immediately resolved to go away to the coast of Tonquin, and so on to China; and from thence pursuing the first design as to trade, find some way or other to dispose of the ship, and come back in some of the vessels of the country, such as we could get. This was approved of as the best method for our security; and accordingly, we steered away N. N. E. keeping above fifty leagues off from the usual course to the eastward.

This, however, put us to some inconveniences; for first, the winds, when we came to that distance from the shore, seemed to be more steadily against us, blowing almost Trade, as we call it, from the East and E. N. E. so that we were a long while upon our voyage; and we were but ill provided with victuals for so long a run; and, which was still worse, there was some danger that those English and Dutch ships, whose boats pursued us, whereof some were bound that way, might be got in before us; and if not, some other ship, bound to China, might have information of us from them, and pursue us with the same vigour.

I must confess, I was now very uneasy, and thought myself, including the late escape from the long-boats, to have been in the most dangerous condition that ever I was in through all my past life; for, whatever ill circumstances I had been in, I was never pursued for a thief before; nor had I ever done any thing that merited the name of dishonest



dishonest or fraudulent, much less thievish. I had chiefly been mine own enemy; or, as I may rightly say, I had been nobody's enemy but my own. But now I was embarrassed in the worst condition imaginable; for though I was perfectly innocent, I was in no condition to make that innocence appear. And if I had been taken, it had been under a supposed guilt of the worst kind; at least, a crime esteemed so among the people I had to do with.

This made me very anxious to make an escape, though which way to do it I knew not, or what port or place we should go to. My partner, seeing me thus dejected, though he was the most concerned at first, began to encourage me; and describing to me the several ports of that coast, told me, he would put in on the coast of Cochinchina, or the Bay of Tonquin; intending to go afterwards to Macao, a town once in the possession of the Portuguese, and where still a great many European families resided; and particularly the missionary priests usually went thither, in order to their going forward to China.

Hither then we resolved to go; and accordingly, though after a tedious and irregular course, and very much straitened for provisions, we came within sight of the coast very early in the morning; and, upon reflection upon the past circumstances we were in, and the danger, if we had not escaped, we resolved to put into a small river, which, however, had depth enough of water for us, and to see if we could, either over land or by the ship's pinnace, come to know what ships were in any port thereabouts. This happy step was indeed our deliverance; for though we did not immediately see any European ships in the Bay of Tonquin, yet, the next morning, there came into the Bay two Dutch ships, and a third without any colours spread out, but which we believed to be a Dutchman, passed by at about two leagues distance, steering for the coast of China; and in the afternoon went by two English ships, steering the same course: and thus, we thought, we saw ourselves beset with enemies, both one way and the other. The place we were in was wild and barbarous, the people thieves even by occupation or profession; and though, it is true, we had not much to seek of them, and,

excepting a few provisions, cared not how little we had to do with them; yet it was with much difficulty that we kept ourselves from being insulted by them several ways.

We were in a small river of this country, within a few leagues of its utmost limits northward; and by our boat we coasted north-east to the point of land which opens to the great Bay of Tonquin; and it was in this beating-up along the shore, that we discovered as above, that, in a word, we were surrounded with enemies. The people we were among were the most barbarous of all the inhabitants of the coast; having no correspondence with any other nation, and dealing only in fish and oil, and such gross commodities. And it may be particularly seen that they are, as I said, the most barbarous of any of the inhabitants; viz. that among other customs they have this one, that if any vessel have the misfortune to be shipwrecked upon their coast, they presently make the men all prisoners; that is to say, slaves. And it was not long before we found a spice of their kindness this way on the occasion following.

I have observed above, that our ship sprung a leak at sea, and that we could not find it out; and, however it happened, that, as I have said, it was stopped unexpectedly, in the happy minute of our being to be seized by the Dutch and English ships near the Bay of Siam; yet, as we did not find the ship so perfectly tight and sound as we desired, we resolved, while we were in this place, to lay her on shore, take out what heavy things we had on board, which were not many, and to wash and clean her bottom, and, if possible, to find out where the leaks were.

Accordingly, having lightened the ship, and brought all our guns and other moveable things to one side, we tried to bring her down, that we might come at her bottom; for, on second thoughts, we did not care to lay her dry aground, neither could we find out a proper place for it.

The inhabitants, who had never been acquainted with such a sight, came wondering down to the shore to look at us; and seeing the ship lie down on one side in such a manner, and heeling towards the shore, and not seeing our men, who were at work on her bot-

tom

tom with stages, and with their boats on the off-side, they presently concluded, that the ship was cast away, and lay so very fast on the ground.

On this supposition they all came about us in two or three hours time, with ten or twelve large boats, having some of them eight, some ten men in a boat, intending, no doubt, to have come on board and plundered the ship, and if they had found us there, to have carried us away for slaves to their king, or whatever they called him, for we knew nothing who was their governor.

When they came up to the ship, and began to row round her, they discovered us all hard at work on the outside of the ship's bottom and side, washing, and graving, and stopping, as every seafaring man knows how.

They stood for a while gazing at us; and we, who were a little surprized, could not imagine what their design was; but being willing to be sure, we took this opportunity to get some of us into the ship, and others to hand down arms and ammunition to those that were at work, to defend themselves with if there should be occasion: and it was no more than need; for, in less than a quarter of an hour's consultation, they agreed, it seems, that the ship was really a wreck; that we were all at work endeavouring to save her, or to save our lives by the help of our boats: and when we handed our arms into the boats, they concluded, by that motion, that we were endeavouring to save some of our goods. Upon this, they took it for granted they all belonged to them; and away they came directly upon our men, as if it had been in a line of battle.

Our men, seeing so many of them, began to be frightened, for we lay but in an ill posture to fight, and cried out to us to know what they should do. I immediately called to the men who worked upon the stages, to slip them down, and get up the side into the ship; and bade those in the boat to row round and come on board; and those few of us who were on board worked with all the strength and hands we had to bring the ship to rights; but, however, neither the men upon the stage, nor those in the boats, could do as they were ordered, before the Cochinchinese were upon them, and with two of their boats boarded our

long-boat, and began to lay hold of the men as their prisoners.

The first man they laid hold of was an English seaman, a stout strong fellow, who having a musquet in his hand, never offered to fire it, but laid it down in the boat like a fool, as I thought; but he understood his business better than I could teach him; for he grappled the Pagan, and dragged him by main force out of their own boat into ours; where, taking him by the two ears, he beat his head so against the ship's gunnel, that the fellow died instantly in his hands: and in the mean time a Dutchman, who stood next, took up the musquet, and with the butt-end of it so laid about him, that he knocked down five of them who attempted to enter the boat; but this was little towards resisting thirty or forty men, who fearless, because ignorant of their danger, began to throw themselves into the long-boat, where we had but five men to defend it. But one accident gave our men a compleat victory, which deserved our laughter rather than any thing else, and that was this.

Our carpenter being prepared to grave the outside of the ship, as well as to pay the seams where he had caulked her to stop the leaks, had got two kettles just let down into the boat, one filled with boiling pitch, and the other with rosin, tallow, and oil, and such stuff as the shipwrights use for that work; and the man that attended the carpenter had a great iron ladle in his hand, with which he supplied the men that were at work with that hot stuff. Two of the enemy's men entered the boat just when this fellow stood, being in the foretheets; he immediately saluted them with a ladleful of the stuff, boiling hot; which so burnt and scalded them, being half naked, that they roared out like two bulls, and enraged with the fire, leaped both into the sea. The carpenter saw it, and cried out, 'Well done, Jack, give them some more of it!' when, stepping forward himself, he takes one of their mops, and dipping it in the pitch-pot, he and his men threw it among them so plentifully, that, in short, of all the men in three boats, there was not one that was not scalded and burned with it in a most frightful pitiful manner, and made such

such



such a howling and crying, that I never heard a worse noise, and, indeed, nothing like it; for it was worth observing, that though pain naturally makes all people cry out, yet every nation have a particular way of exclamation, and make noises as different from one another as their speech. I cannot give the noise these creatures made a better name than howling, nor a name more proper to the tone of it; for I never heard any thing more like the noise of the wolves, which, as I have said, I heard howl in the forest on the frontiers of Languedoc.

I was never pleased with a victory better in my life; not only as it was a perfect surprize to me, and that our danger was imminent before; but as we got this victory without any bloodshed, except of that man the fellow killed with his naked hands, and which I was very much concerned at; for I was sick of killing such poor savage wretches, even though it was in my own defence, knowing they came on errands which they thought just, and knew no better; and that though it may be a just thing, because necessary, (for there is no necessary wickedness in nature) yet I thought it was a sad life when we must be always obliged to be killing our fellow-creatures to preserve ourselves; and, indeed, I think so still; and I would even now suffer a great deal rather than I would take away the life even of the worst person injuring me. I believe also, all considering people, who know the value of life, would be of my opinion, if they entered seriously into the consideration of it.

But to return to my story. All the while this was doing, my partner and I, who managed the rest of the men on board, had, with great dexterity, brought the ship almost to rights; and having gotten their guns into their places again, the gunner called to me to bid our boat get out of the way, for he would let fly among them. I called back again to him, and bid him not offer to fire, for the carpenter would do the work without him; but bade him heat another pitch-kettle, which our cook, who was on board, took care of. But the enemy was so terrified with what they met with in their first attack, that they would not come on again; and some of them that

were farthest off, seeing the ship swim as it were upright, began, as we supposed, to see their mistake, and gave over the enterprize, finding it was not as they expected. Thus we got clear of this merry fight; and having gotten some rice, and some roots and bread, with about sixteen good big hogs on board two days before, we resolved to stay here no longer, but go forward, whatever came of it; for we made no doubt but we should be surrounded the next day with rogues enough, perhaps more than our pitch-kettle would dispose of for us.

We therefore got all our things on board the same evening, and the next morning were ready to sail. In the mean time, lying at an anchor some distance from the shore, we were not so much concerned, being now in a fighting posture, as well as in a sailing posture, if any enemy had presented. The next day, having finished our work within board, and finding our ship was perfectly healed of all her leaks, we set sail. We would have gone into the Bay of Tonquin, for we wanted to inform ourselves of what was to be known concerning the Dutch ships that had been there; but we durst not stand in there, because we had seen several ships go in, as we supposed, but a little before; so we kept on N. E. towards the isle of Formosa, as much afraid of being seen by a Dutch or English merchant-ship, as a Dutch or English merchant-ship in the Mediterranean is of an Algerine man of war.

When we were thus got to sea, we kept on N. E. as if we would go to the Manillas or the Philippine islands, and this we did that we might not fall into the way of any of the European ships; and then we steered north again, till we came to the latitude of 22 degrees 20 minutes, by which means we made the island of Formosa directly, where we came to an anchor, in order to get water and fresh provisions, which the people there, who are very courteous and civil in their manners, supplied us with willingly, and dealt very fairly and punctually with us in all their agreements and bargains; which is what we did not find among other people, and may be owing to the remains of Christianity which was once planted here by a Dutch mis-

sonary

sonary of Protestants, and is a testimony of what I have often observed; viz. that the Christian religion always civilizes the people, and reforms their manners, where it is received, whether it works saving effects upon them or no.

From hence we sailed still north, keeping the coast of China at an equal distance, till we knew we were beyond all the ports of China where our European ships usually come; being resolved, if possible, not to fall into any of their hands, especially in this country, where, as our circumstances were, we could not fail of being entirely ruined; nay, so great was my fear in particular, as to my being taken by them, that I believe firmly, I would much rather have chosen to fall into the hands of the Spanish acquisition.

Being now come to the latitude of 30 degrees, we were resolved to put into the first trading port we should come at; and, standing in for the shore, a boat came off two leagues to us, with an old Portugueze pilot on board, who, knowing us to be an European ship, came to offer his service; which, indeed, we were very glad of, and took him on board: upon which, without asking us whither we would go, he dismissed the boat he came in, and sent it back.

I thought it was now so much in our choice to make the old man carry us whither we would, that I began to talk with him about carrying us to the Gulph of Nanquin, which is the most northern part of the coast of China. The old man said he knew the Gulph of Nanquin very well; but, smiling, asked us, what we would do there.

I told him we would sell our cargo, and purchase China wares, callicoes, raw silks, tea, wrought silks, &c. and so would return by the same course we came. He told us our best port had been to have put in at Macao, where we could not fail of a market for our opium to our satisfaction, and might, for our money, have purchased all sorts of China goods as cheap as we could at Nanquin.

Not being able to put the old man out of his talk, of which he was very opiniated or conceited, I told him we were gentleman as well as merchants; and that we had a mind

to go and see the great city of Pekin, and the famous court of the Monarch of China. 'Why then,' says the old man, 'you should go to Ningpo, where, by the river that runs into the sea there, you may go up within five leagues of the great canal.' This canal is a navigable made stream, which goes through the heart of all that vast empire of China, crosses all the rivers, passes some considerable hills by the help of sluices and gates, and goes up to the city of Pekin, being in length near two hundred and seventy leagues.

'Well,' said I, 'Seignior Portugueze, but that is not our business now. The great question is, if you can carry us up to the city of Nanquin, from whence we can travel to Pekin afterwards?' Yes, he said, he could do so very well, and there was a great Dutch ship gone up that way just before. This gave me a little shock; a Dutch ship was now our terror, and we had much rather have met the devil, at least if he had not come in too frightful a figure. We depended upon it, that a Dutch ship would be our destruction, for we were in no condition to fight them; all the ships they trade with in those parts being of great burden, and of much greater force than we were.

The old man found me a little confused, and under some concern, when he named a Dutch ship; and said to me, 'Sir, you need be under no apprehension of the Dutch; I suppose they are not now at war with your nation.'—'No,' said I, 'that's true; but I know not what liberties men may take when they are out of the reach of the laws of their own country.'—'Why,' said he, 'you are no pirates, what need you fear? They will not meddle with peaceable merchants, sure!'

If I had any blood in my body that did not fly up into my face at that word, it was hindered by some stop in the vessels appointed by nature to circulate it; for it put me into the greatest disorder and confusion imaginable; nor was it possible for me to conceal it so, but that the old man easily perceived it.

'Sir,' said he, 'I find you are in some disorder in your thoughts at my talk: pray be pleased to go which way you think fit; and, depend upon it,



‘it, I’ll do you all the service I can.’  
 —‘Why, Seignior,’ said I, ‘it is true, I am a little unsettled in my resolution at this time whether to go in particular; and I am something more so, for what you said about pirates. I hope there are no pirates in these seas! we are but in an ill condition to meet with them; for you see we have but a small force, and but very weakly manned.’

‘O! Sir,’ said he, ‘do not be concerned, I do not know that there have been any pirates in these seas these fifteen years, except one, which was seen, as I hear, in the Bay of Siam about a month since; but you may be assured she is gone to the southward: nor was she a ship of any great force, or fit for the work; she was not built for a privateer, but was run away with by a reprobate crew that were on board, after the captain and some of his men had been murdered by the Malaccans, at or near the island of Sumatra.’

‘What!’ said I, seeming to know nothing of the matter, ‘did they murder the captain?’—‘No,’ said he, ‘I do not understand that they murdered him; but, as they afterwards ran away with the ship, it is generally believed they betrayed him into the hands of the Malaccans, who did murder him; and, perhaps, they procured them to do it.’—‘Why then,’ said I, ‘they deserve death, as much as if they had done it themselves.’—‘Nay,’ said the old man, ‘they do deserve it; and they will certainly have it, if they light upon any English or Dutch ship; for they have all agreed together, that if they meet that rogue, they will give him no quarter.’

‘But,’ said I to him, ‘you say the pirate is gone out of these seas: how can they meet with him then?’—‘Why, that is true,’ said he, ‘they do say so; but he was, as I tell you, in the Bay of Siam, in the river Cambodia, and was discovered there by some Dutchmen who belonged to the ship, and who were left on shore when they run away with her; and some English and Dutch traders being in the river, they were within a little of taking him. Nay,’ said he, ‘if the foremost boats had been well

seconded by the rest, they had certainly taken him; but he, finding only two boats within reach of him, tacked about, and fired at these two, and disabled them before the other came up; and then standing off to sea, the other were not able to follow him, and so he got away. But they have all so exact a description of the ship, that they will be sure to know him; and wherever they find him, they have vowed to give no quarter to either the captain or the seamen, but to hang them all up at the yard-arm.’

‘What!’ said I, ‘will they execute them right or wrong, hang them first, and judge them afterwards?’—‘O! Sir,’ said the old pilot, ‘there is no need to make a formal business of it with such rogues as those; let them tie them back to back, and set them a diving; it is no more than they rightly deserve.’

I knew I had my old man fast aboard, and that he could do me no harm; so that I turned short upon him:

‘Well, now, Seignior,’ said I, ‘and this is the very reason why I would have you carry us to Nanquin, and not to put back to Macao, or to any other part of the country where the English or Dutch ships come; for, be it known to you, Seignior, those captains of the English and Dutch ships are a parcel of rash, proud, insolent fellows, that neither know what belongs to justice, or how to behave themselves as the laws of God and nature direct; but being proud of their offices, and not understanding their power, they would set the murderers to punish robbers; would take upon them to insult men falsely accused, and determine them guilty without due enquiry; and perhaps I may live to call some of them to an account for it, where they may be taught how justice is to be executed, and that no man ought to be treated as a criminal, till some evidence may be had of the crime, and that he is the man.’

With this I told him, that this was the very ship they had attacked; and gave him a full account of the skirmish we had with their boats, and how foolishly and coward-like they had behaved. I told him all the story of our buying

buying the ship; and how the Dutchmen served us. I told him the reasons I had to believe, that this story of killing the master by the Malaccans was not true, as also the running away with the ship; but that it was all a fiction of their own, to suggest that the men were turned pirates; and they ought to have been sure it was so, before they had ventured to attack us by surprize, and oblige us to resist them; adding, that they would have the blood of those men who were killed there, in our just defence, to answer for.

The old man was amazed at this relation; and told us, we were very much in the right to go away to the north; and that if he might advise us, it should be to sell the ship in China, which we might very well do, and buy or build another in the country. ‘And,’ said he, ‘though you will not get so good a ship, yet you may get one able enough to carry you and all your goods back again to Bengal, or any where else.’

I told him, I would take his advice, when I came to any port where I could find a ship for my turn, or get any customer to buy this. He replied, I should meet with customers enough for the ship at Nanquin, and that a Chinese junk would serve me very well to go back again; and that he would procure me people both to buy one and sell the other.

‘Well, but, Seignior,’ says I, ‘as you say they know the ship so well, I may, perhaps, if I follow your measures, be instrumental to bring some honest, innocent men into a terrible broil, and perhaps be murdered in cold blood; for wherever they find the ship, they will prove the guilt upon the men, by proving this was the ship; and so innocent men may probably be overpowered and murdered.’—‘Why,’ said the old man, ‘I’ll find out a way to prevent that also; for as I know all those commanders you speak of very well, and shall see them all as they pass by, I will be sure to set them to rights in the thing, and let them know, that they had been so much in the wrong, that though the people who were on board at first might run away with the ship, yet it was not true that they had turned pirates;

and that in particular, those were not the men that first went off with the ship, but innocently bought her for their trade; and I am persuaded they will so far believe me, as, at least, to act more cautiously for the time to come.’—‘Well,’ said I, ‘and will you deliver one message to them from me?’—‘Yes, I will,’ says he, ‘if you will give it under your hand in writing, that I may be able to prove it came from you, and not out of my own head.’ I answered, that I would readily give it under my hand. So I took a pen, and ink, and paper, and wrote at large the story of assaulting me with the long-boats, &c. the pretended reason of it, and the unjust cruel design of it; and concluded to the commanders, that they had done what they not only should have been ashamed of, but also, that if ever they came to England, and I lived to see them there, they should all pay dearly for it, if the laws of my country were not grown out of use before I arrived there.

My old pilot read this over and over again, and asked me several times, if I would stand to it. I answered, I would stand to it as long as I had any thing left in the world; being sensible that I should, one time or other, find an opportunity to put it home to them. But we had no occasion ever to let the pilot carry this letter; for he never went back again. While those things were passing between us by way of discourse, we went forward directly for Nanquin; and, in about thirteen days sail, came to an anchor at the southwest point of the great Gulph of Nanquin; where, by the way, I came by accident to understand, that the two Dutch ships were gone that length before me, and that I should certainly fall into their hands. I consulted my partner again in this exigency, and he was as much at a loss as I was, and would very gladly have been safe on shore almost any where. However, I was not in such perplexity neither, but I asked the old pilot if there was no creek or harbour which I might put into, and pursue my business with the Chinese privately, and be in no danger of the enemy. He told me, if I would sail to the southward about two and forty leagues, there was a little port called Quinchang, where the fathers of



the mission usually landed from Macao, on their progress to teach the Christian religion to the Chinese, and where no European ships ever put in; and, if I thought proper to put in there, I might consider what farther course to take when I was on shore. He confessed, he said, it was not a place for merchants, except that at some certain times they had a kind of a fair there, when the merchants from Japan came over thither to buy the Chinese merchandizes.

We all agreed to go back to this place. The name of the port, as he called it, I may perhaps spell wrong; for I do not particularly remember it, having lost this, together with the names of many other places set down in my little pocket-book, which was spoiled by the water, on an accident which I shall relate in it's order; but this I remember, that the Chinese or Japanese merchants we correspond with, call it by a different name from that which our Portuguese pilot gave it, and pronounced it as above, *Quinchang*.

As we were unanimous in our resolutions to go to this place, we weighed the next day, having only gone twice on shore, where we were to get fresh water; on both which occasions, the people of the country were very civil to us, and brought us abundance of things to sell to us; I mean, of provisions, plants, roots, tea, rice, and some fowls; but nothing without money.

We came to the other port (the wind being contrary) not till five days; but it was very much to our satisfaction; and I was joyful, and I may say thankful, when I set my foot safe on shore; resolving, and my partner too, that if it was possible to dispose of ourselves and effects any other way, though not every way to our satisfaction, we would never set one foot on board that unhappy vessel more; and, indeed, I must acknowledge, that of all the circumstances of life that ever I had any experience of, nothing makes mankind so completely miserable as that of being in constant fear. Well does the Scripture say, 'The fear of man brings a snare;' it is a life of death; and the mind is so entirely suppressed by it, that it is capable of no relief; the animal spirits

sink, and all the vigour of nature, which usually supports men under other afflictions, and is present to them in the greatest exigencies, fails them here.

Nor did it fail of it's usual operations upon the fancy, by heightening every danger; representing the English and Dutch captains to be men incapable of hearing reason, or distinguishing between honest men and rogues; or between a story calculated for our own turn, made out of nothing, on purpose to deceive, and a true genuine account of our whole voyage, progress, and design; for we might many ways have convinced any reasonable creature that we were not pirates: the goods we had on board, the course we steered, our frankly shewing ourselves, and entering into such and such ports; even our very manner, the force we had, the number of men, the few arms, little ammunition, short provisions; all these would have served to convince any man that we were no pirates. The opium, and other goods we had on board, would make it appear the ship had been at Bengal; the Dutchmen, who, it was said, had the names of all the men that were in the ship, might easily see, that we were a mixture of English, Portuguese, and Indians, and but two Dutchmen on board. These, and many other particular circumstances, might have made it evident to the understanding of any commander, whose hands we might fall into, that we were no pirates.

But fear, that blind, useless passion, worked another way, and threw us into the vapours; it bewildered our understandings, and set the imagination at work, to form a thousand terrible things that, perhaps, might never happen. We first supposed, as indeed every body had related to us, that the seamen on board the English and Dutch ships, but especially the Dutch, were so enraged at the name of a pirate, and especially at our beating of their boats, and escaping, that they would not give themselves leave to enquire whether we were pirates or no; but would execute us off hand, as we call it, without giving us any room for a defence. We reflected, that there was really so much apparent evidence before them, that they would scarce enquire after any more; as, first, That the

ship

ship was certainly the same, and that some of the seamen among them knew her, and had been on board her; and, secondly, That when we had intelligence at the river Cambodia, that they were coming down to examine us, we fought their boats and fled; so that we made no doubt but they were as fully satisfied of our being pirates, as we were satisfied of the contrary; and I often said, I knew not but I should have been apt to have taken these little circumstances for evidence, if the tables were turned, and my case was theirs; and have made no scruple of cutting all the crew to pieces, without believing, or perhaps considering, what they might have to offer in their defence.

But let that be how it will, those were our apprehensions; and both my partner and I too scarce slept a night without dreaming of halts and yard-arms; that is to say, gibbets; of fighting, and being taken; of killing, and being killed: and one night I was in such a fury in my dream, fancying the Dutchmen had boarded us, and I was knocking one of their seamen down, that I struck my double fist against the side of the cabin I lay in with such force as wounded my hand most grievously, broke my knuckles, and cut and bruised the flesh; so that it not only waked me out of my sleep, but I was once afraid I should have lost two of my fingers.

Another apprehension I had, was of the cruel usage we should meet with from them if we fell into their hands. Then the story of Amboyna came into my head, and how the Dutch might, perhaps, torture us, as they did our countrymen there, and make some of our men, by extremity of torture, confess those crimes they never were guilty of; own themselves, and all of us, to be pirates; and so they would put us to death with a formal appearance of justice; and that they might be tempted to do this for the gain of our ship and cargo, which was worth four or five thousand pounds put all together.

These things tormented me, and my partner too, night and day; nor did we consider, that the captains of ships have no authority to act thus; and if we had surrendered prisoners to them, they could not answer the destroying us or torturing us, but would be ac-

countable for it when they came into their own country. This, I say, gave me no satisfaction; for, if they will act thus with us, what advantage would it be to us that they would be called to an account for it; or, if we were first to be murdered, what satisfaction would it be to us to have them punished when they came home.

I cannot refrain taking notice here, what reflections I now had upon the past variety of my particular circumstances; how hard I thought it was, that I, who had spent forty years in a life of continued difficulties, and was at last come, as it were, at the port or haven which all men drive at, viz. to have rest and plenty, should be a volunteer in new sorrows by my own unhappy choice; and that I, who had escaped so many dangers in my youth, should now come to be hanged in my old age, and in so remote a place, for a crime I was not in the least inclined to, much less guilty of; and in a place and circumstance, where innocence was not like to be any protection at all to me.

After these thoughts, something of religion would come in; and I would be considering, that this seemed to me to be a disposition of immediate Providence, and I ought to look upon it, and submit to it, as such; that although I was innocent as to men, I was far from being innocent as to my Maker; and I ought to look in, and examine what other crimes in my life were most obvious to me, and for which Providence might justly inflict this punishment as a retribution; and that I ought to submit to this, just as I would to a shipwreck, if it had pleased God to have brought such a disaster upon me.

In it's turn, natural courage would sometimes take it's place; and then I would be talking myself up to vigorous resolutions, that I would not be taken, to be barbarously used by a parcel of merciless wretches in cold blood; that it was much better to have fallen into the hands of the savages, who were men-eaters, and who, I was sure, would feast upon me when they had taken me, than by those who would, perhaps, glut their rage upon me, by inhuman tortures and barbarities; that, in the case of the savages, I always resolved to die fighting, to the



last gasp; and why should I not do so now, seeing it was much more dreadful to me, at least, to think of falling into these men's hands, than ever it was to think of being eaten by men: for the savages, give them their due, would not eat a man till he was dead, and killed him first, as we do a bullock; but that these men had many arts beyond the cruelty of death. Whenever these thoughts prevailed, I was sure to put myself into a kind of fever, with the agitations of a supposed fight; my blood would boil, and my eyes sparkled, as if I was engaged; and I always resolved, that I would take no quarter at their hands; but even, at last, if I could resist no longer, I would blow up the ship, and all that was in her, and leave them but little booty to boast of.

But how much the greater weight the anxieties and perplexities of these things were to our thoughts while we were at sea, by so much the greater was our satisfaction when we saw ourselves on shore; and my partner told me, he dreamed that he had a very heavy load upon his back, which he was to carry up a hill, and found that he was not able to stand long under it; but the Portuguese pilot came and took it off his back, and the hill disappeared, the ground before him shewing all smooth and plain. And truly it was so; we were all like men who had a load taken off their backs.

For my part, I had a weight taken off from my heart, that I was not able any longer to bear; and, as I said above, we resolved to go no more to sea in that ship. When we came on shore, the old pilot, who was now our friend, got us a lodging, and a warehouse for our goods, which, by the way, was much the same; it was a little house or hut, with a large house joining to it, all built with canes, and pallisadoed round with large canes, to keep out pilfering thieves, of which it seems there were not a few in the country. However, the magistrates allowed us also a little guard, and we had a soldier with a kind of halberd or half-pike, who stood sentinel at our door; to whom we allowed a pint of rice, and a little piece of money, about the value of three pence per day, so that our goods were kept very safe.

The fair or mart, usually kept in this place, had been over some time; however, we found that there were three or four junks in the river, and two Japaners, I mean, ships from Japan, with goods which they had bought in China, and were not gone away, having Japanese merchants on shore.

The first thing our old Portuguese pilot did for us, was to bring us acquainted with three missionary Romish priests, who were in the town, and who had been there some time, converting the people to Christianity; but we thought they made but poor work of it, and made them but sorry Christians when they had done. However, that was not our business. One of these was a Frenchman, whom they called Father Simon: he was a jolly, well-conditioned man, very free in his conversation, not seeming so serious and grave as the other two did; (one of whom was a Portuguese, and the other a Genoese) but Father Simon was courteous, easy in his manner, and very agreeable company; the other two were more reserved, seemed rigid and austere, and applied seriously to the work they came about; viz. to talk with and insinuate themselves among the inhabitants, wherever they had opportunity. We often eat and drank with those men; and though I must confess the conversion, as they call it, of the Chinese to Christianity, is so far from the true conversion required to bring heathen people to the faith of Christ, that it seems to amount to little more than letting them know the name of Christ, say some prayers to the Virgin Mary and her Son in a tongue which they understand not, and to crois themselves, and the like; yet it must be confessed, that these religious, whom we call missionaries, have a firm belief that these people shall be saved, and that they are the instruments of it; and, on this account, they undergo not only the fatigue of the voyage, and hazards of living in such places, but oftentimes death itself, with the most violent tortures, for the sake of this work; and it would be a great want of charity in us, whatever opinion we have of the work itself, and the manner of their doing it, if we should not have a good opinion of their zeal, who undertake it

with

with so many hazards, and who have no prospect of the least temporal advantage to themselves.

But to return to my story. This French priest, Father Simon, was appointed, it seems, by order of the chief of the mission, to go up to Pekin, the royal seat of the Chinese emperor; and waited only for another priest, who was ordered to come to him from Macao, to go along with him; and we scarce ever met together, but he was inviting me to go that journey with him, telling me, how he would shew me all the glorious things of that mighty empire; and among the rest, the greatest city in the world. 'A city,' said he, 'that your London, and our Paris, put together, cannot be equal to.' This was the city of Pekin; which, I confess, is very great, and infinitely full of people; but, as I looked on those things with different eyes from other men, so I shall give my opinion of them in few words, when I come, in the course of my travels, to speak more particularly of them.

But first, I come to my friar or missionary. Dining with him one day, and being very merry together, I shewed some little inclination to go with him; and he pressed me and my partner very hard, and with a great many persuasions, to consent. 'Why, Father Simon,' says my partner, 'why should you desire our company so much? You know we are here-ticks, and you do not love us, nor can keep us company with any pleasure.'—'O!' says he, 'you may, perhaps, be good Catholics in time; my business here is to convert heathens; and who knows but I may convert you too?'—'Very well, Father,' said I, 'so you will preach to us all the way.'—'I won't be troublesome to you,' said he; 'our religion does not divest us of good manners: besides,' said he, 'we are here like countrymen; and so we are, compared to the place we are in; and if you are Hugonots, and I a Catholic, we may be all Christians at last; at least,' said he, 'we are all gentlemen, and we may converse so, without being uneasy to one another.' I liked that part of his discourse very well, and it began to put me in mind of my priest that I had left in the Brazils; but this Father Simon did not

come up to his character by a great deal; for though Father Simon had no appearance of a criminal levity in him neither, yet he had not that fund of Christian zeal, strict piety, and sincere affection to religion, that my other good ecclesiastick had of whom I have said so much.

But to leave him a little, though he never left us, nor soliciting us to go with him, but we had something else before us at that time; for we had, all this while, our ship and our merchandize to dispose of; and we began to be very doubtful what we should do, for we were now in a place of very little business; and once I was about to venture to sail for the river of Kiam, and the city of Nanquin. But Providence seemed now more visibly, as I thought, than ever, to concern itself in our affairs; and I was encouraged from this very time to think I should, one way or other, get out of this entangled circumstance, and be brought home to my own country again; though I had not the least view of the manner; and when I began sometimes to think of it, could not imagine by what method it was to be done. Providence, I say, began here to clear up our way a little; and the first thing that offered was, that our old Portuguese pilot brought a Japan merchant to us, who began to enquire what goods we had; and, in the first place, he bought all our opium, and gave us a very good price for it, paying us in gold by weight, some in small pieces of their own coin, and some in small wedges of about ten or eleven ounces each. While we were dealing with him for our opium, it came into my head, that he might perhaps deal with us for the ship too; and I ordered the interpreter to propose it to him. He shrunk up his shoulders at it when it was first proposed to him, but, in a few days after, he came to me with one of the missionary priests for his interpreter, and told me he had a proposal to make to me, and that was this. He had bought a great quantity of goods of us when he had no thoughts (or proposals made to him) of buying the ship; and that, therefore, he had not money enough to pay for the ship; but if I would let the same men who were in the ship navigate her, he would hire the ship to go

to



to Japan, and would send them from thence to the Philippine Islands with another loading, which he would pay the freight of before they went from Japan; and that, at their return, he would buy the ship. I began to listen to this proposal, and so eager did my head still run upon rambling, that I could not but begin to entertain a notion myself of going with him, and so to sail from the Philippine Islands away to the South Seas; and accordingly I asked the Japanese merchant, if he would not hire us to the Philippine Islands, and discharge us there. He said, no, he could not do that; for then he could not have the return of his cargo; but he would discharge us in Japan, he said, at the ship's return. Well, still I was for taking him at that proposal, and going myself; but my partner, wiser than myself, persuaded me from it, representing the dangers, as well of the seas as of the Japanese, who are a false, cruel, and treacherous people; and then of the Spaniards at the Philippines, more false, more cruel, more treacherous than they.

But to bring this long turn of our affairs to a conclusion; the first thing we had to do, was to consult with the captain of the ship, and with the men, and know if they were willing to go to Japan; and, while I was doing this, the young man, whom, as I said, my nephew had left with me as my companion for my travels, came to me, and told me, that he thought that voyage promised very fair, and that there was a great prospect of advantage, and he would be very glad if I undertook it; but that if I would not, and would give him leave, he would go as a merchant, or how I pleased to order him; that if ever he came to England, and I was there and alive, he would render me a faithful account of his success, and it should be as much mine as I pleased.

I was really loth to part with him; but, considering the prospect of advantage, which was really considerable, and that he was a young fellow as likely to do well in it as any I knew, I inclined to let him go; but, first, I told him I would consult my partner, and give him an answer the next day. My partner and I discoursed about it; and my partner made a most generous

offer. He told me, 'You know it has been an unlucky ship, and we both resolve not to go to sea in it again; if your steward' (so he called my man) 'will venture the voyage, I'll leave my share of the vessel to him, and let him make the best of it; and if we live to meet in England, and he meets with success abroad, he shall account for one half of the profits of the ship's freight to us, the other shall be his own.'

If my partner, who was no way concerned with my young man, made him such an offer, I could do no less than offer him the same; and all the ship's company being willing to go with him, we made over half the ship to him in property, and took a writing from him, obliging him to account for the other; and away he went to Japan. The Japan merchant proved a very punctual honest man to him, protected him at Japan, and got him a licence to come on shore, which the Europeans in general have not lately obtained; paid him his freight very punctually, sent him to the Philippines, loaded with Japan and China wares, and a supercargo of their own, who trafficking with the Spaniards, brought back European goods again, and a great quantity of cloves and other spice; and there he was not only paid his freight very well, and at a very good price, but being not willing to sell the ship then, the merchant furnished him with goods on his own account, that, for some money, and some spices of his own, which he brought with him, he went back to the Manillas, to the Spaniards, where he sold his cargo very well. Here, having gotten a good acquaintance at Manilla, he got his ship made a free ship; and the Governor of Manilla hired him to go to Acapulco in America, on the coast of Mexico, and gave him a licence to land there, and travel to Mexico, and to pass in any Spanish ship to Europe with all his men.

He made the voyage to Acapulco very happily, and there he sold his ship; and having there also obtained allowance to travel by land to Porto Bello, he found means, some how or other, to go to Jamaica with all his treasure; and, about eight years after, came to England exceeding rich; of which

which I shall take notice in it's place. In the mean time, I return to our own particular affairs.

Being now to part with the ship and ship's company, it came before us, of course, to consider what recompence we should give to the two men that gave us such timely notice of the design against us in the river Cambodia. The truth was, they had done us a considerable service, and deserved well at our hands; though, by the way, they were a couple of rogues too; for, as they believed the story of our being pirates, and that we had really run away with the ship, they came down to us, not only to betray the design that was formed against us, but to go to sea with us as pirates; and one of them confessed afterwards, that nothing else but the hopes of going a roving brought him to do it. However, the service they did us was not the less; and therefore, as I had promised to be grateful to them, I first ordered the money to be paid to them, which they said was due to them on board their respective ships; that is to say, the Englishmen nineteen months pay, and to the Dutchmen seven; and, over and above that, I gave each of them a small sum of money in gold, which contented them very well; then I made the Englishman gunner of the ship, the gunner being now made second mate and purser; the Dutchman I made boatswain; so they were both very well pleased, and proved very serviceable, being both able seamen and very stout fellows.

We were now on shore in China. If I thought myself banished, and remote from my own country at Bengal, where I had many ways to get home for my money, what could I think of myself now, when I was gotten about a thousand leagues farther off from home, and perfectly destitute of all manner of prospect of return!

All we had for it was this; that in about four months time there was to be another fair at that place where we were, and then we might be able to purchase all sorts of the manufactures of the country, and withal might possibly find some Chinese junks or vessels from Nankin that would be to be sold, and would carry us and our goods whither we pleased. This I liked very well, and resolved to wait; besides,

as our particular persons were not obnoxious, so if any English or Dutch ships came thither, perhaps we might have an opportunity to load our goods, and get passage to some other place in India nearer home.

Upon these hopes we resolved to continue here; but to divert ourselves, we took two or three journeys into the country. First, we went ten days journey to see the city of Nankin, a city well worth seeing indeed; they say it has a million of people in it, which, however, I do not believe. It is regularly built, the streets all exactly straight, and cross one another in direct lines, which gives the figure of it great advantage.

But when I came to compare the miserable people of these countries with ours; their fabricks, their manner of living, their government, their religion, their wealth, and their glory, (as some call it) I must confess I do not so much as think it worth naming, or worth my while to write of, or any that shall come after me to read.

It is very observable, that we wonder at the grandeur, the riches, the pomp, the ceremonies, the government, the manufactures, the commerce, and the conduct of these people; not that it is to be wondered at, or, indeed, in the least to be regarded; but because, having first a notion of the barbarity of those countries, the rudeness and the ignorance that prevail there, we do not expect to find any such things so far off.

Otherwise, what are their buildings to the palaces and royal buildings of Europe? what their trade to the universal commerce of England, Holland, France and Spain? What their cities to ours, for wealth, strength, gaiety of apparel, rich furniture, and an infinite variety? What are their ports, supplied with a few junks and barks, to our navigation, our merchants fleets, our large and powerful navies? Our city of London has more trade than all their mighty empire. One English, or Dutch, or French man of war of 80 guns, would fight with and destroy all the shipping of China. But the greatness of their wealth, their trade, the power of their government, and strength of their armies, is surprizing to us, because, as I have said, considering them as a barbarous nation of pagans, little better



better than savages, we did not expect such things among them; and this, indeed, is the advantage with which all their greatness and power is represented to us; otherwise it is in itself nothing at all: for, as I have said of their ships, so it may be said of their armies and troops; all the forces of their empire, though they were to bring two millions of men into the field together, would be able to do nothing but ruin the country and starve themselves. If they were to besiege a strong town in Flanders, or to fight a disciplined army, one line of German cuirassiers, or of French cavalry, would overthrow all the horse of China; a million of their foot could not stand before one embattled body of our infantry, posted so as not to be surrounded, though they were not to be one to twenty in number; nay, I do not boast if I say, that thirty thousand German or English foot, and ten thousand French horse, would fairly beat all the forces of China. And so of our fortified towns, and of the art of our engineers, in assaulting and defending towns; there is not a fortified town in China could hold out one month against the batteries and attacks of an European army; and at the same time all the armies of China could never take such a town as Dunkirk, provided it was not starved; no, not in ten years siege. They have fire-arms, it is true; but they are awkward, clumsy, and uncertain in going off: they have powder, but it is of no strength. They have neither discipline in the field, exercise to their arms, skill to attack, or temper to retreat; and therefore, I must confess, it seemed strange to me when I came home and heard our people say such fine things of the power, riches, glory, magnificence, and trade of the Chinese, because I saw and knew that they were a contemptible herd or croud of ignorant fordid slaves, subjected to a government qualified only to rule such a people; and, in a word, (for I am now launched quite beside my design) I say, in a word, were not it's distance inconceivably great from Muscovy, and were not the Muscovite empire almost as rude, impotent, and ill-governed a croud of slaves as they, the Czar of Muscovy might, with much ease, drive them all out of their country, and conquer them in

one campaign; and had the czar, who I since hear is a growing prince, and begins to appear formidable in the world, fallen this way instead of attacking the warlike Swedes, in which attempt none of the powers of Europe would have envied or interrupted him, he might by this time have been Emperor of China, instead of being beaten by the King of Sweden at Narva, when the latter was not one to six in number. As their strength and their grandeur, so their navigation, commerce, and husbandry, is imperfect and impotent, compared to the same things in Europe. Also in their knowledge, their learning, their skill in the sciences, they have globes and spheres, and a smatch of the knowledge of mathematics; but when you come to enquire into their knowledge, how short-sighted are the wisest of their students! they know nothing of the motion of the heavenly bodies; and so grossly, absurdly ignorant, that when the sun is eclipsed, they think it is a great dragon has assaulted and run away with it, and they fall a clattering with all the drums and kettles in the country, to fright the monster away, just as we do to hive a swarm of bees.

As this is the only excuse of this kind which I have made in all the account I have given of my travels, so I shall make no more descriptions of countries and people; it is none of my business, or any part of my design; but giving an account of my own adventures through a life of inimitable wanderings, and a long variety of changes, which, perhaps, few have heard the like of, I shall say nothing of the mighty places, desert countries, and numerous people I have yet to pass through, more than relates to my own story, and which my concern among them will make necessary. I was now as near as I can compute in the heart of China, about the latitude of 30 degrees north of the line, for we were returned from Nanquin. I had indeed a mind to see the city of Pekin, which I had heard so much of, and Father Simon importuned me daily to do it. At length his time of going away being set, and the other missionary, who was to go with him, being arrived from Macao, it was necessary that we should resolve either to go or not to go; so I referred him to my partner,

partner, and left it wholly to his choice; who at length resolved it in the affirmative, and we prepared for our journey. We set out with very good advantage as to finding the way; for we got leave to travel in the retinue of one of their mandarins, a kind of viceroy or principal magistrate in the province where they reside, and who take great state upon them, travelling with great attendance, and with great homage from the people, who are sometimes greatly impoverished by them, because all the countries they pass through are obliged to furnish provisions for them and all their attendants. That which I particularly observed, as to our travelling with his baggage, was this; that though we received sufficient provisions both for ourselves and our horses from the country, as belonging to the mandarin, yet we were obliged to pay for every thing we had after the market-price of the country; and the mandarin's steward, or commissary of the provisions, collected it duly from us: so that our travelling in the retinue of the mandarin, though it was a very great kindness to us, was not such a mighty favour in him, but was indeed a great advantage to him, considering there were about thirty other people travelled in the same manner besides us, under the protection of his retinue, or, as we may call it, under his convoy. This, I say, was a great advantage to him, for the country furnished all the provisions for nothing, and he took all our money for them.

We were five and twenty days travelling to Pekin, through a country infinitely populous, but miserably cultivated; the husbandry, œconomy, and the way of living, all very miserable, though they boast so much of the industry of the people; I say, miserable; and so it is, if we, who understand how to live, were to endure it, or to compare it with our own; but not so to these poor wretches, who know no other. The pride of these people is infinitely great, and exceeded by nothing but their poverty, which adds to that which I call their misery. I must needs think the naked savages of America live much more happy, because, as they have nothing, so they desire nothing; whereas these are proud and insolent, and in the main are mere beggars and drudges. Their atten-

tation is inexpressible, and is chiefly shewed in their cloaths and buildings, and in their keeping multitudes of servants or slaves, and, which is to the last degree ridiculous, their contempt of all the world but themselves.

I must confess, I travelled more pleasantly afterwards in the deserts and vast wildernesses of Grand Tartary than here; and yet the roads here are well paved and well kept, and very convenient for travellers. But nothing was more awkward to me, than to see such an haughty, imperious, insolent people, in the midst of the grossest simplicity and ignorance; for all their famed ingenuity is no more. My friend, Father Simon, and I, used to be very merry upon these occasions, to see the beggarly pride of those people. For example: coming by the house of a country gentleman, as Father Simon called him, about ten leagues off from the city of Nanquin, we had, first of all, the honour to ride with the master of the house about two miles. The state he rode in was a perfect Don Quixotism, being a mixture of pomp and poverty.

The habit of this greasy don was very proper for a Scaramouch or Merry Andrew; being a dirty callico, with all the tawdry trappings of a fool's coat, such as hanging-sleeves, taffety, and cuts and slashes almost on every side; it covered a rich taffety vest, as greasy as a butcher, and which testified that his honour must needs be a most exquisite slob.

His horse was a poor, lean, starved, hobbling creature, such as in England might sell for about thirty or forty shillings; and he had two slaves followed him on foot, to drive the poor creature along; he had a whip in his hand, and he belaboured the beast as fast about the head as his slaves did about the tail: and thus he rode by us with about ten or twelve servants; and we were told he was going from the city to his country seat, about half a league before us. We travelled on gently, but this figure of a gentleman rode away before us; and as we stopped at a village about an hour to refresh us, when we came by the country-seat of this great man, we saw him in a little place before his door eating his repast: it was a kind of garden, but he was easy to be seen; and we were given to understand, that the



more we looked at him the better he would be pleased.

He sat under a tree, something like the palmetto-tree, which effectually shaded him over the head and on the south-side; but under the tree also was placed a large umbrella, which made that part look well enough. He sat lolling back in a great elbow-chair, being a heavy corpulent man, and his meat being brought him by two women slaves: he had two more, whose office, I think, few gentlemen in Europe would accept of their service in; viz. one fed the squire with a spoon, and the other held the dish with one hand, and scraped off what he let fall upon his worship's beard and taffety vest with the other; while the great fat brute thought it below him to employ his own hands in any of those familiar offices, which kings and monarchs would rather do, than be troubled with the clumsy fingers of their servants.

I took this time to think what pain men's pride puts them to; and how troublesome a haughty temper, thus ill-managed, must be to a man of common sense: and, leaving the poor wretch to please himself with our looking at him, as if we admired his pomp, whereas we really pitied and contemned him, we pursued our journey; only Father Simon had the curiosity to stay to inform himself what dainties the country justice had to feed on in all his state; which he said he had the honour to taste of, and which was, I think, a dose that an English hound would scarce have eaten, if it had been offered him; viz. a mess of boiled rice, with a great piece of garlick in it, and a little bag filled with green pepper; another plant which they have there, something like our ginger, but smelling like musk, and tasting like mustard: all this was put together, and a small lump or piece of lean mutton boiled in it; and this was his worship's repast, four or five servants more attending at a distance. If he fed them meaner than he was fed himself, the spice excepted, they must fare very coarsely indeed.

As for our mandarin, with whom we travelled, he was respected like a king; surrounded always with his gentlemen, and attended in all his appearances with such pomp, that I saw

little of him but at a distance; but this I observed, that there was not a horse in his retinue but that our carriers pack-horses in England seem to me to look much better; but they were so covered with equipage, mantles, trappings, and such like trumpery, that you cannot see whether they are fat or lean. In a word, we could scarce see any thing but their feet and their heads.

I was now light-hearted, and all my trouble and perplexity that I have given an account of being over, I had no anxious thoughts about me; which made this journey much the pleasanter to me; nor had I any ill accident attended me, only in the passing or fording a small river my horse fell, and made me free of the country, as they call it; that is to say, threw me in. The place was not deep, but it wetted me all over. I mention it, because it spoiled my pocket-book, wherein I had set down the names of several people and places which I had occasion to remember, and which not taking due care of, the leaves rotted, and the words were never after to be read, to my great loss, as to the names of some places which I touched at in this voyage.

At length we arrived at Pekin. I had nobody with me but the youth whom my nephew the captain had given me to attend me as a servant, and who proved very trusty and diligent; and my partner had nobody with him but one servant, who was a kinsman. As for the Portuguese pilot, he being desirous to see the court, we gave him his passage; that is to say, bore his charges for his company, and to use him as an interpreter, for he understood the language of the country, and spoke good French, and a little English; and, indeed, this old man was a most useful implement to us every where; for we had not been above a week at Pekin, when he came laughing; 'Ah, Seignior Inglese!' said he, 'I have something to tell you will make your heart glad.'—'My heart glad!' said I: 'what can that be?' 'I don't know any thing in this country can either give me joy or grief to any great degree.'—'Yes, yes,' said the old man, in broken English, 'make you glad, me sorrow; sorry he would have said. This made me

more

more inquisitive. 'Why,' said I, 'will it make you sorry?'—'Because,' said he, 'you have brought me here twenty-five days journey, and will leave me to go back alone; and which way shall I get to my port afterwards, without a ship, without a horse, without *pecune*?' So he called money; being his broken Latin, of which he had abundance to make us merry with.

In short, he told us there was a great caravan of Muscovy and Russian merchants in the city, and they were preparing to set out on their journey by land to Muscovy, within four or five weeks, and he was sure we would take the opportunity to go with them, and leave him behind to go back all alone. I confess I was surprized with this news; a secret joy spread itself over my whole soul, which I cannot describe, and never felt before or since; and I had no power for a good while to speak a word to the old man; but at last I turned to him: 'How do you know this?' said I: 'are you sure it is true?'—'Yes,' said he, 'I met this morning in the street an old acquaintance of mine, an Armenian, or one you call a Grecian, who is among them; he came last from Astracan, and was designing to go to Tonguin, where I formerly knew him, but has altered his mind, and is now resolved to go back with the caravan to Moscow, and so down the river of Wolga to Astracan.'—'Well, Seignior,' said I, 'do not be uneasy about being left to go back alone; if this be a method for my return to England, it shall be your fault if you go back to Macao at all.' We then went to consulting together what was to be done, and asked my partner what he thought of the pilot's news, and whether it would suit with his affairs. He told me he would do just as I would; for he had settled all his affairs so well at Bengal, and left his effects in such good hands, that as we made a good voyage here, if he could vest it in China silks, wrought and raw, such as might be worth the carriage, he would be content to go to England, and then make his voyage back to Bengal by the company's ships.

Having resolved upon this, we agreed,

that if our Portuguese pilot would go with us, we would bear his charges to Moscow, or to England if he pleased; nor, indeed, were we to be esteemed over generous in that part neither, if we had not rewarded him farther; for the service he had done us was really worth all that, and more: for he had not only been a pilot to us at sea, but he had been also like a broker for us on shore; and his procuring for us the Japan merchant, was some hundreds of pounds in our pockets. So we consulted together about it; and, being willing to gratify him, which was, indeed, but doing him justice, and very willing also to have him with us besides, for he was a most necessary man on all occasions, we agreed to give him a quantity of coined gold, which, as I compute it, came to about 1751. sterling, between us, and to bear his charges, both for himself and horse, except only a horse to carry his goods.

Having settled this among ourselves, we called him, to let him know what we had resolved. I told him, he had complained of our being like to let him go back alone, and I was now to tell him we were resolved he should not go back at all; that as we were resolved to go to Europe with the caravan, we resolved also he should go with us, and that we called him to know his mind. He shook his head, and said it was a long journey, and he had no *pecune* to carry him thither. We told him, we believed it was so, and therefore we had resolved to do something for him, that should let him see how sensible we were of the service he had done us; and also how agreeable he was to us: and then I told him what we had resolved to give him here, which he might lay out as we would do our own; and that as for his charges, if he would go with us, we would set him safe ashore, (life and casualties excepted) either in Muscovy or in England, which he would, at our own charge, except only the carriage of his goods.

He received the proposal like a man transported, and told us, he would go with us over the whole world; and so, in short, we all prepared ourselves for the journey. However, as it was with us, so it was with the other merchants, they had many things to do; and in-

L 12

stead



stead of being ready in five weeks, it was four months and some odd days before all things were got together.

It was the beginning of February, our style, when we set out from Pekin. My partner and the old pilot had gone express back to the port where we had first put in, to dispose of some goods which we had left there; and I, with a Chinese merchant, whom I had some knowledge of at Nanquin, and who came to Pekin on his own affairs, went to Nanquin, where I bought ninety pieces of fine damasks, with about two hundred pieces of other very fine silks, of several sorts, some mixed with gold, and had all these brought to Pekin against my partner's return: besides this, we bought a very large quantity of raw silk, and some other goods; our cargo amounting, in these goods only, to about three thousand five hundred pounds sterling, which, together with tea, and some fine calicoes, and three camel-loads of nutmegs and cloves, loaded in all eighteen camels for our share, besides those we rode upon; which, with two or three spare horses, and two horses loaded with provisions, made us, in short, twenty-six camels and horses in our retinue.

The company was very great, and, as near as I can remember, made between three and four hundred horses and camels, and upward of a hundred and twenty men, very well armed, and provided for all events: for, as the Eastern caravans are subject to be attacked by the Arabs, so are these by the Tartars; but they are not altogether so dangerous as the Arabs, nor so barbarous when they prevail.

The company consisted of people of several nations, such as Muscovites chiefly; for there were above sixty of them who were merchants or inhabitants of Moscow, though of them some were Livonians, and to our particular satisfaction five of them were Scots, who appeared also to be men of great experience in business, and very good substance.

When we had travelled one day's journey, the guides, who were five in number, called all the gentlemen and merchants; that is to say, all the passengers, except the servants, to a great council, as they termed it. At this great council every one deposited

a certain quantity of money to a common stock, for the necessary expence of buying forage on the way, where it was not otherwise to be had, and for satisfying the guides, getting horses, and the like. And here they constituted the journey, as they called it; viz. they named captains and officers to draw us all up, and give the command in case of an attack, and gave every one their turn of command. Nor was this forming us into order any more than what we found needful upon the way, as shall be observed in it's place.

The road all on this side of the country is very populous, and is full of potters, and earth-makers; that is to say, people that tempered the earth for the China ware; and, as I was going along, our Portuguese pilot, who had always something or other to say to make us merry, came sneering to me, and told me, he would shew me the greatest rarity in all the country; and that I should have this to say of China, after all the ill-humoured things I had said of it, that I had seen one thing which was not to be seen in all the world beside. I was very importunate to know what it was. At last he told me it was a gentleman's house built all with China ware. 'Well,' said I, 'are not the materials of their building the product of their own country; and so it is all China ware, is it not?'—'No, no,' says he, 'I mean, it is a house all made of China ware, such as you call so in England; or, as it is called in our country, porcelain.'—'Well,' said I, 'such a thing may be. How big is it? Can we carry it in a box upon a camel? If we can, we will buy it.'—'Upon a camel!' said the old pilot, holding up both his hands, 'why there is a family of thirty people lives in it.'

I was then curious, indeed, to see it; and when I came to it, it was nothing but this: it was a timber house, or a house built, as we call it in England, with lath and plaster, but all the plastering was really China ware, that is to say, it was plastered with the earth that makes China ware.

The outside, which the sun shone hot upon, was glazed, and looked very well, perfectly white, and painted with blue figures, as the large China

ware

ware in England is painted, and hard, as if it had been burnt. As to the inside, all the walls, instead of wainscot, were lined up with hardened and painted tiles, like the little square tiles we call gally-tiles in England, all made of the finest China, and the figures exceeding fine indeed, with extraordinary variety of colours, mixed with gold, many tiles making but one figure, but joined so artificially with mortar, being made of the same earth, that it was very hard to see where the tiles met. The floors of the rooms were of the same composition, and as hard as the earthen floors we have in use in several parts of England, especially Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, &c. as hard as stone, and smooth, but not burnt and painted, except some smaller rooms like closets, which were all as it were paved with the same tile; the ceilings, and, in a word, all the plastering-work in the whole house, were of the same earth; and, after all, the roof was covered with tiles of the same, but of a deep shining black.

This was a China warehouse, indeed, truly and literally to be called so; and, had I not been upon the journey, I could have staid some days to see and examine the particulars of it. They told me there were fountains and fish-ponds in the garden, all paved at the bottom and sides with the same, and fine statues set up in rows on the walks, entirely formed of the porcelain earth, and burnt whole.

As this is one of the singularities of China, so they may be allowed to excel in it; but I am very sure they excel in their accounts of it; for they told me such incredible things of their performance in crockery-ware, for such it is, that I care not to relate, as knowing they could not be true. One told me, in particular, of a workman that made a ship, with all it's tackle, and masts, and sails, in earthen-ware, big enough to carry fifty men. If he had told me he launched it, and made a voyage to Japan in it, I might have said something to it indeed; but as it was, I knew the whole story, which was, in short, asking pardon for the word, that the fellow lied; so I smiled, and said nothing to it.

This odd sight kept me two hours behind the caravan, for which the leader of it for the day fined me about

the value of three shillings; and told me, if it had been three days journey without the wall, as it was three days within, he must have fined me four times as much, and made me ask pardon the next council-day; so I promised to be more orderly; for, indeed, I found afterwards, the orders made for keeping all together were absolutely necessary for our common safety.

In two days more we passed the great China wall, made for a fortification against the Tartars; and a very great work it is, going over hills and mountains in an endless track, where the rocks are impassable, and the precipices such as no enemy could possibly enter, or indeed climb up, or where, if they did, no wall could hinder them. They tell us, it's length is near a thousand English miles, but that the country is five hundred in a straight measured line, which the wall bounds, without measuring the windings and turnings it takes; it is about four fathom high, and as many thick in some places.

I stood still an hour or thereabouts, without trespassing on our orders, for so long the caravan was in passing the gate; I say, I stood still an hour to look at it on every side, near and far off; I mean, what was within my view; and the guide of our caravan, who had been extolling it for the wonder of the world, was mighty eager to hear my opinion of it. I told him it was a most excellent thing to keep off the Tartars; which he happened not to understand as I meant it, and so took it for a compliment; but the old pilot laughed. 'O Seignior Inglese,' said he, 'you speak in colours.'—'In colours!' said I; 'what do you mean by that? Why, you speak what looks white this way, and black that way; gay one way, and dull another way: you tell him it is a good wall to keep out Tartars; you tell me by that, it is good for nothing but to keep out Tartars; or, it will keep out none but Tartars. I understand you, Seignior Inglese, I understand you!' said he, joking; 'but Seignior Chinese understand you his own way.'

'Well,' said I, 'Seignior, do you think it would stand out an army of our country people, with a good train of artillery; or our engineers, with two companies of miners? Would they



‘ they not batter it down in ten days, that an army might enter in battalia, or blow it up into the air, foundation and all, that there should be no sign of it left?’ ‘Ay, ay,’ said he, ‘I know that.’ The Chinese wanted mightily to know what I said, and I gave him leave to tell him a few days after, for we were then almost out of their country, and he was to leave us in a little time afterwards; but when he knew what I had said, he was dumb all the rest of the way, and we heard no more of his fine story of the Chinese power and greatness while he staid.

After we had passed this mighty nothing, called a wall, something like the Picts wall, so famous in Northumberland, and built by the Romans, we began to find the country thinly inhabited, and the people rather confined to live in fortified towns and cities, as being subject to the inroads and depredations of the Tartars, who rob in great armies, and therefore are not to be resisted by the naked inhabitants of an open country.

And here I began to find the necessity of keeping together in a caravan as we travelled; for we saw several troops of Tartars roving about; but when I came to see them distinctly, I wondered more that the Chinese empire could be conquered by such contemptible fellows; for they are a mere herd or croud of wild fellows, keeping no order, and understanding no discipline or manner of fight.

Their horses are poor, lean, starved creatures, taught nothing, and are fit for nothing; and this we found the first day we saw them, which was after we entered the wilder part of the country. Our leader for the day gave leave for about sixteen of us to go a hunting, as they call it; and what was this but hunting of sheep! However, it may be called hunting too; for the creatures are the wildest and swiftest of foot that ever I saw of their kind; and only they will not run a great way, and you are sure of sport when you begin the chase; for they appear generally by thirty or forty in a flock, and, like true sheep, always keep together when they fly.

In pursuit of this odd sort of game, it was our hap to meet with about forty Tartars; whether they were hunting mutton as we were, or whether they looked for another kind of prey, I know

not; but as soon as they saw us, one of them blew a kind of horn very loud, but with a barbarous sound that I had never heard before; and, by the way, never care to hear again. We all supposed this was to call their friends about them; and so it was; for in less than half a quarter of an hour, a troop of forty or fifty more appeared at about a mile distance; but our work was over first, as it happened.

One of the Scots merchants of Moscow happened to be amongst us; and as soon as heard the horn, he told us, in short, that we had nothing to do, but to charge them immediately, without loss of time; and, drawing us up in a line, he asked, if we were resolved. We told him, we were ready to follow him: so he rode directly up to them. They stood gazing at us like a mere croud, drawn up in no order, nor shewing the face of any order at all; but as soon as they saw us advance, they let fly their arrows; which, however, missed us very happily: it seems they mistook not their aim, but their distance; for their arrows all fell a little short of us, but with so true an aim, that had we been about twenty yards nearer, we must have had several men wounded, if not killed.

Immediately we halted; and though it was at a great distance, we fired, and sent them leaden bullets for wooden arrows, following our shot full gallop, resolving to fall in among them sword in hand; for so our bold Scot that led us directed. He was, indeed, but a merchant, but he behaved with that vigour and bravery on this occasion, and yet with such a cool courage too, that I never saw any man in action fitter for command. As soon as we came up to them, we fired our pistols in their faces, and then drew; but they fled in the greatest confusion imaginable: the only stand any of them made, was on our right, where three of them stood, and, by signs, called the rest to come back to them, having a kind of scymitar in their hands, and their bows hanging at their backs. Our brave commander, without asking any body to follow him, galloped up close to them, and with his fusil knocked one of them off his horse, killed the second with his pistol, and the third ran away; and thus ended our fight: but we had this misfortune attending it, viz. that all our mutton that

that we had in chase got away. We had not a man killed or hurt; but, as for the Tartars, there were about five of them killed: how many were wounded, we knew not; but this we knew, that the other party was so frightened with the noise of our guns, that they fled, and never made any attempt upon us.

We were all this while in the Chinese dominions, and therefore the Tartars were not so bold as afterwards; but in about five days we entered a vast great wild desert, which held us three days and nights march; and we were obliged to carry our water with us in great leather bottles, and to encamp all night, just as I have heard they do in the deserts of Arabia.

I asked our guides, whose dominion this was in; and they told me, this was a kind of border, that might be called No Man's Land, being part of the Great Karakathay, or Grand Tartary; but that however, it was reckoned to China: that there was no care taken here, to preserve it from the inroads of thieves; and therefore it was reckoned the worst desert in the whole march, though we were to go over some much larger.

In passing this wilderness, which, I confess, was at the first view very frightful to me, we saw two or three times little parties of the Tartars, but they seemed to be upon their own affairs, and to have no design upon us; and so, like the man who met the devil, if they had nothing to say to us, we had nothing to say to them; we let them go.

Once, however, a party of them came so near, as to stand and gaze at us; whether it was to consider what they should do, viz. to attack us, or not attack us, we knew not; but when we were passed at some distance by them, we made a rear-guard of forty men, and stood ready for them, letting the caravan pass half a mile, or thereabouts, before us. After a while they marched off, only we found they assaulted us with five arrows at their parting; one of which wounded a horse, so that it disabled him; and we left him the next day, poor creature, in great need of a good farrier. We suppose they might shoot more arrows, which might fall short of us; but we saw no more arrows or Tartars at that time.

We travelled near a month after this, the ways being not so good as at first,

though still in the dominions of the emperor of China, but lay, for the most part, in villages, some of which were fortified because of the incursions of the Tartars. When we came to one of these towns (it was about two days and a half's journey before we were to come to the city of Naun) I wanted to buy a camel, of which there are plenty to be fold all the way upon that road, and of horses also, such as they are, because so many caravans coming that way, they are very often wanted. The person that I spoke to to get me a camel, would have gone and fetched it for me; but I, like a fool, must be officious, and go myself along with him. The place was about two miles out of the village, where it seems they kept the camels and horses feeding under a guard.

I walked it on foot, with my old pilot in company, and a Chinese, being desirous, forsooth, of a little variety. When we came to this place, it was a low marshy ground, walled round with a stone wall, piled up dry, without mortar or earth among it, like a park, with a little guard of Chinese soldiers at the doors. Having bought a camel, and agreed for the price, I came away; and the Chinese man that went with me led the camel, when on a sudden came up five Tartars on horseback; two of them seized the fellow, and took the camel from him, while the other three stepped up to me and my old pilot, seeing us, as it were, unarmed, for I had no weapon about me but my sword, which could but ill defend me against three horsemen. The first that came up, stopped short upon my drawing my sword, (for they are arrant cowards;) but a second coming up upon my left, gave me a blow on the head, which I never felt till afterward, and wondered, when I came to myself, what was the matter with me, and where I was, for he laid me flat on the ground; but my never-failing old pilot, the Portuguese, (so Providence unlooked-for directs deliverances from dangers, which to us are unforeseen) had a pistol in his pocket, which I knew nothing of, nor the Tartars neither; if they had, I suppose they would not have attacked us. But cowards are always boldest when there is no danger.

The old man seeing me down, with a bold heart stepped up to the fellow that had struck me, and laying hold of his



his arm with one hand, and pulling him down by main force a little towards him with the other, he shot him into the head, and laid him dead on the spot; he then immediately stepped up to him who had stopped us, as I said, and before he could come forward again (for it was all done as it were in a moment) made a blow at him with a scymitar, which he always wore; but, missing the man, cut his horse into the side of his head, cut one of his ears off by the root, and a great slice down the side of his face. The poor beast, enraged with the wounds, was no more to be governed by his rider, though the fellow sat well enough too; but away he flew, and carried him quite out of the pilot's reach, and at some distance rising upon his hind legs, threw down the Tartar and fell upon him.

In this interval the poor Chinese came in, who had lost the camel, but he had no weapon; however, seeing the Tartar down, and his horse fallen upon him, he runs to him, and, seizing upon an ugly ill-favoured weapon he had by his side, something like a pole-ax, but not a pole-ax neither, he wrenched it from him, and made shift to knock his Tartarian brains out with it. But my old man had the third Tartar to deal with still; and, seeing he did not fly as he expected, nor come on to fight him as he apprehended, but stood stock-still, the old man stood still too, and falls to work with his tackle to charge his pistol again; but as soon as the Tartar saw the pistol, whether he supposed it to be the same, or another, I know not, but away he scoured, and left my pilot, my champion I called him afterwards, a complete victory.

By this time I was a little awake; for I thought, when I first began to awake, that I had been in a sweet sleep; but as I said above, I wondered where I was, how I came upon the ground, and what was the matter; in a word, a few minutes after, as sense returned, I felt pain, though I did not know where; I clapped my hand to my head, and took it away bloody; then I felt my head-ach; and then, in another moment, memory returned, and every thing was present to me again.

I jumped up upon my feet instantly, and got hold of my sword, but no enemies in view, I found a Tartar lie dead, and his horse standing very quiet-

ly by him; and, looking farther, I saw my champion and deliverer, who had been to see what the Chinese had done, coming back with his hanger in his hand. The old man, seeing me on my feet, came running to me, and embraced me with a great deal of joy, being afraid before that I had been killed; and seeing me bloody, would see how I was hurt; but it was not much, only what we call a broken head; neither did I afterwards find any great inconvenience from the blow, other than the place which was hurt, and which was well again in two or three days.

We made no great gain, however, by this victory, for we lost a camel and gained a horse; but that which was remarkable, when we came back to the village, the man demanded to be paid for the camel. I disputed it, and it was brought to a hearing before the Chinese judge of the place; that is to say, in English, we went before a justice of the peace. Give him his due, he acted with a great deal of prudence and impartiality; and, having heard both sides, he gravely asked the Chinese man that went with me to buy the camel, whose servant he was. 'I am no servant,' said he; 'but went with the stranger.'—'At whose request?' said the justice. 'At the stranger's request,' said he. 'Why then,' said the justice, 'you were the stranger's servant for the time; and the camel being delivered to his servant, it was delivered to him, and he must pay for it.'

I confess the thing was so clear, that I had not a word to say; but admiring to see such just reasoning upon the consequence, and so accurate stating the case, I paid willingly for the camel, and sent for another; but you may observe, I sent for it; I did not go to fetch it myself any more, I had enough of that.

The city of Naum is a frontier of the Chinese empire; they call it fortified, and so it is, as fortifications go there; for this I will venture to affirm, that all the Tartars in Karakathay, which, I believe are some millions, could not batter down the walls with their bows and arrows; but to call it strong, if it were attacked with cannon, would be to make those who understand it laugh at you.

We

We wanted, as I have said, above two days journey of this city, when messengers were sent express to every part of the road, to tell all travellers and caravans to halt till they had a guard sent to them; for that an unusual body of Tartars, making ten thousand in all, had appeared in the way, about thirty miles beyond the city.

This was very bad news to travellers; however, it was carefully done of the governor, and we were very glad to hear we should have a guard. Accordingly, two days after, we had two hundred soldiers sent us from a garrison of the Chinese on our left, and three hundred more from the city of Naum, and with those we advanced boldly; the three hundred soldiers from Naum marched in our front, the two hundred in our rear, and our men on each side of our camels with our baggage, and the whole caravan in the centre. In this order, and well prepared for battle, we thought ourselves a match for the whole ten thousand Mogul Tartars, if they had appeared; but the next day, when they did appear, it was quite another thing.

It was early in the morning, when marching from a little well-situated town, called Changu, we had a river to pass, where we were obliged to ferry; and had the Tartars had an intelligence, then had been the time to have attacked us, when, the caravan being over, the rear guard was behind; but they did not appear there.

About three hours after, when we were entered upon a desert of about fifteen or sixteen miles over, behold, by a cloud of dust they raised, we saw an enemy was at hand; and they were at hand indeed, for they came on upon the spur.

The Chinese, our guard on the front, who had talked so big the day before, began to stagger, and the soldiers frequently looked behind them; which is a certain sign in a soldier that he is just ready to run away. My old pilot was of my mind; and being near me, he called out. 'Seignior Inglesse,' said he, 'those fellows must be encouraged, or they will ruin us all; for if the Tartars come on, they will never stand it.'—'I am of your mind,' said I: 'but what course must be done?'—'Done,' said he, 'let fifty of our men advance, and flank them on each wing,

and encourage them, and they will fight like brave fellows in brave company; but without it they will every man turn his back.' Immediately I rode up to our leader, and told him, who was exactly of our mind; and accordingly fifty of us marched to the right wing, and fifty to the left, and the rest made a line of reserve; for so we marched, leaving the last two hundred men to make another body by themselves, and to guard the camels; only that, if need were, they should send an hundred men to assist the last fifty.

In a word, the Tartars came on, and an innumerable company they were; how many, we could not tell, but ten thousand we thought was the least. A party of them came on first, and viewed our posture, traversing the ground in the front of our line; and as as we found them within gun shot, our leader ordered the two wings to advance swiftly, and give them a salvo on each wing with their shot, which was done; but they went off, and I suppose went back to give an account of the reception they were like to meet with; and, indeed, that salute clogged their stomachs; for they immediately halted, stood a while to consider of it, and, wheeling off to the left, they gave over the design, and said no more to us for that time, which was very agreeable to our circumstances, which were but very indifferent for a battle with such a number.

Two days after this we came to the city of Naum, or Nauum. We thanked the governor for his care of us, and collected to the value of one hundred crowns, or thereabouts, which we gave to the soldiers sent to guard us; and here we rested one day. This is a garrison indeed, and there were nine hundred soldiers kept here; but the reason of it was, that formerly the Muscovite frontiers lay nearer to them than they do now, the Muscovites having abandoned that part of the country (which lies from the city west for about two hundred miles) as desolate and unfit for use; and more especially, being so very remote, and so difficult to send troops hither for its defence; for we had yet above two thousand miles to Muscovy, properly so called.

After this we passed several great rivers, and two dreadful deserts, one of which we were sixteen days passing

M in over,



over, and which, as I said, was to be called, No Man's Land; and, on the 13th of April, we came to the frontiers of the Muscovite dominions. I think the first city, or town, or fortrefs, whatever it might be called, that belonged to the Czar of Muscovy, was called Argun, being on the west side of the river Argun.

I could not but discover an infinite satisfaction, that I was now arrived in, as I called it, a Christian country; or, at least, in a country governed by Christians; for though the Muscovites do, in my opinion, but just deserve the name of Christians, yet such they pretend to be, and are very devout in their way. It would certainly occur to any man who travels the world as I have done, and who had any power of reflection; I say, it would occur to him to reflect, what a blessing it is to be brought into the world where the name of God and of a Redeemer is known, worshipped and adored, and not where the people, given up by Heaven to strong delusions, worship the devil, and prostrate themselves to stocks and stones; worship monsters, elephants, horrible shaped animals, and statues or images of monsters. Not a town or city we passed through but had their pagods, their idols, and their temples, and ignorant people worshipping even the works of their own hands.

Now we came where, at least, a face of the Christian worship appeared, where the knee was bowed to Jesus: and whether ignorantly or not, yet the Christian religion was owned, and the name of the true God was called upon and adored; and it made the very recesses of my soul rejoice to see it. I saluted the brave Scotch merchant I mentioned above, with my first acknowledgment of this; and, taking him by the hand, I said to him, 'Blessed be God, we are once again come among Christians!' He smiled, and answered, 'Do not rejoice too soon, countryman; these Muscovites are but an odd sort of Christians; and but for the name of it, you may see very little of the substance for some months farther of our journey.'

'Well,' said I, 'but still it is better than Paganism, and worshipping of devils.'—'Why, I'll tell you,' said he; 'except the Russian soldiers in

'garrisons, and a few of the inhabitants of the cities upon the road, all the rest of this country, for above a thousand miles farther, is inhabited by the worst and most ignorant of Pagans.' And so indeed we found it.

We were now launched into the greatest piece of solid earth, if I understand any thing of the surface of the globe, that is to be found in any part of the world. We had at least twelve hundred miles to the sea, eastward; we had at least two thousand to the bottom of the Baltick Sea, westward; and almost three thousand miles, if we left that sea, and went on west to the British and French Channels; we had full five thousand miles to the Indian or Persian Sea, south; and about eight hundred miles to the Frozen Sea, north: nay, if some people may be believed, there might be no sea north-east till we came round the pole, and consequently into the north-west, and so had a continent of land into America, no mortal knows where; though I could give some reasons why I believe that to be a mistake too.

As we entered into the Muscovite dominions, a good while before we came to any considerable town, we had nothing to observe there but this; first, that all the rivers run to the east. As I understood by the charts which some of our caravans had with them, it was plain, that all those rivers ran into the great river Yamour, or Gamour. This river, by the natural course of it, must run into the East Sea, or Chinese ocean. The story they tell us, that the mouth of this river is choked up with bulrushes of a monstrous growth, viz. three feet about, and twenty or thirty feet high, I must be allowed to say, I believe nothing of; but as it's navigation is of no use, because there is no trade that way, the Tartars, to whom alone it belongs, dealing in nothing but cattle, so nobody that ever I heard of, has been curious enough either to go down to the mouth of it in boats, or to come up from the mouth of it in ships; but this is certain, that this river running due east, in the latitude of 60 degrees, carries a vast concourse of rivers along with it, and finds an ocean to empty itself in that latitude; so we are sure of sea there.

Some leagues to the north of this river

ver there are several considerable rivers, whose streams run as due north as the Yamour runs east; and these are all found to join their waters with the great river Tartarus, named so from the northermost nations of the Mogul Tartars, who, the Chinese say, were the first Tartars in the world; and who, as our geographers alledge, are the Gog and Magog mentioned in sacred Story.

These rivers running all northward, as well as all the other rivers I am yet to speak of, make it evident, that the northern ocean bounds the land also on that side; so that it does not seem rational in the least to think, that the land can extend itself to join with America on that side, or that there is not a communication between the northern and the eastern ocean: but of this I shall say no more; it was my observation at that time, and therefore I take notice of it in this place. We now advanced from the river Arguna by easy and moderate journies, and were very visibly obliged to the care the Czar of Muscovy has taken, to have cities and towns built in as many places as are possible to place them, where his soldiers keep garrison something like the stationary soldiers placed by the Romans in the remotest countries of their empire, some of which I had read were particularly placed in Britain for the security of commerce, and for the lodging of travellers: and thus it was here; for wherever we came, though at these towns and stations, the garrisons and governor were Russians, and professedly mere pagans, sacrificing to idols, and worshipping the sun, moon, and stars, or all the host of heaven; and not only so, but were of all the heathens and pagans that ever I met with, the most barbarous, except only that they did not eat man's flesh, as our savages of America did.

Some instances of this we met with in the country between Arguna, where we enter the Muscovite dominions, and a city of Tartars and Russians together, called Nertzinkay; in which space is a continued desert or forest, which cost us twenty days to travel over it. In a village near the last of those places I had the curiosity to go and see their way of living, which is most brutish and unsufferable. They had, I suppose, a great sacrifice that day; for there stood out

upon an old stump of a tree, an idol made of wood, frightful as the devil; at least as any thing we can think of to represent the devil can be made. It had a head certainly not so much as resembling any creature that the world ever saw; ears as big as goats horns, and as high; eyes as big as a crown-piece; a nose like a crooked ram's horn, and a mouth extended four-cornered, like that of a lion, with horrible teeth, hooked like a parrot's under bill. It was dressed up in the filthiest manner that you can suppose; it's upper garment was of sheep skins, with the wool outward; a great Tartar bonnet on the head, with two horns growing through it. It was about eight feet high, yet had no feet or legs, or any other proportion of parts.

This scarecrow was set up at the outside of the village, and when I came near to it, there were sixteen or seventeen creatures, whether men or women I could not tell, for they make no distinction by their habits either of body or head; these lay all flat on the ground, round this formidable block of shapeless wood. I saw no motion among them, any more than if they had been logs of wood like their idol: at first I really thought they had been so; but when I came a little nearer, they started up upon their feet, and raised an howling cry, as if it had been so many deep-mouthed hounds, and walked away as if they were displeased at our disturbing them. A little way off from this monster, and at the door of a tent or hut, made all of sheep-skins and cow-skins dried, stood three butchers: I thought they were such; for when I came nearer to them, I found they had long knives in their hands, and in the middle of the tent appeared three sheep killed, and one young bullock or steer. These, it seems, were sacrifices to that senseless log of an idol; and these three men priests belonging to it, and the seventeen prostrated wretches were the people who brought the offering, and were making their prayers to that stock.

I confess I was more moved at their stupidity, and this brutish worship of an hobgoblin, than ever I was at any thing in my life; to see God's most glorious and best creature, to whom he had granted so many advantages, even by creation, above the rest of the works of his hands, vested with a reasonable soul,



and that soul adorned with faculties and capacities adapted both to honour his Maker, and be honoured by him; I say, to see it sunk and degenerated to a degree so more than stupid, as to prostitute itself to a frightful nothing, a mere imaginary object, dressed up by themselves, and made terrible to themselves by their own contrivance, adorned only with clouts and rags; and that this should be the effect of mere ignorance, wrought up into hellish devotion by the devil himself, who, envying his Maker the homage and adoration of his creatures, had deluded them into such gross, surfeiting, sordid, and brutish things, as one would think should shock nature itself.

But what signified all the astonishment and reflection of thoughts! Thus it was, and I saw it before my eyes; and there was no room to wonder at it, or think it impossible; all my admiration turned to rage, and I rode up to the image or monster, call it what you will, and with my sword cut the bonnet that was on it's head in two, in the middle, so that it hung down by one of the horns; and one of our men that was with me took hold of the sheep-skin that covered it, and pulled at it; when, behold, a most hideous outcry and howling ran through the village, and two or three hundred people came about my ears, so that I was glad to scour for it; for we saw some had bows and arrows; but I resolved from that moment to visit them again.

Our caravan rested three nights at the town, which was about four miles off, in order to provide some horses, which they wanted, several of the horses having been lamed and jaded with the badness of the way, and our long march over the last desert; so we had some leisure here to put my design in execution. I communicated my project to the Scots merchant of Moscow, of whose courage I had had sufficient testimony, as above. I told him what I had seen, and with what indignation I had since thought, that human nature could be so degenerate. I told him, I was resolved, if I could get but four or five men well armed, to go with me, to go and destroy that vile, abominable idol; to let them see, that it had no power to help itself, and consequently could not be an object of worship, or to be prayed to,

much less help them that offered sacrifices to it.

He laughed at me. Said he, 'Your zeal may be good; but what do you propose to yourself by it?'—'Propose,' said I, 'to vindicate the honour of God, which is insulted by this devil-worship.'—'But how will it vindicate the honour of God,' said he, 'while the people will not be able to know what you mean by it, unless you could speak to them too, and tell them so; and then they will fight you too, I will assure you; for they are desperate fellows, and that especially in defence of their idolatry.'—'Can we not,' said I, 'do it in the night, and then leave them the reasons in writing, in their own language?'—'Writing!' said he, 'why there is not, in five nations of them, one man that knows any thing of a letter, or how to read a word in any language, or in their own.'—'Wretched ignorance!' said I to him; 'however, I have a great mind to do it; perhaps nature may draw inferences from it to them, to let them see how brutish they are, to worship such horrid things.'—'Look you, Sir,' said he, 'if your zeal prompts you to it so warmly, you must do it; but, in the next place, I would have you consider, these wild nations of people are subjected, by force, to the Czar of Muscovy's dominions; and if you do this, it is ten to one but they will come by thousands to the governor of Nert-zinskay, and complain, and demand satisfaction; and if he cannot give them satisfaction, it is ten to one but they revolt; and it will occasion a new war with all the Tartars in the country.'

This, I confess, put new thoughts into my head for a while; but I harped upon the same string still; and all that day I was uneasy to put my project in execution. Towards the evening the Scots merchant met me by accident in our walk about the town, and desired to speak with me. 'I believe,' said he, 'I have put you off of your good design; I have been a little concerned about it since; for I abhor the idol and idolatry as much as you can do.'—'Truly,' said I, 'you have put it off a little as to the execution of it, but you have not put it

'all out of my thoughts; and, I believe, I shall do it still before I quit this place, though I were to be delivered up to them for satisfaction.'—'No, no,' said he, 'God forbid they should deliver you up to such a crew of monsters! they shall not do that neither; that would be murdering you indeed.'—'Why,' said I, 'how would they use me?'—'Use you!' said he; 'I will tell you how they served a poor Russian, who affronted them in their worship just as you did, and whom they took prisoner; after they had lamed him with an arrow, that he could not run away, they took him and stripped him stark naked, and set him upon the top of the idol monster, and stood all round him, and shot as many arrows into him as would stick over his whole body; and then they burnt him, and all the arrows sticking in him, as a sacrifice to the idol.'—'And was this the same idol?' said I. 'Yes,' said he, 'the very same.'—'Well,' said I, 'I will tell you a story.' So I related the story of our men at Madagascar, and how they burnt and sacked the village there, and killed man, woman, and child, for their murdering one of our men, just as it is related before: and when I had done, I added, that I thought we ought to do so to this village.

He listened very attentively to this story; but when I talked of doing so to that village, said he, 'You mistake very much; it was not this village, it was almost a hundred miles from this place; but it was the same idol, for they carry him about in procession all over the country.'—'Well,' said I, 'then that idol ought to be punished for it; and it shall,' said I, 'if I live this night out.'

In a word, finding me resolute, he liked the design, and told me I should not go alone, but he would go with me; but he would go first, and bring a stout fellow, one of his countrymen, to go also with us; 'and one,' said he, 'as famous for his zeal as you can desire any one to be against such devilish things as these.' In a word, he brought me his comrade, a Scotsman, whom he called Captain Richardson; and I gave him a full account of what I had seen, and also of what I intended; and he told me readily,

he would go with me if it cost him his life. So we agreed to go, only we three. I had, indeed, proposed it to my partner; but he declined it. He said, he was ready to assist me to the utmost, and upon all occasions, for my defence; but that this was an adventure quite out of his way. So, I say, we resolved upon our work, only we three, and my man servant, and to put it in execution that night about midnight, with all the secrecy imaginable.

However, upon second thoughts, we were willing to delay it till the next night, because the caravan being to set forward in the morning, we supposed the governor could not pretend to give them any satisfaction upon us when we were out of his power. The Scots merchant, as steady in his resolution to enterprize it, as bold in executing, brought me a Tartar's robe or gown of sheep-skins, and a bonnet, with a bow and arrows, and had provided the same for himself and his countryman, that the people, if they saw us, should not be able to determine who we were.

All the first night we spent in mixing up some combustible matter with aqua-vitæ, gunpowder, and such other materials as we could get; and, having a good quantity of tar in a little pot, about an hour after night we set out upon our expedition.

We came to the place about eleven o'clock at night, and found that the people had not the least jealousy of danger attending their idol. The night was cloudy, yet the moon gave us light enough to see that the idol stood just in the same posture and place that it did before. The people seemed to be all at their rest; only, that in the great hut or tent, as we called it, where we saw the three priests, whom we mistook for butchers, we saw a light, and going up close to the door, we heard people talking, as if there were five or six of them; we concluded therefore, that if we set wildfire to the idol, these men would come out immediately, and run up to the place to rescue it from the destruction that we intended for it; and what to do with them we knew not. Once we thought of carrying it away, and setting fire to it at a distance; but when we came to handle it, we found it too bulky for our carriage;



fo we were at a loss again. The second Scotsman was for setting fire to the tent or hut, and knocking the creatures that were there on the head when they came out: but I could not join with that; I was against killing them, if it was possible to be avoided. 'Well then,' said the Scots merchant, 'I will tell you what we will do; we will try to take them prisoners, tie their hands, and make them stand and see their idol destroyed.'

As it happened, we had twine or packthread enough about us, which we used to tie our fire-works together with; so we resolved to attack these people first, and with as little noise as we could. The first thing we did, we knocked at the door; when one of the priests coming to the door, we immediately seized upon him, stopped his mouth, and tied his hands behind him, and led him to the idol, where we gagged him, that he might not make a noise; tied his feet also together, and left him on the ground.

Two of us then waited at the door, expecting that another would come out to see what the matter was; but we waited so long till the third man came back to us; and then, nobody coming out, we knocked again gently, and immediately out came two more, and we served them just in the same manner, but were obliged to go all with them, and lay them down by the idol some distance from one another; when, going back, we found two more were come out to the door, and a third stood behind them within the door. We seized the two, and immediately tied them, when the third stepping back and crying out, my Scots merchant went in after him, and taking out a composition we had made, that would only smok and stink, he set fire to it, and threw it in among them; by that time the other Scotsman and my man taking charge of the two men already bound, and tied together also by the arm, led them away to the idol, and left them there, to see if their idol would relieve them, making haste back to us.

When the furze we had thrown in had filled the hut with so much smoke that they were almost suffocated, we then threw in a small leather bag of another kind, which flamed like a candle, and following it in, we found

there were but four people left, who, it seems were two men and two women, and as we supposed had been about some of their diabolical sacrifices. They appeared, in short, frightened to death, at least so as to sit trembling and stupid, and not able to speak neither for the smoke.

In a word, we took them, bound them as we had the other, and all without any noise. I should have said, we brought them out of the house or hut first; for indeed we were not able to bear the smoke any more than they were. When we had done this, we carried them all together to the idol. When we came there, we fell to work with him; and first we daubed him all over, and his robes also, with tar and such other stuff as we had, which was tallow mixed with brimstone; then we stopped his eyes, and ears, and mouth full of gunpowder; then we wrapped up a great piece of wildfire in his bonnet; and then sticking all the combustibles we had brought with us upon him, we looked about to see if we could find any thing else to help to burn him; when my Scotsman remembered, that by the tent or hut where the men were, there lay a heap of dry forage, whether straw or rushes I do not remember; away he and the other Scotsman ran and fetched their arms full of that. When we had done this, we took all our prisoners, and brought them, having untied their feet, and un gagged their mouths, and made them stand up, and set them just before their monstrous idol, and then set fire to the whole.

We stayed by it a quarter of an hour, or thereabouts, till the powder in the eyes, and mouth and ears of the idol blew up, and, as we could perceive, had split and deformed the shape of it; and, in a word, till we saw it burn into a mere block or log of wood; and then setting the dry forage to it, we found it would be soon quite consumed, so we began to think of going away; but the Scotsman said, 'No, we must not go; for these poor deluded wretches will all throw themselves into the fire, and burn themselves with the idol.' So we resolved to stay till the forage was burnt down too, and then we came away and left them.

In the morning we appeared among  
our

our fellow-travellers, exceeding busy in getting ready for our journey; nor could any man suggest that we had been any where but in our beds, as travellers might be supposed to be, to fit themselves for the fatigues of that day's journey.

But it did not end so; for the next day came a great multitude of the country-people, not only of this village, but of a hundred more, for aught I know, to the town-gates; and in a most outrageous manner, demanded satisfaction of the Russian governor, for the insulting their priests, and burning their great Cham-Chi-Thaungu; such an hard name they gave the monstrous creature they worshipped. The people of Nertzinskay were at first in a great consternation; for they said the Tartars were no less than thirty-thousand, and that in a few days more they would be one hundred thousand strong.

The Russian governor sent out messengers to appease them, and gave them all the good words imaginable. He assured them he knew nothing of it, and that there had not a soul of his garrison been abroad; that it could not be from anybody there; and if they would let him know who it was, they should be exemplarily punished. They returned, haughtily, that all the country revered the great Cham-Chi-Thaungu, who dwelt in the sun, and no mortal would have dared to offer violence to his image but some Christian miscreant; so they called them, it seems; and they therefore denounced war against him, and all the Russians who they said were miscreants and Christians.

The governor, still patient, and unwilling to make a breach, or to have any cause of war alledged to be given by him, the czar having straightly charged him to treat the conquered country with gentleness and civility, gave them still all the good words he could; at last he told them, there was a caravan gone towards Russia that morning, and perhaps it was some of them, who had done them this injury; and that, if they would be satisfied with that, he would send after them to enquire into it. This seemed to appease them a little; and accordingly the governor sent after us, and gave us a particular account how the thing was; intimating withal, that if any in our caravan had done it, they should make their escape; but that,

whether they had done it or no, we should make all the haste forward that was possible; and that, in the mean time, he would keep them in play as long as he could.

This was very friendly in the governor. However, when it came to the caravan, there was nobody knew any thing of the matter; and, as for us that were guilty, we were the least of all suspected; none so much as asked us a question: however, the captain of the caravan, for the time, took the hint that the governor gave us, and we marched or travelled two days and two nights without any considerable stop, and then we lay at a village called Plothus; nor did we make any long stop here, but hastened on towards Jarawena, another of the Czar of Muscovy's colonies, and where we expected we should be safe. But it is to be observed, that here we began, for two or three days march, to enter upon a vast nameless desert, of which I shall say more in it's place; and which, if we had now been upon it, it is more than probable we had been all destroyed. It was the second day's march from Plothus, that, by the clouds of dust behind us at a great distance, some of our people began to be sensible we were pursued. We had entered the desert, and had passed by a great lake called Schanks Olier, when we perceived a very great body of horse appear on the other side of the lake to the north, we travelling west. We observed they went away west, as we did; but had supposed we should have taken that side of the lake, whereas we very happily took the south side, and in two days more we saw them not, for they, believing we were still before them, pushed on, till they came to the river Udda. This is a very great river when it passes farther north; but when we came to it, we found it narrow and fordable.

The third day they either found their mistake, or had intelligence of us, and came pouring in upon us towards the dusk of the evening. We had, to our great satisfaction, just pitched upon a place for our camp, which was very convenient for the night; for as we were upon a desert, though but at the beginning of it, that was above five hundred miles over, we had no towns to lodge at, and indeed expected none but the city Jarawena, which we had

yet



yet two days march to. The desert, however, had some few woods in it on this side, and little rivers, which ran all into the great river Udda. It was in a narrow strait between two small but very thick woods, that we pitched our little camp for that night, expecting to be attacked in the night.

Nobody knew, but ourselves, what we were pursued for; but as it was usual for the Mogul Tartars to go about in troops in that desert, so the caravans always fortify themselves every night against them, as against armies of robbers; and it was therefore no new thing to be pursued.

But we had this night, of all the nights of our travels, a most advantageous camp; for we lay between two woods, with a little rivulet running just before our front; so that we could not be surrounded or attacked any way, but in our front or rear: we took care also to make our front as strong as we could, by placing our packs, with our camels and horses, all in a line on the inside of the river, and we felled some trees in our rear.

In this posture we encamped for the night; but the enemy was upon us before we had finished our situation: they did not come on us like thieves, as we expected, but sent three messengers to us, to demand the men to be delivered to them, that had abused their priest and burnt their god Cham-Chi-Thaungu, that they might burn them with fire; and, upon this, they said they would go away, and do us no farther harm, otherwise they would burn us all with fire. Our men looked very blank at this message, and began to stare at one another, to see who looked with most guilt in their faces; but nobody was the word; nobody did it. The leader of the caravan sent word, he was well assured it was not done by any of our camp; that we were peaceable merchants travelling on our business; that we had done no harm to them, or to any one else; and therefore they must look farther for their enemies who had injured them, for we were not the people: so desired them not to disturb us; for if they did, we should defend ourselves.

They were far from being satisfied with this for an answer, and a great crowd of them came down in the morning, by break of day, to our

camp; but, seeing us in such an advantageous situation, they durst come no farther than the brook in our front, where they stood, and shewed us such a number, as, indeed, terrified us very much; for those that spoke least of them, spoke of ten thousand. Here they stood, and looked at us a while, and then setting up a great howl, they let fly a cloud of arrows among us; but we were well enough fortified for that, for we were sheltered under our baggage; and I do not remember that one man of us was hurt.

Some time after this, we saw them move a little to our right, and expected them on the rear, when a cunning fellow, a Cossack, as they call them, of Jarawena, in the pay of the Muscovites, calling to the leader of the caravan, said to him, 'I will go send all these people away to Sibeilka.' This was a city four or five days journey, at least, to the south, and rather behind us. So he takes his bow and arrows; and, getting on horseback, he rides away from our rear directly, as it were, back to Nertzinkay; after this, he takes a great circuit about, and comes to the army of the Tartars, as if he had been sent express to tell them a long story, that the people who had burnt their Cham-Chi-Thaungu were gone to Sibeilka with a caravan of miscreants, as he called them; that is to say, Christians; and that they were resolved to burn the god Scal-Iaar belonging to the Tonguses.

As this fellow was a mere Tartar, and perfectly spoke their language, he counterfeited so well, that they all took it from him, and away they drove in a most violent hurry to Sibeilka, which it seems was five days journey to the south, and in less than three hours they were entirely out of our sight, and we never heard any more of them, nor ever knew whether they went to that other place called Sibeilka or not.

So we passed safely on to the city of Jarawena, where there was a garrison of Muscovites; and there we rested five days, the caravan being exceedingly fatigued with the last day's march, and with want of rest in the night.

From this city we had a frightful desert, which held us three and twenty days march. We furnished ourselves

with some tents here, for the better accommodating ourselves in the night; and the leader of the caravan procured sixteen carriages, or waggons, of the country, for carrying our water and provisions; and these carriages were our defence every night round our little camp; so that had the Tartars appeared, unless they had been very numerous indeed, they would not have been able to hurt us.

We may well be supposed to want rest again after this long journey; for in this desert we saw neither house nor tree, nor scarce a bush; we saw, indeed, abundance of the sable-hunters, as they called them: these are all Tartars of the Mogul Tartary, of which this country is a part, and they frequently attack small caravans; but we saw no numbers of them together. I was curious to see the sable-skins they catch; but I could never speak with any of them; for they durst not come near us, neither durst we straggle from our company to go near them.

After we had passed this desert, we came into a country pretty well inhabited; that is to say, we found towns and castles settled by the Czar of Muscovy, with garrisons of stationary soldiers to protect the caravans, and defend the country against the Tartars, who would otherwise make it very dangerous travelling; and his czarish majesty has given such strict orders for the well guarding the caravans and merchants, that if there are any Tartars heard of in the country, detachments of the garrison are always sent to see travellers safe from station to station.

And thus the governor of Adinskoy, whom I had an opportunity to make a visit to, by means of the Scotch merchant who was acquainted with him, offered us a guard of fifty men, if we thought there was any danger, to the next station.

I thought, long before this, that as we came nearer to Europe we should find the country better peopled, and the people more civilized; but I found myself mistaken in both, for we had yet the nation of the Tonguses to pass through, where we saw the same tokens of paganism and barbarity, or worse, than before; only as they were conquered by the Muscovites, and entirely reduced, they were not so dangerous; but for the rudeness of man-

ners, idolatry, and polytheism, no people in the world ever went beyond them. They are clothed all in skins of beasts, and their houses are built of the same. You know not a man from a woman, neither by the ruggedness of their countenances, or their cloaths; and in the winter, when the ground is covered with snow, they live under ground in houses like vaults, which have cavities or caves going from one to another.

If the Tartars had their Cham-Chi-Thaungu for a whole village or country, these had idols in every hut and every cave; besides, they worship the stars, the sun, the water, the snow; and, in a word, every thing that they do not understand, and they understand but very little; so that almost every element, every uncommon thing, sets them a sacrificing.

But I am no more to describe people than countries, any farther than my own story comes to be concerned in them. I met with nothing peculiar to myself in all this country, which I reckon was from the desert which I spoke of last at least four hundred miles, half of it being another desert, which took us up twelve days severe travelling, without house, tree, or bush; but we were obliged again to carry our own provisions, as well water as bread. After we were out of this desert, and had travelled two days, we came to Janeyay, a Muscovite city or station, on the great River Janeyay. This river, they told us, parted Europe from Asia, though our map-makers, as I am told, do not agree to it; however, it is certainly the eastern boundary of the ancient Siberia, which now makes a province only of the vast Muscovite empire, but is itself equal in bigness to the whole empire of Germany.

And yet here I observed ignorance and paganism still prevailed, except in the Muscovite garrisons. All the country between the River Oby and the River Janeyay is as entirely Pagans, and the people as barbarous, as the remotest of the Tartars; nay, as any nation, for aught I know, in Asia or America. I also found, which I observed to the Muscovite governors whom I had opportunity to converse with, that the Pagans are not much the wiser, or the nearer Christianity, for being under the Muscovite govern-



ment; which they acknowledged was true enough; but they said it was none of their business; that if the czar expected to convert his Siberian, or Tonguese, or Tartar subjects, it should be done by sending clergymen among them, not soldiers; and they added, with more sincerity than I expected, that they found it was not so much the concern of their monarch to make the people Christians, as it was to make them subjects.

From this river to the great River Oby, we crossed a wild uncultivated country; I cannot say it is a barbarous soil, it is only barren of people and good management, otherwise it is in itself a most pleasant, fruitful, and agreeable country. What inhabitants we found in it are all Pagans, except such as are sent among them from Russia; for this is the country, I mean on both sides the River Oby, whither the Muscovite criminals that are not put to death are banished, and from whence it is next to impossible they should ever come away.

I have nothing material to say of my particular affairs, till I came to Tobolski, the capital of Siberia, where I continued some time on the following occasion.

We had been now almost seven months on our journey, and winter began to come on apace; whereupon my partner and I called a council about our particular affairs, in which we found it proper, considering that we were bound for England, and not for Moscow, to consider how to dispose of ourselves. They told us of sledges and rein-deer to carry us over the snow in the winter-time; and, indeed, they have such things as it would be incredible to relate the particulars of, by which means the Russians travel more in the winter than they can in summer; because in these sledges they are able to run night and day: the snow being frozen, is one universal covering to nature, by which the hills, the vales, the rivers, the lakes, are all smooth, and hard as a stone; and they run upon the surface without any regard to what is underneath.

But I had no occasion to push at a winter journey of this kind; I was bound to England, not to Moscow, and my route lay two ways; either I must go on as the caravan went till I

came to Jarislaw, and then go off west for Narva and the gulph of Finland, and so either by sea or land to Dantzick, where I might possibly sell my China cargo to good advantage; or I must leave the caravan at a little town on the Dwina, from whence I had but six days by water to Archangel, and from thence might be sure of shipping, either to England, Holland, or Ham-  
burgh.

Now, to go any of these journies in the winter would have been preposterous; for as to Dantzick, the Baltick would be frozen up, and I could not get passage; and to go by land in those countries was far less safe than among the Mogul Tartars; likewise to Archangel in October, all the ships would be gone from thence, and even the merchants who dwell there in summer, retire south to Moscow in the winter, when the ships are gone; so that I should have nothing but extremity of cold to encounter with, with a scarcity of provisions, and must lie there in an empty town all the winter. So that upon the whole I thought it much my better way to let the caravan go, and to make provision to winter where I was; viz. at Tobolski, in Siberia, in the latitude of 60 degrees, where I was sure of three things to wear out a cold winter with; viz. plenty of provisions, such as the country afforded, a warm house, with fuel enough, and excellent company; of all which I shall give a full account in it's place.

I was now in a quite different climate from my beloved island, where I never felt cold, except when I had my ague; on the contrary, I had much to do to bear my cloaths on my back, and never made any fire but without doors, and my necessity, in dressing my food, &c. Now I made me three good vests, with large robes or gowns over them to hang down to the feet, and button close to the wrists, and all these lined with furs, to make them sufficiently warm.

As to a warm house, I must confess I greatly dislike our way in England, of making fires in every room in the house in open chimneys, which, when the fire was out, always kept the air in the room cold as the climate. But taking an apartment in a good house in the town, I ordered a chimney to be built like a furnace in the centre of

six

six several rooms, like a stove; the funnel to carry the smoke went up one way, the door to come at the fire went in another, and all the rooms were kept equally warm, but no fire seen; like as they heat the bagnios in England.

By this means we had always the same climate in all the rooms, and an equal heat was preserved; and how cold soever it was without, it was always warm within; and yet we saw no fire, nor were ever incommoded with any smoke.

The most wonderful thing of all was, that it should be possible to meet with good company here, in a country so barbarous as that of the most northerly parts of Europe, near the Frozen Ocean, and within but a very few degrees of Nova Zembla.

But this being the country where the state criminals of Muscovy, as I observed before, are all banished, this city was full of noblemen, princes, gentlemen, colonels, and in short, all degrees of the nobility, gentry, soldiery, and courtiers of Muscovy. Here were the famous Prince Galilfen, or Galoffken, and his son; the old general Robostisky, and several other persons of note, and some ladies.

By means of my Scotch merchant, whom, nevertheless, I parted with here, I made an acquaintance with several of these gentlemen, and some of them of the first rank; and from these, in the long winter nights in which I stayed here, I received several agreeable visits. It was talking one night with a certain prince, one of the banished ministers of state belonging to the Czar of Muscovy, that my talk of my particular case began. He had been telling me abundance of fine things, of the greatness, the magnificence, and dominions, and the absolute power of the Emperor of the Russians. I interrupted him, and told him, I was a greater and more powerful prince than ever the Czar of Muscovy was, though my dominions were not so large, or my people so many. The Russian grandee looked a little surprized; and, fixing his eyes steadily upon me, began to wonder what I meant.

I told him, his wonder would cease when I had explained myself. First, I told him, I had the absolute disposal of the lives and fortunes of all my

subjects: that notwithstanding my absolute power, I had not one person disaffected to my government or to my person in all my dominions. He shook his head at that, and said, there, indeed, I out-did the Czar of Muscovy. I told him, that all the lands in my kingdom were my own, and all my subjects were not only my tenants, but tenants at will: that they would all fight for me to the last drop; and that never tyrant, for such I acknowledged myself to be, was ever so universally beloved, and yet so horribly feared, by his subjects.

After amusing them with these riddles in government for a while, I opened the case, and told them the story at large, of my living in the island, and how I managed both myself and the people there that were under me, just as I have since minuted it down. They were exceedingly taken with the story, and especially the prince, who told me with a sigh, that the true greatness of life was to be master of ourselves; that he would not have exchanged such a state of life as mine to have been Czar of Muscovy; and that he found more felicity in the retirement he seemed to be banished to there, than ever he found in the highest authority he enjoyed in the court of his master the czar: that the height of human wisdom was to bring our tempers down to our circumstances, and to make a calm within, under the weight of the greatest storm without. When he came first hither, he said, he used to tear the hair from his head, and the cloaths from his back, as others had done before him; but a little time and consideration had made him look into himself, as well as round himself, to things without. That he found the mind of man, if it was but once brought to reflect upon the state of universal life, and how little this world was concerned in it's true felicity, was perfectly capable of making a felicity for itself, fully satisfying to itself, and suitable to it's own best ends and desires, with but very little assistance from the world. That air to breathe in, food to sustain life, cloaths for warmth, and liberty for exercise, in order to health, compleated, in his opinion, all that the world could do for us; and though the greatness, the authority, the riches, and the pleasures,



which some enjoyed in the world, and which he had enjoyed his share of, had much in them that was agreeable to us, yet he observed, that all those things chiefly gratified the coarsest of our affections; such as our ambition, our particular pride, our avarice, our vanity, and our sensuality, (all which were, indeed, the mere product of the worst part of man) were in themselves crimes, and had in them the seeds of all manner of crimes; but neither were related to, or concerned with, any of those virtues that constituted us wise men, or of those graces which distinguished us as Christians. That being now deprived of all the fancied felicity, which he enjoyed in the full exercise of all those vices, he said, he was at leisure to look upon the dark side of them, where he found all manner of deformity; and was now convinced, that virtue only makes a man truly wise, rich, and great, and preserves him in the way to a superior happiness in a future state; and in this, he said, they were more happy in their banishment than all their enemies were, who had the full possession of all the wealth and power that they (the banished) had left behind him.

'Nor, Sir,' said he, 'do I bring my mind to this politically, by the necessity of my circumstances, which some call miserable; but if I know any thing of myself, I would not go back, no, not though my master, the czar, should call me, and offer to reinstate me in all my former grandeur; I say, I would no more go back to it, than I believe my soul, when it shall be delivered from this prison of the body, and has had a taste of the glorious state beyond life, would come back to the gaol of flesh and blood it is now inclosed in, and leave Heaven to deal in the dirt and grime of human affairs.'

He spake this with so much warmth in his temper, so much earnestness and motion of his spirits, which were apparent in his countenance, that it was evident it was the true sense of his soul. And, indeed, there was no room to doubt his sincerity.

I told him, I once thought myself a kind of a monarch in my old station, of which I had given him an account, but that I thought he was not a monarch enjoy, but a great conqueror;

for that he that has got a victory over his own exorbitant desires, and has the absolute dominion over himself, and whose reason entirely governs his will, is certainly greater than he that conquers a city. 'But, my lord,' said I, 'shall I take the liberty to ask you a question?'—'With all my heart,' said he. 'If the door of your liberty was opened,' said I, 'would not you take hold of it to deliver yourself from this exile?'

'Hold!' said he; 'your question is subtle, and requires some serious just distinctions, to give it a sincere answer; and I will give it you from the bottom of my heart. Nothing that I know of in this world would move me to deliver myself from this state of banishment, except these two: first, The enjoyment of my relations; and, 2dly, A little warmer climate. But I protest to you, that to go back to the pomp of the court, the glory, the power, the hurry of a minister of state; the wealth, the gaiety, and the pleasures, that is to say, follies of a courtier; if my master should send me word this moment, that he restores me to all he banished me from, I protest, if I know myself at all, I would not leave this wilderness, these deserts, and these frozen lakes, for the palace of Moscow.'

'But, my lord,' said I, 'perhaps you not only are banished from the pleasures of the court, and from the power, and authority, and wealth, you enjoyed before, but you may be absent too from some of the conveniences of life; your estate, perhaps, confiscated, and your effects plundered; and the supplies left you here may not be suitable to the ordinary demands of life.'

'Aye,' said he, 'that is as you suppose me to be a lord, or a prince, &c. So, indeed, I am; but you are now to consider me only as a man, a human creature, not at all distinguished from another; and so I can suffer no want, unless I should be visited with sickness and distempers. However, to put the question out of dispute; you see our manner: we are in this place five persons of rank; we live perfectly retired, as suited to a state of banishment; we have something rescued from the shipwreck

wreck of our fortunes, which keeps us from the mere necessity of hunting for our food; but the poor soldiers who are here, without that help, live in as much plenty as we. They go into the woods, and catch fables and foxes; the labour of a month will maintain them a year; and as the way of living is not expensive, so it is not hard to get sufficient to ourselves. So that objection is out of doors.'

I have not room to give a full account of the most agreeable conversation I had with this truly great man; in all which he shewed that his mind was so inspired with a superior knowledge of things, so supported by religion, as well as by a vast share of wisdom, that his contempt of the world was really as much as he had expressed, and that he was always the same to the last; as will appear in the story I am going to tell.

I had been here eight months, and a dark, dreadful, winter I thought it to be; the cold was so intense, that I could not so much as look abroad, without being wrapped in furs, and a mask of fur before my face, or rather a hood, with only a hole for breath, and two for sight. The little daylight we had was, as we reckoned, for three months, not above five hours a day, and six at most; only that the snow lying on the ground continually, and the weather clear, it was never quite dark. Our horses were kept (or rather starved) under ground; and, as for our servants (for we hired servants here to look after our horses and selyes) we had every now and then their fingers and toes to thaw and take care of, lest they should mortify and fall off.

It is true, within doors we were warm, the houses being close, the walls thick, the lights small, and the glass all double. Our food was chiefly the flesh of deer, dried and cured in the season; good bread enough, but baked as biscuits; dried fish of several sorts, and some flesh of mutton, and of buffaloes, which is pretty good beef. All the stores of provisions for the winter are laid up in the summer, and well cured: our drink was water mixed with *aqua vite* instead of brandy; and, for a treat, mead instead of wine; which, however, they have excellent good. The hunters, who venture abroad all weathers, fre-

quently brought us in fresh venison, very fat and good; and sometimes bears flesh, but we did not much care for the last. We had a good stock of tea, with which we treated our friends as above; and, in a word, we lived very cheerfully and well, all things considered.

It was now March, and the days grown considerably longer, and the weather at least tolerable; so other travellers began to prepare sledges to carry them over the snow, and to get things ready to be going; but my measures being fixed, as I said, for Archangel, and not for Muscovy or the Baltic, I made no motion, knowing very well, that the ships from the south do not set out for that part of the world till May or June; and that if I was there at the beginning of August, it would be as soon as any ships would be ready to go away; and therefore, I say, I made no haste to be gone, as others did: in a word, I saw a great many people; nay, all the travellers, go away before me. It seems, every year they go from thence to Moscow for trade; viz. to carry furs, and buy necessaries with them, which they bring back to furnish their shops: also others went on the same errand to Archangel; but then they also, being to come back again above eight hundred miles, went all out before me.

In short, about the latter end of May, I began to make all ready to pack up; and as I was doing this, it occurred to me, that seeing all these people were banished by the Czar of Muscovy to Siberia, and yet, when they came there, were at liberty to go whither they would; why did they not then go away to any part of the world wherever they thought fit. And I began to examine what should hinder them from making such an attempt.

But my wonder was over, when I entered upon that subject with the person I have mentioned, who answered me thus: 'Consider, first, Sir,' said he, 'the place where we are; and, secondly, the condition we are in; especially the generality of the people who are banished hither. We are surrounded,' said he, 'with stronger things than bars and bolts; on the north side is an unnavigable ocean, where ship never failed, and boat never swam; neither, if we had both, could



' could we know whither to go with them. Every other way,' said he, ' we have above a thousand miles to pass through the czar's own dominions, and by ways utterly impassable, except by the roads made by the government, and through the towns garrisoned by his troops; so that we could neither pass undiscovered by the road, or subsist any other way; so that it is in vain to attempt it.'

I was silenced, indeed, at once, and found that they were in a prison, every jot as secure as if they had been locked up in the castle of Moscow: however, it came into my thoughts, that I might certainly be made an instrument to procure the escape of this excellent person, and that it was very easy for me to carry him away, there being no guard over him in the country; and as I was not going to Moscow, but to Archangel, and that I went in the nature of a caravan, by which I was not obliged to lie in the stationary towns in the desert, but could encamp every night where I would, we might easily pass uninterrupted to Archangel, where I could immediately secure him on board an English or Dutch ship, and carry him off safe along with me; and, as to his subsistence, and other particulars, that should be my care, till he should better supply himself.

He heard me very attentively, and looked earnestly on me all the while I spoke; nay, I could see in his very face, that what I said put his spirits into an exceeding ferment; his colour frequently changed, his eyes looked red, and his heart fluttered, that it might be even perceived in his countenance; nor could he immediately answer me when I had done, and, as it were, expected what he would say to it; and after he had paused a little, he embraced me, and said, ' How unhappy are we! unguided creatures as we are, that even our greatest acts of friendship are made snares to us, and we are made tempters of one another! My dear friend,' said he, ' your offer is so sincere, has such kindness in it, is so disinterested in itself, and is so calculated for my advantage, that I must have very little knowledge of the world, if I did not both wonder at it, and acknowledge the obligation I have upon me to you for it. But did you believe I was

' sincere in what I have so often said to you of my contempt of the world? Did you believe I spoke my very soul to you, and that I had really maintained that degree of felicity here, that had placed me above all that the world could give me, or do for me? Did you believe I was sincere, when I told you I would not go back, if I was recalled even to be all that once I was in the court, and with the favour of the czar my master? Did you believe me, my friend, to be an honest man, or did you think me to be a boasting hypocrite? Here he stopped, as if he would hear what I would say; but, indeed, I soon after perceived, that he stopped because his spirits were in motion; his heart was full of struggles, and he could not go on. I was, I confess, astonished at the thing, as well as at the man and used some arguments with him to urge him to set himself free: that he ought to look upon this as a door opened by Heaven for his deliverance, and a summons by Providence, who has the care and good disposition of all events, to do himself good, and to render himself useful in the world.

He had by this time recovered himself. ' How do you know, Sir,' said he, warmly, ' but that instead of a summons from Heaven, it may be a feint of another instrument, representing, in all the alluring colours, to me, the shew of felicity as a deliverance, which may in itself be my snare, and tend directly to my ruin? Here I am free from the temptation of returning to my former miserable greatness; there I am not sure, but that all the seeds of pride, ambition, avarice, and luxury, which I know remain in my nature, may revive and take root, and, in a word, again overwhelm me; and then the happy prisoner, whom you see now master of his soul's liberty, shall be the miserable slave of his own senses, in the full of all personal liberty. Dear Sir, let me remain in this blessed confinement, banished from the crimes of life, rather than purchase a shew of freedom, at the expence of the liberty of my reason, and at the expence of the future happiness which now I have in my view, but shall then, I fear, quickly lose sight of: for

' for I am but flesh, a man, a mere man; have passions and affections as likely to possess and overthrow me as any man. O! be not my friend and my tempter both together!'

If I was surprized before, I was quite dumb now, and stood silent, looking at him; and, indeed, admired what I saw: the struggle in his soul was so great, that though the weather was extremely cold, it put him into a most violent sweat, and I found he wanted to give vent to his mind; so I said a word or two, that I would leave him to consider of it, and wait on him again; and then I withdrew to my own apartment.

About two hours after, I heard somebody at or near the door of the room, and I was going to open the door; but he had opened it, and came in. ' My dear friend,' said he, ' you had almost overset me, but I am recovered. Do not take it ill that I do not close with your offer; I assure you, it is not for want of a sense of the kindness of it in you; and I came to make the most sincere acknowledgment of it to you; but, I hope, I have got the victory over myself.'

' My lord,' said I, ' I hope you are fully satisfied, that you did not resist the call of Heaven.'—' Sir,' said he, ' if it had been from Heaven, the same Power would have influenced me to accept it; but, I hope, and am fully satisfied, that it is from Heaven that I decline it; and I have an infinite satisfaction in the parting, that you shall leave me an honest man still, though not a free man.'

I had nothing to do but to acquiesce, and make profession to him of my having no end in it, but a sincere desire to serve him. He embraced me very passionately, and assured me, he was sensible of that, and should always acknowledge it; and with that he offered me a very fine present of fables; too much, indeed, for me to accept from a man in his circumstances; and I would have avoided them, but he would not be refused.

The next morning I sent my servant to his lordship with a small present of tea, two pieces of China damask, and four little wedges of Japan gold, which did not all weigh above six ounces, or thereabouts; but were far short of the value of his fables: which, indeed,

when I came to England, I found worth near two hundred pounds. He accepted the tea, and one piece of the damask, and one of the pieces of gold, which had a fine stamp upon it of the Japan coinage, which I found he took for the rarity of it, but would not take any more; and sent word by my servant, that he desired to speak with me.

When I came to him, he told me, I knew what had passed between us, and hoped I would not move him any more in that affair; but that, since I made such a generous offer to him, he asked me, if I had kindness enough to offer the same to another person that he would name to me, in whom he had a great share of concern. I told him, that I could not say I inclined to do so much for any one but himself, for whom I had a particular value, and should have been glad to have been the instrument of his deliverance; however, if he would please to name the person to me, I would give him my answer, and hoped he would not be displeased with me, if he was with my answer. He told me, it was only his son, who, though I had not seen, yet was in the same condition with himself, and above two hundred miles from him, on the other side the Oby; but that, if I consented, he would send for him.

I made no hesitation, but told him I would do it. I made some ceremony in letting him understand, that it was wholly on his account; and that seeing I could not prevail on him, I would shew my respect to him, by my concern for his son. But these things are too tedious to repeat here. He sent away the next day for his son, and in about twenty days he came back with the messenger, bringing six or seven horses, loaded with very rich furs, and which, in the whole, amounted to a very great value.

His servants brought the horses into the town, but left the young lord at a distance till night, when he came incognito into our apartment, and his father presented him to me; and, in short, we concerted there the manner of our travelling, and every thing proper for the journey.

I had bought a considerable quantity of fables, black fox-skins, fine ermines, and such other furs as are very rich; I say, I had bought them in that city



for exchange for some of the goods brought from China; in particular, for the cloves and nutmegs, of which I sold the greatest part here, and the rest afterwards at Archangel, for a much better price than I could have done at London; and my partner, who was sensible of the profit, and whose business more particularly than mine was merchandize, was mightily pleased with our stay, on account of the traffick we made here.

It was in the beginning of June, when I left this remote place, a city, I believe, little heard of in the world; and indeed it is so far out of the road of commerce, that I know not how it should be much talked of. We were now come to a very small caravan, being only thirty-two horses and camels in all, and all of them passed for mine, though my new guest was proprietor of eleven of them. It was most natural also, that I should take more servants with me than I had before, and the young lord passed for my steward; what great man I passed for myself, I know not, neither did it concern me to enquire. We had here the worst and the largest desert to pass over that we met with in all the journey; indeed I call it the worst, because the way was very deep in some places, and very uneven in others: the best we had to say for it was, that we thought we had no troops of Tartars and robbers to fear, and that they never came on this side the River Oby, or at least but very seldom; but we found it otherwise.

My young lord had with him a faithful Muscovite servant, or rather a Siberian servant, who was perfectly acquainted with the country; and who led us by private roads, that we avoided coming into the principal towns and cities upon the great road, such as Tumen, Soloy-Kamokoy, and several others; because the Muscovite garrisons which are kept there, are very curious and strict in their observations upon travellers, and searching lest any of the banished persons of note should make their escape that way into Muscovy. But by this means, as we were kept out of the cities, so our whole journey was a desert, and we were obliged to encamp and lie in our tents, when we might have had good accommodation in the cities on the way. This the young lord was so sensible of,

that he would not allow us to lie abroad, when we came to several cities on the way; but lay abroad himself, with his servant, in the woods, and met us always at the appointed places.

We were just entered Europe, having passed the river Kama, which, in these parts, is the boundary between Europe and Asia; and the first city on the European side was called Soloy-Kamokoy, which is as much as to say, the great city on the River Kama; and here we thought to have seen some evident alteration in the people, their manners, their habit, their religion, and their business; but we were mistaken; for as we had a vast desert to pass, which, by relation, is near seven hundred miles long in some places, but not above two hundred miles over where we passed it; so, till we came past that horrible place, we found very little difference between that country and the Mogul Tartary; the people mostly Pagans, and little better than the savages of America; their houses and towns full of idols, and their way of living wholly barbarous, except in the cities, as above, and the villages near them, where they are Christians, as they call themselves; of the Greek church; but even these have their religion mingled with so many reliques of superstition, that it is scarce to be known in some places from mere sorcery and witchcraft.

In passing this forest, I thought, indeed, we must, after all our dangers were, in our imagination, escaped, as before, have been plundered and robbed, and perhaps murdered, by a troop of thieves; of what country they were, whether the roving bands of the Ostiachi, a kind of Tartars, or wild people on the banks of the Oby, had ranged thus far, or whether they were the sables-hunters of Siberia, I am yet at a loss to know; but they were all on horseback, carried bows and arrows, and were at first about five and forty in number. They came so near to us, as within about two musquet-shot; and, asking no questions, they surrounded us with their horse, and looked very earnestly upon us twice: at length they placed themselves just in our way; upon which we drew up in a little line before our camels, being not above sixteen men in all; and being drawn up thus, we halted, and sent out the  
Siberian

Siberian servant who attended his lord, to see who they were. His master was the more willing to let him go, because he was not a little apprehensive that they were a Siberian troop sent out after him. The man came up near them with a flag of truce, and called to them; but though he spoke several of their languages, or dialects of languages rather, he could not understand a word they said; however, after some signs to him, not to come nearer to them at his peril; so he said he understood them to mean, offering to shoot at him if he advanced; the fellow came back no wiser than he went, only that by their dress, he said, he believed them to be some Tartars of Kalmuck, or of the Circassian hords; and that there must be more of them on the great desert, though he never heard that ever any of them were seen so far north before.

This was small comfort to us; however, we had no remedy. There was on our left-hand, at about a quarter of a mile's distance, a little grove or clump of trees, which stood close together, and very near the road. I immediately resolved we would advance to those trees, and fortify ourselves as well as we could there; for, first, I considered, that the trees would in a great measure cover us from their arrows; and, in the next place, they could not come to charge us in a body. It was, indeed, my old Portuguese pilot who proposed it; and who had this excellency attending him, namely, that he was always readiest and most apt to direct and encourage us in cases of the most danger. We advanced immediately with what speed we could, and gained that little wood; the Tartars or thieves, for we knew not what to call them, keeping their stand, and not attempting to hinder us. When we came thither, we found, to our great satisfaction, that it was a swampy, springy piece of ground; and, on the other side, a very great spring of water, which, running out in a little rill or brook, was a little farther joined by another of the like bigness, and was, in short, the head or source of a considerable river, called afterwards the Wirtska. The trees which grew about this spring, were not in all above two hundred, but were very large, and stood pretty thick; so that as soon as we got in, we saw ourselves per-

fectly safe from the enemy, unless they alighted and attacked us on foot.

But to make this more difficult, our Portuguese, with indefatigable application, cut down great arms of the trees, and laid them hanging, not cut quite off, from one tree to another; so that he made a continued fence, almost round us.

We staid here, waiting the motion of the enemy, some hours, without perceiving they made any offer to stir; when about two hours before night they came down directly upon us; and, though we had not perceived it, we found they had been joined by some more of the same, so that they were near fourscore horse, whereof, however, we fancied some were women. They came on till they were within half a shot of our little wood, when we fired one musquet without ball, and called to them in the Russian tongue to know what they wanted, and bid them keep off; but, as if they knew nothing of what we said, they came on with a double fury directly up to the wood-side, not imagining we were so barricadoed that they could not break in. Our old pilot was our captain, as well as he had been our engineer; and desired of us not to fire upon them till they came within pistol-shot, that we might be sure to kill; and that when we did fire, we should be sure to take good aim. We bade him give the word of command; which he delayed so long, that they were, some of them, within two pikes length of us when we fired.

We aimed so true (or Providence directed our shot so sure) that we killed fourteen of them at the first volley, and wounded several others, as also several of their horses; for we had all of us loaded our pieces with two or three bullets apiece at least.

They were terribly surprized with our fire, and retreated immediately about one hundred rods from us; in which time we loaded our pieces again; and, seeing them keep that distance, we sallied out, and caught four or five of their horses, whose riders, we supposed, were killed; and coming up to the dead, we could easily perceive they were Tartars, but knew not from what country, or how they came to make an excursion of such an unusual length.



About an hour after, they made a motion to attack us again, and rode round our little wood, to see where else they might break in; but finding us always ready to face them, they went off again, and we resolved not to stir from the place for that night.

We slept little, you may be sure; but spent the most part of the night in strengthening our situation, and barricadoing the entrances into the wood; and keeping a strict watch, we waited for day-light, and when it came, it gave us a very unwelcome discovery indeed; for the enemy, who we thought were discouraged with the reception they had met with, were now increased to no less than three hundred, and had set up eleven or twelve huts and tents, as if they were resolved to besiege us; and this little camp they had pitched was upon the open plain, at about three quarters of a mile from us. We were, indeed, surprized at this discovery; and now, I confess, I gave myself over for lost, and all that I had. The loss of my effects did not lie so near me (though they were very considerable) as the thoughts of falling into the hands of such barbarians at the latter end of my journey, after so many difficulties and hazards as I had gone through; and even in sight of our port, where we expected safety and deliverance. As for my partner, he was raging: he declared, that to lose his goods would be his ruin; and he would rather die than be starved; and he was for fighting to the last drop.

The young lord, as gallant as ever flesh shewed itself, was for fighting to the last drop also; and my old pilot was of the opinion we were able to resist them all, in the situation we then were in: and thus we spent the day in debates of what we should do. But, towards evening, we found that the number of our enemies still increased: perhaps, as they were abroad in several parties for prey, the first had sent out scouts to call for help, and to acquaint them of the booty; and we did not know but by the morning they might still be a greater number; so I began to enquire of those people we had brought from Tobolski, if there was no other, or more private ways, by which we might avoid them in the night, and perhaps either retreat to

some town, or get help to guard us over the desert.

The Siberian, who was servant to the young lord, told us, if we designed to avoid them, and not fight, he would engage to carry us off in the night to a way that went north towards the river Petraz, by which he made no question but we might get away, and the Tartars never the wiser; but he said, his lord had told him he would not return, but would rather chuse to fight. I told him, he mistook his lord; for that he was too wise a man to love fighting for the sake of it; that I knew his lord was brave enough, by what he had shewed already; but that his lord knew better than to desire to have seventeen or eighteen men fight five hundred, unless an unavoidable necessity forced them to it; and that if he thought it possible for us to escape in the night, we had nothing else to do but to attempt it. He answered, if his lord gave him such order, he would lose his life if he did not perform it. We soon brought his lord to give that order, though privately, and we immediately prepared for the putting it in practice.

And first, as soon as it began to be dark, we kindled a fire in our little camp, which we kept burning, and prepared so as to make it burn all night, that the Tartars might conclude we were still there; but as soon as it was dark, that is to say, so as we could see the stars, (for our guide would not stir before) having all our horses and camels ready loaden, we followed our new guide, who I soon found steered himself by the pole, or north-star, all the country being level for a long way.

After we had travelled two hours very hard, it began to be lighter still, not that it was quite dark all night, but the moon began to rise, so that in short it was rather lighter than we wished it to be; but by six o'clock next morning we were gotten near forty miles, though the truth is, we almost spoiled our horses. Here we found a Russian village, named Kirmazinskoy, where we rested, and heard nothing of the Calmuck Tartars that day. About two hours before night we set out again, and travelled till eight the next morning, though not quite so

hastily

hastily as before; and about seven o'clock we passed a little river called Kirtzo, and came to a good large town inhabited by Russians, and very populous, called Ozomys. There we heard that several troops or hords of Calmucks had been abroad upon the desert, but that we were now compleatly out of danger of them, which was to our great satisfaction you may be sure. Here we were obliged to get some fresh horses, and having need enough of rest, we staid five days; and my partner and I agreed to give the honest Siberian who brought us thither the value of ten pistoles for his conducting us.

In five days more we came to Veufima, upon the River Witzogda, which running into the River Dwina, we were there very happily near the end of our travels by land, that river being navigable in seven days passage to Archangel. From hence we came to Lawrenikoy, where the river joins, the 3d of July; and provided ourselves with two luggage boats and a barge for our convenience. We embarked the 7th, and arrived all safe at Archangel the 18th, having been a year, five months, and three days on the journey, including our stay of eight months and odd days at Tobolski.

We were obliged to stay at this place six weeks for the arrival of the ships, and must have tarried longer had not a Hamburger come in above a month sooner than any of the English ships; when, after some consideration that the city of Hamburg might happen to be as good a market for our goods as London, we all took freight with him; and having put our goods on board, it was most natural for me to put my steward on board to take care of them; by which means my young lord had a sufficient opportu-

nity to conceal himself, never coming on shore again, in all the time we staid there; and this he did that he might not be seen in the city, where some of the Moscow merchants would certainly have seen and discovered him.

We sailed from Archangel the 20th of August the same year; and, after no extraordinary bad voyage, arrived in the Elbe the 13th of September. Here my partner and I found a very good sale for our goods, as well those of China as the fables, &c. of Siberia; and dividing the produce of our effects, my share amounted to 3475 l. 17s. 3d. notwithstanding so many losses we had sustained, and charges we had been at; only remembering that I had included in this about six hundred pounds worth of diamonds which I had purchased at Bengal.

Here the young lord took his leave of us, and went up the Elbe, in order to go to the court of Vienna, where he resolved to seek protection, and where he could correspond with those of his father's friends who were left alive. He did not part without all the testimonies he could give of gratitude for the service I had done him, and his sense of my kindness to the prince his father.

To conclude, having staid near four months in Hamburg, I came from thence over land to the Hague, where I embarked in the packet, and arrived in London the 10th of January 1705, having been gone from England ten years and nine months.

And here, resolving to harass myself no more, I am preparing for a longer journey than all these, having lived seventy-two years a life of infinite variety, and learned sufficiently to know the value of retirement, and the blessing of ending our days in peace.

F I N I S.







