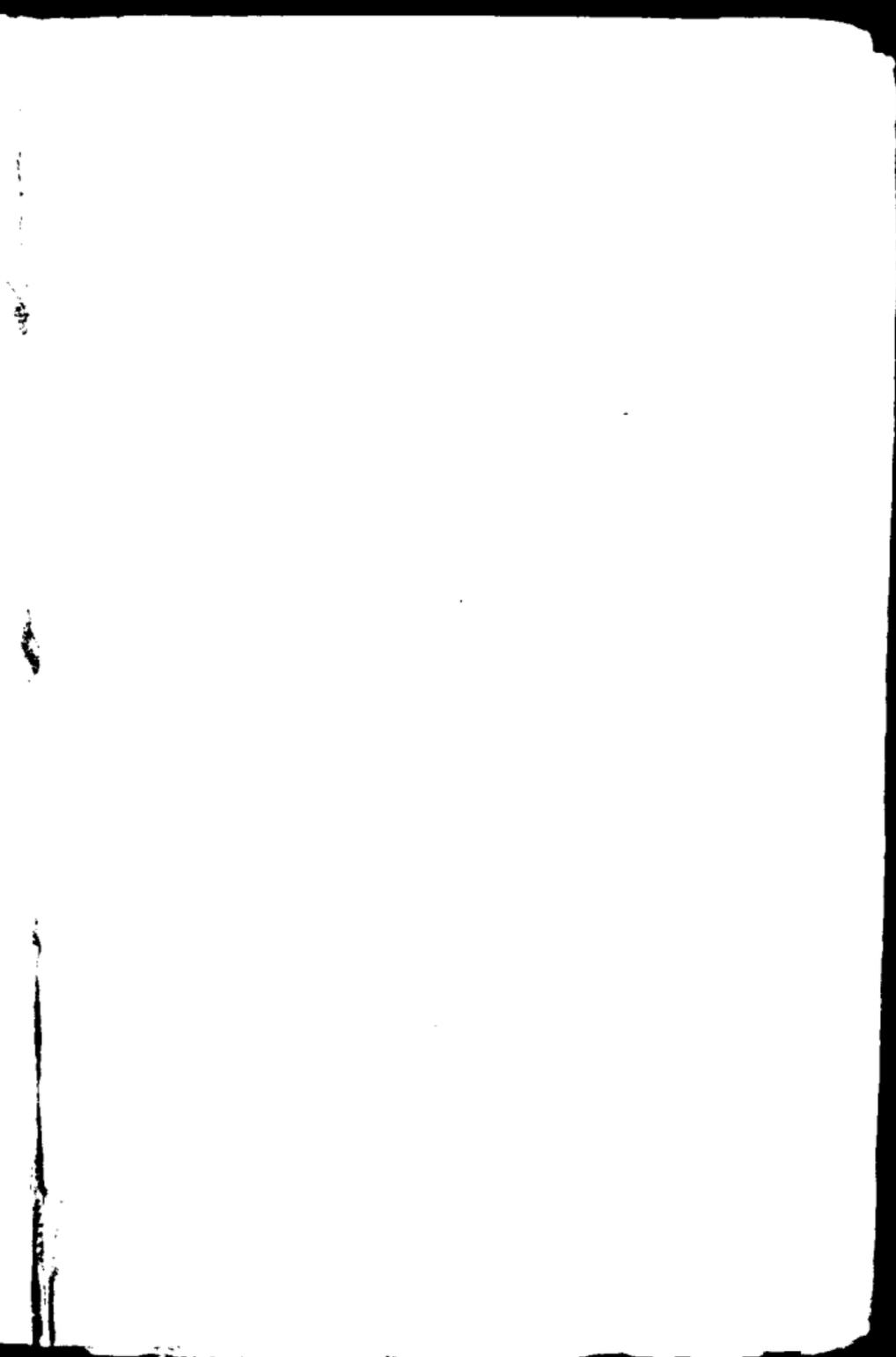
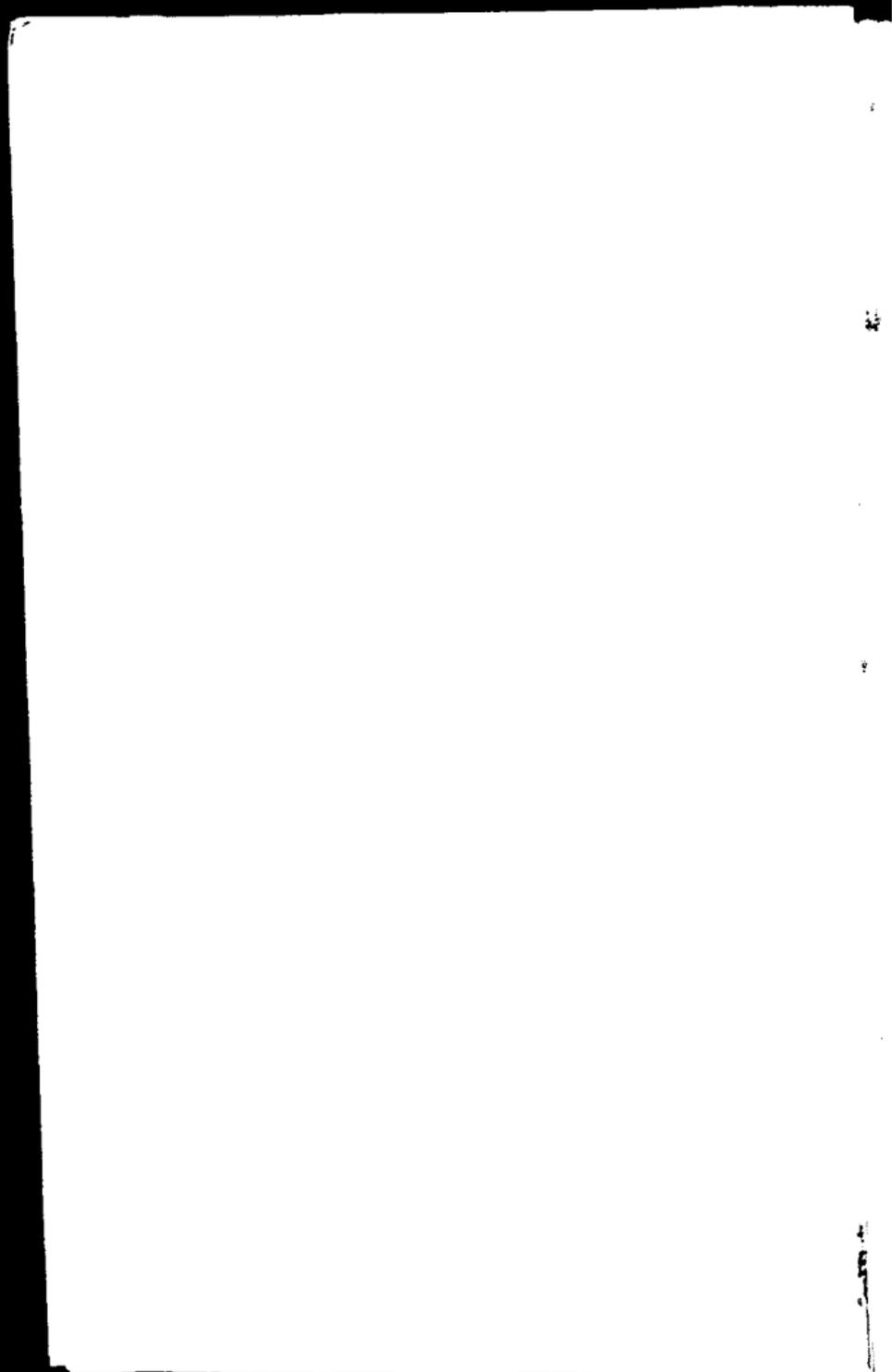


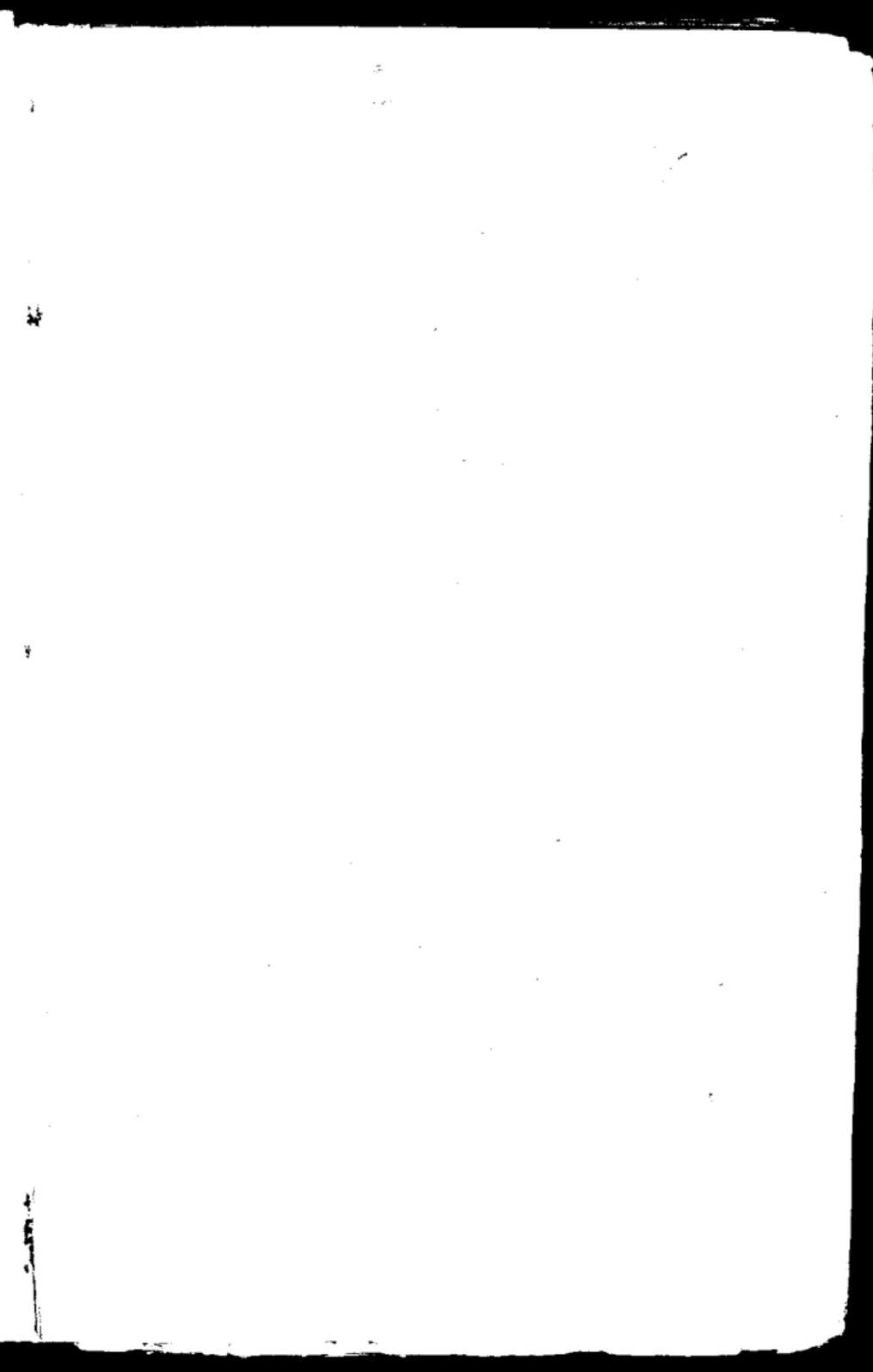


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Wonderful Escapes!

CONTAINING

The Narrative of the

SHIPWRECK

OF THE

ANTELOPE PACKET.

The loss of the

LADY HOBART PACKET,

ON AN ISLAND OF ICE.

The Shipwreck of

THE HERCULES,

ON THE COAST OF AFRICA.

An Extraordinary Escape

From the effects of a **STORM**, in a Journey over the
Frozen Sea, in North America.

DUBLIN:

Printed by Richard Grace, 3, Mary-street.

1822.

1911

1911

SHIPWRECK

OF THE

ANTELOPE PACKET.



AS the best concerted plans are frequently rendered abortive by what are commonly called accidents, so are the most casual and unexpected occurrences productive of extraordinary benefits. This is fully exemplified in the following narrative. The wreck of a ship, bound for a quarter altogether different, has brought a whole nation, endowed with many estimable qualities, and formerly quite unknown, to our familiar notice.

The Antelope, a packet of nearly 300 tons, in the East India Company's service, commanded by Captain Henry Wilson, having arrived at Macao, (in China,) in June, 1783, was ordered to be refitted with the greatest expedition. This being done, the Captain received his dispatches on the 20th July, and embarked the same day. The whole ship's company consisted of fifty persons, including sixteen Chinese, who received the advance money

usual on such occasions. The weather becoming unsettled and hazy, they anchored in seven fathom water, at nine in the evening. Next morning they weighed, and set sail with a fine breeze, and their pilot soon afterwards left them.

The ship getting farther from the land, a high sea obliged the Captain to lie-to, to secure the cattle and other live stock on board, and also the anchors, cables, and harbour-rigging.—In the afternoon, the lashing of the booms broke, and the ship fell to leeward, whence he was forced to keep her before the wind until they were secured, when she again held on her course. In the evening, the top sails were close reefed, in expectation of a gale from the southward, as much lightning was seen in that quarter.

Next day, the weather continued moderate, but cloudy; a great sea ran from the eastward, which made the ship labour so as to render it necessary to pump every two hours. Similar weather continued several days, dark and cloudy, with thunder, lightning, and hard rain, so that the ship was in a manner deluged, and every one wet and uncomfortable. In the afternoon, the Bashee Islands were in sight. Five were seen next day, one of which was

very remarkable, being in shape like a Tartar's, or Chinese woman's hat. They bore no sign of inhabitants.

On the first of August, Capt. Wilson exercised some of the Chinese with rowing in the jolly-boat for an hour or two, that they might learn the use of an oar when needful; and the second day being fair, and the wind moderate, all hands were again employed in clearing the ship, and setting up the rigging.

Divine service was performed on deck, on Sunday, the 3d of August, which was a ceremony never omitted on Sundays, when the weather would admit of it. From this time until Wednesday, the weather continued variable, when it became tempestuous. It blew a storm until mid-day of the seventh, during which, the ship lay-to, under storm-stay-sails. Next day, there were fresh gales, but dry, which enabled the crew to fumigate the vessel with gunpowder, and clean her between decks. All the cattle perished during the storm, and a she-goat which had kidded also died. The weather became more moderate, so that the company were enabled to open the ports, to dry and air the ship below, to examine their provisions and stores, and get every thing in order; after which, they proceeded cheerfully

on their voyage, flattering themselves that the adverse weather, and the anxieties it had occasioned, were at an end.

But the wind having freshened after midnight of Sunday the 10th, the sky became overcast, with much thunder, lightning, and rain. Mr. Benger, the chief mate, having the watch, had lowered the topsails, and was going to reef them, along with the people on duty. He judged, from the thunder, that the weather would break and clear up, and only prove a slight squall; therefore, he did not think it necessary to call all hands up, or acquaint the captain, who had quitted the deck at twelve o'clock.

The people being on the yards, reefing the sails, the man, who was on the look-out, called *breakers!* but so short was the notice, that the call of *breakers* had scarce reached the officer on deck, when the ship struck! The horror and dismay, created by this unhappy event, were dreadful; the captain and all those below in their beds, sprung upon deck in an instant, anxious to know the cause of the sudden shock they felt, and the confusion they heard above. A moment soon convinced them of their melancholy situation; for the breakers alongside, through which the rocks made their

appearance, presented the most dreadful scene, and left no room for doubt. The ship taking a heel, she filled, in less than an hour, as high as the lower deck hatchways.

During this awful interval, the people thronged round the Captain, and earnestly requested to be directed what to do; they besought him to give orders, which they would immediately execute. The gun-powder, small arms, bread, and such provisions as would spoil by wet, were instantly brought on deck, and secured by covering from the rain; while the mizen-mast, main, and fore-top-mast, and lower yards, were cut away to ease the ship, and prevent her from over-setting, of which there was some hazard. The boats were hoisted out, and filled with provisions, and also, a supply of water, together with a compass, small arms, and ammunition, was put into each. Two men had directions to keep them under the lee of the ship, to prevent their being staved, and to be ready to receive the crew, in case the vessel should go to pieces, by the dashing of the waves, and violence of the wind, as it then blew a perfect storm. Every thing, in short, that could be deemed expedient on this distressing occasion, was executed with unexampled alacrity and obedience.

All the people now assembled aft, as the quarter deck lay highest out of the water, and the quarter-boards there afforded some little shelter from the sea and rain. The Captain, after contemplating their wretched situation a few moments, endeavoured to revive their spirits, then beginning to sink through fatigue and anxiety. He reminded them, that shipwreck was a calamity, to which those navigating the ocean were always liable; that their situation, indeed, was the more difficult, from this happening in an unknown and unfrequented sea, but the consideration of it should only rouse their most active attention, as much must depend on their own exertions to rescue themselves from distress. When similar misfortunes happened, he said, they were often rendered more dreadful by the despair and disagreement of the crew, to avoid which, he strongly recommended that no individual should taste spirituous liquors.

Ready assent was given to the Captain's advice; but the whole being wet and exhausted with excessive labour, it was thought advisable to take some refreshment; therefore, a glass of wine and some biscuit were given to each person, and, after eating, a second glass of wine. They now waited with the utmost anxiety for

the return of day, in hopes of seeing land, for as yet, none had been discovered ; only the mate and another, in the momentary gleam of a dreadful flash of lightening, imagined that they had seen the appearance of it a-head.

During these anxious moments, the company endeavoured to cheer and console each other, and every one was advised to clothe himself, and prepare to quit the ship, when necessity should make it inevitable.—And herein, the utmost good order and regularity were observed, not a man offering to take any thing but what truly belonged to himself ; nor did any of them either ask for, or attempt to obtain spirits, or complain of the negligence or misconduct of the watch, or of any particular person.

The dawn of day exposed to view a small island to the southward, three or four leagues distant ; and soon afterwards, some other islands were seen to the eastward. Apprehensions were now felt on account of the inhabitants, to whose dispositions, the ship's people were strangers ; however, after manning the boats, and loading them in the best manner possible for the general advantage, they were dispatched under the care of Mr. Benger. Those of the crew who accompanied him, were ear-

nestly requested to endeavour to obtain a friendly intercourse with the natives, if they found any, and carefully to avoid any disagreement, unless reduced to the last necessity; because the fate of all might depend on the first interview.

As soon as the boats departed, those who remained, went immediately to work to get the booms over-board, in order to make a raft to secure themselves, as the ship was hourly expected to go to pieces. Great uneasiness was entertained for the safety of the boats, not only on account of the natives, but also owing to the weather, as it continued blowing very hard. In the afternoon, however, they were, with inexpressible joy, observed coming off; a sight the more welcome, as from their long stay, some disaster was dreaded, either from the inhabitants or the storm. But they at length got safe to the ship, with the agreeable intelligence, that there was no appearance of inhabitants on the island where they landed; also, that there was some fresh water, and a secure harbour, well sheltered from bad weather.

Every one now pursued his labour, with renovated spirits, to complete the raft, which was in great forwardness; and having finished it,

the whole crew took a second refreshment of bread and wine, for they strictly conformed to the promise given to Captain Wilson, not to take spirituous liquors. The raft was then loaded with as much provisions and stores as it could carry, consistently with the safety of the people to embark on it. The pinnace, in which their chief security rested, was likewise filled with provisions, ammunition and small arms.

The people were still anxiously employed in saving whatever they could; but the ship beginning to have a little motion from the rising of the tide, there was some danger of the mast falling over the side, in which case it must have crushed the raft, and rendered all their labours fruitless. Both the raft and pinnace being ready to depart, the boatswain was desired to go on board the ship, and sound his whistle, to warn those below to embark; for some, whom Captain Wilson had earnestly entreated to desist, were still at work. The carpenter, indeed, was so intent on saving what stores and tools he was able, that he remained below after the raft and pinnace had departed, and he was therefore put into the jolly-boat.

Thus, with aching hearts, the crew, all except one man who was drowned in the morn-

ing, quitted the Antelope, quite ignorant of their future destination. The pinnace, with some of the stoutest men, took the raft in tow; and the jolly-boat also assisted, by towing the pinnace, until they had passed the reef. The pinnace then casting loose the rope, the jolly-boat proceeded alone to the shore, where, arriving about eight at night, the people found their companions, whom they had left there in the morning. The situation of those on the raft, and in the pinnace, was extremely dangerous for half an hour, in crossing the reef, the running of the sea, and the spray frequently obscuring the sight of each other; and those on the raft were often obliged to lash themselves to it, clinging with all their strength, to escape being carried away by the sea. The screams of the Chinese, less inured to the perils of so boisterous an element, added terror to the scene.

Having cleared the reef, the company found themselves in smoother water, whence the pinnace hoisted sail and advanced; but finding she drove to leeward, recourse was had to the oars, which, however, could not resist the strength of a current setting in that direction. The strength of the men being almost exhausted, and the pinnace still driving to leeward, it was

judged expedient, for the safety of all, that the pinnace should take the people off the raft, and that, during the night, the raft should be brought to a grapnel. The additional men thus taken in, double-banked the oars of the pinnace, and relieved the rowers, though they, at the same time, crowded her so much, that she could scarcely keep above water. She, therefore, advanced slowly, but as she drew nearer to the island, where the jolly-boat, with Captain Wilson had unladed, he, along with four people was returning to her assistance, and hailed her in the dark. But those of the pinnace, either from sudden joy, or weakness, returned it with so shrill a tone, that the others, alarmed lest they should be natives, of whom they had observed traces in the morning, returned precipitately on shore. The arrival of the pinnace soon afterwards, however, dissipated their apprehensions.

A party who had remained ashore in the morning, were busily employed in clearing away a spot of ground, whereon they had erected a small tent, covered with a sail, under which the whole took shelter, after drying their clothes at a fire. The night proved uncomfortable, from wind and heavy rain; and the distress of the company was not a little in-

creased, from the dread of the vessel going to pieces, before they could save such necessaries as they required. They hauled the boats on shore, and set a watch, lest they might chance to be surprised by the natives.

The constant perspirations they had been in, being perpetually wet with salt water, and the friction of their clothes from severe labour, had blistered the skins of the people, from which they suffered greatly.

The pinnace and jolly-boat were sent for the raft at dawn; but the wind blowing hard, they were afraid to attempt it. Nevertheless, they were fortunate enough to recover the remainder of the provisions and sails which were left there, and returned about noon. The weather proving more moderate, the boats were sent to the wreck, to bring away some rice, and procure whatever necessaries they could, for the people who stood in great need of them. Those who remained on shore, were employed in drying the powder, and fitting the arms for use, in case of need.

As the boats did not return till ten in the evening, much alarm for their safety was excited, because the night came on with very heavy weather. At length, the pinnace arrived with intelligence, that the ship would

probably not hold together till morning, from the badness of the weather, as she was then beginning to part; the bends and wales being started from their places. By this account, the hope that had been entertained of the possibility that she might be floated and repaired, so as to return to Macao, was now entirely extinguished; and the shipwrecked mariners saw no consolation for their misfortunes— They knew nothing of the inhabitants of the countries around them; they found themselves suddenly cut off from the rest of the world, and the remembrance of beloved objects, who might in vain be expecting their return, filled them with painful reflections.

The night was tempestuous, and at day-break, it blew so hard, that the boats could not venture to sea; therefore some went to work to dry the stores and provisions between the showers, and many were occupied in forming better tents, with such materials as they had saved.

Captain Wilson, and the linguist Tom Rose being on the beach in the morning, collecting water, which dropt from the rocks, the people who were behind employed in clearing away the ground, gave notice that some of the natives were approaching, as they observed a

canoe coming round into the bay. This gave such alarm, that the people all flew to arms ; however, as there were only two canoes, and but few men in them, they were desired to remain still, and out of sight, until they should see what reception the Captain and Rose met with. It appeared that the natives had discovered them, as they conversed together, and kept stedfastly looking towards that part of the shore where they were.—The people were desired to be prepared for the worst, but by no means to appear at present, and when they did, to shew no signs of distrust, unless the conduct of the natives should render it absolutely necessary.

In this short interval, the canoe had advanced cautiously towards the shore, when Captain Wilson desired Rose to speak to them in the Malay language. They did not understand it, but stopped their canoes. Yet soon after, one of them asked in the Malay tongue, who the strangers were, whether friends or enemies? To which the Captain desired Rose to answer, that they were unfortunate Englishmen, who had lost their ship on the reef, but saved themselves, and were friends ! On this they spoke a few words together, which was supposed to be, the Malay-

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man explaining what was said. Presently afterwards they stepped out of the canoes into the water, whereon Captain Wilson waded in to meet them, and embracing them in a friendly manner, carried them on shore, and introduced them to his officers and unfortunate companions.

The strangers were eight in number ; it was afterwards known, that two of them were brothers to the king. One man was left in each canoe, and as they advanced to the cove, where the Antelope's people were, they seemed to look round with great watchfulness, as apprehensive of being betrayed.—Neither, would they seat themselves near the tents, but kept close to the beach, that in case of danger, they might immediately regain their canoes.

The people now going to breakfast, the strangers were presented with some tea, and some sweet biscuits made in China, of which two or three jars had been saved. Only Captain Wilson, one or two more, and Rose the interpreter, breakfasted with them. A wish being now expressed, to learn by what chance the Malay had found his way thither, he said he had commanded a trading vessel, belonging to a Chinese at Ternate, and was cast away ten months before, on the island to the south-

ward, then in sight; that he escaped from thence to Pelew, where he was well received by the king, who, he said, was a very good man, and his people also courteous—This man, besides his own and the Pelew language, spoke a little Dutch, and some words of English; but his future conduct gave reason to suspect there was not much truth in the account he gave of himself. He further said, that a canoe having been out fishing, had seen the ship's mast lying down, that the king being informed of it, had sent off these two canoes, at four o'clock in the morning, to discover what was become of the people; and that they, well knowing this harbour, it being a place where fishing canoes often sheltered themselves in hard weather, had come to it first.

The strangers sat about an hour with Captain Wilson, tasted the tea, but preferred the biscuit; and they now seemed to be relieved of every apprehension. They wished one of the people to be sent to the king, that he might see what they were, which Capt. Wilson agreed to, and requested his brother, Mr. Matthias Wilson, to go, to which he readily assented, and agreed to depart with them in their canoes. Captain Wilson was much affected by his departure; he sent a present to the king of a

small remnant of blue broad cloth, a canister of tea, one of sugar-candy, and a jar of rusk, which last article was added at the particular request of the king's brothers, the younger of whom went in the canoe, while the elder, and three men, remained on the island. Capt. Wilson instructed his brother to inform the king, who they were, to acquaint him with their misfortunes, and to solicit his friendship, as also permission to build a vessel, to carry them back to their own country.

Meantime, the strangers walked about, testifying great curiosity at every thing they saw, but expressing apprehensions that they intruded too much. They certainly had never seen white men before, whence it is not to be wondered at, if they looked on them as a new and extraordinary race of beings. They were themselves of a deep copper-colour, perfectly naked, and their skins soft and glossy, from the use of cocoa-nut oil. Their legs were tattooed from a little above the ankles to the middle of their thighs, and so thick as to appear much darker than the rest of their body. Their hair was of a fine black, long and rolled up behind in a simple manner, close to the back of the head, which appeared neat and becoming. They began stroking the

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Pelew Islanders.

arms and bodies of the English, or rather their waistcoats and coat-sleeves, as if doubting whether the garments and the men were not of the same substance. The Malay told them that the English, being exposed to far greater cold in their own climate, always went covered, and had different coverings as the occasion required, so that they could constantly be dry and warm. The next thing they noticed was the people's hands, and the blue veins in their wrists; and they probably considered the white skin of the hands and face as artificial, and the veins as the English manner of tattooing, for they immediately requested that their sleeves might be drawn up, to see if their arms were of the same colour as their faces.

The weather being more moderate at day-break on the 13th, the boatswain called all hands out to work, by sounding his pipe, at which the natives expressed much surprise and pleasure. The pinnace was sent off to the ship, and the people remaining on shore, employed themselves in clearing the ground, and in drying provisions. The pinnace returned after dark, reporting that some canoes had been at the ship, and had carried off iron and other things, and it was suspected that among them

was the canoe, and the three men who had been left to attend the king's brother. They found their way to the cock-pit, and rummaged the medicine chest ; but probably, not finding the medicines very palatable, had thrown out the contents, and carried off the bottles.—Fortunately, Mr. Sharp, the Surgeon, conceiving he never should get back to the ship, had brought away some of the most useful medicines with him. As it was now low water, the pinnace could not reach the ship, and the men were obliged to wade over part of the reef to get to her. They now saw that a large portion of the rock had forced its way through her bottom, and in two or three places appeared dry in the inside of the hold, so that she remained fixed on the reef.

When Captain Wilson communicated to the king's brother that the ship had been visited, less, by way of complaint, than to express his apprehensions that the natives might be hurt by the medicines, he begged him to entertain no uneasiness whatever on that account ; because if they suffered, it would be entirely owing to their own misconduct, for which, he said, he felt himself truly concerned. Indeed, he appeared much disturbed, and testified great indignation at the behaviour of his own men,

asking why our people did not kill them, and saying, that on the next offence, it might be done, when he would undertake to justify it to the king.

This amiable chief staid all night in the tent ; he endeavoured to accommodate himself to the manners of the people, and would sit at table as they did, without squatting on his hams. Every transaction with him afterwards, proved him to be a man of upright character. He naturally possessed an unbounded curiosity ; nothing escaped his notice : he wished to have an explanation of all that he saw, and to imitate whatever our people did ; he lent his personal assistance to every thing that was doing, and even wished to aid the cook in blowing the fire.

The people, now finding themselves, on a perfect good understanding with the king's brother, whose name was *Raa Kook*, freely asked, by means of their interpreter, the suggestions of their own curiosity. Observing that he wore the polished bone of some animal, like a bracelet on his wrist, and having also remarked, that his brother who returned to Pelew had a similar ornament, they wished to know on what account it was there. He in return, informed them, that it was a

mark of great distinction, conferred by the king on his own family, and on officers of state and commanders, and that he himself wore it, both as brother to the king, and as commander-in-chief of his army, both by sea and land.

A proposal was made by Captain Wilson to his officers, particularly evincing his prudence, which was, that all the spirit-casks on board the Antelope should be staved. When the pinnace had been sent off the day after the wreck, to secure whatever stores could be saved, the chief officers served out some strong liquor to the men, who had many hours endured the severest toil. But being unable to find any thing to eat, their hunger and fatigue made the liquor operate on their heads, so that, on their return, they became noisy and elated. Thus, lest they might inadvertently become intoxicated, and be disposed to quarrel among themselves, or be engaged in disputes with the natives, Captain Wilson submitted the expediency of staving the casks, to his officers. They completely acquiesced in the necessity of it, on which, the captain, having called the men together, represented to them the propriety of such a measure, as their future welfare, and ultimate hopes.

of preservation might possibly depend upon it. Much to the credit of the men, they unanimously agreed to the captain's proposal, and offered immediately to go on board and stave every cask of strong liquor, which that same day, was conscientiously performed.

Next morning, two canoes arrived with yams ready boiled, and some cocoa nuts, which were presented to Captain Wilson. Arra Kooker, the king's brother, returned in one of them, along with one of the king's sons, a well made young man, about twenty-one, but who had lost his nose. Raa Kook went immediately to his brother, and much conversation passed between them. Mr. Matthias Wilson was conducted by the king's brother, (amidst a vast concourse of the natives, who had assembled to see him land,) to the town, on the king's island. There he was directed to sit down on a mat. When the king appeared, he made an obeisance of respect towards him, lifting his hands to his head and inclining his body, of which the king seemed to take little notice; but the presents were graciously received. The king ate some of the sugar candy, which he seemed to relish, and then directed refreshments to be brought to Mr. Wilson, who was now surrounded by an immense assemblage of the

natives of both sexes. Taking off his hat by accident, all present seemed struck with astonishment, which he having remarked, unbuttoned his waistcoat and put off his shoes, that they might see they were no part of his body. They seemed to consider, at first sight, that his clothes constituted a portion of his person ; for, when undeceived, they approached nearer, stroked him, and put their hands into his breast to feel his skin. When dark, the king, his brother, several others, and Mr. Wilson, retired into a house, where supper, consisting of shell-fish, and yams, whole and mashed, were served on a stool. He was then conducted to another house, where there were, at least, forty or fifty men and women, and there, it was signified to him, he was to sleep. Accordingly, he lay down, but was unable to slumber ; and some considerable time afterwards, when all was quiet, eight men arose and began to make two great fires at each end of the house, which formed one large habitation, undivided by partitions. This operation alarmed him very much, as he conceived nothing less, than that the natives were going to roast him, and had only lain down that he might drop asleep, when he could be seized. But his apprehensions were relieved, for, after

sitting awhile, and warming themselves, they all retired to their mats. Mr. Wilson, next morning, being conducted to the king, signified that he was anxious to return to his brother ; but the king thought there was too much wind, and made signs that the canoe would be upset, whence he spent the remainder of the day on the island.

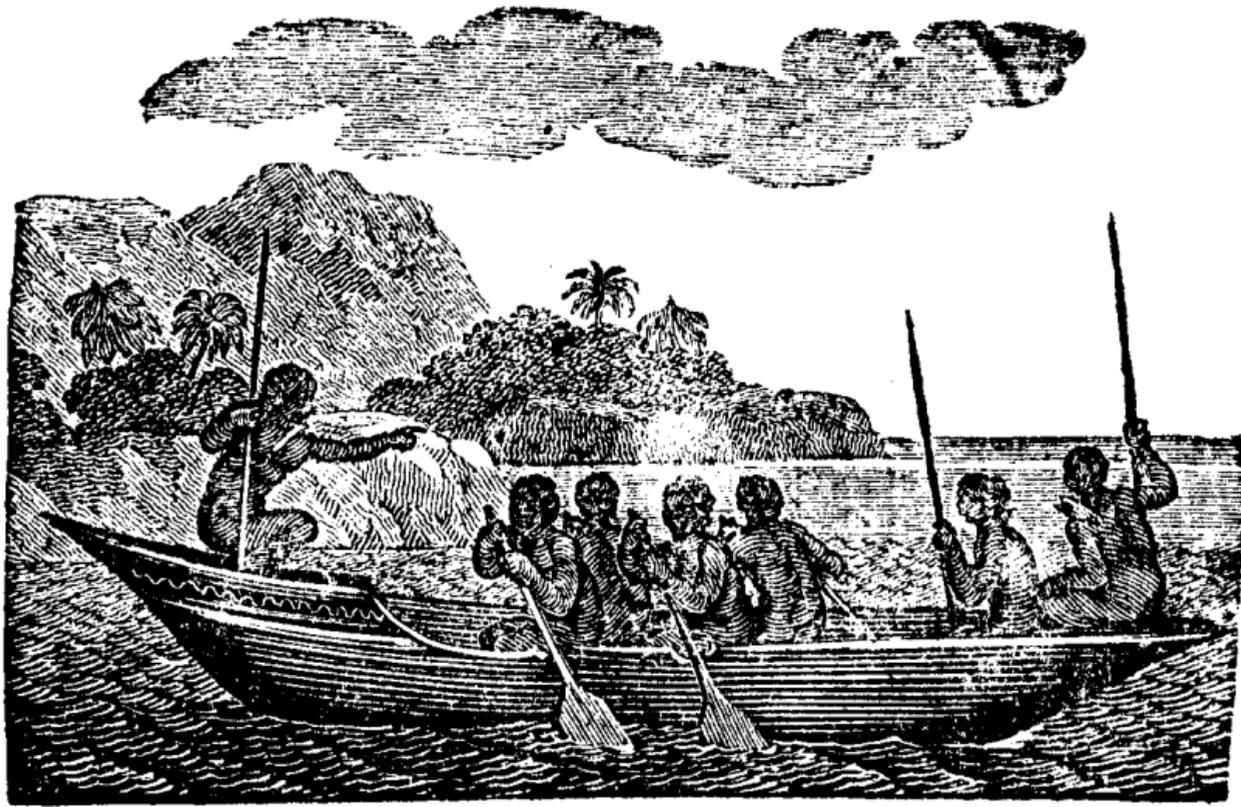
The favourable intelligence brought by Mr. Wilson, enlivened all the people, who were now busy in recovering rice, stores and iron, from the wreck. Two boats were sent off to it, but the bad weather compelled one of them to return. The people brought information, that they had found above twenty canoes busied about the vessel ; and the natives were angry at being deprived of some iron, and a cutlass, which they had got out of her. Raa Kook, however, sent his brother and nephew off in a canoe, to drive them away. The number of the natives visiting the island, having now increased, the people thought that a regular guard, to be relieved every two hours, should be nightly appointed. Thus the whole company was divided into five guards, each guard having an officer to give the watchword, which was called and answered from the different posts every five minutes, there being

nine men always on guard. Captain Wilson thought it advisable to communicate this resolution to his guests, that they might not be alarmed by the sudden turning out of the guard with arms.

The men had been constantly accustomed to the use of small arms, before leaving the Antelope, and were sufficiently expert to make a respectable appearance. Therefore, the strangers were highly delighted with seeing them go through their exercise, which seemed to make a forcible impression on their minds.

On Friday, the 15th of August, the king's son, accompanied by one of his uncles, launched their canoe, and went off at day-break to the ship; the second mate, Mr. Barker, also got off in the jolly-boat, and the pinnace followed. Both returned about noon, with rice and other stores, and were going to make a second trip, but put back on seeing a number of canoes approach the harbour, and information was given that the king was coming.

Several canoes soon after appeared at the entrance of the harbour, and lay-to for the king, who was giving orders to another squadron of them. His canoe then advanced between four others, the rowers of which splash-



A Canoe and Natives

ed the water about with their paddles, and flourished them over their heads in a very dexterous manner; and as the king passed, the first canoe that had lain to, closed his train, and followed him into the cove sounding conch shells. Captain Wilson entering the canoe, by his desire, embraced him, informing him, by means of his interpreters, of his condition, and begging his permission to build a vessel. After a short pause, and speaking with a chief in a canoe next to him, who proved his chief minister, the king replied that he was welcome to build either here or on his own island; saying, that this one was thought unhealthy, and he feared the people might prove sickly, if they staid on it. Captain Wilson expressed his acknowledgments; but intimated that he would rather remain here, being nearer the wreck; and as he had a person with him very skilful in curing sickness, he was not apprehensive for his people. The king seemed pleased, and satisfied with this answer, and stepping into the water, waded ashore. Captain Wilson then presented him with a scarlet coat.

The king was perfectly naked: he wore no bone on his wrist, nor any mark of distinction, but carried a hatched on his shoulder, made of

iron, while those of the others were of shell. On landing, he looked around him with the same kind of caution as his brothers, and the rest had done, on their first visit. About three hundred persons were in his train. He sat down on a sail spread for him, and was presented with cloth, and also ribbons, to distribute among his attendants. These were of various colours, and he immediately gave them away. While the strangers were rolling up the ribbons, the ship's company observed, that every chief fixed his attention on some particular person. They were much alarmed by this, apprehending, that the individual whom each chief so noticed, was singled out as his prisoner; but they soon found out that it was quite the reverse, and that he was to be the chief's particular friend or guest. The captain then introduced his officers to the king; and when the surgeon, Mr. Sharp, was pointed out as the person skilful in curing diseases, he appeared wonderfully surprised, and kept his eyes fixed on him. The king inquiring for captain Wilson's mark of rank or dignity as chief, he was at a loss how to answer; but recollecting that a ring was an ornamental mark of distinction, he got one from Mr. Benger, the chief mate, and put it on.

Raa Kook had been attempting to describe the fire arms, whereon the king expressed a desire to see the men exercise ; accordingly, every man was ordered under arms, and drawn up on the beach ; and without loss of time, marched along the shore before him, after which they fired three volleys. The natives testified extraordinary surprise, hooting, hallooing, chattering and leaping. Fortunately all the powder in the ship had been saved ; therefore, tho' at the expense of some ammunition, they could impress the natives with an idea of their power. A live fowl was next shot at, and its leg and wing being broke, created a vast murmur of wonder, that this should happen, without seeing any thing come out of the gun.

Raa Kook carried his brother to a grindstone, and the king remained fixed in astonishment at the rapidity of its motion. He and the rest were quite bewildered whence the sparks could come while sharpening iron, and how a stone so well wetted became so soon dry. Raa Kook, who had been exercising himself with it, during his short residence here, eagerly turned the handle to let his brother see how well he understood about it. The kitchen utensils excited much amazement, though few in number, the poker, tongs and

kettle, were all novelties ; and the commander in chief of the forces began to blow the fire with the bellows, to shew the king what an adept he was.

The king afterwards returning to his seat, told captain Wilson that he was going to sleep on the other side of the island ; and presently a loud cry was given by one of his officers, who wore a thin narrow bone on his wrist.— This threw our people into some alarm, but the purport of it immediately appeared, for all the king's attendants, though dispersed, and looking at every thing that attracted their attention, instantaneously darted into their canoes. No word of command was ever obeyed with greater promptitude.

Next day, after considerable difficulty and hesitation on the part of the king, he explained, that he was going in a few days to wage war with an island, which had done him an injury, and requested Captain Wilson to permit four or five of his men to accompany him with muskets. The captain instantly replied, “ That the English were as his own people, and the enemies of the king were their enemies.” Accordingly, the third mate, and four others, as also Rose the interpreter, went to Pelew, the chiefs taking each in a boat,

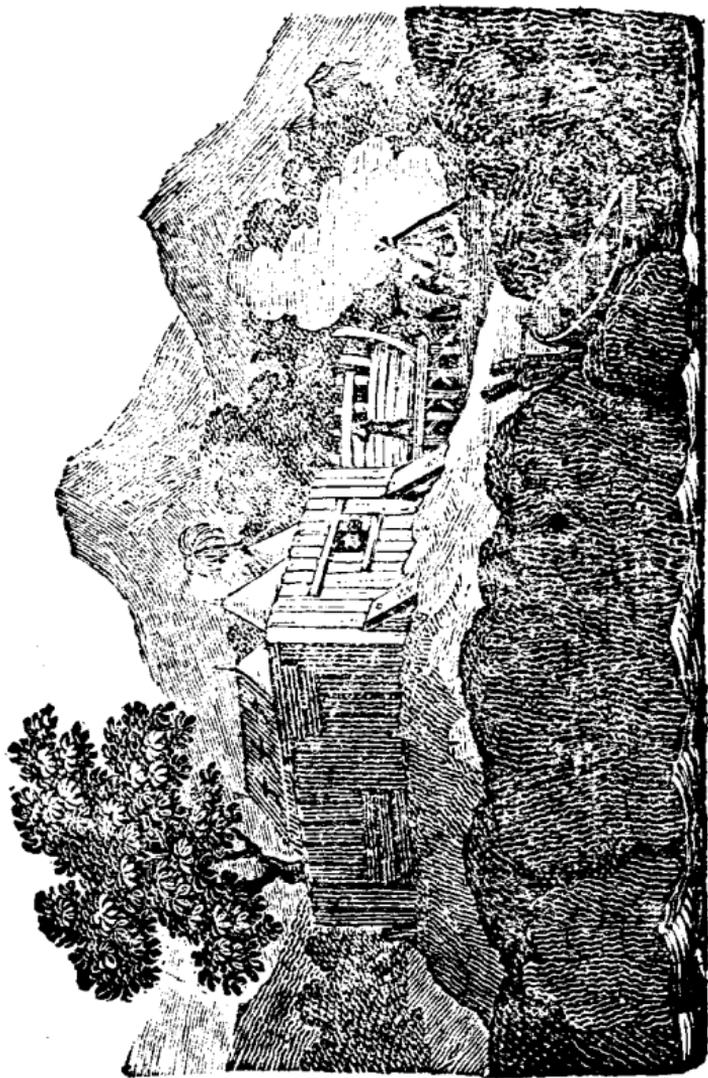
The expedition ended successfully, and much gratitude was shewn for the assistance so readily afforded.

The people were now employed on their intended vessel, and had got a piece of wood for a stern, and also one for a stern-post; these were squared, as also some of the floor-timbers, and the ways were laid. Mr. Barker, the second mate, having in the earlier part of his life, being conversant in a dock yard, assisted the captain and carpenters in designing the vessel, which they determined should be a schooner, as more easily worked. When a merchant ship is wrecked, it must be understood, that all authority immediately ceases, the command of the master is at an end, and every one is at liberty to shift for himself. In this case, the ship's company, considering the necessity there was for some one to be their superior, unanimously requested Captain Wilson to fill that capacity, and promised they would implicitly obey his orders. He accepted with great joy, the flattering distinction which their generosity offered him; but expressed his wish, that if it should prove necessary to pass any censure or punishment on any individual, so disagreeable an office might not

rest with him, but be determined by the majority of voices. This was assented to.

The Antelope being fixed on a coral reef, by a rock through her bottom, the people entertained sanguine hopes of being able to save many important and useful materials from her, and they now dug up their tools, which, on the king's arrival, they had considered it prudent to secrete. Each was appointed to his particular post, and all went to work with the utmost alacrity. Captain Wilson desired that Mr. Barker might be looked on as chief director, from whom instructions should be received; Mr. Sharp, the surgeon, and Mr. Matthias Wilson, were appointed to saw down trees, in which the Captain himself often assisted. The boatswain, who had formerly served part of an apprenticeship to a blacksmith, now resumed his old vocation, aided by a mate: the gunner's occupation consisted in seeing all the arms kept in order, and occasionally assisting the carpenter's crew. The Chinese were employed as labourers, to bring the trees when felled, out of the wood, and to provide water for present use and sea-store.

Notwithstanding this distribution, individuals were changed as circumstances required;



A View of the landing place.

many had been hurt with wounds and bruises in getting the things out of the ship, whence the surgeon was often taken from sawing trees to administer relief to the sufferers.

It was judged expedient to erect a barricade in front of the tents, towards the sea, which was done by driving a double row of strong posts interlaced with the branches of trees, into the ground, to form a thick fence. The space between the two rows of posts was filled with logs of wood, stones, and sand, to render it as solid as possible. On the inside, a foot-bank was raised, on which the people could stand and fire, in case of being attacked, with an opening left for one of the six-pounders, which they intended to bring from the wreck by the first opportunity. Two large swivels were also mounted on two stumps of trees, in such a manner, that they could be pointed in every direction.

The boats visited the wreck early on the 19th, and returned, bringing two hawsers and some boards. One of the natives having stolen a small hatchet from a boat, was carrying it off to his canoe, when a musket, loaded with powder, was fired to frighten him, and another of the natives, left by the king, made him restore it.

Next day the boats returned to the wreck, and got the lesser shroud-hawser, some planks, copper, and stores, and also some junk for oakum. Half a leaguer of arrack, which had been covered by stores, was discovered and brought on shore to the Captain, to be used at his discretion.—He proposed that it should be kept, and that each person should have a pint of grog every evening after work, until the whole was expended. This was universally approved of, and the cask immediately secured in the tent.

All hands continued busy in the dock-yard; at ten o'clock on Friday the 22nd, they had got the keel laid on the blocks, and the stern and sternpost bolted. The boats brought a good deal more plank, two casks of beef, besides some empty water-casks, of which the people were obliged to secure enough for their future voyage, as the natives had destroyed several, for the sake of their iron hoops. The gunner got the six-pounder mounted on a carriage, and made fit for service. It was planted in the opening of the barricade prepared for it, so as to command the entrance of the cove.

Murmuring arose among those stationed at the carpenter's work, as the heat of the weather, and their new employment, had severely

blistered their hands; but the timely representations of Captain Wilson speedily restored harmony, and a double allowance of grog was served out at night. It was proposed to call the new vessel THE RELIEF.

On the 25th; four canoes from islands to the southward, which were understood to be at war with the king of Pelew, came ashore. They were full of men, who landed with great marks of timidity and caution; a chief was among them, but the interpreter being absent on the expedition, it could not be ascertained who they were. Captain Wilson conducted them round the cove, and shewed them the works which were begun; and after remaining a little better than an hour on shore, they departed, with many acknowledgments for the civility they had met with. None either pilfered or asked for any thing.

The men who had gone on the expedition, returned with an account of its success; it had consisted of an hundred canoes, with above a thousand men, and had been directed against the island of Artingall, the people of which, at a festival, had killed the king's brother, and two of his chiefs, for which they refused to make any satisfaction.

Raa Kook, the king's brother, informed Captain Wilson, that the king had given him the island on which he then was, which was called Oroolong ; whence the Captain hoisted the British pendant, and fired three volleys of small arms, in token of his taking possession of it. The king had also sent an invitation for him to come to Pelew, which he then declined, from the nature of the occupations he was obliged to carry on ; but he dispatched the first mate, and others, to congratulate him on his victory.

In the end of the month, the captain went to Pelew, where he was hospitably entertained. The king came down to the beach without any state, to receive him, and conducted him to the town of Pelew, about a quarter of a mile from the shore. There, the people were led into a large square pavement, surrounded by several houses ; they entered one, from which a number of women issued forth. These were the wives of the chiefs, who had assembled to see the English ; they were rather fairer than the rest of the women, and had a few little ornaments about them. Their faces, and part of the body, were rubbed over with turmeric. The women then returned into the house and received them with much joy ; they were all

presented with sweet drink and cocoa-nuts, and sat down to partake of these provisions. The ladies also seated themselves, and taking a parcel of leaves, began to make mats, an employment in which they pass great part of their time. The king informed his guests, that this house was to be their abode while they remained here, after which he rose up and withdrew, apologizing to Captain Wilson that he was going to bathe. A message soon came from the queen, requesting to see the English from her dwelling, whither they attended the general to a grove of cocoa-nut trees. There they came to a sequestered habitation, before which was a rail, with some tame pigeons on it, tied by the leg. This bird is held in such estimation, that none except the chiefs and their families are allowed to eat it. As soon as they approached, the queen opened her window and spoke to Raa Kook, to desire the strangers to sit down on the pavement, before the house, which being done, a number of attendants brought refreshments. She took great notice of them, and wished some of them to come close to the window and draw up their coat sleeves, that she might see the colour of their skin. Having viewed them attentively, and asked such ques-

tions as she thought she could with propriety, she signified that she would not trespass longer on their time by detaining them, so they rose and took leave of her.

They visited some of the other chiefs ; and Raa Kook's wife brought them a broiled pigeon, of which they partook, out of compliment for the honour done them. Engaged with the sight of his children, and the pleasing domestic scenes exhibited here, night crept fast upon them, and it being quite dark, they requested leave to retire.

A great council of chiefs, each seated on a single stone, and the king on one more elevated than the rest, was next held ; and after their deliberations, the king, with the interpreter, came to the house where the English were, and requested Captain Wilson to allow ten of his men again to go against the same enemy as before. Captain Wilson replied, as he had already done, that the English were his friends, and would regard his enemies as their own ; which answer greatly pleased the king. Several canoes had returned from another expedition, and they were entertained with a dance of the victorious warriors. During it, two large tubs of sweet liquor were brought in, and first served out to the English and

people present, and then carried to the warriors.

Bad weather preventing Captain Wilson from leaving Pelew, he accompanied the king to his boat-builders, where he gave directions, and took down to the place a design of his own, for ornamenting some canoes then building. This design was marked on a board with great accuracy, in different colours. Here the English dined with the king on pigeons.

On the evening of the 4th of September, Captain Wilson reached Oroolong, where he found the greatest harmony subsisting among his people, and that they had been assiduously advancing with the vessel; the boats were sent to the wreck at day-light of the 6th, to see what other materials could be procured. In the evening, they returned with planks, nails, and many necessary articles of essential service, particularly coals.

A list was made out of the number of the men who were to go on this second expedition, when every individual, as on the former occasion, expressed his desire to be of the party. After they had settled this matter among themselves their names were written down and stuck on a tree in the dock, and they were

directed to hold themselves in readiness for the king.

Fine weather prevailing, all hands were employed in felling timber, and in getting the frames of the vessel forward. Four canoes arrived in the harbour, and gave some fish to the people, who, in return, made them a present of iron. In the evening, it being Sunday, the Captain, when their toil was over, read prayers.

He went in the jolly-boat to sound and examine the reef himself in the morning, and found a passage due west from the island, with three fathoms of water at low tide. Between the island and the reef, there was a flat sand bank, on which there were only seven feet at low water; it was clear sand, except a few coral spots, which were easily discovered by the colour of the water.

The king paid Oroolong a visit in the afternoon, accompanied by his two brothers and his chief minister, and brought some fine fish as a present. They were different from any hitherto seen, being above three feet long, nearly one across, and having a thick long beard: the bone so uncommonly hard as to strike fire with an axe. The scales were round, and nearly the size of a Spanish dollar.

The king was perfectly amazed at the progress and magnitude of the vessel; he minutely examined every part with the most eager attention, and repeatedly called to his Tachallys, or artificers, to notice what had so much excited his own astonishment. The Tachallys were seized with surprize equal to that of their prince, and after deliberately poring over every part, pointed out to him the very singular manner in which the parts were wedged and bolted together. They were quite lost in wonder at the use and power of the iron work; and the whole together seemed to have engaged their minds as somewhat beyond their comprehension. Most of the frame work having been made of the trees growing on the island, the king specified a kind of wood, which he was concerned at seeing used in the vessel, as he deemed it unlucky wood, and apprehended that it might expose the mariners to some accident, earnestly pressing them to take it out. The people intimated their sense of his regard for them, but informed him that experience had taught them that nothing was to be apprehended on that score.

The noise of the forge attracted his attention. The boatswain, at that instant, happened

to be beating out a piece of hot iron on a pig of the same metal, serving for an anvil. This was a circumstance so entirely new and interesting, that he and all the natives stood absorbed in admiration. They could not be persuaded to keep at a distance, nor be deterred from catching in their hands, the red hot particles flying from the stroke of the hammer. The operations of the cooper, sawing timber appeared equally marvellous.

The king wished much to get one of the swivels on the expedition, as their use had been previously explained to him; however, the Captain endeavoured to make him comprehend that this was impossible, as they had no boats constructed in a proper manner to receive it. He then requested that the six-pounder might be fired: and, if the natives were surprized at the discharge of a musket, their astonishment at its report may be supposed. It seemed to stun them all, for every one kept his fingers a quarter of an hour in his ears, calling out. "Very bad, Very bad." The noise was evidently too hard for their organs; their hooting and shouting on the explosion can hardly be described, and this was increased by the wadding accidentally setting fire to the dry leaves of a tree, which projected

across the cove. The natives, after renewing their solicitations for the swivel, against giving which the same reasons were used as formerly, departed for Pelew.

All the loose or unpacked beef being consumed, the stores were examined, and an account taken of them; and the Captain, after considering the length of time he might be obliged to remain on the island, set apart as much of the soundest and best as was deemed necessary for the voyage, which, on no account should be touched. It was discovered that some hams had been cut the preceding night, whereon a reward of a double allowance of grog was offered to make the offender known, or to shew where any one was guilty of wasting provisions. No information, however, was obtained.

On Monday, the 13th of September, the party, who had gone on the expedition, returned with intelligence of its success. A canoe which brought Mr. Wilson & John Duncan, a seaman, had overset from a squall, which arose so suddenly that they could not get down the sail. Four natives were along with them, two of whom, as the canoe was going over, secured the two muskets belonging to their friends with one hand, and buoyed them up

with the other, while the remaining two made a small raft with whatever bamboos, ropes, paddles, and pieces of wood, they could collect. During the time they were floating, the canoe righted itself. The other canoes in company, escaped, with difficulty, to the nearest shore; but the instant they had landed, the English on board put off again, and took up the two men, who could neither of them swim. Both were almost exhausted, having been floating and clinging to the raft for nearly two hours. Two bayonets and a cartridge-box were lost by this accident, but happily no lives. Captain Wilson instantly rewarded the men who had saved them.

The victory obtained by the king was greater than the preceding one; great execution was done with the fire-arms, which puzzled and bewildered the enemy, who could not comprehend how their people dropped, without receiving any apparent blow. Though holes were seen in their bodies, they could not devise by what means they were thus, in a moment, deprived of motion and life. Six canoes were captured and nine prisoners, which was counted a great number, as enemies are seldom taken, because the vanquished always endeavour to carry away their killed

and wounded, that the victors may not have their bodies to expose. Taking a canoe is an object of equal consequence there, as the capture of a ship of war is in Europe. The battle lasted about three hours, and all the nine prisoners were wounded. Notwithstanding the earnest interposition of the English, the whole were put to death. The natives of Pelew urged, in extenuation, that this had not always been their custom, but was now a measure of necessity. However, on another occasion, when the king again desired assistance against his enemies, it was signified, that he must not expect it, unless such an inhuman practice were discontinued, as the custom of the English was never to injure those who were in their power. Information was also brought that the king intended visiting Oroolong, in four or five days.

The pinnace being next morning sent to the wreck, to see what additional materials could be procured, returned in the afternoon with some good plank, and a quantity of spike-nails, things of the utmost service in constructing a vessel; and a second trip was equally successful.

The 15th of September proving bad, after a stormy night, little could be done until the

afternoon, when the weather clearing, every hand was employed about the vessel; and the pinnace being sent round the island next day for the wood that had been cut, almost enough was obtained, as the frame of the vessel was nearly completed. A furnace was constructed to raise the plank, and on the 20th, the whole of the people were employed in dubbing the timbers, and getting the first plank on the schooner's bottom. On Sunday, three planks more were got on, and the boats brought fifteen bags of rice from the wreck, which proved most acceptable, the people being at this time on short allowance, though undergoing very hard labour. The rice was greatly damaged by having been long under water; it would not boil to a grain, but to a jelly. It was a great consolation that the Antelope still stuck together, as so many useful articles were recovered from her.

On the 22d, the pinnace got sixteen bags more of rice from the wreck; and, as a quantity of nails and some sheets of copper were saved, it was at one time in contemplation to sheath the bottom of the schooner. This plan, however, was soon abandoned, for there proved a deficiency of copper nails necessary for the purpose, though she was not above one sixth of the size of the Antelope.

The jolly-boat was sent to fish, but without success. It was singular that this should always be the case, whether because the people were ignorant of the proper places where they should resort to, or whether they did not know the proper bait.

On the 30th, the vessel was so far advanced, that the people having planked her up as high as the bends, began to trench under her bottom, in order to plank to the keel. But an accident happened, that had like to be destructive of all their labours. In the beginning of the night, the tide rising higher than usual, broke into the trench, and had nearly washed away the blocks from under the vessel. This was fortunately discovered in time, and all hands went instantly to work with the utmost expedition to fill up the trench, and secure the vessel from falling off the stocks, which employed them till near morning. Then they discovered that the danger had been infinitely greater than what they had supposed; for, some of the blocks being displaced by the sea, they were obliged to get wedges to set up the vessel, in order to replace them. This was a work of the greater labour, from three of their best workmen being then ill. A bank to keep out the tide was formed, by laying the pin-

nace aground, directly before the vessel; two holes were bored in her bottom, and she was filled with stones to sink her. About a foot farther off, a dry wall of large stones was raised, and carried round each side of the vessel, beyond high-water mark, lined in the inside with branches and twigs, which were fastened with stakes, to keep them from being washed away. Sand was then thrown in, so as to make a bank of the whole together of four or five feet thick, which effectually answered the purpose for which it was intended.

In the meantime, the king, elated with the success of his expedition, planned another of still greater magnitude, in which fully three hundred canoes were employed, and all the neighbouring chiefs summoned to attend it. He had sent a mission to Captain Wilson, requesting fifteen men to accompany him, with one of his swivels; and the Captain, after duly deliberating upon the matter, thought it prudent to allow ten men to go, and the swivel. This attack, which was on the island of Artin-gall, as before, proved much more destructive to the enemy: but it was also with greater loss, thirty or forty of the king's people being wounded; of whom several died after their return to Pelew.

The action lasted six hours, and was fought with great resolution on both sides. One of the king's brothers, Arra Kooker, would have been killed, had not an Englishman rescued him.

On the former occasion, Raa Kook's son was wounded with a spear in the foot, which the natives had contrived themselves to extract. Mr. Sharp, the Surgeon, at this time went to Pelew to visit him, and carried his surgical instruments, lest they should be required. The young man being very brave, and finding, though he could not walk, that he could stand up in his canoe, and throw a spear, insisted on going on the late expedition, when early in the engagement, on his eagerly endeavouring to approach the shore, he received a dart in his body, and instantly fell. This Mr. Sharp found to be the case on his arrival. Raa Kook carried him to a neighbouring island; there after a repast, which was eat in the most profound silence, the lamentation of women was heard at some distance, and, Mr. Sharp, going to see the occasion of it, on a sign from his conductor, observed a great number of them following a dead body on a bier, tied up in a mat, and supported on the shoulders of four men, who

were the only ones present. The body, was then deposited in a grave, without any ceremony, except that the lamentations of the women continued. Raa Kook, it is remarkable, never gave the smallest hint or indication, that this was the funeral of his son.

The surprise and pleasure of the king, on examining the instruments, were very great; and there being some stranger chiefs residing with him, on account of his late success, he begged that they might also be gratified with a sight of them. An explanation of the different uses to which they could be put, excited much amazement.

Three of the Artingall people now came to Oroolong with the king; and when they were pointed out to Captain Wilson, he gave them an invitation to breakfast, and Raa Kook came along with them. They were shewn the different works, at which they were much astonished, and particularly observed the swivel and six-pounder. On seeing the small arms, they expressed, by forcible gestures, that these were the instruments that had killed so many of their countrymen at Artingall. They did not entertain the least animosity, but behaved with great cordiality to the English.

A flying squirrel having settled on a tree near them, Captain Wilson's servant, who had his gun loaded, shot it. The Artingall people seeing the animal drop from the top of a lofty tree, without any thing apparently passing to it, ran to take it up; when perceiving the holes of the shot, they remarked, that such of their countrymen as had lost their lives in the last battles, fell down with holes in their bodies, just like this animal, and died.

The king asked the Captain, if the English would go once more and fight for him; to which he replied, they readily would. He appeared extremely anxious, that Captain Wilson should not leave the country without previously acquainting him, saying, he would send two men with him to England; he promised also to give them colours to paint the vessel, which he afterwards did.

On Thursday, the 23d of October, the caulker finished caulking the bottom of the vessel: planking the top of the sides was also completed, and water in the evening handed into her to try for leaks. Steps for the masts were fixed, in the next place, and her bottom breamed. The trench under her was filled up, and the dam broken down, which was a work of some labour, for the bank had become as

firm and solid as if formed by nature. The pinnacle was also cleared and floated.

The night of the 28th was overcast, and it rained; before morning the rain became very heavy, accompanied by strong gales and squalls, which carried away all the awnings laid over the vessel, though the dock-yard was, in a manner, sheltered by the hills. Next day was also stormy, with hard squalls, thunder, lightning, and rain. The night proved still worse; the people apprehended that their tents would be blown down, and the vessel shaken off the blocks; and they were not a little uneasy for the safety of their countrymen, now absent on another expedition. But the following morning brought them intelligence of their safety; and that the king's enemies had, on this occasion, laid down their spears without resistance.

On Tuesday morning, many hands went to work in cutting down trees to make blocks and launching ways. But the distrust of the people continued; they conceived that the natives intended to prevent their departure. They therefore, kept a quarter-watch at dark, loaded their swivels and six-pounder with grape-shot, and kept a good look-out to prevent surprise. Captain Wilson in vain at-

tempted to dispel their apprehensions ; he recalled to their remembrance, the generosity of the king, and all his people, ever since they were thrown on these territories ; that his behaviour had always been humane, unreserved and unsuspecting, and there had never been the smallest cause for mistrusting his sincerity. However, only two or three united in the Captain's sentiments, and after a long consultation, it was concluded, that all should be strictly on their guard ; but, at the same time, carefully avoiding the appearance of suspicion, unless they should be driven to necessity. In that case, they had to single out the chiefs ; and it is not to be denied, that the first and marked objects of vengeance were to be the humane and liberal king, the manly and benevolent general, and the facetious and inoffensive Arra Kooker.—But this sudden apprehension was dissipated, and the wonted good-will of the people towards the natives returned with the cool reflections of a night.

One of the seamen, Madan Blanchard, at this time, informed Captain Wilson, that he was resolved to remain at Pelcw with the natives, if the king would permit him. The Captain endeavoured to divert him from this strange resolution, representing the disadvan-

tages he would labour under, when his friends, and companions were gone; particularly as he was unacquainted with any mechanical employment, whereby he might render himself of use and consequence.—Finding that he could not be dissuaded from his purpose, the Captain determined to make a merit of leaving him with the king. Therefore the first opportunity he told the king, that in return for the hospitable kindness which both he and his subjects had shewn them, he would leave one of his people with him to take care of the guns, and other things, which they intended to give him on going away. This testimony of confidence and esteem was well received by the king; he promised to make him a chief, and to give him a house and plantations; assuring the Captain that he should do every thing to make him happy and contented, and that he should always be with himself or Raa Kook.

Captain Wilson shortly afterwards took an opportunity of conversing with Blanchard on the subject of his being left behind. He set before him the manner in which he should conduct himself towards the natives, and in what respect he could be instructive and beneficial to them; particularly in working such

iron as had been given to them, and what more they might be able to obtain from the wreck. And as in gratitude to their preservers, the English had given them, for their future defence against their enemies, all the arms and ammunition not absolutely necessary for their own safety; so the captain recommended it to Blanchard, as a thing of the utmost consequence, to take especial care to keep them in proper order. He very prudently counselled him never to go naked like the natives, as, by adhering to the form of dress, his countrymen had appeared in, he would always maintain a superiority of character; and that he might the better follow this advice, Blanchard was furnished with all the clothes that could be spared, and directed, when those were worn out to make himself trowsers of a mat, which he could always get from the natives, and thereby preserve that decency he had always been used to. Nor did the Captain forget, in his instructions, to recommend an attention to religious matters. He urged Blanchard, in the most earnest manner, not to neglect those acts of devotion which he had been taught to practise, but carefully to observe the Sabbath day, and perform those Christian duties wherein he had

been educated; for the Captain had always endeavoured to impress a due sense of religion upon his crew, and never failed publicly to read prayers to them every Sunday. Lastly, Blanchard was desired to ask for any thing he thought likely to be of comfort or use to him, when he requested to have one of the ship's compasses; and, as the pinnace was intended to be left for Abba Thulle, he wished that the oars, sails, masts, and every thing belonging to her, might likewise be left; all which were promised him.

Blanchard was a man of about twenty, rather of a grave disposition, good-tempered, and inoffensive. Unluckily, he had got no education; and could neither write nor read; otherwise he might have made some interesting remarks. On the departure of his countrymen, he wished them a prosperous voyage, and took leave of all his old shipmates with perfect ease and indifference. This man turned out differently from what was expected, and lost the esteem of the king and the natives. He left off clothing, though Captain Wilson had particularly recommended the reverse, and wandered, from place to place. About seven years afterwards he was killed in a bloody battle between the king and a neighbouring people.

Meantime the king was desirous to know when the vessel would be launched; and on being told, he came from an island called Pethoull, where some of the English had also gone.—Mr. Sharp and Mr. M. Wilson invited the general to come with the pinnace, which he accepted, and ordered his canoes to attend the king. When two or three miles from land, it began to blow fresh, and the canoes were obliged to run in shore for shelter.—Raa Kook, delighted to see the pinnace sail so well, and feel so little effect from the weather, requested his two friends to go on shore and ask the king on board. He, his daughter, and chief minister, immediately came into the pinnace. The wind still freshening, they rapidly advanced, the boat rolling much in going before the wind and sea. The king and his company expressed great satisfaction that they sat so dry and comfortable, compared with what they could have done in a canoe, which is only fit for smooth water: besides the natives of that country have a strong dislike to being wet, especially by rain. The English, observing the king so well pleased with the pinnace, informed him that the Captain meant to make him a present of it when he went away. On this he desired

his brother to pay particular attention to the manner in which the sails were managed.

The vessel was lowered off the blocks, down upon the ways; but being too much over on one side, she was righted by means of a tackle — The king told the Captain, that he wished her to be called by some Pelew name, supposing her called by an English one, and desired that the name might be changed to Oroolong, in remembrance of the place where she had been built. The Captain assured him that this should immediately be done, and sent for his officers and people, whose satisfaction, at the idea, gave great pleasure to the king.

While the vessel was painting, her stern was particularly decorated by Raa Kook, under the direction of the king, but whether there was any real design in the ornaments he used, could not be discovered. This finished, several baskets of cocoa-nuts, in a state of vegetation, and other seeds, were brought: and the Captain was informed that it was for the purpose of being planted for the English. After being planted, he was told there would be future fruit for them when they returned, and should any inhabitants of the other islands accidentally come

on shore and eat the fruit, they would thank the English for the refreshment.

In the evening, the people tried to launch the vessel, but, to their disappointment, they could not move her until the tide began to fall. Thus every thing was allowed to remain until the next tide, in hopes to discover the cause of obstruction.

The night proving fine, all hands were employed in preparing for the launch. They swept the vessel with a lower-shroud hawser, carried out an anchor and a hawser a-head, and got a runner and tackle purchase upon it. A post with wedges was likewise set against the stern post, and every thing was made ready before day-light. The tide ebbed unusually low during the night, lower than had ever taken place since their arrival.

At day-light, the people began to try their work, and examine whether these plans would answer their wishes. The vessel was got down about six feet, when they desisted until high water, and sent over to the king, who, with all his attendants, came to be present at the launch. About seven o'clock on Sunday, the 9th of November, they happily got the vessel afloat, to the joy of every spectator, for all seemed deeply interested in

the event, The English gave three loud huzzas at her going off, in which they were joined by the natives; and hearty congratulations were exchanged.

The vessel was immediately hauled into a dock that had been dug for her, and safely moored, when all went to breakfast; the king and chiefs, with the Captain, and the attendants with the people. Shears were next got up, and the masts taken in, as also the water-casks and two six-pounders. The vessel having stopped two or three times in the course of launching, had caused some trouble, but more uneasiness. In taking up the ways, this was discovered to have been occasioned by a nail in the bottom not being driven home. When the flood-tide came in the afternoon, the vessel was hauled into a place called the basin, where there were four or five fathoms water, and which was large enough to contain three others of the same magnitude; and all could be a-float at low water. In the night, the Captain got on board the provisions, stores, ammunition, and arms, except what was intended as a present to the king; and Monday morning was employed in getting on board anchors, cables, and other necessaries, as also making bits, and fitting a rail across the stern of the vessel

The king sent a message to Captain Wilson in the morning, desiring him to come to the watering place. On his arrival, he acquainted him that it was his intention to invest him with the order of the bone, and formally make him a *Rupack*, or chief of the highest rank. The Captain expressed his sense of the king's favour: and he was then desired to sit down at a little distance from the king and his chiefs. Raa Kook having received the bone from the king, anointed the Captain's hand with oil, and endeavoured to get it drawn through the bone, squeezing it into as small a compass as possible. Other chiefs assisted at the ceremony, during which the most profound silence was preserved, both by them and by all the people present. The operation was difficult, from the smallness of the bone, and the king suggested in what manner it might be facilitated. Being at last accomplished, and the Captain's hand fairly passed through, the whole assembly expressed great joy. The king addressing him, said the bone should be rubbed bright every day, and preserved as a testimony of the rank he held among them; that this mark of dignity must, on every occasion, be defended valiantly, and not suffered to be torn from his arm, but with loss of life.

The ceremony ended, all the Rupacks congratulated Captain Wilson, on being admitted one of their order, and the inferior natives flocked round to look at the bone, appearing highly pleased to see his arm adorned with it, and calling him Englees-Rupack.

In the evening, the tents were all cleared, and every thing carried on board from the old habitations in the cove. As the people were much troubled by the natives coming on board, and wishing to look at the vessel and admire her, Raa Kook mentioned it to the king, who immediately gave orders that none but the chiefs should go, and that the others should only paddle alongside, and look at her from their canoes. When all the officers were on board, and the sails bent, she was carried to the west side of the island, and moored in six fathoms water, abreast of the well which supplied fresh water.

The king now reverting to what had formerly fallen from him, expressed his determination to send his second son, Lee Boo, to England, under the protection of Captain Wilson; he described him as a young man of a gentle and amiable disposition; sensible, and of a mild temper, and said that he had sent for him from another place, where he was under

the care of an old man; that he was then at Pelew taking leave of his friends, and would be at Oroolong the next morning. Captain Wilson answered this singular mark of the king's confidence, in a way that gave him great satisfaction. It appeared that Raa Kook had made a request of a similar nature, which had been refused by his brother, and he felt particularly disappointed by it. The king assigned as his objection, that Raa Kook was next heir to the crown, (for the succession there passed to brothers before descending to sons,) and the inconvenience that might arise, if he himself died during his brother's absence. Another of the natives, a nephew of the king, applied to the Captain to carry him to England.—The king, however, when the Captain mentioned it, said that his nephew was a bad man, and neglected his family, and that nothing could affect or alter his disposition.

Raa Kook obtained from Mr. Barker, the secondmate, a plan for building a vessel, as he was very desirous of being able to construct one after the English fashion. Mr. Barker recommended the jolly-boat as a model, rather than the pinnace, she being broader, and not so deep.

Before quitting the cove, the people hoisted an English pendant on a large tree growing close to the place where their tents had stood.

They also affixed to another tree, near the place where they had built their little vessel, a plate of copper, bearing the following inscription: "The Honourable the East India Company's ship, the Antelope, Henry Wilson, commander, was lost on a reef north of this island, in the night between the ninth and tenth of August, who here built a vessel, and sailed from hence on the 12th day of November, 1783." The meaning of this inscription was explained to the king, who made his people comprehend it. He promised that it should never be taken down, and if it should happen to fall by accident, he would take care of it, and have it preserved at Pelew.

The king's second son, Lee Boo, now arrived, and was introduced by his father to Captain Wilson, and all the officers on shore. Every one was prepossessed with his ease and affability, and the good humour and sensibility of his countenance. Before dark, the officers took leave of the king and went on board; the Captain remained behind, as the king wished him to pass the night on shore.

On Wednesday, the 12th, an English jack was hoisted at the mast-head of the vessel at day-light, and one of the swivels fired as a signal for sailing. When the king understood

the purport of it, he ordered canoes immediately to take on board yams, cocoa-nuts, sweet-meats, and other things that he had provided for the voyage; besides which, many canoes of the natives, loaded with a profusion of provisions, lay alongside of the Oroolong.

As soon as the vessel was loaded with every thing that could be taken on board, and got ready for sea, the boat was sent on shore for the Captain.—The king informed of this, signified that he and his son would presently come on board, in his canoe. The Captain got to the ship about eight o'clock, and the king, with Lee Boo and his chiefs, followed very soon afterwards. The vessel was so deeply laden with their sea-store, that a doubt arose whether she might be able to get over the reef, on which account, it was agreed to land two six-pounders that had been taken, and to leave the jolly-boat behind. The people had no materials for repairing her, and without this, she could not swim much longer. The king hearing that the people were in want of a boat, instantly offered to supply them with a canoe, and all alongside being too large to hoist in, he sent his eldest son on shore, who soon returned with one of suitable dimensions.

The Oroolong proceeded towards the reef, accompanied by a multitude of canoes, the natives earnestly soliciting that their gifts might be accepted. The pinnacle preceded the vessel, taking her in tow; and several canoes went a-head, shewing the safest track, while others, stationed by the king's command at the reef, pointed out the deepest water for her passage over it. Fortunately, by means of these precautions, the Oroolong cleared the reef without difficulty.

The king went almost to the reef in the vessel, before making a signal for his canoe to come alongside; he then gave his son, Lee Boo, his blessing, wishing him happiness and prosperity, which he received with great respect. He shook all the officers by the hand, in the most cordial manner, next embracing the Captain, and assuring the people of his affectionate wishes for their making a successful voyage, he went over the side of the vessel to his canoe.

Raa Kook remained very pensive, and suffered the vessel to proceed a considerable way from the reef, before recollecting himself, and summoning his canoes to return. As this chief had been the first and a truly valuable friend of the English, they present-

ed him with a brace of pistols, and a cartridge-box, filled with cartridges; and he then left them, much affected by the separation. He had been of the most important use, and had behaved with uncommon generosity during the whole stay of the English in these islands.

At noon, the island of Oroolong bore south-east by east, four leagues distant. Tolerable weather, with light squalls, rain, and variable winds prevailed the first two days, and the crew endeavoured to make more room in stowing their provisions and stores.—In doing this, they discovered that a small leak which had sprung the preceding day, was under the end of one of the floor timbers. They proposed to cut it away, in order to come at the leak and stop it from within; but on more mature consideration, this was thought too dangerous an expedient, as it might occasion the starting of a plank, and thence the sinking of the vessel.

In the night were strong squalls, attended with rain and lightning; and on the 25th, the Bashee islands were in sight, when the ship bore away through a passage between the islands, and at noon was in the Chinese sea.—On the 26th they saw land, which proved the island of Formosa. On coming

within sight of Macao, an English jack was hoisted at the mast-head, which being seen by the Portuguese ships at anchor, they immediately sent out their boats to meet the Oroolong, carrying fruit and provisions, and also men to assist; for they judged by the smallness of the vessel, that this was some English ship's crew that had been wrecked.

Lee Boo was remarkably clean in his person, during the passage, washing himself several times a-day; and on recovering from a temporary indisposition, appeared easy and contented. He was extremely astonished on seeing the large Portuguese ships at anchor in the port of Macao, and equally astonished at every thing else he saw on shore. He was lost in silent admiration at the first house he entered. What struck him most were the upright walls and flat ceilings, and he seemed puzzled to comprehend how they could be formed. The decorations of the rooms were also no small object of astonishment. He received several little trinkets, as presents, from some of the gentlemen there, who thought he would be pleased from their novelty. Among these was a string of large beads, the sight of which threw him into perfect ecstasy; he hugged them with a trans-

port that the possessor of pearls as large, could have hardly felt; he ran with eagerness to Captain Wilson, to shew him his riches, and in the utmost agitation that his family might have them, begged him immediately to get him a Chinese vessel to carry his treasures to Pelew, and deliver them to the king, that he might distribute them as he thought best, and thereby see what a country the English had conveyed him to. He also told the Captain, that if they faithfully executed their charge, independent of what they might receive from his father, he would himself, on his return, present them with one or two beads, as the reward of their fidelity.

From Macao, Captain Wilson went to Canton, where the Oroolong was sold for 700 Spanish dollars. There he had advantageous offers of commanding country-ships, which he declined, thinking it his duty to embrace the earliest opportunity, in person, to acquaint the East-India Company with the fate of the Antelope, and the peculiar circumstances attending it.

The officers and men dispersed, while the Captain earnestly recommended that the whole should go to England, where he had no doubt the Company would, in some measure, re-

compense the hardships they had sustained. He, along with Lee Boo, embarked in the Morse East Indiaman, then bound for England; where they arrived in safety on the 14th of July, 1784.

This young prince, then only eighteen, or nineteen years of age, interested all who beheld him; his natural, untutored observations, clearly represented what an amiable, though uneducated mind, which has not been polished by artificial means, may be. He was extremely ardent to acquire whatever others could do, and to learn the use and meaning of all he saw; but his whole bent and inclination seemed to be, that on returning to Pelew, he might be able to point out what was for the benefit of his country. Notwithstanding the utmost care to prevent it, he unfortunately caught the small-pox, of which distemper he died in five months, or a little more, after his arrival in England. Captain Wilson behaved as a father to him, and he was considered by the rest of the family, as one of themselves.

The king of Pelew had testified strong resolution in thus parting with his son, and confiding him to strangers, whom shipwreck had so fortunately thrown on his shores. He told Captain Wilson, that he was aware of

the dangers and diseases to which he would be exposed, in visiting foreign countries; and as death was inevitable to all men, that he also might be cut off. But he requested should it be the case, that it should not deter him, or any of his countrymen, from visiting Pelew, where he should rejoice to see them.

AFTER this narrative of the shipwreck of the Antelope packet, and the fortunate preservation of a number of lives, by the humanity and benevolence of a people either altogether unknown, or ranked among the savages which inhabit the uncivilized part of the globe, perhaps it may not be uninteresting to devote a few additional lines, to some more recent transactions which have taken place with the natives of the Pelew islands.

The Directors of the East-India Company having resolved to send out vessels to acquaint the king with the death of his son, orders were sent to Bombay, to equip two for that purpose. Accordingly the Panther and the Endeavour sailed on the 24th of August, 1790, having on board two officers, who had been shipwrecked along with Captain Wilson. During the month of November, the

vessels were occupied in working up the south coast of Java, where they experienced much hard weather. The thunder and lightning were dreadful, many of the people on deck being deprived of sight for several minutes after a flash. On the first of January, 1791, a peal of thunder broke just over the Panther; the lightning ran down the conductor in a stream of fire, and the concussion was so violent, and the ship shook in such a manner, that Captain M'Cluer, who commanded her, thought she had run aground.

The southmost of the Pelew islands was in sight on the 21st, and on the 22nd the vessels came to an anchor within two miles of the shore.—Several canoes were seen, but they did not come near the ships, whence it was concluded they were either hostile to the king, or going express to inform him of the arrival of the English. In the evening, a number of canoes were observed rowing very fast, and one of them had a great number of paddles. This was known to be the king's canoe. He received the account of his son's death with fortitude, saying, he never entertained any doubt of the goodness of the English, and Captain Wilson, who he was sure had cherished him. He was greatly disappointed at not seeing the Captain, but

appeared satisfied that he was alive and well, and promoted to the command of a much larger vessel than the Antelope. The two officers, Lieutenants Wedgeborough and White, were immediately recognized by the natives, and experienced the most affectionate reception from them.

Late in the preceding year, the English learned that the king had conquered the island of Pelew, when an obstinate engagement ensued, in which Raa Kook, Arra Kooker, the king's eldest son, and many old warriors, the friends of the crew of the Antelope, had been killed.

Mr. Wedgeborough found the cove where the Oroolong had been built, now a perfect wilderness, been quite overgrown with underwood, except where the cocoa nut-trees stood, which had been planted by Raa Kook. These were very flourishing, though they had not yet produced any fruit. The inscription affixed to a tree, had been taken away by the natives of Pelew, and was one cause of the war that had just terminated.

A considerable quantity of live stock was landed, for the purpose of breeding on the Pelew islands, where the only quadrupeds are rats, if the animal which we have supposed, the flying squirrel, be excepted. These, it

was afterwards understood, throve wonderfully well. The presents sent by the East-India Company to the king, were conveyed ashore, under a detachment of sepoy's and officers in uniform; and, after a repast, the packages containing them were opened. The effect which they had on the natives was wonderful; they did not utter a word, but only exclamations of astonishment. The part which consisted of arms, the king immediately distributed to his principal chiefs, recommending that they should be kept clean, and fit for service, when wanted. Grind-stones, shovels, saws, and the remaining packages of utensils were next landed, and presented to the king. When these were opened, and the different things exposed to view, and their uses explained to him, he was himself as much surprised as his subjects. He broke silence in about an hour, and calling his chiefs and principal people round him, made a long harangue, wherein the name of the English was frequently repeated. He then distributed various articles with his own hands to several persons, apparently with a regard to their rank.

The king was perfectly at a loss how to express his gratitude to the English chiefs, who had sent him these things. He asked why they sent so many things, when they

knew that he had nothing to give in return; he said, that his country, if he could send it, would be inadequate to what was now before him. At length, being made perfectly to understand that no return was expected, and that these things were sent from England in acknowledgment for his great humanity and kindness to the shipwrecked crew of the *Antelope*, he replied, that his services were very trifling, for their situation, at a distance, at Oroolong, prevented him from aiding them as he desired.

Captain M'Cluer, having resolved to make a survey of the Pelew islands, one of the vessels, the *Panther*, was to proceed to China, and the *Endeavour*, commanded by Captain John Proctor, to remain. By this means, the natives were to be instructed in the use of the tools and implements of husbandry that they had received.

Seeds of different sorts were sown on the 8th of February, in the places already fitted to receive them, and a large piece of ground was prepared for another plantation; but the badness of the weather prevented the progress of the work, from being as quick as could have been wished.

The Panther, which had carried four of the natives to China, three of whom survived, returned with them, more impressed in favour of the English than of the Chinese. A few days after her arrival, the king solicited the Captain's assistance against his enemies of Artingall, to which he acceded. The long-boat was therefore made ready, with a six-pounder, two swivels, a musquatoon, and ten men with small arms. Lieutenant Wedgeborough, Mr. Nicholson the surgeon, and twenty sepoy's also embarked.

On the arrival of the hostile army at Artingall, a messenger was sent by the king of Pelew, to offer terms of accommodation, which, after a considerable delay, were brought to a close, the enemy being chiefly intimidated by the sight of the English allies, and the report of their fire-arms. There the English, when an amicable settlement was made, played off some rockets and fire-works, to the great amazement of the inhabitants of Artingall, and the enjoyment of their friends; and an opportunity was taken to make presents of beads, and other things, to shew that they did not come as natural enemies. The king of Pelew was in future acknowledged the undoubted sovereign of all the neighbouring islands.

The English vessels were next employed in a survey of the coast of New Guinea, in their way to which, they touched at Amboyna, sailed to the coast of New Holland, and thence to the island of Timor. Mr. Nicholson was unfortunately killed by the natives of New Guinea, in the course of the voyage, and two of the three Pelew passengers died during its continuance.

In January, 1793, the two ships arrived at Pelew, where they learned the melancholy tidings of the death of the humane and beneficent king Abba Thulle, which had taken place about three months after their departure.

In this same month, Captain Proctor was dispatched to China with the Endeavour, where he joined the Earl of Macartney's embassy to the court of Peking. In February, Captain M'Cluer came to the extraordinary resolution of resigning the command of his ship, and spending the remainder of his days on the Pelew islands. He was accordingly left there with a quantity of arms, utensils, and other conveniencies, and the Panther having sailed on the 14th of February, arrived on the 17th of August, 1798, at Bombay, after an absence of nearly three years.

Captain M'Cluer, however, seems to have tired of his situation on the islands, and un-

expectedly appeared at Bombay, in June, 1794. He had embarked in his boat along with three Malay men, and two slaves of his own, intending to go to the islands of Ternate. When he got to the southward of the Pelew islands, he altered his design, and determined to proceed to China through the Bermardine passage. Therefore taking in a stock of provisions at Pelew, he reached the Bashee islands in ten days. He met very bad weather in crossing the Chinese sea, but arrived at Macao without any accident. He had no food but coconuts and water, nor any instrument or map to guide him, except a single chart of Captain Wilson's. When his health was established, Captain McCluer determined to return to the Pelew islands, where he had a son, and some property, meaning to bring them away. He arrived and embarked the whole, with several natives of both sexes, and, in his voyage towards Bombay, touched at Bencoolen. He from thence sent six of the Pelew women to that port in another vessel, and was then proceeding in his own vessel with the other natives, but neither he nor they were ever heard of more.

In the year 1797, Captain Wilson, on arriving at Bombay, was informed that three of the women still survived, and, in conse-

quence of no hopes being entertained of Captain M'Cluer's return, it was determined to send them home. This was considered an act of justice, as also to bring away several Chinese who had been left on the islands.

A small vessel was prepared, and entrusted to the command of Lieutenant Snook, who, after a tedious voyage, arrived at the Pelew islands in 1798. The inhabitants were greatly rejoiced at the arrival of the vessel, and highly pleased at the return of their countrywomen. They behaved with their wonted friendship and kindness.

The vessel being refitted, Lieutenant Snook took the Chinese on board, and returned to Bombay.

More recently, Captain Nathaniel Tucker, sailing with dispatches from Bombay to China, touched at the Pelew islands in February, 1802, Four canoes came off to him, in one of which was an Englishman. He and three more Europeans belonging to a country ship, which had gone to Port Jackson, were put on shore to collect breech-de-mer, tortoise-shell, sharks fins, and other articles for the China market. He was then to return and take them on board. This was the fourth time he had been left ashore on a similar employment, and al-

ways experienced the most friendly and hospitable attention.

The inhabitants were very solicitous that Captain Tucker should anchor within the reefs, with which these islands are surrounded, but the service he was on, requiring expedition, he was unable to gratify them, and was obliged to make sail without further communication.

Captain Wilson was afterwards appointed to the command of the Warley East Indiaman, and he had again an opportunity of distinguishing himself in the course of the late war in a different manner. A French squadron, under Admiral Linois, having attacked a fleet of British Indiamen, commanded by Captain Nathaniel Dance, was repulsed with considerable loss, and the fleet preserved. Captain Dance was knighted for his conduct on the occasion, and Captain Wilson, who was second in command, received various testimonies of public approbation. A sword, to the value of £50, was voted to him by the East India Company, and the like reward by the Patriotic Society. Captain Wilson had retired from the service of late years, and died near London in May, 1810.

L O S S
OF THE
Lady Hobart Packet,
ON AN
ISLAND OF ICE.

WE sailed from Halifax, on the 22d of June, 1803, steering a course to the southward and eastward, to clear Sable island. On the 24th we hauled to the northward, to pass over the northern part of the great bank of Newfoundland, intending to keep well to the northward, and by that means avoid the enemy's cruizers.

At seven in the morning of the 26th, being then on the great bank of Newfoundland, we discovered a large schooner under French colours, standing towards us, with her deck full of men. We concluded from her manner of bearing down, that she had been apprized of the war, and that she took us for a merchant brig; therefore, we cleared our ship for action. At eight, being within range of our guns, we fired a shot at her, when she struck her colours, and we sent on board and took possession of the vessel.

After taking out the Captain and crew of the prize, I gave her in charge to Lieutenant John Little and William Hughes, of his Majesty's navy, who were passengers in the Lady Hobart, and most handsomely volunteered their services. Along with them, I sent two of our old seamen, and two prisoners, to assist in navigating the prize.

At ten in the morning, we saw two schooners a-head, and fired a shot to bring them to. Finding them to be English, and bound to St. John's, I divided the French prisoners between them, with the exception of the Captain, Mate, and one boy, the Captain's nephew, who very earnestly requested to be kept on board the packet.

On Tuesday, the 28th of June, it blew hard from the westward, with a heavy sea and hazy weather, and thick fog at intervals. About one in the morning, the ship, then going at the rate of seven miles an hour, by the log, struck against an island of ice, with such violence, that several of the crew were pitched out of their hammocks. The suddenness of the shock roused me from my sleep, and I instantly ran upon deck. The helm being put hard a-port, the ship struck again about the chess-tree, and then swung round on her

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The Lady Hobart Packet approaching the Ice Island.

keel, her stern-post being stove in, and her rudder carried away, before we could succeed in our attempts to haul her off.

At this time, the island of ice appeared to hang quite over the ship, forming a high peak, which must have been twice the height of our mast head; and the length of the island, was supposed to be from a quarter to half a mile.

The sea was now breaking over the ice in a dreadful manner, and the water rushing in so fast, as to fill the ship's hold in a few minutes: we hove the guns over board, cut away the anchors from the bows, and got two sails under her bottom. Both pumps were kept going, and we continued baling with buckets from the main hatchway, in hopes of preventing the ship from sinking. But, in less than a quarter of an hour, she settled down to her fore-chains in the water.

Our situation was now become more perilous. Aware of the danger of a moment's delay in hoisting out the boats, I consulted Captain Thomas of the navy, and Mr. Bargas, my master, as to the propriety of making any further efforts to save the ship; and, as I was anxious to preserve the mail, I requested their opinion as to the possibility of taking it into the boats, in the event of our being able to

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get them over the ship's side. These gentlemen agreed with me that no time was to be lost in hoisting out the boats; and that, as the vessel was then settling fast, our first and only consideration was to endeavour to preserve the crew: and here I must pay that tribute of praise, which the steady discipline and good conduct of every one on board so justly merit. From the first moment of the ship's striking, not a word was uttered expressive of a desire to leave the wreck; my orders were promptly obeyed, and though the danger of perishing was every instant increasing, each man waited his own turn to get into the boats, with a coolness and composure that could not be surpassed.

Having fortunately succeeded in hoisting out the cutter and the jolly-boat, the sea then running high, we placed the ladies, three in number, in the former. One of them, Miss Cottenham, was so terrified, that she sprung from the gunwale, and pitched into the bottom of the boat with considerable violence. This, which might have been an accident productive of fatal consequences to herself as well as to us all, was unattended by any bad effect. The few provisions which had been saved from the men's births were then put into the boats, which were quickly veered a-stern.

By this time, the main deck forward was under water, and nothing but the quarter-deck appeared. I next ordered the men into the boats, and, having previously lashed iron pigs of ballast to the mail, it was thrown overboard.

I now perceived that the ship was sinking fast. Intending to drop myself from the end of the trying-sail boom into the cutter, but apprehensive that she might be stove under the counter, I called out to the men to haul up and receive me; and I desired Mr. Bargas, who continued with me in the wreck, to go over first. He replied, that in this instance he begged leave to disobey my orders, that he must see me safe over, before he attempted to go himself. Such conduct, and at such a moment, requires no comment; but I should be wanting to myself and to the service, if I did not state every circumstance, however trifling; and it is highly satisfactory to have this opportunity of recording an incident so honourable to a meritorious officer.

At the time we hoisted out the boats, the sea was running so high, that I scarcely flattered myself we should get them over in safety, and indeed, nothing but the steady and orderly conduct of the crew, could have enabled us to accomplish so difficult and hazardous an undertaking; and it is only justice to them to

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observe, that not a man in the ship attempted to make use of the liquor, which every one had in his power. While the cutter was getting out, I perceived John Tipper, one of the seamen, emptying a five gallon bottle, and on enquiring, found it to be of rum. He said that he was doing so for the purpose of filling it with water from the skuttle-cask on the quarter-deck, which had generally been filled over night, and which was then the only fresh water that could be got at. It afterwards became our principal supply. This circumstance I relate as being so highly creditable to the character of a British sailor.

We had scarcely quitted the ship, when she gave a heavy lurch to port, and then went down head foremost. I had ordered the colours to be hoisted at the main-top gallant-mast head, with the union downwards, as a signal of distress, that if any vessel should happen to be near us at the dawn of day, our calamitous situation might attract observation from her, and relief be afforded us.

At this awful crisis of the ship sinking, when fear might be supposed the predominant principle of the human mind, a British seaman, named John Andrews, exhibited uncommon coolness: "There my brave fellows,"

he exclaimed, "there goes the pride of Old England."

I cannot attempt to describe my own feelings, or the sensations of my people. Exposed as we were, in two open boats, on the great Atlantic ocean; bereft of all assistance but that which our own exertions under Providence could afford us, we narrowly escaped being swallowed up in the vortex. Men accustomed to vicissitudes are not easily dejected; but there are trials which human nature alone cannot surmount. The consciousness of having done our duty, and reliance on a good Providence, enabled us to endure the calamity that had befallen us, and we animated each other with the hope of a better fate.

While we were employed in deliberating concerning our future arrangement, a singular incident occurred, which occasioned considerable uneasiness among us. At the moment the ship was sinking, she was surrounded by what seamen call a school, or an incalculable number of Whales, which can only be accounted for by our knowing that at this particular season, they take a direction for the coast of Newfoundland, in quest of a small fish called Capelard, which they devour. From their near approach, we were extremely apprehensive that they might strike the boats

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and materially damage them: frequent instances having occurred in the fishery, of boats being cut in twain by the force of a single blow from a whale. We therefore shouted, and used every effort to drive them away, but without effect; they continued, as it then seemed, to pursue us, and remained about the boats, for half an hour, when, thank God! they disappeared without having done us any injury.

After surmounting dangers and difficulties which baffle all description, we at length rigged the fore mast, and prepared to shape our course in the best manner that circumstances would admit. The wind blew precisely from that point on which it was necessary to sail in order to make the nearest land.

An hour scarcely elapsed from the time the ship struck, until she foundered. The crew were already distributed in the following order, which was afterwards preserved. In the cutter, which was twenty feet long, six feet four inches broad, and two feet six inches deep, were embarked three ladies and myself; Captain Richard Thomas of the navy: the French commander of the schooner; the master's mate, gunner, steward, carpenter, and eight seamen, in all eighteen people. These together with the provisions, brought the boat's

gunwale down to within six or seven inches of the water. Some idea of our crowded state may be formed from this; but it is scarcely possible for the imagination to conceive the extent of our sufferings in consequence of it.

In the jolly-boat, which was fourteen feet from stem to stern, five feet three inches broad and two feet deep, were embarked Mr. Samuel Bargus, master; Lieutenant-colonel George Cooke of the first regiment of guards; the boatswain, sail maker, and seven seamen; in all eleven persons.

The only provisions which we were able to save, consisted of between forty and fifty pounds of biscuit, a vessel containing five gallons of water, as also a small jug, and part of a barrel of spruce beer, one five gallon vessel of rum, a few bottles of port wine, with two compasses, a quadrant, a spy-glass, and a small tin mug. The deck-lantern which had a few spare candles in it, had likewise been thrown into the boat; and the cook having had the precaution to secure his tinder box and some matches that were kept in a bladder, we were enabled to steer by night.

The wind was now blowing strong from the westward, with a heavy sea, and the day had just dawned. Estimating ourselves 350

miles distant with the jolly-boat. I found the strictest economy necessary for our companions when adopted, and that the provisions, which we ventured to take, were served up with wine, which was the result of the ensuing day, to leave the

During the night, we were enabled to throw the anchor, which was the first step towards safety, which enabled us to ride out the waves. According to the account of a few natives, we were enabled to hoist the

Soon after the jolly-boat was hoisted, the north wind was blowing the

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miles distant from St. John's in Newfoundland, with the prospect of westerly winds continuing, I found it necessary at once to use the strictest economy.—This I represented to my companions in distress, that our resolution, when adopted, should on no account be changed, and that we should begin by suffering privations, which I foresaw, would be greater than I ventured to explain. To each person, therefore, were served out half a biscuit and a glass of wine, which was the only allowance for the ensuing twenty-four hours; we all agreed to leave the water untouched as long as possible,

During the time we were employed in getting out the boats, I ordered the master to throw the main-hatch tarpauling into the cutter, which being afterwards cut into lengths, enabled us to form a temporary bulwark against the waves. I had also reminded the carpenter to carry as many tools with him as he could. Accordingly, among other things, he had put a few nails in his pocket, and we repaired the gunwale of the cutter, which had been staved in hoisting her out.

Soon after day-light, we made sail with the jolly-boat in tow, and stood close hauled to the northward and westward, in hopes of reaching the coast of Newfoundland, or of being

picked up by some vessel. We passed two islands of ice nearly as large as the first: and now said prayers, and returned thanks to God for our deliverance. At noon we made an observation in latitude $45^{\circ} 33'$ north, St. John's bearing $\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ north, distant 350 miles.

Wednesday the 29th of June was ushered in with light and variable winds from the southward and eastward. We passed a long and sleepless night, and I found myself, at dawn of day, with twenty-eight persons, anxiously looking up to me for the direction of our course, as well as for the distribution of their scanty allowance. On examining our provisions we found the bag of biscuits much damaged by salt water, on which account it became necessary to curtail the allowance. All cheerfully acquiesced in this precaution.

It was now that I became more alive to the horrors of our situation. We all returned thanks to heaven for past mercies, and offered up prayers for our safety.

A thick fog soon after came on; it continued during the day with heavy rain, which, now being destitute of any means of collecting it, offered us no relief. Our crowded and exposed condition was rendered more distressing from being thoroughly wet, as no one had been permitted to take more than a

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The oars of both boats were kept constantly going, and we steered a N. N. W. course. All hands were anxiously looking out for a strange sail. At noon, a quarter of a biscuit and a glass of rum were served to each person. St. John's bore 310 miles distant, but we made no observation. One of the ladies again read prayers to us.

Next morning we were all so benumbed with wet and extreme cold, at day-break, that half a glass of rum and a mouthful of biscuit were served out to each person. The ladies, who had hitherto refused the spirits, were now prevailed upon to take the stated allowance, which afforded them immediate relief, and enabled them the better to resist the severity of the weather.

The sea was mostly calm, with thick fog and sleet; the air raw and cold. We had kept at our oars all night, and we continued to row the whole of this day. The jolly-boat, having unfortunately put off from the ship, with only three oars, and having but a small sail converted into a foresail, with a top-gallant steering-sail, without needles or twine, we were obliged to keep her constantly in

tow. The cutter also having lost two of her oars in hoisting out, was now so deep in the water, that with the least sea, she made but little way, so that we were not enabled to profit much by the light winds.

Some one from the jolly-boat called out that there was part of a cold ham, which had not been discovered before. Of this a small bit about the size of a nutmeg was immediately served out to each person, and the remainder thrown over board, as I dreaded it might increase our thirst, which we had no means of assuaging.

At noon we judged ourselves to be on the north eastern edge of the Great Bank, St. John's, bearing west by north 246 miles distant. Performed divine service.

Friday, 1st July. During the greater part of the last twenty-four hours, it blew a hard gale of wind from W. S. W. with a heavy confused sea from the same quarter. Throughout, there were thick fog and sleet, and the weather excessively cold; and the spray of the sea freezing as it blew over the boats, rendered our situation truly miserable. At this time we all felt a most painful depression of spirits;—the want of nourishment, added to the continued cold and wet, had rendered us almost incapable of exertion. The very

confined space of our straits, the men were repeatedly reminding me, and severing in and proper their desire touched.

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confined space in the boat, would not admit of our stretching our limbs; and several of the men whose feet were considerably swelled, repeatedly called out for water. But on my reminding them of the resolution we had made, and of the absolute necessity of persevering in it, they acknowledged the justice and propriety of my refusal to comply with their desire; and the water remained untouched.

We stood to the northward and westward at the commencement of the gale; but the cutter was so low in the water, and had shipped so much sea, that we were obliged to cast off the jolly-boat tow-rope; and we very soon after lost sight of her in the fog.

This unlucky circumstance was productive of the utmost distress to us all. We had been roused to exertion from a double motive; and the uncertainty of ever again meeting the companions of our misfortune, excited the most acute affliction. To add to the misery of our situation, we lost, along with the boat, not only a considerable quantity of our stores, but with them our quadrant and spy-glass.

The gale increasing, with a prodigious heavy sea, we brought the cutter to, about

four in the afternoon, by heaving the boat's sail loose over the bow, and veering it round with the rope bent to each yard-arm, which kept her head to the sea, so as to break its force before it reached us.

In the course of this day, there were repeated exclamations of a strange sail, although I knew it was next to an impossibility to discover any thing, owing to the thickness of the fog.—Yet the exclamations escaped from the several seamen, with such apparent certainty of the object being there, that I was induced to put the boat before the wind to convince them of their error. As I then saw, in a very strong point of view, the consequences of such deviation, I took occasion to remonstrate with them on the subject. I represented, with all the persuasion of which I was capable, that the depression arising from disappointment infinitely overbalanced the momentary relief proceeding from such delusive expectation, and exhorted them not to allow such fancies to break out into expression. Under all these circumstances, the ladies, with a heroism which no words can describe, particularly afforded to us the best examples of patience and fortitude.

Joining in prayer tranquillized our minds, and inspired the consolatory hope of bettering

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St. John's, at noon, bore west by north 143 miles distant; but we made no observation.

Saturday, 2nd July—It rained hard during the night, and the cold became so severe, that hardly one in the boat was able to move. Our hands and feet were so much swelled, that many of them became quite black, owing to our confined state, and the constant exposure to cold weather.—At day-break, I served out about the third of a wine glass of rum to each person, with a quarter of a biscuit, and before noon, a small quantity of spruce-beer, which afforded us great relief.

During the earlier part of this day, it blew strong from the south-west and westward, accompanied with foggy weather; towards noon moderate breezes prevailed from the northward and eastward.

At half past eleven in the forenoon, a sail standing to the northwest, was discovered in the eastward. Our joy at such a sight, with the immediate hope of deliverance, gave us all new life. I immediately ordered the people to sit as close as possible, to prevent our having the appearance of an armed boat, and having tied a lady's shawl to a boat-hook, I

raised myself as well as I could, and from the bow waved it as long as my strength would allow me. Having hauled close to the wind, we neared each other fast, and in less than a quarter of an hour, we perceived the jolly-boat.

Our not recognizing her sooner, was owing to an additional sail having been made for her out of one of my bed sheets, which had been accidentally thrown into the boat, and was set as a bonnet to the foresail.

I cannot attempt to describe the various sensations of joy and disappointment, which were successively expressed on the countenance of all. As soon as we approached the jolly-boat, we threw out a tow-rope to her, and bore away to the north-west.

We now mutually inquired into the state of our respective crews after the late dreadful gale. Those in the jolly-boat had suffered from swelled hands and feet, like ourselves, and had undergone great anxiety on our account, concluding that we had perished. The most singular circumstance was their having steered two nights without any light; and our meeting again, after such tempestuous weather, could not have happened but from the interposition of Providence.

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Guarding against a similar accident, we made a more equal distribution of our provisions; and having received two bottles of wine, and some biscuit, from the jolly-boat, we gave her company some rum in return.

Our hopes of deliverance had now been buoyed up to the highest pitch. The excitement arising from joy, perceptibly began to lose its effect; and to a state of artificial strength, succeeded such despondency, that no entreaty or argument could rouse some of the men, even to the common exertion of making sail.

I, for the first time, served out a wine glass full of water to the French captain, and several of the people who appeared to have suffered most. I had earnestly cautioned the crew against tasting salt water; nevertheless, some of them had taken copious draughts of it, and became delirious; some were seized with violent cramps, and twitching of the stomach and bowels. I took occasion to point out to the rest of them the extreme danger of such indiscretion.

At noon, St. John's bore west by north, distant 110 miles. We obtained no observation of the sun this day. Performed divine service.

The cold, wet, and hunger, which we experienced, the following day, are not to be described; they rendered our condition very deplorable. At eight in the evening, having a strong breeze from the southward, we stood under all the canvass we could spread, the jolly-boat following in our wake, and rowing to keep up with us.

The French captain, who for some days had laboured under despondency, admitting of no consolation, leaped overboard in a fit of a delirium, and instantly sunk. The cutter was at this time going so fast through the water, and the oars being lashed to the gunwale, it would have been impossible to save him, even had he floated. One of the other prisoners in the jolly-boat became so outrageous, that it was necessary to tie him to the bottom of the boat.

The melancholy fate of the poor captain, whom I had learned to esteem, perhaps affected me at first more sensibly than any other person; for on the day of our disaster, when I was making the distribution in the boats, and considering in which I was to place him, he came to me, with tears in his eyes, imploring me not to leave him to perish with the wreck. I assured him that I had never entertained such an idea; that as I had been the accidental cause of his misfortunes, I should en-

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deavour to make his situation as easy as I could, and that as we were all exposed to the same danger, we should survive or perish together. This assurance, and the hope of being speedily exchanged, if ever we reached the land, operated for a while in quieting his mind; but fortitude soon forsook him, and the raw spirits, to which he had not been accustomed, producing the most dreadful intoxicating effects, hurried on the fatal catastrophe.

We were all deeply affected by this incident; indeed the most trifling accident or disappointment was sufficient to render our irritable state more painful; and I was myself absorbed with such melancholy, as to lose all recollection for many hours. A violent shivering had seized me, which returned at intervals; and as I had refused all sustenance, my state was very alarming. Towards night, I enjoyed, for the first time, three or four hours sound sleep; a perspiration came on, and I awoke as from a dream, free of delirium, but painfully alive to the horrors that surrounded me.

The sea continued to break so much over the boats, that those who had strength enough were obliged to bale without intermission. Those who sat in the stern of the cutter, were

so confined, that it was difficult for any one to put his hand into his pocket; and the greater part of the crew lay in water in the bottom of the boat.

The return of the dawn brought us no relief but its light; the sun had never cheered us but once during the whole of our perilous voyage; and those among us who obtained a few uninterrupted hours of sleep, awakened to the full consciousness of misery.

A very heavy gale arose from the southward, accompanied with so tremendous a sea, that the greatest vigilance was necessary in managing the helm, for the boats would have broached to from the slightest deviation, and occasioned our inevitable destruction. We scudded before the wind, expecting every wave to overwhelm us; but through the providence of God, we weathered the storm, which, towards night, began to abate.

We had now run the distance that we supposed ourselves from St. John's: however the thickness of the fog prevented us from seeing to any great extent.

Towards evening, we passed several pieces of rock-weed, and soon after Captain Thomas saw the wing of a hackdown, an aquatic bird frequenting the coast of Newfoundland, which

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often is eaten by the fishermen. This afforded us great hopes of our approaching the land, and all hands were equally occupied in observing what passed the boats. About this time, a beautiful white bird, web-footed, and not unlike a dove in size and plumage, hovered over the mast-head of the cutter; and notwithstanding the pitching of the boat, frequently attempted to perch on it, and continued fluttering there until dark. Trifling as such an incident may appear, we all considered it a propitious omen.

The impressive manner in which the bird left us, and then returned to gladden us with its presence, awakened that superstition in our minds, to which sailors are at all times said to be prone. We indulged ourselves with the most consolatory assurance, that the same hand which had provided this solace to our distresses, would extricate us from the surrounding dangers.

There being every reason to conclude ourselves well in with the land, the few who were able to move, were now called upon to make the last effort to save their lives, by rowing, and taking advantage of the little breezes that then prevailed. It was strongly urged to them, that should the wind come off the

shore in the morning, and drive us to leeward, all exertions to regain it might then be too late, as independent of our feeble state, the provisions, with all possible economy, could not last more than two days, and the water, which had as yet remained untouched, except in the instances before mentioned, could not hold out much longer.

We had been six days and nights constantly wet and cold, and without any other sustenance than a quarter of a biscuit, and one wine-glass of liquid for twenty-four hours. The men, who had appeared totally indifferent respecting their fate, now summoned up resolution, and as many as were capable of moving from the bottom of the boats, betook themselves to the oars.

As the morning of Monday dawned, the fog became so thick, that we could not see very far from the boat. During the night, we had been under the necessity of casting off the jolly boat's tow-rope, to induce her crew to exert themselves by rowing. We again lost sight of her, and I perceived that this unlucky accident was beginning to excite great uneasiness among us. We were at this period so much reduced, that the most trifling remark or exclamation agitated us very much. I therefore found it necessary to caution the

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 veral of the poor fellows, nevertheless, repeat-
 edly exclaimed they heard breakers, and some,
 the firing of guns; and, to own the truth, the
 sounds we did hear, bore such a resemblance
 to the latter, that I concluded some vessels
 had got on shore, and were making signals of
 distress. This noise afterwards proved to be
 the blowing of whales, of which we saw a great
 number.

Soon after day-light, the sun rose in view,
 for the second time since we quitted the wreck.
 It is worthy of remark, that, during the period
 of seven days, that we were in the boats, we
 never had an opportunity of taking an obser-
 vation, either of the sun, moon, or stars; neither
 could we once dry our clothes. The fog at
 length beginning to dispel, we instantly caught
 a glimpse of the land, within a mile's dis-
 tance, between Kettle Cove and Island Cove,
 in Conception Bay, fourteen leagues from the
 harbour of St. John's. Almost at the same
 instant, we had the inexpressible satisfaction
 of discovering the jolly-boat, and a schooner
 near the shore standing off towards us.

I wish that it were possible for me to describe our sensations at this interesting moment. From the constant watching and fatigue, and also from the languor and depression produced by our exhausted state, such accumulated irritability was brought on, that the joy at a speedy relief affected us all in a most remarkable way. Many burst into tears; some looked at each other with a stupid stare, as if doubtful of the reality of what they saw, while several were in such a lethargic condition, that no consolation, no animating words, could rouse them to exertion.

At this affecting period, though overpowered by my own feelings, and impressed with the recollection of our sufferings, and the sight of so many deplorable objects, I proposed offering up our solemn thanks to Heaven for the miraculous deliverance. Every one cheerfully assented. As soon as I opened the prayer-book, which I had secured the last time I went down to my cabin, universal silence prevailed. A spirit of devotion was so singularly manifested on this occasion, that to the benefits of a sense of religion in uncultivated minds, must be ascribed that discipline, good order, and exertion, which even the sight of land could scarcely produce.

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The service being over, the people requested to have a pint of grog each; but dreading the consequences of such indulgence, I mixed some rum and water very weak, and distributed to every one a small quantity.

The schooner being within hail, and our situation being made known, she hove to and received us on board, and our boats were taken in tow. The men could now with difficulty be restrained from taking large and repeated draughts of water, in consequence of which, several felt great inconvenience from the sudden distension of the stomach; but, by observing greater caution afterwards, no other sinister effects ensued.

The wind having blown with great violence from off the coast, we did not reach the landing place at Island Cove, until four o'clock in the evening. All the women and children, with two or three fishermen, the rest of the men being absent, came down to the beach, and appearing deeply affected at our situation, assisted in lifting us out of the vessel. They next assisted in carrying us up the craggy rocks, over which we were obliged to pass to get to their habitations.

It was most fortunate that we fell in with the land about Island Cove. A very few

miles to the northward, the coast is inaccessible, and lined with dangerous reefs of rocks, which we should have pushed for in the night, had we seen them. Our situation had become so desperate, that I had resolved to land at the first place we could make, and in that case, we must have all perished.

The different fishing huts were constructed of Pine logs. The three ladies, Colonel Cook, Captain Thomas, the master, and myself, were conducted to the house of Mr. Lilly, a planter, who received us with great attention and humanity. This small village afforded neither medical aid nor fresh provisions, both of which we so much required, potatoes and salt fish being the only food of the inhabitants. I therefore resolved to lose no time in proceeding to St. John's, and hired a small schooner for that purpose.

On the seventh of July we embarked in three divisions, the most infirm were placed in the schooner; the master's mate had charge of the cutter, and the boatswain of the jolly-boat. But such was the exhausted state of the whole party, that the day was considerably advanced, before we could get under weigh.

At two in the afternoon, we made sail with the jolly-boat in tow, and the cutter in company, and stood along the coast of Newfound-

land, with a favourable breeze. Towards dusk it began to blow hard in squalls off the land, when we lost sight of the cutter, and were obliged soon after to come to an anchor, without St. John's harbour. We entertained great apprehensions for the cutter's safety, particularly as she had no grapnel, lest she might be driven to sea; but at day-light, we perceived her and the schooner entering the harbour. The cutter, we learnt, fortunately fell in with a fishing vessel, to which she made fast during the night.

The ladies, Colonel Cook, Captain Thomas, and myself, conducted by Mr. Lilly, left the schooner when she anchored, and, notwithstanding the extreme darkness and badness of the night, reached the shore in the jolly-boat. No house being open at so late an hour, we wandered for some time about the streets; but, at length, we were admitted into a small house, where we passed the remainder of the night on chairs, as there was but one miserable bed for the ladies.

Early on the following day, our circumstances having been made known, hundreds of people crowded down to the landing place. Nothing could exceed their surprize on seeing the boats that had carried nine-and-twenty persons, such a distance, over a boisterous sea;

and when they beheld so many miserable objects, they could not conceal emotions of pity and concern.

I waited on Brigadier-General Skerritt, who commanded the garrison, and who, immediately on learning our situation, ordered a party of soldiers to take the people out of the boats, and, with the utmost kindness and humanity, directed beds and every necessary article to be prepared for the crew.

The greatest circumspection was found necessary in administering nourishment to the men. Several of the crew were so much frost-bitten as to require constant surgical assistance; and it was arranged, that they should continue at St. John's, until they were in a fit condition to be carried to Halifax, for which purpose I hired a schooner.

Being anxious to return to England, I engaged the cabin of a small vessel bound to Oporto, and on the 11th of July embarked with Mrs. Fellowes, Colonel Cooke, Captain Thomas, Mr. Bargas, the master, and the Colonel's servant, who, during the voyage home, lost several of his toes, in consequence of what he had suffered. The master's mate was left to take charge of the ship's company, and was directed to conduct them to Halifax,

whence they would be enabled to return to their own country by the first opportunity.

After taking leave of our hospitable friends at St. John's, and recommending the companions of our distresses to their protection, we put to sea with favourable weather.

During a voyage of fifteen days, we had a few difficulties to encounter, such as pumping continually, for the vessel sprung a leak in a gale of wind, and we were obliged to throw overboard a considerable part of her cargo, which consisted of salt fish.

On the 26th of July, we fell in with an American ship, the Bristol Trader of New York. The owner, Mr. William Cowley, on being told our distressed situation, and that we had been shipwrecked, immediately hove to, and, with a benevolence and humanity that will ever reflect the highest honour on his character, received us on board, and brought us safe to Bristol, where we arrived, to our great happiness, on the third of August.

The persons saved, besides the officers and crew, were two French seamen, Mrs. Fellowes and five passengers, Mrs. Scott, Miss Cottenham, Lieutenant-Colonel Cooke, and Captain Richard Thomas, of the navy.

LOSS
OF THE
AMERICAN SHIP
HERCULES,

*On the Coast of Caffraria, June 16th, 1796,
as given by Captain Benjamin Stout, then in
Command of her.*

THE narrative to which we now proceed, is, perhaps, less interesting from the calamity it relates, than from the view in which it exhibits the natives of Caffraria. We shall find from it, that savages have the same feelings of humanity, which do honour to civilized countries; and their treatment of the unfortunate persons, shipwrecked on their coast, will teach us, that though the colour of a man's skin be different from our own, he is only inferior to us, in as far as he has not had the same advantages of climate, or the same means of improvement.

The American ship Hercules, commanded by Captain Benjamin Stout, arrived at Bengal about the month of December, 1795. Though

designing another voyage, he chartered his ship to the British East-India Company, and took on board above nine thousand bags of rice, which he was ordered to carry with the greatest dispatch to London. Intelligence had reached the Indian settlements of a failure in the crops of Great Britain, whence quantities of rice, as a substitute, were shipped with the utmost activity. Most of the crew were engaged in India, and chiefly consisted of Lascars, or natives of India, with a mixture of Americans, Danes, Swedes, Dutch, and Portuguese, the whole amounting to sixty-four persons. The necessary arrangements for the voyage being completed, the ship sailed from Sagar Roads, on the 17th of March, 1796.

“Nothing material occurred,” Capt. Stout proceeds to tell us, “until the 1st of June following, at which time we reached 35° south latitude, and 28° 40' east longitude. It then began to blow a gale, which progressively increased until the 7th. Though bred to the sea from my earliest youth, all that I had either heard or read of before, presented no adequate idea of those sublime effects which the raging of the elements produced. The ship, raised on mountains of water

was in a moment precipitated into an abyss, where she seemed to wait until the coming sea elevated her again to the clouds. The incessant roaring of the winds and waves, produced an awful sensation in the minds of the most experienced seamen, who, for some time, appeared in a state of stupefaction, while others, less accustomed to the dangers of a maritime life, vented their fears in cries and exclamations. Night came on worse than the day had been, and a sudden shift of wind, about midnight, threw the ship in the trough of the sea, which struck her aft, tore away the rudder, started the stern-post, and shattered the whole of her stern-frame.

The pumps were immediately sounded, and, in the course of a few minutes, the water had increased to four feet. One gang was instantly set to work them, and the remainder of the people employed in getting up rice from the run of the ship, and heaving it over, to come at the leak, if possible.

After three or four hundred bags were thrown into the sea, we did get at the leak, and found the water rushing into the ship with astonishing rapidity; therefore, we thrust sheets, shirts, jackets, bales of muslin, and every thing of the like description that could

be got, into the opening. Notwithstanding the pumps discharged fifty tons of water an hour, the ship must certainly have gone down, had not our expedients been attended with some success. The pumps, to the excellent construction of which we owe the preservation of our lives, were made by Mr. Mann, of London.

As the next day advanced, the weather appeared to moderate: the men continued incessantly at the pumps, and every exertion was made to keep the ship afloat. At that time, we were about two hundred leagues from the eastern coast of Africa.

On the 9th of June, though the violence of the tempest had in a great measure subsided, the swell of the sea was tremendous; nevertheless, I ordered the long-boat to be got out; but having reason to suspect that some of the crew would make off in her, I directed that she should be taken possession of by my second mate, and three seamen. They were supplied with arms, and I gave them express orders to shoot the first man who attempted to board her, without my permission. They were likewise instructed to lie a-stern, but to keep by the ship until she should come to an anchor.

The men having taken their stations in the

boat, I next ordered a raft to be made of all the large spars, which was immediately done. The whole, when lashed together, measured about 35 feet in length, and 15 in breadth.—Apprehending that the ship could not make the land, and being satisfied, that in case of her going down, all the people could not be received into the long-boat, I determined to neglect no measure, that promised even a chance of saving the whole.

When the second mate was preparing to obey my order, and take the command of the long-boat, the carpenter earnestly requested me to leave the ship. On my reprimanding him for not attending to the pumps, he burst into tears, and declared that the whole stern-frame was shook, and loosened in such a manner, that he every hour expected her to go down. I plainly observed, that the miserable appearance of this man, and the affecting tone in which he expressed his apprehensions, had already increased the terrors of the crew. I told him, therefore, that I would perform my duty, and stick to the ship, until I was convinced, from my own observations, that all hopes of saving her were vain. The carpenter repeated his solicitations, and I then commanded him to leave me, assuring him, at the

same time, that unless he made every exertion to encourage the people in their duty, and immediately went himself to the pumps, I should, however painful to my feelings, have him thrown into the sea. He retired, and afterwards exerted himself with manly perseverance.

On the departure of the carpenter, I was immediately addressed by many of the sailors, and on the same subject. They became so clamorous, and differed in their opinions so much, that with some of them, I was nearly proceeding to extremities. These circumstances are mentioned, as a caution to future navigators entrusted with a command. They too frequently listen to the opinions of their people, in the time of danger, who are generally for quitting the ship, and taking to boats, masts, yards, and timbers, lashed together in rafts. Indeed the sentiments and prejudices of the common seamen are so various, that it cannot be supposed that any thing, except confusion and misfortune, can follow such mistaken conduct. A crew such as mine, composed of people of various nations, truly required a peculiar attention from their commander. It may happen that, by humouring their religious prejudices, at a particular mo-

ment, essential service shall be obtained ; and as the following remarkable anecdote tends to elucidate this opinion, I shall relate it as it happened :

At a period when the tempest raged with the utmost violence, I had directed most of the crew below, especially the Lascars, to work the pumps. However I soon observed one of them coming up the gang-way, with a handkerchief in his hand, and on my enquiring what he was about, he told me, in a tone of voice, that indicated the most perfect confidence in the measure he proposed, that he was going to make an offering to God. " This handkerchief," said he, " contains a certain quantity of rice, and all the rupees I am worth : suffer me to lash it to the mizen-top, and rely upon it, Sir, we shall be saved. I was about to order him back again to the pumps, but recollecting that by so doing, both he and his countrymen might be thrown into a state of despondency, whereby the benefit of their exertions would be lost, I acquiesced. The Lascar thanked me ; and I soon beheld him mount the tottering ladder, without betraying the smallest apprehension. He lashed the handkerchief to the mizen-top-mast-head, fearless of all danger, and returned

in safety to the deck. After assuring me that God was now my friend, he went below to inform his comrades, that he had done his duty. All the Lascars seemed transported with joy; they embraced their virtuous companion, and then laboured with as much alacrity, at the pumps, as if they had neither suffered alarm nor fatigue before: and to their unceasing exertions, the preservation of the people was in a great measure owing

The shift of wind, which threw the ship into the trough of the sea, and carried away the rudder, was fortunately but a squall of short duration; it did not continue above a quarter of an hour. Had it lasted but a little longer, the ship must have been torn to pieces; but the wind came round to its former quarter, and gradually moderated.

After the long-boat had been entrusted to the charge of the second mate, and the raft completed, I held a consultation with my officers, who were all decidedly of opinion, that it was impossible to save the ship, and that we had no other chance of preserving our lives but to make the land, and run her on shore. When the people were informed of the result of this consultation, they appeared to work with renovated spirits, which we encouraged, assuring them, that we should soon

be within sight of land, and that by constantly working at the pumps, the ship would be kept afloat, until we should reach the shore

The ship being for some time unmanageable, and, in spite of all our efforts, frequently standing with her head from the land, I got a rudder made out of the topmast, and fixed in the place of the one we had lost. But it was found of little avail, without the help of the long-boat, which I, therefore ordered to be hauled athwart the stern, and this served, though with the greatest difficulty, to get the vessel's head towards the shore, while the wind was variable from the eastward. A cable could have been got out, which might have answered tolerably well to steer the ship; but people could not be spared from the pumps to make the necessary preparations.

On the evening of the 15th, we discovered land at about six leagues distance. At this moment all on board, expressed their joy, by shouts and acclamations, and the ship still kept nearing the shore, with five feet water in her hold.

In the morning of the 16th, being then about two miles from the land, and the wind from the westward, I ordered the anchor to

be let go, that a last effort might be made to stop the leaks, and, if possible, save the ship. But her stern was shattered in such a manner, that, after another consultation with my officers, it was finally resolved, to run her on the coast then opposite to us. Another gale was threatening, and no time was to be lost.

I immediately ordered the second mate, who was in the boat, to come on board, and I delivered into his custody the ship's register, and all the papers of any consequence in my possession. After providing him and three men with water and provisions, I sent him to the boat, with directions to keep in the offing, and said, that if we got safe to land, after running the ship ashore, I should search for some inlet, into which he might securely run. I likewise desired him occasionally to look out for signals from the land. He faithfully promised to obey my instructions, and then returned to his boat.

We were now on the coast of Caffraria, within a few leagues of the place where the river Infanta empties itself into the sea. As the crisis approached, we resolved to meet it with fortitude; and, I therefore gave directions to set the headsail, to heave the spring tight, in order to get the ship's head towards

the shore, and then to cut the cable and the spring.

My orders were obeyed with the greatest promptitude. After running within half a mile of the shore, the vessel struck on a cluster of rocks; the swell was at this moment tremendous, and, from her beating so violently, it was scarcely possible for the men to hold on. In this situation she remained three or four minutes, when a sea took her over the rocks, and carried her about a cable's length nearer the shore. Here she struck again, and continued heaving in, with a dreadful surf, which every instant made a break over her.

The lashing that held the raft having given way, and the spars being carried to a considerable distance from the ship, all hope of safety in that quarter ceased. At length, one of the crew, a black, plunged into the waves, and by exertions seeming more than human, gained and seated himself on the raft. But he had scarcely kept his station ten minutes, when the whole was turned over, and himself completely immersed in the sea. In a few moments, however, he was again observed in his seat; and again he was exposed to a similar misfortune, to which a third succeeded. Still he buffeted the waves

until at last, after enduring two hours of fatigue, which I did not think human nature capable of, he drifted on shore.

There the natives who had kindled fires, appeared in great numbers. They were mostly clothed in skins, armed with spears, and accompanied by a great many dogs; a party of them seized the man who had landed, and conducted him behind the sand hills lining the coast, which hid him entirely from our view.

Twelve of my people now launched themselves on different spars, and whatever pieces of timber they could find. Braving all difficulties, they at last gained the beach; which they had no sooner reached, than the natives came down, seized, and conducted them behind the sand hills also.

As it was impossible for us remaining on board, to discover what they were about, and as we observed several parties of the natives appear at different times on the shore, but unaccompanied by any of the people, we conceived that all those who had landed were massacred, and that a similar calamity awaited the rest of us.

We were obliged to shelter ourselves in the fore-castle, as the wreck being now fixed, the sea beat over her, and there was no other

part where we could remain, even for a moment, in a state of security.

All was uncertainty during the night; some were of opinion, that to avoid being tortured by the savages, perhaps thrown into the fires that had been seen on shore, it would be better to resign ourselves to the destruction of the watery element, and thus endure but a few struggles in parting with life. The sentiments of others were different; they proposed gaining the shore, in as compact a body as possible, and to attack the natives with stones, or whatever else could be found. But this was overruled, as a measure impracticable, for there was no possibility even of six men keeping together; and if that number could almost miraculously get on shore undivided, the savages could in a moment destroy them with spears.

The whole night was spent in similar consultations, and the approach of day was anticipated with considerable anxiety. When it did come, not an individual was to be seen, until about nine o'Clock, when all the people who had landed were observed making towards the shore, and we soon perceived them beckoning and inviting us to land.

In a few minutes, every spar and piece of timber that could be procured was afloat,

some occupied by two people, others by more, according to the size. I speedily stripped off my shirt, put on a short jacket, and wrapped a shawl round my waist, in the corner of which I put a gold watch. I then seized a spar and launched into the sea. For nearly three quarters of an hour I preserved my hold and drifted towards the shore; sometimes cast so near, as to touch the rocks with my feet, and then hurried away to a considerable distance; again I was precipitated forwards, and in a moment afterwards, carried off by the returning sea. At length, a sudden jerk, occasioned by the swell, strained both my arms and compelled me to quit the spar. At this instant, though at some distance from the beach, a wave that was advancing rapidly towards the shore, bore me along, and in a few moments threw me senseless on the sands. My people who were on shore observed my situation, ran down, and snatching me from the danger of the coming waves, conveyed me to a place of security. As they placed me by a fire and used every means for my recovery, I soon revived.

The first subject of my enquiry was naturally the fate of my unfortunate crew; and I then enjoyed the heartfelt pleasure of beholding them all around me, except those in the

long-boat, and one man who perished near the shore. I then addressed myself to the natives, endeavouring to explain myself by signs. Fortunately there was a Hottentot present who had lived with the Dutch farmers, and could speak their language; my third mate was a Dutchman, and these two served as interpreters.

I thanked the natives in the name of my whole crew, and on the part of my nation, for the liberal and humane assistance which they had afforded us in our misfortune, and solicited their future kindness and support.

This being, as I conceived, at no great distance from the spot where the Grosvenor was lost in 1782, I inquired whether any of the natives remembered such a catastrophe. Most of them answered in the affirmative, and ascending one of the sand hills, pointed to the place where the Grosvenor suffered shipwreck. I then desired to know whether they had received any certain accounts respecting the fate of Captain Coxon, who was proceeding on his way to the Cape, with several men and women passengers that were saved from the wreck. They answered, that Captain Coxon and the men were slain. One of the chiefs having insisted on taking two of the

white ladies to his kraal, the Captain and his people resisted, and not being armed, were immediately destroyed. The natives, at the same time, gave me to understand, that at the period when the Grosvenor was wrecked, their nation was at war with the colonists; and as the Captain and his crew were whites, they could not tell but they would assist the colonists in the war, provided they reached their farms. This intelligence so directly affected my own situation, that I desired to know on what terms the Caffres and the colonists now stood. "We are friends," said they, "and it will be their fault, if we are not always so." This answer relieved me from a very serious embarrassment. But the fate of the two unfortunate ladies gave me so much uneasiness, that I most earnestly requested the natives to tell me all they knew of their situation; whether they were alive or dead, and if living, what part of the country they inhabited. They replied, with much apparent concern, that one of the ladies had died a short time after her arrival at the kraal, but they understood that the other was living, and had several children by the chief. "Where she now is," said they, "we know not."

After receiving every possible information on this melancholy subject, we principally employed ourselves during the remainder of the day, in assisting the natives to save whatever came on shore from the wreck. They sought, with the most persevering diligence, for iron, burning it out of the pieces of wood. At night they retired, and we, taking shelter under the sand hills, appointed part of our number to watch, while the others tried to repose around a fire. To sleep, however, was impossible; our bodies were heated on one side by the fire, but chilled in such a manner by the cold on the other, as to suffer almost insupportable pain. The sand also, driven in prodigious quantities by the winds, filled our eyes, ears, and mouths, as we lay under the banks, and kept us in constant motion: and what added to these inconveniences, were the apprehensions which we entertained respecting the natives. I thought that they had, in the course of the day, received our solicitations for assistance in journeying towards the colonies with coolness, and did not seem willing to part with us so soon.

Day at length appeared, and the Caffres returned in greater numbers. Their chief,

aware that we were in want of food, brought us a bullock, which they immediately slaughtered, by knocking it on the head and running spears into the sides. It was skinned almost in a moment, and cut up into lumps, which the Caffres placed on the fire, rather to singe than to roast, and then devoured their respective shares with the greatest satisfaction. Though the beast was a donation to us, the Caffres saw no reason why they should not subsequently dispose of the greater part of it; they were hungry, and they knew nothing of European forms.—The paunch was swallowed as it came warm from the animal.

We then proceeded to the shore, whence the long-boat was seen at a considerable distance. The ship was now dividing very fast, and the gale increasing; many things were, therefore, cast on shore, which the natives indefatigably collected. At the sight of a cask thrown up my apprehensions were excited, for it contained sixty gallons of rum, a quantity sufficient to have intoxicated the whole natives present, though they amounted to at least three hundred. I stole to the spot where it was, and staved in the head unnoticed.

The Caffres having found the ship's compass, delivered it to the chief, who took it to pieces. After contemplating the various parts of which it was formed, he took out the copper ring in which it was hung, and, suspending it from his neck, seemed highly pleased with the ornament. Recollecting that I wore a pair of paste knee-buckles, I took them out, and, having prepared two loops, I hung one on each of his ears. The moment this was done, the chief stalked about with an air of uncommon dignity. His people seemed to shew him greater reverence than before, and they were employed for some time in gazing at the brilliancy of the decorations, and beholding his majestic deportment.

As this donation gave me a powerful interest with the chief, I availed myself of it, to obtain every possible information relative to the manners and customs of the Caffres. During my conversation with him on this subject, most of my people, and also the natives, were employed on the beach. The latter picked up some articles of dress, with which they were highly gratified, but they did not know how to put them on. When I saw a Caffre endeavour to button the collar of a shirt behind, I went up and adjusted his dress. My people did the like to

several others, and they were so pleased with these attentions, that for some time, all was dancing, singing, and good humour.

Their revels being ended, I again addressed the chief on the subject of our departure, requesting him to send a guide with us, through the deserts, to the first Christian settlement, and I should not fail to recompense his kindness. He paused for a moment, and then very coolly replied, that he would gratify my wishes. I begged to know the time that he would suffer us to depart, when he gravely answered, "When I consider that matter, you shall be made acquainted with my determination."

These answers, I own, alarmed me. The countenance of the savage seemed to betray some hostile measure lurking in his mind, and yet his former conduct was so liberal and humane, that I could have no just grounds for suspecting his integrity. I perceived, however, the natives consulting together in parties, and we could not, from their gestures, interpret any thing favourable to our wishes. What also augmented our uneasiness, was their abrupt departure: as the day drew to a close, they disappeared, leaving us to rest, as on the preceding night, under shelter of the sand hills.

We recruited our fires with some timber from the wreck, and then placed sentinels as before. We were again tormented with clouds of sand, and a chilling atmosphere; (for June is one of the winter months in that country.) The night passed in consultations and gloomy apprehensions of the future. I cautioned my people against giving any displeasure to the natives, but should they, contrary to our expectations, either make an attack, or try to detain us beyond a certain time, then we should firmly unite, and either force our way or perish. To this the people fully assented.

After sunrise, we saw the Caffres advancing. Most of them had lances in their hands; some carried clubs, and others were decorated with ostrich feathers. The chief wore a leopard skin, with my knee-buckles suspended as formerly. They saluted us in a friendly manner, and we accompanied them to the beach, where they were indefatigably occupied in procuring iron.

This day they shewed me how they throw their lances, as also a sham-fight; and the chief himself gave me some instructions how to throw a lance. Nothing passed on the subject of our departure, and the natives as usual retired on the approach of night.

When morning appeared, we were all engaged in looking out for the long-boat, but she was not to be seen. We now began to despair of ever hearing of her again, and indeed our worst predictions were afterwards fulfilled, for we never either saw or heard of her more.

The sun had been up two hours before the Caffres arrived. As little was now to be procured from the wreck, I begged the chief to inform me if he had appointed a guide for us, as I next day proposed taking my departure. "I shall furnish you with two," said he; and the frankness of this declaration, at once relieved my mind of all suspicion.

Desirous of having the Hottentot interpreter to accompany us through the deserts, I intimated to the chief, how much his services would contribute to our advantage. The honest savage had anticipated my wishes; he had previously mentioned it to the Hottentot, who consented to proceed with us to the first Christian farm. Another of the tribe, who was better acquainted with the country, had likewise agreed to be of the party, and the information being communicated to my people, gave universal joy and satisfaction.

After assuring the chief, and the Caffres in general, of my unalterable friendship, and that

our guides should be rewarded to the extent of their wishes, I told him we had endured great distress for want of water, and begged to know where some could be procured. "I will conduct you," he replied, "to a spring of excellent water, which is not far from this place, and, if you think proper, we will proceed directly to the spot." No sooner had he said so, than we set out, the Caffres singing and dancing as we advanced, and my people, though not void of suspicion, in tolerable spirits.

Having travelled about four miles through a delightful country, we at last came to a wood in the center of which was a hollow. The Caffres descended first, and when we all arrived at the bottom, the chief pointed to a brook, from which we drank, and found the water excellent. But on looking around, when our thirst was allayed, our fears were again excited by the dismal appearance of the place; and most of the people conceived that the purpose of the natives in bringing them here, was a general massacre; I succeeded, however, in dispelling their apprehensions.

The natives advised us to remain in our present situation for the night, and we kindled a comfortable fire. But as the night advanced

they did not retire as usual to their kraal, which became a fresh source of alarm to my men; and although I again exerted myself to quiet their uneasiness, I confess there appeared to me to be some ground for it. Our watch was set, and we guarded against the worst; but the Caffres huddling together, were soon lost in sleep; and the place though dismal in appearance, afforded us better shelter than we had been accustomed to.

As the sun appeared, we were roused by the savages, and went on in tolerable spirits; but we had consumed the last pound of our bullock before leaving the sand hills, and we began to dread approaching famine. The chief, on hearing this, promised to relieve us; and after journeying a few miles, and reaching the place where it was necessary to rest for the night, he presented us with another bullock. It was soon dispatched, skinned, and cut into pieces of about four pounds each, which we dressed as provisions for our travels.

This night passed with less apprehensions than the former, and in the morning we prepared for our departure. The natives came about us, assisting in dividing the provisions; each man was to carry his own stock, extending to about three or four pounds of beef, and

a few biscuits which had been saved from the wreck.

The Caffres, so far from indicating any hostility, seemed to view our preparations with regret. I took the chief by the hand, and thanked him for his great and friendly attentions to me and my crew; assuring him at the same time, if I survived the journey, that it should be ever my first consideration to render him and his people some essential service. He thanked me, and then requested that I would tell the colonists our ship was lost at sea, and so distant from the land, that no part of her could possibly reach the shore. Likewise, he desired me to put the utmost confidence in my guides; as they would certainly direct me for the best. After my people and the natives had exchanged some mutual civilities, we parted, and gave one another a last and affectionate adieu.

The natives, to whom we are indebted for this humane and liberal treatment, amidst our misfortunes, are a Caffre tribe called Tambouchis, or Tambuckees, they have been described as the most ferocious, vindictive, and detestable class of beings that inhabit the vast territory of Caffraria; but the purpose of this atrocious calumny, is to screen the enormities perpetrated by the Dutch colonists.

When the natives incensed, at the unprovoked aggressions of the colonists, kill a white man in retaliation, intelligence was always carefully conveyed to the seat of government at the Cape. The poor savages were described as a herd of wolves prowling through the country, and carrying devastation before them. This was an excuse for the Dutch farmers to assemble, to penetrate into the country of those they called their enemies, and massacre entire hoards, without distinction even of sex or age. Their object was to get possession of the cattle, whole herds of which they drove away, and then lay in wait, until they heard of more within their reach, when a similar depredation was repeated. But let me now relate an anecdote that occurred in the course of our journey.

One of our guides suddenly called out to the party to halt. "Now," said he to me, on enquiring the reason of it, "look attentively on the spot where you stand; it is an unfortunate place, but worthy of your consideration." Seeing nothing remarkable, I asked for an explanation. "On this spot," continued the savage, "two of my countrymen were a few years since employed in tending their cattle; at that time we enjoyed a pro-

found peace with the colonists, and harboured no suspicion of their intending to injure us. In a moment, however, our two countrymen were fired upon from yonder thicket; one fell dead on the spot, the other, being only wounded, was so fortunate as to make his escape.— The settlers then took possession of our cattle, and drove them home to their farms. Intelligence of this murder and robbery was soon conveyed through the hords, and occasioned the last war between the colonists and Caffres.”

The poor savage told this story with so much feeling and simplicity, that there could be little doubt of his sincerity. On being asked, whether all the colonists were of the same odious disposition, he answered, “ I hope not.” And, in truth, there are many, who hold the general conduct of their unjust neighbours in the utmost abhorrence.

Our two guides also explained the reason why the Caffres had detained us so long. When they had consulted together respecting our departure, it was resolved not to suffer us to proceed until they had got every thing from the wreck. They conceived that we would inform the colonists of our misfortune, and that notwithstanding they had no

right to pass Fish River, they would come in search of plunder, which actually happened, as I afterwards understood. On that occasion, the Caffres assembled in considerable numbers, and, in a menacing tone, desired to know "how they dared to pass Fish River," which is their boundary. The colonists acquiesced in the alleged restriction, and, with brass, and other trinkets, which perfectly satisfied them, purchased permission to remain.

The country, near the place of our shipwreck, was finely wooded, almost as far as the eye could reach ; and considering the season, which was winter, produced a most abundant vegetation. The cattle appeared in such numbers as to baffle calculation, and they were equal in condition to the best fed oxen of Great Britain. We saw no sheep, nor could we observe the smallest traces of agricultural operations. The surrounding country was of immense extent, yet bounded by mountains, which seemed to contain the source of numerous rivulets, gliding through the plain in various directions. The tree *mimosa* was native to the soil, and the woods were so beautifully interspersed, as to give the land all the appearance of a plantation originally designed, and afterwards perfected by art and labour.

On the morning of the 23d of June, we departed, after the sun was well up. Our guides were intelligent, and explained to us, that we could on no account travel early, as the wild beasts constantly rise with the sun, and then range the deserts in quest of their prey. Notwithstanding the salutary caution, and, although we were all unarmed, the people became impatient to advance, but the guides would not move from the fires until about nine o'clock.

We bore to the westward, for the purpose of obtaining fresh water, and struck into the interior, as towards the coast it was generally brackish. The country through which we travelled, was beautifully varied with hills and valleys, and extensive plains finely watered, but less wooded than formerly. Having proceeded nearly thirty-five miles, we wished to rest for the night, beside a brook at the corner of a wood. Our guides told us that the place was the haunt of leopards, and if they scented the party, nothing could prevent them from destroying some of us. We enlarged our fire, and began to consult on the most likely means of security; but scarcely had the conversation regarding it begun, when the more powerful influence of sleep overcame our

apprehensions, and we reposed in quiet until morning.

But no sooner was the sun risen, than we were all roused by the tremendous roaring of lions. Had they discovered us when asleep, we should inevitably have been torn to pieces, and we now thought of our lucky escape.

We lost a considerable portion of this day searching for water, a small stream of which we discovered towards sun-set, near the skirts of a forest; and as we had travelled about thirty miles, we determined to rest there for the night. Through the day, we had observed frequent traces of the elephant and rhinoceros, and this night, our situation was equally dangerous as during the one preceding. But when day appeared, we had the satisfaction to find, that no one was missing of the party.

At noon we came up with a horde of Caffres, that were distinguished by their own countrymen as a bad tribe. At first we spoke to some Caffre women, who behaved kindly, and gave us milk in one or two baskets, made of twigs, woven so closely together, as to hold water. Proceeding but a short way farther, we were stopped by twelve Caffre men, armed with spears, and clothed in leopard skins. Our guide, alarmed by their appearance, fled

to the banks of the Great Fish River, which was within two hundred yards of the place where we stood. Though we repeatedly called to them to return, they immediately crossed the bed of the river, which was dry, and having reached the opposite bank, ascended an adjoining mountain with the utmost precipitation.

The savages brandished their spears, and used menacing gestures. We could not understand what they said, but determined to part neither with our clothes nor our provisions, if these were what they desired. A Caffre attempted to snatch a knife, which one of my people had slung over his shoulder— This the owner resisting, he lost his hold of it, which so enraged the savage, that he raised his lance apparently to kill the man. While standing thus, he presented a picture truly dreadful. He wore a leopard's skin; his black visage was bedaubed with red ochre; his eyes inflamed with rage, seemed starting from their sockets; his mouth wide open, and his teeth gnashing. But he was diverted from his purpose, and dropped his lance; when we instantly crossed the river in pursuit of our guides, who expressed the highest satisfaction at our escape. They assured us, that if the

rest of their tribe had not been hunting, when we got to the Fish River, not a man of us would have survived, and described these people as the most wicked horde of all Caffraria.

In descending the mountain, the beautiful prospect made us forget our danger. The country was of a pleasing inequality of surface, with clumps of the mimosa on the rising grounds, and shrubs of various descriptions. A thousand rivulets seemed to wind through the plains, and innumerable herds of cattle were scouring over them, or pasturing on the herbage, and drinking at the streams. As far as the sight could extend, it was gratified by new beauties, until the more distant objects gradually faded from our view, and were lost in the horizon.

Before the close of the day, we made a kind of barricade, as a defence against wild animals, and having lighted fires, lay down to rest. But our sleep was constantly disturbed through the night, by a herd of elephants brushing through a neighbouring wood, passing and returning almost every moment. Had it not been for the enclosure, we should, in all probability, have been trampled to death by those monstrous animals.

Proceeding in the morning, we travelled through a delightful country. In the course of the day, we fell in with a few deserted huts, and entered one of them. We paid severely for our curiosity, being in a moment completely covered over with fleas. At night we had travelled about thirty five miles, and I was alarmed to find, that many of the party made grievous complaints of sore feet. At the beginning, there were only four pair of shoes among the whole of us.

We set out at seven next morning, but many dropped behind in the course of the day, being almost worn out with fatigue. In these circumstances, I thought it incumbent on those who were able, in which number I was myself, to hasten forward, and provide a place where wood and water could be obtained. We remained the following morning until sun-rise, but none of the people came up. The guides told us that we should reach a Christian settlement during the day, which we did, but unfortunately found it deserted.

The situation of the absent people kept us awake during the ensuing night; the only consideration among the men was the fate of their messmates, whom they despaired of ever again beholding. They had been left in

a place frequented by ferocious beasts of prey, and were also in danger from the Boshishmen, who infest the same quarter, and destroy the objects of their vengeance with poisoned arrows.

We remained an hour after sunrise the following morning; but of sixty, comprising the party when we left the beach, thirty-six had been obliged to drop behind. We were encouraged, however, with assurances from our guides, of the vicinity of an inhabited settlement, the last having been destroyed by the Caffres, during their war with the Colonists. Travelling three hours without a single halt, one of the guides joyfully exclaimed, "I see a Hottentot attending a flock of sheep." We all hastened to the place where he stood, and observed him, at a considerable distance, tending a flock of at least four thousand. The shepherd, at first, seemed alarmed at the approach of so many of us, all in a body; but perceiving that we were mostly whites, and unarmed, he stopped until we came up. I requested him to direct us the nearest way to the first settlement, which he did, at the same time saying, it was three hours journey distant.

It is impossible to describe the joy of the party at this information; the chief object

was who should be first. At length we came in sight of a farm belonging to Jan du Pliesies, who fortunately was a settler of the best character. He had been born in Holland, but for many years had resided in Africa, and was a man of humane and generous principles. He was himself about sixty years old, and his family consisted of five or six sons, and their wives and children, together with a daughter, making in the whole, nearly twenty people. His stock, however, was not less than twelve thousand sheep, and one thousand oxen. The cottage in which he dwelt was formed of clay, thatched with a kind of reed, and furnished with a few stools, a table, and some kitchen utensils.

On hearing the history of our disaster, and our requests for relief to those left behind, his countenance betrayed evident marks of sensibility. He said no time should be lost in sending to their assistance, and immediately directed two of his sons to harness eight oxen to a waggon, with injunctions to travel all night to the spot that the guides described.

This sequestered habitation was nearly surrounded by trees, on which were hung to dry, the skins of lions, tigers, panthers, and other ferocious animals, killed in the vicinity of it.

I also observed, lying near the door, the carcasses of two enormous creatures, apparently recently destroyed. These, the colonist told me, were two rhinoceroses, killed but the day before, by his sons, on their own land. According to his information, the rhinoceros is more to be dreaded than any other animal of the deserts; even the lion will fly before him, of which, he said, he had a proof, about two years preceding. Traversing his grounds, in the morning, he observed a lion enter a thicket, half a mile from the place where he stood. In a few minutes after, he saw a second, then a third, and next a fourth; they seemed leisurely following each other; and in less than an hour, he counted nine, that entered the same woods. Never having witnessed so many of the same species collected together, he was desirous to know the cause of it; he therefore concealed himself. But waiting more than an hour, without either seeing any of them, or hearing any noise from the quarter where they lay, he began to despair of having his curiosity gratified. At length a rhinoceros, of uncommon magnitude, approached the wood. He stood motionless for about five minutes, when he arrived at a short distance from the thicket, then tossed up his nose, and

at last scented the animals lying in concealment. In an instant he darted into the wood, and within five minutes afterwards, all the lions scampered away in different directions, seemingly in the greatest terror. The rhinoceros beat about the wood a considerable time, in search of his enemies, but finding none, at last broke cover, and appeared on the plain. Then looking around him, he furiously tore up the earth. The farmer remained quietly in his retreat, until the animal disappeared, and then returned home.

Next morning, during breakfast on a sheep, we obtained some interesting information respecting this part of the country, and the restrictions on the colonists by the Dutch government at the Cape. "I have lead ore," said Jan du Plieties, "on my own farm, so near the surface, that we can scrape it up with our hands, yet we dare not touch it: were we known to melt, or use a single pound of it, we should be all transported to Batavia for life."

Our benefactor sent messengers to his friends, desiring their assistance in conveying us to the Cape. Several came, and behaved with the greatest tenderness and liberality, even offering accommodation in their own

houses, until the crew should be sufficiently recovered for the journey, when they promised to take the first opportunity of conducting them thither.

Meantime, we were interrupted with intelligence of the waggon being in sight; and I had the pleasure of seeing twenty-three of my people, chiefly Lascars, arrive in it. They were found near a wood, and had given up all hopes of relief. The preceding day, thirteen of their companions had separated from them, and it could not be known whither they had strayed. These I never saw again, but after my arrival in Europe, I understood that all had got in safety to the Cape, though not without enduring great hardships.

My next consideration was how to reward our guides, which, for some time, gave me great uneasiness. At length, however, a piece of very extraordinary information relieved me from this embarrassment. One of the people informed me, that a sailor had possessed himself of a dozen of my table-spoons, and likewise several tea-spoons, before quitting the wreck, all of which he had now about him. I immediately went up to the man, and demanded my property, which he returned without a moment's hesitation, giving me to un-

derstand at the same time, that he intended restoring them when we arrived at the Cape.— I gave four or five of the largest to the farmer, who, in return, delivered two oxen of extraordinary size to me, and the like number of sheep. I presented these animals to our guides, as the reward of their fidelity. They thanked me heartily, and then set out on their return to the fertile and delightful plains of Caffraria.

Our benevolent host now provided us with a waggon and two sets of oxen, eight in each set, two or three Hottentot drivers, and provisions to serve until reaching the next settlement. One of his sons, completely armed, also attended us; and he besides, gave us a recommendatory letter to the other settlers.

We took our departure, being forty-seven in number, from the hospitable dwelling of Jan du Pliesies, and after travelling thirty-five miles, reached another farm towards the close of day. We remained there during the night, and on leaving it next day, Cornelius Englebrooks, the owner, who had shewn us equal hospitality, insisted on our acceptance of nine sheep. He lamented that he could not give us a morsel of bread. "We live," said he,

“ the year round, chiefly on mutton and game, but seldom enjoy the luxury of a loaf.”

During the four or five succeeding days, we travelled on from house to house, situated generally about fifteen or sixteen hours journey distant from each other, and at all we were received with the kindest hospitality. In the fidelity of my recital, I am bound to say so, because the colonists have, without distinction, been frequently represented as ferocious robbers, scarcely to be restrained within any bounds. Though most of them may merit such a character, it was my good fortune to fall in with a deserving class, whose reputation ought carefully to be preserved from opprobrium.

In the course of several days travel, we could get but little bread, and not much water. The countries through which we passed, were alternately hill and dale, and afforded the most romantic prospects. We often saw vast numbers of wolves, and such droves of the deer, called *spring-buck*, that they could not contain fewer than from twelve to fourteen thousand. Indeed, many of the settlers informed me, that it was no uncommon thing to kill three at a single shot. We likewise saw great quantities of Guinea-fowl, which, after a shower of rain, are easily caught by

the farmer's dogs. The zebra, a kind of wild ass, with a beautifully striped skin, is common in these remote colonies; and I have repeatedly seen four ostriches together, which did not seem much alarmed at the appearance of our caravan.

Many places were pointed out to us as the particular haunts of wild beasts; but, though tremendous to a European, they are less formidable than a Boshishman to a Hottentot. I had heard so much of these savage people, that I was particularly desirous to see one of their tribe, and luckily my curiosity was gratified.

A colonist, at whose house we sojourned for the night, had many years before fought against a party of Boshishmen, several of whom were killed. An infant, whose mother probably also suffered, was, nevertheless preserved, and taken home to the house of the colonist, where he was brought up. When I saw him, he was about twenty-five years old, but not more than four feet two inches in stature. His nose was not a prominent feature, but merely a piece of skin that lay flat over the nostrils; and although his make was athletic, no antelope could be more alert, or agile in its motions. When the numbers of the Boshishmen are sufficiently strong, they

attack and kill the Hottentots and Caffres wherever they can find them, and the colonists hunt the Boshishmen as they do wild beasts; they never obtain quarter. These savages use a bow two feet and a half long, and arrows about four inches shorter, which are dipped in such a deadly poison, that, according to the common opinion, it baffles all human remedy.

Proceeding through a dismal valley, three miles in length, our conductors told us it was called *Boshishman's Path*; and the whole way they held their muskets presented, as if going to fire at some particular object. Thick brush-wood covered the sides of the hills, except where rocks appeared; and in the secluded cavities, formed by these masses, lay whole hordes of these extraordinary people. Our conductors constantly warned us to be on our guard, as they knew the Boshishmen were there, and looking at us, though we did not perceive them. Unquestionably they were present, but most likely deterred by our numbers from attacking us. These people live by plunder, and on the fruit of a small tree, which is called *Boshishman's bread*. They are considered almost a distinct race of mankind.

From the eighth to the sixteenth of July, our journey was not interrupted by any disagreeable occurrence; the country through which we passed, continued to disclose new beauties; and as we traversed the rich vales, abounding in fragrant herbs, I was occasionally amused by the observations of the sailors. One said he would build a house on such a spot, when he had made a fortune, and given up the sea; but a different situation was preferred by another, who declared it should be his residence, and that he would bring his wife and family to live there. A third chose some more delightful spot, and thus we beguiled the time as we advanced on our way.

About the fourteenth of July, we reached the settlement of an old blind man, who was so affected at the account of our disaster, that he burst into tears. After supper, he said he would celebrate our meeting with a song, and immediately commenced with a voice of thunder. A general shout of applause succeeded. "Now Captain," said he, addressing me, "I have a favour to ask of you—pray desire all your people to sing." It was impossible to avoid laughing at so whimsical a request; but I desired an American sailor beside me,

to sing one of his best songs. He had no sooner begun, than all the Lascars accompanied him, and they were speedily joined by the Swedes, Portuguese, Dutchmen, and the whole crew, in their several languages, altogether forming such a concertas, I believe, was never heard before. Our host, however, was so much entertained with their music, that he almost dropped from his seat in a fit of laughter.

On the twenty second we reached Zwillingdam, and experienced a hospitable reception from the chief man, who presides over a settlement of sixteen or eighteen houses. Next morning he gave me a recommendatory letter to General Craig, commander-in-chief at the Cape, and as the General was his friend, he requested him to do me every service in his power, which he should consider as an obligation conferred on himself.

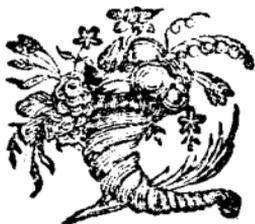
I remained two days with the liberal and benevolent owner of Helter Busk, the next settlement at which we rested, and departed on the morning of the 30th. Our journey was but short, as we arrived the same evening at the Cape of Good Hope; and although I was emaciated in body, I was, nevertheless, in tolerable health.

The only thing now wanted to complete my satisfaction, was the arrival of my people, who crept slowly after me. Every painful reflection however subsided when I considered that a British Officer had the command at the Cape. I had a letter to General Craig; but, independant of this, I conceived that the situation of my surviving crew could not fail to awaken the feelings of humanity, which I knew to be a predominant virtue in a British soldier.

The General, indeed, did not assist me himself, but referred me to Admiral Elphinstone, (Lord Keith.) He received me with every mark of tenderness and commiseration, and assured me, that as my people arrived at the Cape, they should be accommodated, until they got opportunities to ship themselves for their respective destinations. His promises were not made and forgotten. During six weeks that I remained, about thirty of the people, chiefly Lascars, arrived in a state of absolute nakedness. The brave and generous Admiral immediately gave directions for their relief, and afterwards sent them to Cape-Town, to join one of the East India Company's extra-ships, bound to Bengal.

In my second visit to this respectable officer, he interrogated me concerning the colonists, and I rejoiced at having an opportunity to gratify his curiosity. He left no branch, which he thought necessary for his information, untouched, and the observations which he made, disclosed a comprehensive and penetrating mind. After receiving a list of the persons who, in the course of my travels, had treated me with so much kindness, he emphatically said, "I will order presents to the amount of one hundred pounds sterling, to be sent to these honest people, as a reward for their humanity."

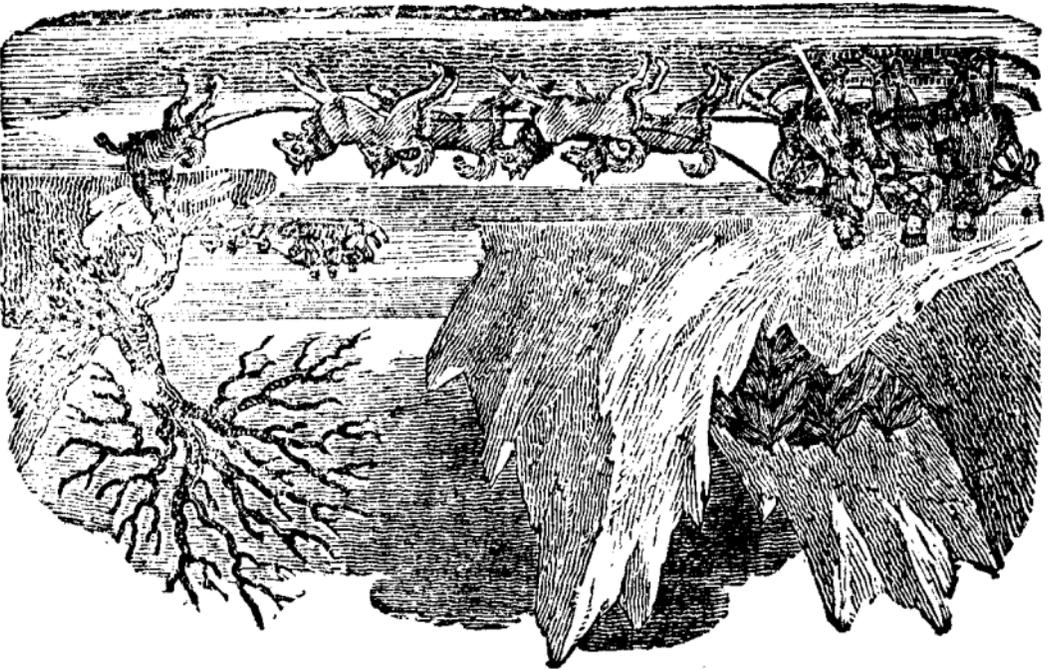
I took my departure from the Cape in the ship *Saint Cecilia*, Captain Palmer, and arrived at Crookhaven, in Ireland, about the middle of November, 1796. We set sail for England in a few days afterwards, and as we made a speedy passage, I soon found myself once more in London.



A
Wonderful Escape
FROM THE
EFFECTS OF A STORM,
IN A
JOURNEY OVER THE FROZEN SEA,
IN
North America.

LABRADOR is a part of North America, where the climate is so excessively cold during the winter, that wine becomes frozen into a solid mass, and the very breath falls on the blankets of a bed in the form of a hoar frost. It is inhabited by a people called the Esquimaux, whose usual mode of travelling is on sledges, drawn by dogs on the ice: this sometimes proves a very perilous undertaking.—The following is an interesting account of such an expedition, given by an Englishman who had emigrated to America.

Having occasion to visit Okkak, about 150 English miles distant from Nain, my friend Samuel and I, with three other men, a women



An Esquimaux Sledge.

and a child, left Nain on the 11th of March, 1782, early in the morning, with very clear weather, the stars shining with uncommon lustre. Our company were in two sledges: An Esquimaux sledge is drawn by a species of dog, not unlike a wolf in shape. Like them, they never bark, but howl disagreeably. They are kept by the Esquimaux in great packs or teams, in proportion to the affluence of their master. They quietly submit to be harnessed for their work, and are treated with little mercy by the Esquimaux, who make them do hard duty for the small quantity of food they allow them. This consists chiefly of offal, old skins, entrails, such parts of whale-flesh as are unfit for other use, &c. &c. and if they are not provided with this kind of dog's meat, they suffer them to go and seek dead fish and muscles upon the beach.

When pinched with hunger, they will swallow almost any thing, and on a journey it is necessary to secure the harness within the snow-house over night, lest by devouring it, they should render it impossible to proceed in the morning. When the travellers arrive at their night quarters, and the dogs are unharnessed, they are left to burrow in the snow, where they please, and in the morning are

sure to come at their driver's call, when they receive some food. Their strength and speed, even with a hungry stomach, are astonishing. In fastening them to the sledge, care is taken not to let them go abreast. They are tied by separate thongs, of unequal length, to a horizontal bar in the fore-part of the sledge; an old knowing-one leads the way, running 10 or 20 paces ahead, directed by the driver's whip, which is of great length, and can be well managed only by an Esquimaux. The other dogs follow like a flock of sheep. If one of them receives a lash, he generally bites his neighbour, and the bite goes round.

But to return to our expedition: we were all in good spirits, and appearances being in our favour, we hoped to reach Okkak in safety in two or three days. The track over the frozen sea* was in the best possible order, and we went with ease at the rate of six or seven miles an hour. After we had passed the islands in the bay of Nain, we kept at a considerable distance from the coast; both to gain the smoothest part of the ice, and to weather the high promontory of Kiglapeit.— About 8 o'clock we met a sledge with Esqui-

* The Sea in this country is frozen over in winter.

maux turning in from the sea. After the usual salutation, the Esquimaux alighting, held some conversation, as is their general practice, the result of which was, that some hints were thrown out by the strange Esquimaux, that it would be better to return. However, as we saw no reason whatever for it, and only suspected that the Esquimaux wished to enjoy the company of their friends a little longer, we proceeded. After some time, the Esquimaux who drove the sledges, hinted that there was a *ground swell** under the ice. it was hardly perceptible, except on lying down and applying the ear close to the ice, when a hollow disagreeable grating and roaring noise was heard, as if ascending from the abyss. The weather remained clear, except towards the East, where a bank of light clouds appeared, interspersed with some dark streaks. But the wind being strong from the North West, nothing less than a sudden change of weather was expected. The sun had now reached its height, and there was as yet little or no alteration in the appearance of the sky. But the

* *A ground swell is a motion of the sea under the frozen part of it, which can be easily heard by those who stand on the ice.*

motion of the sea, under the ice, had grown more perceptible, so as rather to alarm us, and we began to think it prudent to keep close to the shore. The ice had cracks and large openings in many places, some of which formed chasms of one or two feet wide, but as they are not uncommon even in its best state, and the dogs easily leap over them, the sledge following without danger, they are terrible only to new comers.

As soon as the sun declined towards the West, the wind increased and rose to a storm: the bank of clouds from the East began to ascend, and the dark streaks to put themselves in motion against the wind. The snow was violently driven about by partial whirlwinds, both on the ice, and from off the peaks of the high mountains, and filled the air. At the same time, the ground swell had increased so much, that its effects upon the ice became very extraordinary and alarming. The sledges, instead of gliding along smoothly upon an even surface, sometimes ran with violence after the dogs, and shortly after seemed with difficulty to ascend the rising hill, for the elasticity of so vast a body of ice, of many leagues square, supported by a troubled sea, though in some places three or four yards in thickness,

would in some degree occasion a waving motion, not unlike that of a sheet of paper accommodating itself to the surface of a rippling stream. Noises were now likewise distinctly heard in many directions, like the report of cannon, owing to the bursting of the ice at some distance.

The Esquimaux therefore drove with all haste towards the shore, intending to take up their night-quarters on the south side of the Nivak; but as it plainly appeared, that the ice would break and disperse in the open sea, one of the Esquimaux advised to push forward to the north of the Nivak, from whence he hoped the ice to Okkak might still remain entire. To this proposal we all agreed, but when the sledges approached the coast, the prospect before us was truly terrific. The ice having broken loose from the rocks, was forced up and down, dashing and breaking into a thousand pieces against the precipices, with a tremendous noise, which, added to the raging of the wind, and the snow drifting about in the air, deprived us almost of the power of seeing any thing distinctly.

To make the land at any risk, was now the only hope left; but it was with the utmost difficulty, the frightened dogs could be forced for-

ward, the whole body of the ice sinking frequently below the surface of the rocks, then rising above it. As the only moment to land was that, when it gained the level of the coast, the attempt was extremely nice and hazardous; it, however, providentially succeeded; both sledges gained the shore, and were drawn up the beach with much difficulty.

We had hardly time to reflect with gratitude on our safety, when that part of the ice, from which we had just now made good our landing, burst asunder, and the water forcing itself from below, covered and precipitated it into the sea. In an instant, as if by a signal given, the whole mass of ice, extending for several miles from the coast, as far as the eye could reach, began to burst, and be overwhelmed by the immense waves. The sight was tremendous and awfully grand; the large fields of ice raising themselves out of the water, striking against each other, and plunging into the deep, with a violence not to be described, and a noise like the discharge of innumerable batteries of heavy guns. The darkness of the night, the roaring of the sea, and the dashing of the waves and ice against the rocks, filled us with sensations of awe and horror, so as almost to deprive us of the power

of utterance. We stood overwhelmed with astonishment at our miraculous escape, and even the heathen Esquimaux expressed gratitude for their deliverance.

The Esquimaux now began to build a snow-house, about thirty yards from the beach: but before they had finished their work, the waves reached the place where the sledges were secured, and they were with difficulty saved from being washed into the sea.

About nine o'clock, all of us crept into the snow-house, grateful for this place of refuge, for the wind was piercing cold, and so violent that it required great strength to be able to stand against it.

Before we entered into this habitation, we could not help once more turning to the sea, which was now free from ice, and beheld with horror, mingled with gratitude for our safety, the enormous waves, driving furiously before the wind, like huge castles, and approaching the shore, where with dreadful noise, they dashed against the rocks, foaming and filling the air with the spray. We now took our supper, and lay down to rest about ten o'clock. We lay so close, that if any one stirred, his neighbours were roused by it. The Esquimaux

were soon fast asleep, but my friend Samuel and I could not get any rest, partly on account of the dreadful roaring of the wind and sea, and partly owing to sore throats, which gave us great pain.

Our watchfulness proved the deliverance of the whole party from sudden destruction. About two o'clock my friend perceived some salt water to drop from the roof of the snow-house upon his lips. Though rather alarmed on tasting the salt, which could not proceed from a common spray, he lay quiet, till the same dropping being more frequently repeated, just as he was about to give the alarm, on a sudden, a tremendous surf broke close to the house, discharging a quantity of water into it; a second soon followed, and carried away the slab of snow placed as a door before the entrance. We immediately called aloud to the sleeping Esquimaux, to rise and quit the place. They jumped up in an instant; one of them, with a large knife, cut a passage through the side of the house, and each seizing some part of the baggage, it was thrown out upon a higher part of the beach. We assisted the Esquimaux:—the woman and child fled to a neighbouring eminence, where they

were wrapt up by the Esquimaux in a large skin, and placed in shelter behind a rock, for it was impossible to stand against the wind, snow, and sleet. Scarcely had we retreated to this eminence, when an enormous wave carried away the whole house; but nothing of consequence was lost.

We now found ourselves a second time delivered from the most imminent danger of death; but the remaining part of the night, before the Esquimaux could seek and find a safer place for a snow-house, were hours of great trial to mind and body, and filled every one with painful reflections. Before the day dawned, the Esquimaux cut a hole into a large drift of snow, to secure the woman and child.

As soon as it was light they built another snow-house, and miserable as such an habitation is at all times, we were glad to creep into it. It was about eight feet square, and six or seven feet high. We now congratulated each other on our deliverance, but found ourselves in a miserable plight. My friend and I had taken but a small stock of provisions with us, merely sufficient for the short journey to Okkak. The Esquimaux had nothing at all. We were obliged, therefore, to divide our small

stock into daily portions, especially as there appeared no hopes of soon quitting this place, and reaching any dwelling. Only two ways were left for this purpose; either to attempt the land passage, across a wild and unfrequented mountain, or wait for a new ice-track over the sea, which it would require much time to form; we therefore resolved to serve out no more than one biscuit and a half every day— But as this would not by any means satisfy an Esquimaux stomach, we offered to give one of our dogs to be killed for them, on condition that in case distress obliged us to resort again to that expedient, the next dog killed should be one of the Esquimaux team. They replied that they should be glad of it, if they had a kettle to boil the flesh in, but as that was not the case, they must even suffer hunger, for they could not, even now, eat dog's flesh in its raw state. We now remained in the snow house, resigned to our situation, and even our rough heathen companions declared, that it was proper to be thankful that they were still alive, adding, that if they had remained a very little longer upon the ice, all their bones would have been broken to pieces in a short time.

Towards noon of the 13th, the weather cleared up, and the sea was seen as far as the eye could reach, quite free from ice. Some of the Esquimaux went up the hills, and returned with the disagreeable news, that not a morsel of ice was to be seen even from thence, in any direction, and that it had even been forced away from the coast at Nuasornak. They were, therefore, of opinion, that we could do nothing but force our way across the mountain.

This day one of the Esquimaux complained much of hunger, probably to obtain from us a larger portion than the common allowance. We represented to him that we had no more ourselves, and reproved him for his impatience. Whenever the victuals were distributed, he always swallowed his portion very greedily, and put out his hand for what he saw we had left, but was easily kept, by serious reproof, from any further attempt. The Esquimaux ate this day an old sack made of fish skin, which proved, indeed, a dry and miserable dish.— Whilst they were at this singular meal, they kept repeating in a low humming tone, “you were a sack a little time ago, and now you are food for us.” Towards evening, some flakes of ice were discovered towards the west, and

on the 14th, in the morning, the sea was covered with them. But the weather was again very strong, and the Esquimaux could not quit the snow-house, which made them low-spirited and melancholy. One of them suggested, that it would be well to attempt to make good weather ; by which he meant, to practice his art as a Sorcerer, to make the weather good : but we opposed it ; I told him his heathenish practices were of no use, but that the weather would become favourable as soon as it should please God.

This day the Esquimaux began to eat a filthy and worn out skin, which had served them for a mattress.

On the 15th, the weather continued extremely boisterous, and the Esquimaux appeared every now and then to sink under disappointment. But they possess one good quality, namely, a power of going to sleep when they please, and, if need be, they will sleep for days and nights together.

In the evening, the sky became clear, and our hopes revived. Some of the Esquimaux went up the hills again, and brought word that the ice had acquired a considerable degree of solidity, and might soon be fit for use.

The poor dogs had mean-while fasted for nearly four days, but now in the prospect of a speedy release, we allowed to each, a few morsels of food.

The temperature having been rather mild, it occasioned a new source of distress, for by the warm breath of the inhabitants, the roof of the snow-house got to be in a melting state, which occasioned a continual dropping, and by degrees made every thing soaking wet. We considered this the greatest hardship we had to endure, for we had not a dry thread about us, nor a dry place to lie down in.

Early on the 16th, the sky cleared, but the fine particles of snow were driven about like clouds. Two of the Esquimaux determined to pursue their journey to Okkak, by the way of Nuasornak, and set out with the wind and the snow full in their faces.—We could not resolve to accompany them, and yet our present distress dictated the necessity of venturing something to reach the habitation of men: we were afraid of passing over the newly frozen sea, under the promontory, and could not immediately determine what to do. We went out again to examine the ice; and hav-

ing strong hopes that it would hold, came at last to a resolution to return to Nain, and endeavour to retrace our perilous journey.

On the 17th, the wind had considerably increased, with heavy showers of snow and sleet, but we set off at half past ten o'clock in the forenoon, and about one o'clock we were out of danger, and reached the bay. Here we found a good track upon smooth ice, and made a meal of the remnant of our provisions. Thus refreshed, we resolved to proceed without stopping, until we reached Nain, where we arrived at twelve o'clock at night.

Our friends at Nain rejoiced exceedingly to see us return, for they had been much terrified by several hiats of the Esquimaux, who first met us going out to sea, and who then in their own obscure way, had endeavoured to warn us of the danger of the groundswell. One of the Esquimaux, who had made some article of dress for Samuel, addressed his wife in the following manner: "I should be glad of the payment for my work."—"Wait a little, and when r, y husband returns he will settle with you, for I am unacquainted with the bargain made between

you."—"Samuel" replied the Esquimaux, "will not return." "How, not return! what makes you say so?"—After some pause, the Esquimaux replied in a low tone, "Samuel and his companions are no more! all their bones are broken, and in the stomachs of the sharks." Terrified at this alarming account, my friend's wife called in the rest of her family, and the Esquimaux was examined as to his meaning; but his answers were little less obscure. He seemed so certain of our destruction, that he was with difficulty prevailed on to wait sometime for our return. He could not believe that we could have escaped the effects of so furious a tempest, considering the course we had taken.



THE
HISTORY
OF
PRINCE LEE BOO,

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

THE LIFE OF PAUL CUFFEE,

A MAN OF COLOUR,

ALSO, SOME ACCOUNT OF

JOHN SACKHOUSE,

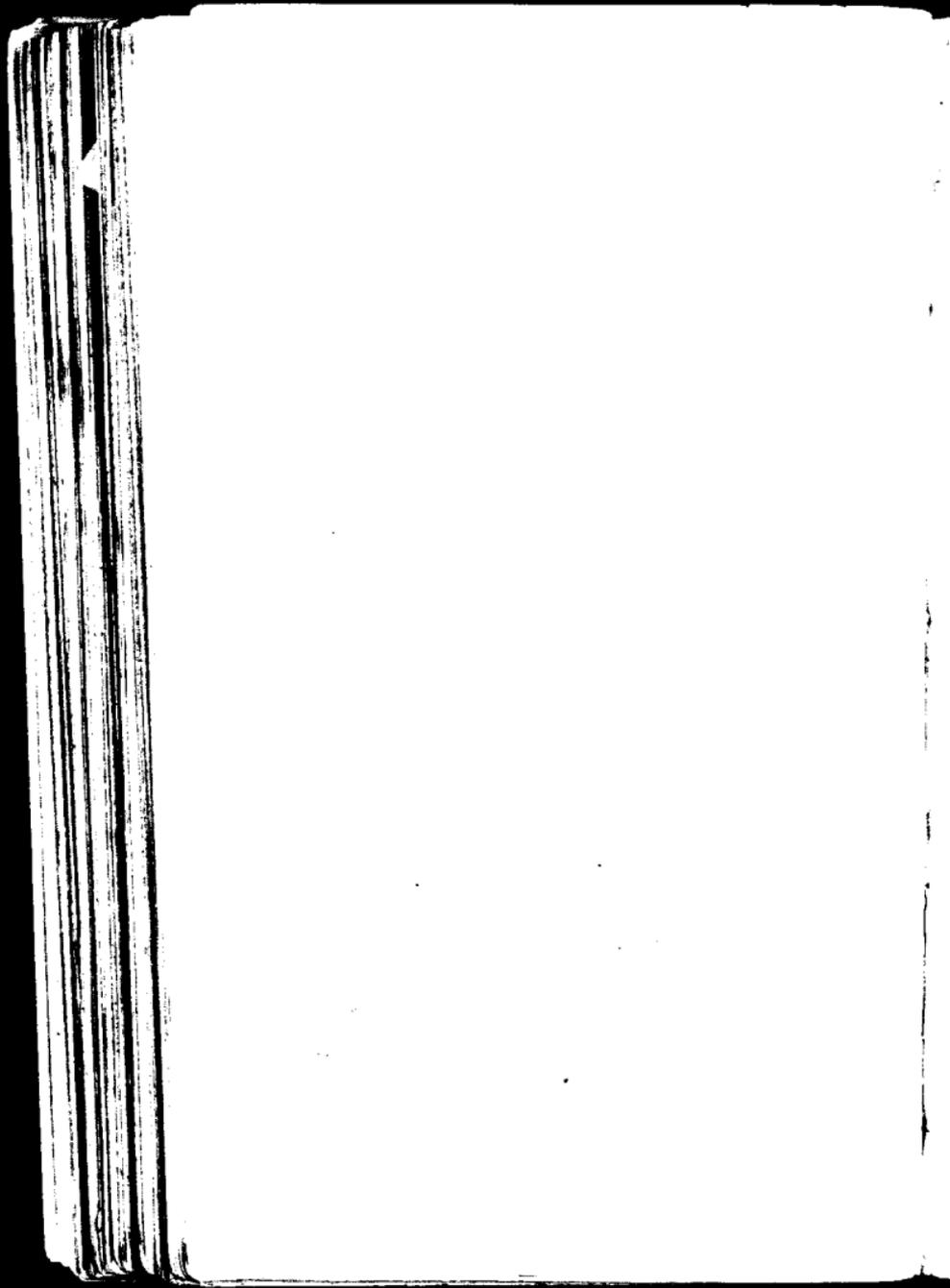
THE ESQUIMAUX.



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1822.



THE
HISTORY
OF
PRINCE LEE BOO.

THE Pelew Islands, one of which gave birth to the amiable Prince who is the chief subject of the following pages, are situated in the western part of the Pacific Ocean; and were in all probability, first noticed by the Spaniards of the Philippines, and by them called the Palos Islands, from the tall Palm-trees which grow there in great numbers, and which, at a distance, have the appearance of masts or ships; the word *palos*, in the Spanish language, sometimes signifying a mast.

There is every reason to suppose that no European had ever been upon them, until the *Antelope*, a packet belonging to the East India Company, and commanded by Captain Henry Wilson, was wrecked there in the night between the 9th and 10th of August, 1783; a misfortune the more distressing to the crew, as they were utterly ignorant what resources the Islands afforded, or supposing them to be inhabited, what might be the disposition of the inhabitants. The perplexities and fears of such a situation may be better conceived than described. However, by means of the boats and their own vigorous exertions, they reached land about three or four leagues distant from the rocks upon which their ship had struck: it proved to be an island not constantly inhabited, but resorted to occasionally by the natives of some of the other islands, whom, in the course of a few days, they found to be a people simple in their manners, delicate in their sentiments, and friendly in their

dispositions—a people, in short, who do honour to the human race.

The opening a communication, as well by discourse as by good offices, between such a people, and perhaps as meritorious a captain and crew as ever ploughed the main, was effected by a union of singular circumstances. It happened that a native of Bengal, who spoke the Malay language perfectly well, had been recommended to Capt. Wilson as a servant; it had also happened that nearly a year before, a tempest had thrown on those parts, a Malay, who, as a stranger, had been noticed, and favoured by the king; and who was now become acquainted with the language of the islanders. By these extraordinary events, both the English and the inhabitants of Pelew had each an interpreter, who could converse freely together in the Malay tongue; and Capt. Wilson's servant whose name was Tom Rose, speaking English, an easy intercourse immediately took place

on both sides, and all those impediments were at once removed, which would have arisen among people having no way of conveying their thoughts to one another but by signs and gestures, which might often have been misunderstood. Thus the English had the happy opportunity of communicating the particulars of the calamity which had befallen them, and imploring the friendship of the natives; and these, in return, finding their visitors to have no hostile intentions, freely gave them the good-will they desired; and if but little was in their power, that little they bestowed generously to relieve their distress.

The natives themselves were of a deep copper-colour, and naked; and the astonishment of those, who first discovered the English, on seeing their colour, plainly shewed that they had never before beheld a white man. The clothes of the strangers, too, puzzled them exceedingly; for it seemed to be a matter of doubt with them, whether those and their bodies did not

form one substance, till the use and occasion thereof were explained by the Malay. The same idea, afterwards, prevailed among others; for when one of the crew (the Captain's brother) was deputed to wait upon the king, who resided in an island at some distance from that whereon they had saved their lives, he accidentally pulled off his hat, at which the gazing spectators were all struck with astonishment, as if they thought it had formed a part of his head.

Abba Thulle, which was the king's name, being a man of great humanity as well as extraordinary natural understanding, was no less affected with the misfortune the English had met with, than surprised at their persons, and assured them of his friendship and favour. He paid them frequent visits, shewing the utmost admiration at every thing he saw, and the greatest good-will and regard for them and their concerns; and granted them permission to avail themselves of every conveniency his country afforded for their

relief; for the captain and crew entertained a hope, as the ship did not go immediately to pieces, of being enabled, by means of the tools and materials they might get out of her, to build another vessel sufficiently large to convey them to Macao, or some part of China.

As they pursued this design, new wonders broke upon Abba Thulle and his countrymen, who till now were utter strangers to the forge, the saw, and other European implements and utensils, by the use of which they witnessed such things performed as impressed them with equal surprise and esteem—even the grindstone struck them with wonder; and they could not look upon the English but as a superior as well as an uncommon kind of human beings.

But if the king and his people were so surprised at the effect of a saw or grindstone, what must have been their astonishment at that of a gun!—To give them some idea of it, on the first visit from the

king, Captain Wilson ordered his men to be exercised before him and his numerous attendants, and to fire three volleys, in different positions; when the surprise of the natives was well marked by their hallooing, hooting, jumping, and chattering, which produced a noise almost equal to the report of the musquets. After this, one of the fowls, which had been saved from the little live stock of the Antelope, was purposely driven across the cove where they were assembled, and where one of the officers was prepared with a fowling-piece loaded with shot. He fired, and the bird instantly dropped, having its wing and leg broken. Some of the natives ran to it, took it up, and carried it to the king, who examined it with great attention, unable to understand how it could be wounded, not having seen any thing pass out of the gun. This created a vast murmer and amazement among them.

It is but natural to suppose, after this display of their power, that the English

were regarded with no small degree of reverence, and as persons whose friendship and assistance might be of the greatest advantage to the people who had given them so kind a welcome to their country. All the islands lying in this spot of the globe, and now known to us by the name of the Pelew islands, do not belong to one sovereign; there are several governments or kingdoms, and one of the greatest failings in the characters of the different nations consists in that wherein they are like Europeans—they have wars one with another. Abba Thulle was then at war with some of his neighbours. He instantly conceived the great superiority a few muskets would give him over his enemies; but his native delicacy rendered it extremely difficult to make the request. He had an earnest desire to ask a favour, which the generosity of his feelings would not allow him to mention. The English had been, and still were, in his power: they had sought his protection as unfortunate

strangers—he had already shewn them, and still meant to shew them, every mark of hospitality which his naked unproductive country could afford—he feared that what he wished to ask, as it might prove a temporary inconvenience, would appear unkind—and what most checked his speaking was, that, circumstanced as the English were, a request would have the appearance of a command.—Reflections which would have done honour to the most enlightened king upon earth!—However, the matter was of the greatest consequence; and at length, after a most severe struggle within himself, the noble Abba Thulle ventured to request that Captain Wilson would permit four or five of his men to accompany him, with their muskets, on an expedition against an island which had done him an injury. The King found the English not ungrateful; the request was willingly complied with, every one of them expressed a readiness to go; but five young men, who were particularly desirous of the appointment, were chosen from the rest.

In the forenoon of the following day, which was the 17th of August, the five Englishmen attended Abba Thulle, according to his desire, being distributed in five canoes; and having left Oroolong, the name of the island which had proved so secure an Asylum to them, they were conveyed to another of the king's islands, at about six leagues distance, where they were treated with great kindness and hospitality. They set sail the next morning for Pelew, the place of the king's residence, and capital, as we shall call it, of the island of Cooroora, about three or four miles farther: here they remained till the 21st, as the king could not till then get all his canoes together; early on that day, however, there was a muster of them before the king's house, with their arms, which consisted of Bamboo darts from five to eight feet long, pointed with the wood of the beetle-nut tree, and bearded: these are used for close quarters, but there are short ones for distance, which are thrown by means of a stick two feet long.

The English again embarked in five different canoes, and sailed away about ten or twelve leagues, calling as they proceeded at several of the king's villages to refresh and reinforce. Between two and three o'Clock in the afternoon, they got sight of the enemy. There were now with the king 150 canoes, containing considerably more than 1000 men. The English could not find out the force of the enemy.

Before any hostilities were commenced, the king's eldest brother, whose name was Raa Kook, and who ranked as general of his forces, went in his canoe close to the town: he had with him one of the Englishmen, who, however, was ordered not to fire till a certain signal should be given for that purpose. The general talked with the enemy for some time; but what he said being received with great indifference, he threw a spear at them, which they almost instantly returned. This being the signal for firing, was immediately obeyed—a man

was seen to fall, and this threw the enemy into great confusion. Such as were on shore ran away, and the greater part of those in the canoes, jumped into the water, and made for land. A few more muskets were fired, which entirely dispersed the enemy. Thus successful, Abba Thulle thought proper to return with his fleet of canoes, and safely sent back his English allies to Oroolong, after having expressed great satisfaction at their behaviour, treated them in the best manner he could, and promised supplies of provisions for their companions. Indeed the whole country resounded with their praises; and within a few days the king actually gave Captain Wilson the island of Oroolong for the English.

Who can wonder that Abba Thulle should take advantage of the opportunity (which now offered) of bringing all his enemies to his own terms? Accordingly, we find, that a few days afterwards, he requested ten men from Captain Wilson, to

go on another expedition against the enemy. This second request of Abba Thulle was as readily granted as the former, and ten men were chosen.

The King attended by upwards of 200 canoes, proceeded in the night-time towards Artingall, off which island the fleet arrived a little before day-break, but then halted till the rising of the sun, it being a maxim with the natives of Pelew never to attack an enemy in the dark, or take him by surprise. As the day came on, a small canoe, containing only four men, each with a white feather stuck up in his hair, was dispatched with a message to the enemy, who, observing this signal of parley, dispatched a canoe to Raa Kook for that purpose. Raa Kook demanded whether they would submit to such terms as his brother had proposed, by way of atoning for injuries complained of. To this demand after communicating it to the King of Artingall, the enemy's canoe brought back a flat refusal; upon which, Abba Thulle

ordered his conch-shell to be sounded, and made the signal for his canoes to arrange themselves in order of battle.

Abba Thulle had, a few days before, given notice to the king of Artingall that he should offer him battle; so that he was prepared for it: Nevertheless, the people of that island kept their canoes close under land, contenting themselves with blowing their conch-shells in defiance: perceiving this unwillingness in the enemy to advance to combat, Abba Thulle dispatched some light canoes (which, from their cutting through the water with astonishing swiftness, were called by the English *frigate canoes*) to order a squadron to conceal themselves behind some high land, after which he made a feint of retiring, and that with apparent precipitancy. This artful manœuvre gave instant courage to the enemy, who thereupon began to quit the shore and chase the king, whom they imagined to be flying before them. Upon this, those canoes which had been concealed



A CANOE AND NATIVES.

behind the high land, rushed out between the island and the enemy, to cut off their retreat: and the king finding his stratagem had succeeded, turned, and made a signal for his fleet to form in divisions, and engage. A general attack now took place, and the spears were mutually directed with much animosity. The English who were distributed amongst the king and his chiefs, one in a canoe, kept up a continual fire, which not only did great execution, but puzzled and bewildered the enemy in the extreme; they perceived their dead to have holes in their bodies; yet saw no spear sticking in them: nor could they understand how or why their people dropped and died without receiving any apparent blow. Thus confounded, and unable to sustain so unequal a fight, they soon betook themselves to flight, and, notwithstanding the squadron in the rear, regained their own shore, with the loss of nine men taken prisoners and six canoes; a loss, indeed, to be looked on as very considerable, a

canoe being there esteemed of as much consequence as the largest man of war in Europe. Abba Thulle's fleet having rode triumphant along the coast of Artingall, sounded their conch-shells, and in vain defying the enemy to a fresh battle, returned to Pelew.

Still, however, the people of Artingall refused to submit; and a third expedition, more formidable than the others, was soon afterwards resolved upon, in which Abba Thulle was not only accompanied by ten of the English, but had also a swivel gun. The number of canoes, which now attended the king, far exceeded those he had before, he being assisted, on this occasion, by his neighbouring allies. But the people of Artingall declined fighting upon the water; so that Abba Thulle's forces landed and attacked them on shore. The swivel played constantly upon the houses, which were filled with people; and the English musketry, covering the Pelew people, soon dislodged the enemy and one of the houses

was by some accident presently in flames. Arra Kooker, a brother of the king's having pursued the enemy further than any other, and seeing one of them coming towards the place where he was, stepped among some bushes to let him pass; then followed, and stunned him with a blow from a wooden sword, and was dragging him a prisoner to his canoe, when one of the English perceiving several of the enemy rushing down on his friend, and that he must certainly have been killed, ran and levelled his piece at them, which instantly put them to flight; a circumstance the more fortunate, as the Englishman's whole stock of ammunition had been expended, and he had actually at the time no charge in his musquet. So great a dread had this instrument of death inspired! Nevertheless, the natives of Artingall behaved with much courage in this engagement: they defended the house which took fire to the last, nor quitted it till it was ready to fall. One of the Pelew people also distinguished

himself in a very extraordinary manner : he ran to the house which was in flames, tore off a burning brand, and, carrying it to another house, where many of the enemy had taken shelter, set that on fire likewise. He escaped to his companions unhurt ; and the king publicly rewarded him, by immediately placing with his own hand a string of beads in his ear, and afterwards making him an inferior rupack or chief, on his return to Pelew.

In this action, five canoes were destroyed, which the enemy had hauled on shore, and much other damage done : but what was the greatest matter of triumph to the people of Pelew was, their carrying away the stone whereon the king of Artingall used to sit in council ; which probably, was with them reckoned as glorious an exploit, as that of Edward the First's bringing to England the stone on which the kings of Scotland used to be crowned, which is now in Westminster Abbey in London ; indeed, finding it in vain to contend

against such evident advantages as the people of Pelew derived from their English auxiliaries, the king of Artingall very prudently dropped the war, and concluded a peace.

In this battle, a son of Raa Kook, about 18 years of age, was slain. He had been wounded in the second action by a spear flung into his foot, and the natives, in trying to pull it out, had broken it short off. They then fastened a cord to the end of the spear which remained in the foot, and exerted great strength to extract it; but the barb having been forced between the small bones, the inflammation and swelling which immediately took place, rendered every effort ineffectual; and, in the state the limb then was, they would more easily have pulled off his foot than have drawn out the broken spear. The wound was then put under the care of a native reputed to be skilled in such matters, who, with a small knife which he had got from the wreck, began to cut away the flesh, in

order to lay the bone bare : but the finishing of the operation being probably prevented by the effusion of blood, after mangling the foot, recourse was had to their ordinary practice of fomentation. In this wretched state of the wound, Raa Kook consulted Mr. Sharp, the Surgeon of the Antelope, who advised him to let the fomentation be continued till the swelling should abate, when he promised to do every thing in his power for the relief of his son. However upon the going down of the swelling, the natives extracted the spear themselves, by forcing it through the foot ; and the youth who inherited all the spirit and intrepidity of his father, finding though he could not walk, yet that he was able to stand up in a canoe, and throw a spear, insisted that he would go on the third expedition ; wherein, at the beginning of the action which ensued, as he was gallantly endeavouring to get up close to the enemy's shore he received a dart in his body, which unhappily put an end to his existence,

after he had shewed to his countrymen a noble example of fortitude and bravery.

Mr. Sharp the surgeon, had been sent by Captain Wilson to cure the wound in his foot, and had brought his surgical instruments with him for that purpose : he arrived in Pelew however, only to witness the ceremony of his funeral. On his arrival, Raa Kook carried him to a neighbouring island ; there, after a repast which was eat in the most profound silence, the lamentation of women was heard at some distance, and Mr. Sharp going to see the occasion of it, on a sign from his conductor, observed a great number of them following a dead body on a bier, tied up in a mat, and supported on the shoulders of four men, who were the only ones present. The body was then deposited in a grave, without any ceremony, except that the lamentations of the women continued. Raa Kook, it is remarkable never gave the smallest hint or indication that this was the funeral of his son.

The surprise and pleasure of the king, on examining the instruments, were very great; and there being some stranger chiefs residing with him on account of his late success, he begged that they also might be gratified with a sight of them. An explanation of the different uses to which they could be put, excited much amazement.

Not long afterwards, Abba Thulle took occasion once more to beg the assistance of the English on an expedition against another island, named Pelelew; and ten men were lent him as before. On this enterprise he was attended by full 300 canoes. Upon their arrival off Pelelew; the enemy thought proper, after receiving some damage on a neighbouring island, to sue for peace, to which no doubt, they were chiefly induced by the terror of the English fire-arms. Two Malays, who had been wrecked with the one already mentioned as the interpreter between the English and people of Pelew were, at its conclusion, given up to Abba Thulle.

It was now the latter end of October : and such of the crew of the Antelope as had not accompanied Abba Thulle on his expeditions, having been indefatigable in getting stores and planks from the ship, in cutting down timber on the island, and in forwarding, by every means in their power, the grand object in view, they had the satisfaction to hope, from the great progress they had made, that success would attend their endeavours, and that they should soon complete such a vessel, as would carry them to Macao, or some part of China, as before mentioned ; and this encouraged them to persevere in their labours, however toilsome, with cheerfulness and alacrity.

Abba Thulle was always approached by his rupacks or chiefs, with the greatest respect ; and his common subjects whenever they passed near him, put their hands behind them, and crouched towards the ground. The eyes of all beheld their naked prince with as much respect and awe, as those are viewed who rule polished nations,

and are surrounded with all the splendour of royalty. Whether in council, or elsewhere, when any message came from the king, if it was brought by one of the common people, it was delivered at some distance in a low voice, to one of the inferior rupacks, who, bending in an humble posture at the king's side, repeated the message in a soft tone, with his face turned away. On the king's part, his behaviour was, on all occasions, gentle and gracious. Every day in the afternoon, whether he was at Pelew, or with the English at Oroolong, he sat in public, for the purpose of hearing requests, or of settling differences which might have arisen among his subjects: and having heard whatever they had to say to him, by his affability and condescension he never suffered them to depart dissatisfied. He reigned over them more as the father than the sovereign. His commands appeared to be absolute, yet he never undertook any thing of importance without advising with his rupacks in council;

this was always held in the open air, on a large square pavement, each rupack sitting on a single stone, and the king upon one more elevated than the rest, with another close to it for the occasional support of his arm.

Next in power to the king was Raa Kook, the brother next to him by birth, and, by the custom there, general of all his forces, and heir to the throne, the government of Pelew not going to the king's children till it has passed through the hands of his brothers.

A particular chief, or rupack, constantly attended the king, apparently as his minister. He was always first consulted, but never bore arms.

The rupacks, or chiefs, may be considered in the same light as the European nobles. They wear a bone round one of their wrists, in the form of a bracelet, which, being a mark of great honour conferred by the king on officers of state, commanders, or persons who by valour or

otherwise, have greatly distinguished themselves, is never to be parted with, but with life. They are not all of the same degree, as appeared from the difference in the bone they wore. Captain Wilson was invested with the highest order of the bone. The principal rupacks advise with the king in council, and, at his command, are always ready to accompany him on any expedition, with a number of canoes properly manned and armed.

With respect to property in these islands a man's house or canoe is considered as his own, as is also the land allotted him, as long as he occupies and cultivates it; but, whenever he removes with his family to another place, the ground becomes again the property of the king, who gives it to whom he pleases, or to those who ask permission to cultivate it.

The country is well covered with timber trees, the trunk of one of which, furnishes the natives with canoes, some large enough to carry thirty-men: there are but few other trees of much use to the natives.

Yams and cocoa-nuts, being their chief article of food, are attended to with the utmost care. Amongst his crew, Captain Wilson had some Chinese, which people are all tolerable botanists, and will pick up a meal almost any where. He sent one of them about the country, to see what productions he could meet with; his report, on his return, was as follows: *‘ This is very poor place, and very poor people; no got clothes, no got rice, no got hog, no got nothing only yams, little fish, and cocoa-nut; no got no thing make trade, very little make eat.’*— This account, however, is too unfavourable; there are a few pigeons (which are reserved for people of a certain dignity,) and plenty of cocks and hens, though till informed by the English, the natives knew not that these last were good to eat; and the sea affords a variety of fish. No four-footed animal was found here, except some wild brownish gray rats. From the scanty produce of the country, it is

plain no luxury can reign amongst the inhabitants in their diet ; and the milk of the cocoa-nut was their common drink : on particular occasions, they added to their ordinary fare, certain sweetmeats and sweet drink, obtained by the aid of a syrup, extracted either from the palm-tree or the sugar-cane.

The houses are raised about three feet from the ground, the foundation beams being laid on large stones, whence spring the upright supports of their sides, which are crossed by other timbers grooved together, and fastened by wooden pins, the intermediate spaces being closely filled up with bamboos and palm-trees ; platted together. In general, the floors are made of very thick plank, between many of which was left the space of an inch or two, for the purpose perhaps, of sweeping any litter through. Some houses have the floors of large bamboo split. On the top of the upright sides, beams are laid across, from

which rises the roof, pointed like the English barns, and thatched on the outside with bamboos and palm-leaves. The windows come to the level of the floor and serve likewise for doors; but to prevent inconvenience from wind or rain, each of them has a bamboo frame or shutter, interwoven like the sides of the houses, which, sliding on bamboo rods, are easily slipped aside, when any one is going in or out. The inside of the house is without any division, forming one great room; and the fire-place commonly in the middle, sunk lower than the floor, the family keeping on one side of it, and the servants on the other.

As to domestic implements, there are little baskets, very nicely woven from slips of the plantain-leaf; and wooden baskets with covers, neatly carved and inlaid with shells. No one ever stirs abroad without a basket, which usually contains some beetle-nut, a comb, a knife, and a little twine. The best knives are made of a piece of

the large mother-of-pearl oyster, ground narrow, and the outward side a little polished. Combs are made from the orange-tree (of which there are a few of the Seville kind,) the handle and teeth fashioned in the solid wood. The fishing hooks are of tortoise-shell; and twine, cord, and fishing nets are well manufactured from the husks of the cocoa-nut. Of the plantain-leaf are formed mats, which serve the people as beds. They also use a plantain-leaf at meals instead of a plate, and the shell of a cocoa-nut supplies the place of a cup. There are vessels of a kind of earthenware of a reddish brown colour, in which they boil their fish, yams, &c. A bundle of cocoa-nut husks, tied together, serves them for a broom; and thick bamboos, with bores five or six inches in diameter, for buckets or cisterns. Their hatchets are not unlike those brought to England from the South Sea islands, the blade being made of the strongest part of the large Kima cockle. In addition hereto

must be mentioned a few articles, which in these islands may be deemed luxuries. The shell of the tortoise is there remarkably beautiful, and the natives of Felew have discovered the art of moulding it into little trays or dishes and spoons. Some of the great ladies have also bracelets of the same manufacture, and ear-rings inlaid with shells.

The natives, in general, are a stout well-made people, rather above the middle stature, and of a very deep copper colour, but not black. Their hair is long, and generally formed into one large loose curl round their heads. The men are entirely naked; the women wear two little aprons, one before, the other behind. Both men and women are tattooed; and their teeth blackened by a preparation of groundsel and some other herbs, the application of which makes them for a time extremely sick. In the gristle between their nostrils is bored a hole, through which they often put any little sprig or blossom which



THE PELEW ISLANDEES.

C

happens to strike their fancy. Both sexes also are very expert at swimming; and the men such admirable divers, that they will readily fetch up any thing which attracts their notice.—The conduct of these people towards the English was, from first to last, uniformly courteous and attentive, accompanied with a politeness which surprised those who were the objects of it. They felt our countrymen were distressed, and in consequence, wished them to share whatever they had to give. The English had also many opportunities of observing that this liberality prevailed in all the intercourse the natives had among themselves. The tenderness shewn to the women was remarkable, and the deportment of the men to each other, mild and affable; in-somuch that, in the various scenes of which they were spectators, the English never saw any thing which had the appearance of quarrelling or passion; every one seemed to attend to his own concerns, without interfering with the business of his neigh-

bour; herein giving an example which ought to put to the blush many a gossiping busy-body in our own country. Some of the men were occupied in their plantations, in cutting wood, making hatchets, cords, &c. some in building houses or canoes; others in making nets and fishing-tackle, and many more in forming darts, spears, and other warlike weapons. The women attended to domestic concerns, worked in the plantations of yams, and manufactured the mats and baskets. All persons by their daily labour gained their daily sustenance: no idle or indolent people were seen, not even among those whom superior rank might have exempted from labour: on the contrary, these excited their inferiors to toil and activity by their own example. The King himself was the best maker of hatchets in the island, and was usually at work whenever disengaged from matters of importance. In such scenes of patient industry, the years of fleeting life passed on; and the cheerful

disposition of the natives fully authorises the conclusion, that few of their hours are either irksome or oppressive.

Raa Kook and Arra Kooker, brothers to the king, were amongst the natives who first discovered the English on the island of Oroolong after their being wrecked, and who immediately conceived the greatest affection and friendship for them. Raa Kook seemed to be above forty years of age, was of a middling height, rather corpulent, and had a countenance marked with great sense and good nature.—As the elder brother, he was the king's next heir, and general of the forces. His character was firm and resolute, yet full of humanity: he was steady and persevering in whatever he undertook: he delivered his orders to the people with the greatest mildness, yet would be obeyed, and they, as if mingling affection with duty, never failed to serve him with alacrity and ardour. Whilst on one hand, the rank of this amiable chief enabled

him to be of essential service to the English; on the other, he shewed perfect satisfaction and pleasure in whatever they did for him: he delighted in their company, and courted their information, for he had an eager spirit of enquiry, was very minute in his observations; desired to examine the nature of every thing he saw, and understood whatever was described to him, with the greatest ease and quickness. He was always pleasant and lively, well disposed to laughter when it was occasionally excited, and sometimes excited it himself. Having once been presented with a pair of trowsers and an uniform coat, he immediately put them on, not a little pleased in appearing like his new acquaintance, often looking at himself and calling out; "Raa Kook Engles! Raa Kook Engles!" He would sit at table as they did, instead of squatting on his hams, (as is the custom of his country,) and endeavour to accommodate himself to their manners in all respects.

In short they felt great regard for him from the first, and in truth, found him in every transaction they afterwards had with him, to be a man of an upright character and steady friendship.

Arra Kooker was nearly forty years of age, of the middle size and so plump and fat, that he was almost as broad as he was long. He possessed a fund of humour, and a particular turn for mimicry. He could by no means relish wearing trowsers; but conceiving a passion for a white shirt, one was accordingly given to him: this he had no sooner put on, than he began to dance and jump about with so much glee, that all were highly diverted by his ridiculous gestures, and the contrast which the colour of the linen formed with that of his skin. He would frequently amuse our countrymen by taking off every one of them in any particularity he had noticed; and sometimes would put a hat on his head, and imitate the manner of their walking

in their military exercise; and nothing that he observed done by them escaped him. The English had saved from the Antelope, a large Newfoundland dog, named Sailor, which afforded equal surprise and delight to all the natives who saw him, and they often used to divert themselves by making him bark. Arra Kooker was accustomed to carry him victuals, whence the dog naturally expressed great joy on seeing him; and the humorous prince would often add to his other amusements by imitating wonderfully well the barking, howling, jumping, and all the various tokens of joy of this useful animal.—Indeed he grew so fond of Sailor, that on his earnest and repeated entreaties, the creature was at last given to him.

So unremitting had the English worked on the vessel which was to be the means of their deliverance, that by the 9th of November it was ready for launching, and this being happily accomplished, they

began to put on board every thing which they judged would be necessary to them in their voyage. By Abba Thulle's desire, she was called the Oroolong.

Throughout the whole progress of building the vessel, the king had in his visits to the English, been very attentive to their manner of working; he would stand looking at them for a considerable time together, and let not the most trifling circumstance escape his observation. He was now come to Oroolong, with some of his chiefs, to be present at their departure. In the evening of the day after the vessel was launched, he entered very seriously into conversation with Captain Wilson; he said, that, notwithstanding he was looked up to by his subjects with respect, and regarded as their superior as well in knowledge as in rank, yet, after mixing with the English and being witness of their ingenuity, he was often conscious of his own insignificance, in beholding the meanest of them exercise talents to which

he had ever been a stranger: and that therefore after due consideration, he had come to the resolution of committing his second son, whose name was

LEE BOO,

to the captain's care, in order that he might enjoy the advantage of improving himself by accompanying the English, and also of learning many things, which, on his return, might prove of essential benefit to his country. He then spoke of his son as a youth of a gentle and amiable disposition, sensible, and possessing many good qualities. He said, he had recalled him from a distant place where he had been under the care of an old man, that he was at that time taking leave of his friends at Pelew, and would come to Oroolong the next day. He added, that one of the Malays from Pelew should accompany him as a servant. Raa Kook and Arra Kooker joined in commendation of their nephew.

To this address of the king's, Captain Wilson answered, that he was exceedingly

honoured and obliged by the singular mark of confidence and esteem he had mentioned; that he should have considered himself bound in gratitude to take care of any person belonging to Pelew whom he might think proper to send; but, in the case proposed, he wished solemnly to assure him, that he should endeavour to merit the high trust reposed in him, by treating the young prince with the same affection and tenderness as his own son. It was evident that this answer gave the king great satisfaction.

After this, the discourse of the day, as might be expected, turning much on the departure of the English, Abba Thulle addressed Captain Wilson, as they sat together, as follows: "You are going, and, when gone, I fear the inhabitants of Artingall will come down in great numbers, and molest me, as they have done frequently before; and having lost the aid of the English, I shall be unable to resist them, unless you leave

me a few of your muskets, which you have already taught me to hope you would."

As a testimony of the gratitude the crew owed this worthy man, and as a means of rendering him service after their departute, by arming him against his enemies, it had been intended to leave with Abba Thulle, on quitting the island, whatever fire-arms they could spare: on this request, therefore, they now presented him, in addition to some working tools and other things they had given him before, five muskets, five cutlasses, a barrel of gunpowder, and gun flints and ball in proportion; to which Captain Wilson added his own fowling-piece, wherewith his royal friend seemed to be particularly pleased, having often been witness of its effects.

At the same time that Abba Thulle had been meditating upon the design of sending his son *Lee Boo* to England, that of remaining behind with the natives had been formed by one of the English sea-

men, whose name was Madan Blanchard : a design in which, however extraordinary it may seem, he persisted, notwithstanding the Captain used many arguments to persuade him to drop it. At length, finding it in vain to attempt to alter his resolution, the Captain judged it prudent to let him follow his own inclination and to ingratiate him as much as possible in the good-will of the natives, as well as to make a merit of necessity, by representing the leaving him behind as a favour done to the king.—Blanchard had made one of the number of Englishmen who had attended the king in the expeditions already mentioned : and there was something in the country, or the people, which operated so powerfully on his imagination, that on his return from the first fight at Artingall, he declared to his companions, that he would most readily take his share in all the labour of building and fitting out the new vessel, but that he intended to remain and end his days among the natives of

Pelew. Pursuing the idea before mentioned, Captain Wilson took an opportunity of imparting the matter to the king in the manner he had proposed, with which he was so well pleased that he promised, on Blanchard's being introduced, to give him a house and plantations, and to make him a rupack.

In the evening of the 11th of November, Lee Boo arrived at Oroolong, and was introduced by his father, first to Capt. Wilson, and then to his officers. He approached them all, in so easy and affable a manner, and with such an expression of sense and good humour in his countenance, that every one immediately became prepossessed in his favour, and felt the commencement of that regard for him, which his amiable manners daily increased. He was brought by his eldest brother whose name was Qui Bill; a youth about 21 years of age, extremely well made, but who had lost his nose, which might have been accidentally carried off in battle by a

spear, or destroyed by what we call the Evil, a disorder which the surgeon of the Antelope, Mr. Sharp, found to prevail among the natives.

With Lee Boo, was brought from Pelew, a basket, containing some dozens of a fruit resembling an apple, of an oblong shape and a deep crimson colour, somewhat like what is called in England, the Dutch Paradise Apple. This fruit was spoken of as very rare, and just then coming into season. Captain Wilson gave one of the apples to each of his officers, being such as they had not seen before; the rest he carefully reserved to treat his young passenger with, during his voyage.

Every requisite being now put on board the vessel, and the wind fair, the next day was appointed by the Captain, for the affecting scene of bidding a last adieu to those friendly islanders, to whom he and his crew were so much indebted, and who much wished for their longer stay: but the Captain was fearful of not reaching China

soon enough to secure a passage in some of the English ships on their return to Europe that season. Abba Thulle, therefore, lost no time; he entered into a long discourse with his son; giving him instructions how to conduct himself, and what he was to attend to; and telling him, amongst many other good counsels, that he was thence-forward to consider Capt. Wilson as another father, and win his affections, by observing his advice. Here turning to the Captain, he said, "When Lee Boo got to England, he would have such fine things to see, that he might chance to slip away from him to run after novelty; but that he hoped the captain would keep him as much as he could under his eye, and endeavour to moderate the eagerness of his youth."

And after further conversation relative to the confidence placed in him, the unlettered king of Cooroora concluded his recommendation, nearly in the following expressions, which must make their

way to the heart of every reader of the least sensibility: "I would wish you," said he to Capt. Wilson, "to inform Lee Boo of all things which he ought to know, and make him an Englishman.—The subject of parting with my son I have frequently thought on; I am well aware that the distant countries he must go through, differing much from his own, may expose him to dangers, as well as to diseases that are unknown to us here, in consequence of which he may die;—I have prepared my thoughts to this;—I know that death is to all men inevitable and whether my son meets this event at Pelew or elsewhere, is immaterial. I am satisfied from what I have observed of the humanity of your character, that, if he is sick, you will be kind to him; and, should that happen, which your utmost care cannot prevent, let it not hinder you, or your brother, or your son, or any of your countrymen, returning here; I shall receive you, or any of your

people, in friendship, and rejoice to see you again."

Who is not struck with this proof of the great strength of Abba Thulle's understanding, as well as the purity and liberality of his sentiments ?

Captain Wilson repeated his assurance, that he would take the same care of Lee Boo as of his own child, and that nothing should be wanting on his part to shew, in his attention to the son, the gratitude and regard he should ever feel for the father.

The time of departure being so near, the captain took an opportunity of conversing with Blanchard on the subject of his being left behind. He set before him the manner in which he should conduct himself towards the natives, and in what respect he should be instructive and beneficial to them ; particularly in working such iron as had been given to them, and what more they might yet be able to obtain from the wreck. And as, in gratitude to their preservers, the English had given

them, for their future defence against their enemies, all the arms and ammunition not absolutely necessary for their own safety, so the captain recommended it to Blanchard, as a thing of the utmost consequence, to take especial care to keep them in proper order. He very prudently counselled him never to go naked like the natives, as, by adhering to the form of dress his countrymen had appeared in, he would always maintain a superiority of character; and that he might the better follow this advice, Blanchard was furnished with all the clothes that could be spared, and directed when those were worn out, to make himself trowsers of a mat, which he could always get from the natives, and thereby preserve that decency he had always been used to. Nor did the captain forget in his instructions, to recommend an attention to religious matters. He urged Blanchard, in the most earnest manner not to neglect those acts of devotion which he had been taught to practice,

but carefully to observe the Sabbath-day, and perform those christain duties wherein he had been educated; for the captain had always endeavoured to impress a due sense of religion upon his crew, and never failed publicly to read prayers to them every Sunday. Lastly, Blanchard was desired to ask for any thing he thought likely to be of comfort and use to him, when he requested to have one of the ship's compasses; and as the pinnace was intended to be left for Abba Thulle, he wished that the oars, sails, masts, and every thing belonging to her, might likewise be left; all which were promised him.

In the morning of the 12th of November, one of the swivel guns which had been saved from the wreck, was fired, and an English jack hoisted at the mast-head of the vessel, as a signal for sailing, which being explained to the king, he forthwith ordered to be taken on board, yams, coconuts, sweetmeats, and other things provided for the voyage: besides which, there

was a quantity of provisions in many canoes, belonging to the natives, lying along-side of the Oroolong.

When the vessel was loaded with as many of their friendly offerings as could with any conveniency be taken on board, and got quite ready for sea, the boat was sent for the captain who was on shore. This circumstance being made known to the king, he signified, that he and his son would presently go on board in his canoe. Then the Captain, taking Blanchard, and the men who had come on shore for him, into one of the temporary houses, besought the former, to impress on his memory the advice he had before given him, and particularly to be observant of his duty to his Creator, that the people of Pelew might thereby perceive he retained that faith and sense of religion in which he had been brought up. In conclusion, the captain made the seamen present, kneel down with him, and unite in praises and thanksgiving to that Supreme Being, who had not only

graciously supported their spirits in the midst of severe toils and dangers, but had now opened to them the means of deliverance. Abba Thulle and his chiefs who were near the entrance of the house, observed and understood the meaning of this act of devotion, and preserved a profound silence.

At eight o'clock in the morning, the captain went on board in his boat; and soon afterwards was followed by the king, his son Lee Boo, and such rupacks as were with him. The little vessel was so deeply laden with sea-stores, that a doubt arose, whether she could be got over the reef which had proved fatal to the Antelope, and runs along the west side of the Pelew islands; it was therefore determined to lighten her, by landing two six pounders they had on board.

Mr. Sharp, the surgeon, who, as the person whose profession it was to cure diseases, had particularly attracted the king's notice, had been desired to take Lee Boo

under his special care till the Oroolong should arrive at China ; and Abba Thulle now pointed out that gentleman to his son, as his *succalic*, that is, particular friend ; and from that moment Lee Boo attached himself to him, keeping close at his side, in whatever part of the vessel he went.

In adjusting and setting all things to rights before the Oroolong moved, a small sail belonging to the pinnace was missed. Blanchard was got into that boat, in order to take the Oroolong in tow. He had kept his word ; with unwearied assiduity, he had to the last given his countrymen every assistance in his power, and, having carefully laid up the sail enquired after, went on board to shew where he had put it ; which being done, he wished them a prosperous voyage, and however strange it may seem, without discovering the least degree of regret, took leave of all his old shipmates with as little appearance of concern as if they had been only about to sail

from London to Gravesend, to continue
with the next tide.

At length the Oroolong was in motion and advanced towards the shore. Loaded as she had been by Abba with bounty, even to excess, with every thing he thought might be useful or agreeable to his departing friends, still on each side of her were a multitude of canoes full of the common natives, who had all brought presents from themselves, entreating they might be accepted. In vain were they told there was no room in the vessel for any thing more; each held up something—"Only this from me!" "Only this from me!" was the general cry: which was repeated with such supplicating countenances and tearful eyes, that this additional mark of generosity and affection almost got the better of every body on board. A few yams or cocoa-nuts were accepted from some of the nearest: and these poor creatures whose entreaties could not be listened to, unable to endure the

disappointment, paddled a-head, and threw their little present into the pinnace, not knowing that she was to return with Blanchard.

Can this picture of pure friendship at Pelew be surpassed by any other in the known world?

A-head of the pinnace went several canoes, to mark the safest track for the vessel; and others were stationed at the reef to point out the deepest water for her passage over it, by which precautions, the Oroolong safely and easily cleared that formidable barrier.

Abba Thulle accompanied the English in their vessel almost to the reef, before he made the signal for his canoe to come along-side. And now, wishing him happy and prosperous, he most affectionately took leave of Lee Boo, and gave him his blessing—it was received with profound respect. Seeing Captain Wilson engaged in giving some directions to his people, he stopped till he was perfectly at liberty; then went

up to him, and embraced him with the greatest tenderness, showing by his voice and looks, how distressed he was to bid him farewell. In the most cordial manner he shook hands with all the officers, saying, "You are happy because you are going home—I am happy to find you are happy—but still very unhappy myself to see you are going away." Then, assuring the crew of his ardent wishes for their successful voyage, he went over the side of the vessel into his canoe. As the canoes drew together, surrounding that of the king, the natives all eagerly looked up as if to bid adieu, while their countenances shewed the feeling of their benevolent hearts in looks far more expressive than language. The English might truly say that they left a whole people in tears; indeed so deeply were they themselves affected by this interesting scene, that when Abba Thulle and his attendants turned back to Oroolong, they were scarcely able to give him three cheers; and their eyes

followed him to catch the latest look, whilst every man among them with gratitude felt the extent of his services, whereby, in a great measure, their deliverance had been brought about, as well as the sincerity of his friendship, which had continued firm and unshaken to the last.

Most of the chiefs had left the Oroolong with the king, except Raa Kook, and a few of his attendants, who would see her, clear of danger, to the outside of the reef. The outside of the reef had been some time attained, Raa Kook had remained pensive, and the vessel proceeded a considerable way, before he recollected himself, and summoned his canoes to return.—The pinnace being now brought to the side of the Oroolong, the captain and officers prepared themselves to take leave of this amiable person, but when the moment of separation arrived, he was so affected, that for a short time he was unable to speak—he took them by the hand, and pointing with the other to his heart, said *it was there*

he felt the pain of bidding them farewell : nor was this scene witnessed by any one on board, who did not share its distress. He addressed LEE BOO, by name, and said a few words to him ; but finding he could not proceed, he went into the boat, when immediately quitting the rope, he gave those he had just left a last affectionate look, then dropt astern.

This worthy chief would fain have accompanied our people to England, and before their vessel was launched, had actually asked the king's permission so to do ; but, from the circumstance of his being the heir to the crown, the inconvenience which would arise in case of Abba Thulle's death in his absence, was a prudential reason, that prevented its being granted. Raa Kook's good sense convinced him of the justness of it, and he yielded—but his wish remained the same. To this their first and truly valuable friend, the English presented a brace of pistols,

and a cartridge-box loaded with the proper cartridges, at their last interview.

Having now parted from all their friends of Pelew, the crew pursued their voyage towards China, with tolerable weather. The first night LEE BOO slept on board, he ordered his Malay servant, whose name was Boyam, to bring his mat upon deck; a warmer covering was however prepared to defend him against the cold. The next morning, no land was to be seen, which much surprised him. Captain Wilson now clothed him in a shirt, waistcoat and pair of trowsers, the two first articles of which seemed to be so very uneasy to him, that he soon took them off, folded them up, and used them only as a pillow; but understanding the indelicacy of having no clothing, he never appeared without his trowsers; and as the vessel, by steering northward, advanced into a climate gradually becoming colder, he felt less and less inconvenience in resuming the use of his jacket and shirt, and the dislike he had to

them lost itself in his new taught sense of propriety, which, daily increasing, soon became too powerful to suffer him to change his dress in the presence of another person; and he would afterwards always retire for that purpose to some dark corner where he could not be seen.—At first, the motion of the vessel made him sea-sick, insomuch that he was obliged frequently to lie down. On his growing better, one of the apples which was brought to Oroolong, at the time of his arrival there, was given him; he hesitated to eat it, till he was told that such was the captain's desire, and that Abba Thulle had sent them for him: when he observed to Boyam, his servant that he was much indulged, as none but a few great people had his father's permission to eat of this fruit. This remark corresponds with Abba Thulle's telling Captain Wilson, on giving him these apples, that they were a great rarity.

On the 16th of November, being Sunday, prayers were devoutly read in the

forenoon upon deck, the crew having too deep a sense of the mercies of Providence in their happy delivery, not to offer them publicly and with hearts full of gratitude.

LEE BOO was remarkably clean in his person, washing himself several times every day.—There is a saying of great importance and well worthy of attention, that “cleanliness is next to godliness.” This may be estimating it too high, but it may truly be said that cleanliness is no less essential to the health of the body, than godliness is to that of the soul. However no one can pretend not to admire and prefer it to filthiness, which, so much prevails, in Ireland, especially among the poorer class of people; but, surely, this is the result of a sluggish indolent habit, rather than of poverty, as, though clothed in rags, they may be *clean*.

Our young voyager was by this time so well recovered as to eat a flying-fish which was caught upon deck, and some yam, haying before eaten very little. He told

Boyam, that he was sensible his father and family had been very unhappy from knowing that he had been sick. When he was quite recovered from his illness, he appeared to be perfectly easy and contented.

In the morning of the 25th at day light the vessel came in sight of the Bashee Islands at about three leagues distance. LEE BOO was much pleased at the circumstance, and eagerly desired to know their names: which being repeated to him until he could pronounce them, he took a piece of line, and tied a knot in it in remembrance of the event. It is the custom of the people in the Pelew Islands to make remarks by tying knots in a line, and LEE BOO had brought with him the one he used for that purpose.

Having pursued their course without interruption, on Friday the 28th, the voyagers saw several Chinese fishing boats, and, next morning, land: they stood in amongst the islands, as the wind would

permit, till six o'clock in the evening, when they anchored in the midst of some small Chinese vessels; LEE BOO being quite delighted with viewing the land, and the number of boats upon the water.

On the 30th in the morning, Captain Wilson procured a pilot to conduct their vessel between the Islands to Macao, where lived Mr. M'Intyre, a gentleman from whom the captain had received many marks of friendship, when before at that place in the Antelope.

To him, therefore, Captain Wilson repaired upon his arrival.——Mr. M'Intyre was no sooner informed of the sad misfortune which had befallen his friend, than with his usual generosity, he ordered such provisions and other necessaries as they might stand in need of to be sent on board the vessel to the officers and people, whilst the Captain wrote to the East-India Company's Agents who were then all at Canton, to acquaint them with his situation.

LEE BOO was astonished on seeing the Portuguese ships at Macao : he cried out as he looked at them, *Cloow, cloow, muc cloow!* that is, *Large, large, very large!* The English had here an early opportunity of observing the natural benevolence of his mind. Some Chinese boats, rowed by poor tartar women, with their little children tied to their backs, surrounding the vessel, and the poor creatures in them petitioning for fragments of victuals, LEE BOO was very anxious to relieve their necessities, giving them oranges, and selecting, with particular attention from such things as he had, whatever he liked best himself.

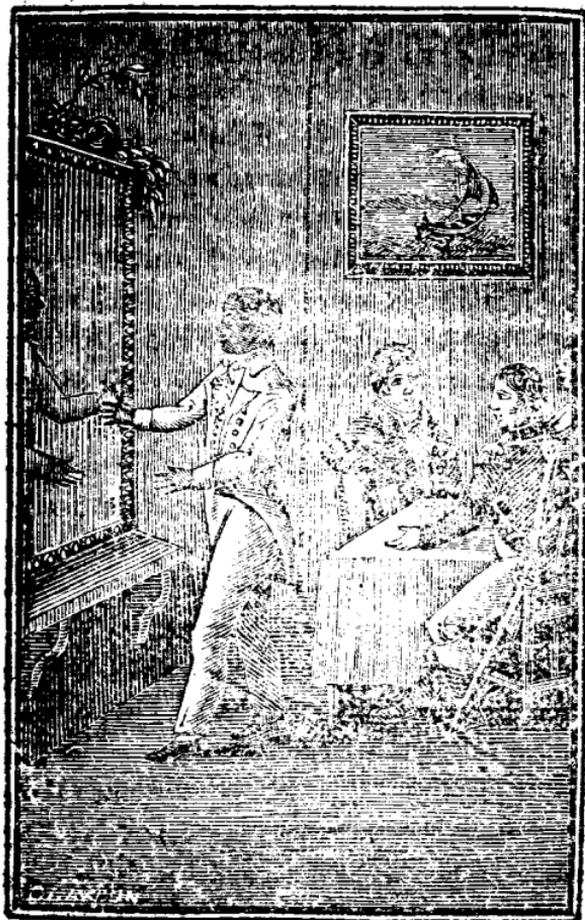
The next morning, Mr. McIntyre and a Portuguese gentleman accompanied the captain on board the Oroolong, taking with them a variety of refreshments and provisions ready dressed. In the evening, they returned on shore, together with LEE BOO, and all the officers, except the chief mate, who remained with the men to take care of the vessel.

The Portuguese gentleman was very much pleased with the Pelew Prince, and when on shore requested that the *new man*, as he called him, might be permitted to visit his family: and his house being the first the young traveller had ever entered, he seemed to be lost in silent admiration. The upright walls and flat ceilings greatly perplexed him, as he did not understand how they could be formed; and the ornaments of the rooms also struck him with no small degree of astonishment. On being introduced to the ladies of the family, his deportment was so easy and polite, as to be exceeded only by his abundant good nature: he was not in the least embarrassed: he allowed the company to examine his hands, which were tattooed, and appeared pleased with the notice he excited.

The idea conceived by those who were witnesses of Lee Boo's first introduction to fashionable life, was, that how great soever the surprise, which the scenes of a new

world might occasion in him, it would be scarcely exceeded by that, which his own amiable manners and native polish would create in others.

After this visit, Mr. M'Intyre conducted Captain Wilson and his companions to his own house, where they were ushered into a large hall lighted up, with a table in the middle covered for supper, and a sideboard very handsomely ornamented. A new scene now burst at once on Lee Boo's mind : he was all eye, all admiration : the vessels of glass were in a manner enchantment itself. Mr. M'Intyre pointed out to him whatever he thought likely to amuse him ; but every thing around him was attracting ; his eye and his mind were alike engaged, in truth, all was to him a fairy tale, a scene of wonder. At the upper end of the hall was a large looking-glass, which reflected almost his whole person. Here Lee Boo stood in perfect amazement at seeing himself—he laughed—he drew back—he returned to look again, quite lost in



PRINCE ILL. EOG, LOOKING AT HIMSELF IN A GLASS.

wonder. He tried to look behind, as if conceiving somebody to be there, but found the glass fixed close to the wall. Upon this, Mr. M'Intyre ordered a small glass to be brought, wherein having seen his face, Lee Boo looked behind to discover the person who looked at him, totally unable to account for so strange an effect.

After passing an evening rendered pleasant and cheerful by the hospitality of their host, and the simplicity of Lee Boo, the gentlemen retired for the night; whether the prince passed it in sleep, or in thinking upon the occurrences of the preceding day, is not certain; but it is very possible, the next morning he recollected them in that confused manner, in which we recall something that we have seen in a dream.

The following day, Lee Boo had more leisure for examination: the upright walls and flat ceilings were still objects of surprise to him: the walls he was continually feeling, as if by that means to acquire some idea of their construction; but the

ceilings, self-supported as he imagined, seemed at that time, quite beyond the reach of his comprehension.

By the good offices of Mr. M'Intyre, a house, servants, and other necessaries, were provided at Macao, for the crew of the Croolong, and they all came on shore, leaving a guard of one officer, and a few men, who at due times were changed. In purchasing such things as they stood in need of, they did not forget Lee Boo, who was a favourite with them all. Among other trinkets, which, from their novelty they thought would please him, was a string of large glass beads, the sight whereof threw him almost into an ecstasy: he hugged them with a transport which could not be equalled by that of the possessor of a string of pearls of the same size—he thought he had in his hands all the wealth the world could afford—he ran with eagerness to Captain Wilson, to shew him his riches, and enraptured with the idea of his family's sharing them with him, in the

utmost agitation of spirits, entreated the Captain, "immediately to get him a Chinese vessel, to carry his treasures to Pelew, and deliver them to the king, that he might distribute them as he thought proper, and thereby see what a country the English had conveyed him to;" adding, "that the people who carried them should inform the king that Lee Boo would soon send him other presents." He then assured Captain Wilson, that, "if the people faithfully executed their charge, he would, besides what Abba Thulle might give them, present them, on their return, with one or two beads, as a reward for their fidelity."—Happy state of simplicity and innocence, whose pleasures can be purchased on such easy terms!

In a short time Captain Wilson received letters from the officers of the East-India Company at Canton, expressing their concern for the misfortune of the crew, and advising the disposal of the vessel and

stores. These letters were accompanied with warm clothes, and a variety of other necessaries. Mr. M'Intyre received letters also, desiring him to furnish them with money, &c.

At Macao, Lee Boo had frequent opportunities of seeing people of different nations; in particular, three Englishwomen, who were waiting there for a passage to Europe, and whom he preferred to any other of the fair sex he had seen.

There being no four-footed animals at Pelew, (excepting the rats already mentioned.) the Newfoundland dog, and a spaniel, which the crew had also saved from the wreck, were the only ones known to Lee Boo; the sheep, goats, and other cattle, therefore, which he met with at Macao, were novelties that greatly excited his surprise. The Newfoundland dog, which had attracted so much notice, and become the property of his uncle Arra Kocker, being called *Sailor*, he applied that word to every animal which had four legs: so that, seeing some horses

he called them, *Clow Sailor*, that is *Great Sailor*. The next day, observing a man on horseback pass the house, he was himself so wonderfully astonished, that he wanted every one to go out, and see the strange sight too. He afterwards went to the stables where the horses were: he felt, he stroked them, and was very inquisitive to know what their food was, as he had found they would not eat oranges, of which he had offered them some he had in his pocket. He was easily persuaded to mount one of them; and, on being informed what a noble, docile, and useful animal it was, he with great solicitude besought Captain Wilson to get one sent to his uncle Raa Kook, to whom he was sure it would be of great service.

The crew were waiting at Macao for a permit and boats to carry them to Canton, when Captain Churchill, of the *Walpole*, arriving, he was so obliging as to accommodate them with a passage up to

Whampoa; the chief mate, and five or six of the men, only remaining with the Oroolong at Macao, till she should be sold.

Lee Boo found sufficient matter to keep his attention awake on board the Walpole; the furniture, chairs, tables, lamps, the upright bulk-heads, and deck overhead, were all surprising. After silently casting his eyes over these objects, he whispered to Captain Wilson, that *clow ship was house*. It is to be supposed, that nothing on board the Walpole escaped his notice, as it was evident nothing on shore did. At Canton being at the Company's table at the Factory, his admiration was much excited by the vessels of glass, of various shapes and sizes, particularly the glass branches for holding candles. Having surveyed the numerous attendants behind the gentlemen's chairs, as well as the variety of provisions and liquors, he remarked to Captain Wilson, that "the king his father lived in a manner very different, having only a little fish, yam, or cocoa-nut, which be

ate from off a leaf, and drank out of the shell of the nut, and, when his meal was finished, wiped his mouth and his fingers with a bit of cocoa-nut husk: whereas the company present ate a bit of one thing and then a bit of another, the servants always supplying them with a different plate, and different sorts of vessels to drink out of." He seemed to relish tea from the first: coffee he refused, as he did not like the smell of it, yet at the same time saying, "he would drink it, if Captain Wilson ordered him." An incident at Macao gave him an aversion to all kinds of spirits. One of the seamen being much intoxicated, LEE BOO supposing him very ill, in great concern, applied to Mr. Sharp to relieve him. On being informed of the nature of his ailment, that it was the effect of liquor, in which common people were too apt to indulge, and would soon go off of itself, though it always injured the health and often was the cause of men's becoming wicked, his anxiety subsided;—but he

would never afterwards even taste spirits, saying when offered any, "it was not drink fit for a good and sensible man." Indeed, as to eating and drinking, he observed great temperance in both. How quick was the light of wisdom and virtue kindled in the breast of this young man!—Upon the first intimation, he instantly conceived the pernicious effects of drinking spirits, and resolved to guard himself against so vile a habit—There is scarcely a trait in his character, but gives a proof of correct judgment, or a striking lesson of morality.

The vessel having been sold at Macao, Mr. Benger, and the men who remained with him, accompanied by Mr. McIntyre, went up to Canton in one of the country boats. When they arrived there, Lee Boo happening to be at breakfast near a window, which looked towards the water, the instant he caught a distant view of them, without uttering a syllable to any one, he sprang from his seat, and was at the edge of the river, before the boat reached the

shore: he received them with the utmost eagerness and joy, shook their hands with the warmest expressions of affection, and manifested the greatest impatience to get them into the house, fearing that from their staying behind, they had not fared as well as himself.

During Lee Boo's stay at Canton, several gentlemen, who had been at Madagascar, and some other places, where the throwing of the spear is practised, and who had themselves a considerable degree of skill in the art, expressed a desire of seeing him perform this exercise, and a meeting was appointed at the hall of the factory, for the purpose. Lee Boo, did not, at first, point his spear to any particular object, but only shock and pointed it, as is usual before throwing it from the hand. This the gentlemen also were able to do. But it being proposed to aim at some particular point, they fixed upon a gauze cage, which hung up in the hall, and had a bird painted in the middle as their mark. Lee Boo took

up his spear with much seeming indifference, levelled at the little bird, and struck it through the head, to the amazement of all his competitors, who, at the great distance whence they flung, could not without much difficulty hit even the cage.—This is a proof of the wonderful effect of habit and practice. The spear is a weapon in use among most uncivilized nations, not acquainted with fire-arms, whose constant exercise from childhood to manhood is the throwing of it, in which they acquire a degree of skill, which sets all competition at defiance. Early and constant application, therefore, is the natural means by which excellence is to be obtained in every thing.

Lee Boo was much delighted with the stone buildings, and the spacious rooms of the houses at Canton: the flat ceilings, however, still continued to be marvellous in his eyes; he often compared them with the sloping thatched roofs at Pelew, and said, “that by the time he went back, he should have learnt how it was done, and would

then tell the people there, in what manner they ought to build." In all his observations, the grand consideration he seemed to have at heart was, the advantage and improvement of his country.

Among the things brought in for tea, at the house of Mr. Freeman, one of the Company's Agents, was a sugar-dish of blue glass, which greatly striking Lee Boo's fancy, that gentleman was induced, when tea was over, to take him into another room where there were two barrels of the same kind of blue glass (holding about two quarts each) placed on brackets; the alluring colour again caught his eye; he gazed at them with much eagerness—went away—returned to them with new delight. Mr. Freeman, observing to what excess he was captivated by these articles, told him he would make him a present of them, and that he should carry them to Pelew. This threw him into such an ecstasy, that he could scarcely contain himself: he declared, that on his return Abbe Thalle

should possess so great a treasure; and he wished his relations could but have a view of them; he was sure they would be lost in astonishment at the sight.

Captain Wilson now laid before his companions in adverse fortune, a statement of what the sale of the ship, stores, &c. had produced, and divided the whole in equal shares among them. This done, he acquainted them, that they were at liberty to provide for themselves as opportunity should offer, yet recommended to them all, but particularly his officers, to return to England, where, he had no doubt, they would, in some measure, be recompensed for the hardships they had undergone, by the Honourable Company, to whom, he said, he should duly represent (what he felt himself in the highest degree obliged to them for) the good order, unanimity, and excellent conduct they had persevered in, throughout the trying scenes they had experienced together, which had afforded them

an opportunity of so zealously testifying their regard for the general service.

Mr. Sharp, to whose immediate care, as has been mentioned, Lee Boo was committed on leaving Oroolong, now resigned his charge to Captain Wilson, and came home in the Lascelles Indiaman, Captain Wakefield; the other officers and men engaged in different ships, as vacancies occurred: but the greater part of the latter embarked in the York, Captain Blanchard. As may be conceived, these partners in distress did not separate without feelings of concern and regret.

Captain Wilson and his charge embarked in the Morse Indiaman, Captain Joseph Elliott, who, in the most friendly manner, accommodated them with a passage to England. Throughout the whole voyage, Lee Boo was treated by that gentleman with much kindness and attention, and was himself so good humoured and agreeable, that every one was ready to render him any service in his power.—This

is not the first time the reader may have remarked, in this account of our young traveller, the deep impression, a kind and civil behaviour makes on new acquaintance, and the great advantage arising from it :—a fact recommended to the attention of youth in particular, who generally, seem either not to know, or to forget it. Other good qualities may make them esteemed, but they cannot be beloved, without an amiability of manners. Mark the rudeness, if not the insolence of some ill-behaved school-boys;—it leaves a defect in their character, by no means supplied by acuteness in learning, however great : there is requisite, a certain courtesy, not at all incompatible with the gaiety and activity of youth, to interest us in their favour. A genuine sweetness of disposition and behaviour engages the affection, even though other good qualities and attainments may be wanting.

Every ship the Morse met with at sea, Lee Boo must needs know the name of:

he would repeat what he was told over and over, till he had fixed it well in his memory; and, as each enquiry was gratified, he made a knot in his line: but time multiplied these knots so greatly, that he was obliged to repeat his remarks every day to refresh his memory, in doing which he was often under the necessity of applying to Captain Wilson or others, on forgetting the circumstance any particular knot referred to. The officers in the *Morse*, with whom only he associated, when they saw him thus employed with his line, used to say, he was *reading his journal*. He frequently enquired after all the people in the *Orcolong*, who had gone on board different ships at China, particularly a son of the Captain's, who was one of them, and Mr. Sharp.

Lee Boo had been but a short time on the voyage, when he requested Captain Wilson to get him a book, and point out to him the letters that he might learn to read: the Captain kindly embraced every

convenient opportunity of gratifying this wish, and had the satisfaction of discovering great readiness of apprehension in his young pupil.

On arriving at St. Helena, our young voyager was much struck with the soldiers and cannon on the fortifications; and four English men-of-war coming in soon afterwards, afforded him a sight highly delightful, especially as some of them had two tiers of guns. It was explained to him, that this sort of ships was intended only for fighting, and that the others, which he then saw in the bay, were for commercial purposes, and transported the produce and manufactures of one country to another. Captain Buller, the commander of the Chaser, politely took him on board his own and another ship, in order that he might see the men exercise at the great guns and small arms: a sight, with which his imagination was exceedingly impressed.

On being taken to a school, he expressed a wish that he could learn like the boys,

feeling, as he did, his deficiency in knowledge.—The truant would do well to compare his own opinion of schools with those of Lee Boo, who, regarding them as affording the means of instruction and improvement, considered them as highly beneficial, and felt the strongest desire to attend them: whereas, the idler, thinking only of the tasks which he has to learn, sees not the advantages to be reaped there, but looks upon them with disgust, as places of drudgery and punishment, and consequently seeks to avoid them. Let him blush, and learn better notions from an untutored native of Pelew.

He desired, and was permitted to ride on horseback into the country: he sat well, and galloped without the least fear of falling, and appeared highly gratified both with the novelty and pleasure of the exercise.

In the Company's garden, he remarked some shady walks, formed with bamboos arching over head on lattice work, and was struck with the refreshing coolness they

afforded. He observed, "that the people on this island had but little wood, yet applied it to a good purpose; whereas his own countrymen were ignorant of the advantages they might enjoy, having a great abundance, but not knowing in what manner to use it. When he went back, he said he would speak to the king, and tell him how defective they were, and have men set to work on such bowers as he had seen."

Such was the dawn of illumination in LEE BOO's mind! He felt his ignorance, and had the good sense to catch at every thing, which might lead him forward to information and improvement.

At St. Helena, he had the happiness of an interview with his first friend Mr. Sharp, who arrived at that island in the *Lascelles*, before he quitted it. He first saw him from a window, and ran out with extreme impatience to take him by the hand, shewing by his manner, the gratitude he felt

for the kind attention that gentleman had shewn him.

As the *Morse* drew near the British Channel, the number of vessels, pursuing their different courses, increased so much, that *Lee Boo* was obliged to give up keeping his journal; however, he still continued very inquisitive to know whither they were sailing. When the ship reached the Isle of Wight, Captain *Wilson*, his brother, the *Prince*, and several other passengers, left her, and taking a boat, arrived safe at Portsmouth the 14th of July, 1784. When landed, the variety of houses, the ramparts, and the number and size of the men of war then in the harbour, rivetted *Lee Boo's* attention; he was so totally wrapped up in wonder, that he had no recollection even to ask any questions.

The Officer of the *Morse*, charged with the dispatches, being about to repair immediately to London, Captain *Wilson* naturally impatient to behold his family, accompanied him, entrusting *Lee Boo* to the

care of his brother, both of whom were to follow in a coach which was to set off in the evening. As soon as he arrived in town, he was carried to Captain Wilson's house at Rotherhithe, where, as may be supposed, he was not a little happy in re-joining his adopted father, and being introduced to his family.

Part of his journey from Portsmouth, passed during the night: the return of day, however, brought full employment for his eyes; and he reached what was to be, for some time, his home, in all the natural glow of his youthful spirits. Whatever he had observed in silence, was now eagerly disclosed. He described the circumstances of his journey; said it had been very pleasant, that he had been put into a little house, which was run away with by horses—that he slept, but still was going on; and whilst he went one way, the fields, houses, and trees, all went another; every thing, from the quickness of travelling, appearing to be in motion.

When, at the hour of rest, he was conducted to his chamber, he saw, for the first time, a four-post bed. Scarcely could he conceive what it meant—he jumped in and jumped out again—felt and pulled aside the curtains—got into bed, and then got out a second time, to admire its outward form. At length, when he was fully acquainted with its use and convenience, he laid himself down to sleep, saying, that *in England there was a house for every thing.*

About a week after his arrival in this country, he accompanied Captain Wilson to dine with a party at a friend's, where he first met George Keate, Esq. the gentleman, who has with so much ability written the account at large of the Pelew Islands; Lee Boo was then master of but very little English, yet between words and actions, contrived to make himself pretty well understood, and seemed to comprehend the greater part of what was said to him, especially when explained by the Captain. He wore his hair in the fashion of

his own country, was of a middling stature, and had a countenance, so strongly marked with sense and good humour, as instantly to prepossess every one in his favour, and moreover, enlivened by eyes so quick and intelligent, that they might truly be said to tell his thoughts without the aid of language. Though Mr. Keate's expectations had been greatly raised by the accounts he had previously received of this *new man*, as he was called at Macao, yet, when that gentleman had been a little time in his company, he was perfectly astonished at the ease and gentleness of his manners. But it would be best here to let Mr. Keate speak in his own person. "He was," says he, "lively and pleasant, and had a politeness without form or restraint, which appeared to be the result of natural good breeding. As I chanced to sit near him at a table, I paid him a great deal of attention, which he seemed to be very sensible of. Many questions were of course put to Captain Wilson by the company,

concerning this personage, and the country he had brought him from, which no European had ever visited before. He obligingly entered on many particular circumstances, which were highly interesting, spoke of the battles in which his people had assisted the king of Pelew, and of the peculiar manner the natives had, of tying up their hair when going to war: *Lee Boo*, who fully understood what his friend was explaining, very obligingly and unasked, untied his own, and threw it into the form Captain Wilson had been describing.—I might tire the reader, were I to mention all the trifling occurrences of a few hours, rendered only of consequence, from the singularity of this young man's situation; suffice it to say, there was in all his actions, such affability, and propriety of behaviour, that, when he took leave of the company, there was hardly one present who did not feel a satisfaction in having had an interview with him."

“ I went to Rotherhithe,” continues Mr. Keate, “ a few days after, to see Captain Wilson. Lee Boo was reading at a window ; he recollected me instantly, and flew with eagerness to the door to meet me, looked on me as a friend, and ever after, attached himself to me, appearing to be happy whenever we met together. In this visit, I had a good deal of conversation with him, and we mutually managed to be pretty well understood by each other ; he seemed to be pleased with every thing about him ; and said, *All fine country, fine street, fine coach, and house upon house up to sky ;* putting alternately one hand above another, by which I found (their own habitations being all on the ground) that he at that time ; considered every separate story of our buildings as a distinct house.”

This promising young man was introduced to several of the Directors of the India Company, taken on visits to many of

the Captain's friends, and gradually shew'd most of the public buildings in the metropolis; but Captain Wilson very prudently avoided taking him to any of the places of public entertainment, for fear of his catching the small-pox, a distemper, for which it was proposed to inoculate him, as soon as he should become sufficiently acquainted with the English language, to be made fully sensible of the necessity of the measure; for it was judg'd, and surely not without good reason, that to bring upon him so troublesome and offensive a disease, without first explaining its nature, and preparing his mind to submit to it, might weaken that unlimited confidence he had plac'd in his adopted father.

Lee Boo's attention was always alive to every thing that pass'd, and it was evident, from his questions, that his chief desire was to collect information which might be useful to his countrymen. One day, as he and Captain Wilson were walking through the streets of London, they saw some men

at a distance, carrying what appeared to be a dead body, and on enquiring, they learned, that a boatman had fallen into the river Thames, and not knowing how to swim, had sunk to the bottom; but that his comrades having found the body after a long search, were then taking it to a neighbouring house, to try the means which are recommended for the recovery of drowned persons. This was enough to raise the tenderest pity in the young Prince. He did not, indeed, know the meaning of all he heard—since in Pelew the natives are taught to swim from their infancy, and therefore such accidents seldom occur; and besides, he could not understand how it was possible to bring back to life, a person who is to all appearance dead, when the body having lain in the water for a long time is become stiff and cold, when the eyes are closed, and the heart no longer beats. He could perceive, however, that a fellow creature had met with a misfortune, and therefore entreated

Capt. Wilson's permission to assist in relieving him. Afraid of the danger he must run of catching the small pox, his friend could not grant his request, but he promised to enquire after the poor man, and also to explain to him fully, the manner in which persons who seem to be dead from drowning, are to be treated.

During the remainder of their walk, Lee Boo was uneasy and thoughtful; he felt grateful to Captain Wilson for this care of his health, but he longed to know whether the drowned man was restored to life; and he was thinking, how happy it would make him, if after his return to Pelew, he should be able to save a human life, by introducing such a valuable discovery amongst his countrymen.—He was not, however, impatient, as young persons sometimes are, when their questions are not immediately answered—he did not fret, nor grow ill-humoured—the accident that had happened made him sorrowful, but he was contented to wait till Captain Wilson

should find leisure to give him the information he wished for.

Accordingly, this kind friend, after leaving Lee Boo at home, went himself to the house where the body had been carried, and found that after some hours care, the man had shewed signs of returning life, and was then fast recovering. He therefore hastened to relieve Lee Boo's distress, whose joy, at hearing of his recovery, could not have been greater, if he had belonged to the poor boatman's family—he thanked Captain Wilson again and again for his kindness, and told the good news to every person in the house successively, that they also might share in his satisfaction.

He was now cheerful and in high spirits, but it was easy to see that his thoughts were very busy upon some great difficulty. Often in the midst of his gaiety, he would remain silent for a few moments, quite lost in wonder how it was possible to restore to life the man he had seen carried lifeless through the streets. After dinner, there-

fore, Captain Wilson took an opportunity of satisfying his curiosity, because it arose from a humane desire of doing good; and, as you are, no doubt, fully as anxious as Lee Boo, to hear in what way a fellow creature may be recovered after drowning, you shall be made as happy as he was, and know all that was told him.

“ When a person sinks in the water, my young friend,” said Captain Wilson, his heart by degrees ceases to beat, he loses all sense and motion, and becomes like one who has fainted, but he is not on that account dead—nor does life leave him for a long time after; indeed, there are many instances of persons being recovered, who had remained two hours under water.

“ When the body is taken out of the water, the clothes are immediately stripped off, if not naked at the time of the accident. It is then covered with two or three coats or a blanket, or whatever is near at hand, and carefully carried to the nearest house; the person who supports the head

keeping it a little raised—if the weather is cold or damp, the body is laid on a bed in a warm room; if it is summer, the windows are left open, and the bed brought into the sunny part of the room. No more than six persons should be present, since a greater number not only stand in each others way, but prevent the air from coming to the body.

“ The body is now to be dried with warm cloths, and gently rubbed with flannel, sprinkled with spirits or mustard. Cloths also steeped in hot spirits, may be put to the pit of the stomach, and bottles filled with hot water and corked, heated bricks or tiles wrapped up in flannel, should be applied to the soles of the feet, palms of the hands, and to other parts of the body.

“ A careful person should afterwards close the mouth and one nostril, while, with the pipe of a common bellows, you blow gently into the other nostril, until you see the chest begin to swell; another assistant is then to press the belly with his hands, so

as to drive out the air, and this should be repeated very often, by turns closing the mouth and one nostril, sending in air from the bellows, then taking out the pipe of the bellows, leaving the mouth and nostrils open, and pressing the belly to drive out the air in order to imitate natural breathing. If the pipe of the bellows be too large for the nostril, the air may be blown in at the mouth, but blowing the breath is only to be recommended, when bellows are not at hand."

When Captain Wilson had got thus far in his explanation, Lee Boo looked down at his own breast, and though, like many other boys, he had never thought of it, he now saw at once, that the rising and working of his chest was caused by the air he drew in, or drove out by his mouth, and that by the mode recommended, breathing could be exactly imitated.

"The body, continued Captain Wilson, may also be placed between two healthy persons in a bed, and now and then gently

shaken by the legs or arms, for five or six minutes at a time, during the first hour. If the patient sigh, or give any signs of returning life, a tea-spoonful or two of warm water is put into the mouth; and when the power of swallowing is restored, a little warm wine, or spirits and water may be given.

“ The person is then put into a warm bed, and if inclined to sleep, as is generally the case, should not be disturbed, and he will awake perfectly recovered.”

During this long explanation, which Lee Boo never interrupted, except to ask the meaning of a few words he did not understand, his countenance shewed how deeply he felt interested in what he heard: his own good sense at once told him, why it was necessary that the body should not be handled roughly, or rubbed with violence—he now requested to know how long these remedies should be continued.

Your question reminds me of three circumstances which you must not forget,

the first is, that bleeding is never to be used, unless by the direction of a Physician, the second, that the body is never to be held up by the heels, which the ignorant frequently do, to let the water, which they suppose has been swallowed, run out of the mouth—and the third is not less important than the others; you should not despair of success, even though the patient give no signs of returning life for four hours after you have begun. Vigour and perseverance, in the persons assisting, are altogether necessary to the cure, and the want of them, has often been the cause of failure, when if the remedies had been continued for a short time longer, the unfortunate person might have been restored to life, and to his family.

“And now,” said Captain Wilson, in concluding his account, “I must add, that the country you have been sent to by your kind father Abba Thulle, is not less remarkable for the humanity of its people than for the many improvements which

have so often astonished you. A number of good men have joined together, for the purpose of endeavouring to recover all persons who may have been taken lifeless out of the water, and for making known the best and simplest means to be used in such cases; they call themselves the *Humane Society*, and print and circulate little books, containing the necessary directions; they have a house upon the banks of the river Thames, where drowned persons may be taken, and where people are constantly ready to assist in their recovery—and they even give rewards in money, or a silver medal to all who have either plunged into the water to save a drowning person, or assisted in the endeavours used to restore him to life.”

The rest of that evening, Lee Boo passed in his own room—it seemed to be a principle of duty with this young man, to allow no self indulgence to stand in the way of his improvement. He therefore denied himself the pleasure of seeing the family,

that he might imprint on his memory every thing he had heard from Captain Wilson.

After being somewhat habituated to the manners of this country, he went every day to an academy at Rotherhithe, for the purpose of being instructed in reading and writing. His application was equal to his great desire of learning; and he conducted himself there with such propriety, and in a manner so engaging, that he gained, not only the esteem of the gentleman, under whose tuition he was placed, but also the affection of his young companions—which should ever be a main object with youth at school. When he returned to his home, each day, he diverted all the family by his vivacity, noticing every singularity he had observed in any of his school-fellows, and with great good humour, imitating and taking them off; sometimes he added, that he would have a school of his own when he returned to Pelew, and should be thought very wise when he taught the great people their letters.

In addressing Mr. Wilson, he always called him *Captain*; but would never address Mrs. Wilson (for whom he had the most affectionate regard) by any other appellation than *mother*, considering that the most respectful term he could use. Being often told he should say Mrs. Wilson, his constant answer was, *No, no,—mother, mother.*

Wherever Lee Boo was, his observation extended to every thing around him, having an ardent desire for information, which he always received with thanks. Upon noticing any new effect, he always expressed a wish to know the cause. A young lady, who happened to be one day in company where he was, sat down to an harpsichord, to observe in what manner he would be affected by music. He seemed greatly surprised to find so much sound proceed from it: the instrument was opened, to let him see its interior construction: he pored over it with much curiosity, took particular notice of the motion of the jacks,

and shewed far greater inclination to discover the means by which the sounds were produced, than to attend to the music itself. A Pelew song was afterwards requested of him; he waited not for repeated entreaties, as singers usually do, but began one immediately. However, in his great exertions, his breast laboured extremely, his whole countenance changed, and his tones were so harsh and discordant, that every one's ears were stunned. Yet after some residence in this country, he readily caught two or three English songs, in which his voice by no means seemed unmusical.

He was of a very mild and compassionate disposition: and various instances proved he had brought from Pelew, that spirit of benevolence and humanity which our countrymen found so much to prevail there. Nevertheless, he was at all times actuated by judgment and discretion—if he met with young beggars, he rebuked them as well as the little English he knew would permit; but he always yielded to the

entreaties of old age—*Must give poor old man* he would say, *old man no able to work.*

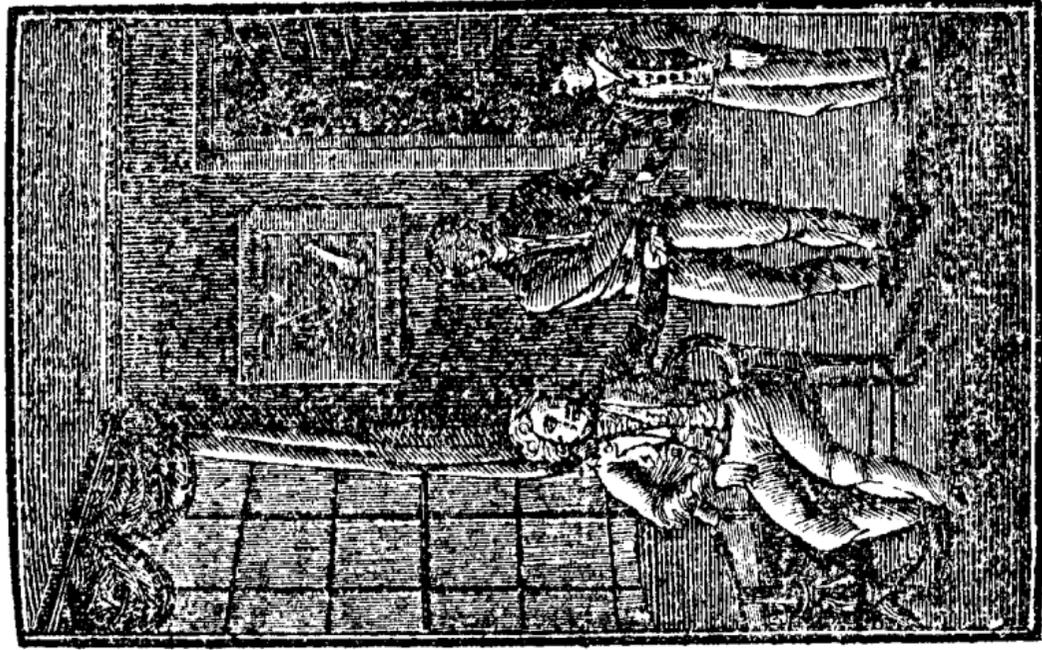
Lee Boo, becoming much disgusted with Boyam his servant, who turned out to be an unprincipled fellow, solicited Captain Wilson to send him back to Sumatra : (the country of the Malays,) and Tom Rose (mentioned before as interpreter on the part of the English, in conversing with the natives of Pelew,) a person of tried fidelity, and who had picked up a good deal of the Pelew language, being now in England, was appointed in his room, greatly to the satisfaction of the Prince.

Captain Wilson was now and then indisposed with severe head-aches, which obliged him to lie down upon the bed for relief. The feelings of Lee Boo were ever sensibly affected on these occasions ; he was always anxious and unhappy, he would creep up softly to his guardian's chamber, and for a long time together, sit silent and motionless by his bedside, only now and then peeping gently between the curtains, to see if he slept or lay easy.

During the voyage to China, Lee Boo naturally contracted an intimacy with Captain Wilson's son, who was a few years younger than himself, and of very amiable manners. This intimacy ripened under the father's roof, to strong mutual attachment. It may be said, they looked upon one another as brothers : and Lee Boo, in the hours of retirement from his school pursuits, could not but be happy to have such a companion to converse with, to exercise the throwing of the spear, or partake in any innocent amusement. The two friends had so much indulged themselves one morning in their diversion with the spear, that a message of a particular nature, with which Captain Wilson had charged his son, was totally forgotten. Upon inquiry after dinner, the Captain discovered the neglect : and being hurt at it, chid his son for his fault, telling him he was idle and careless. From the tone of voice with which this reproof was uttered, Lee Boo conceived and felt the anger of the father, and slipped unobserved out of the room. The matter

was immediately dropped, and another subject started. Presently Lee Boo was missed, and his companion, who was sent to look for him, found him in a back room, quite dejected. On being desired to return to the family, he took his young friend by the hand, and entering the parlour, went up to the father, laid hold of his hand, joined it with that of his son, and pressing them together, dropped over both those tears which his affectionate heart could not on the occasion suppress.—Would to God that those who have been taught from Heaven that “Blessed are the peace-makers,” would go *and do*, like this unenlightened child of nature!

Lee Boo dining with a party of friends at Mr. Keate's, in the course of conversation, that gentleman asked what effect painting had upon him; when one of the company, Dr. Carnichael Smyth, wished Mr. Keate to bring a miniature of himself, that all might observe how he was struck by it. The prince had no sooner taken it in his hand, than darting his eyes



LEE BOO
SOLICITING PARDON FOR CAPTAIN WILSON'S SON.

to the right object, he called out *Misser Keat*,—*very nice, very good*. Captain Wilson then asked him, if he understood what it signified. His answer was, *Lee Boo understand well—that Misser Keat die—this Misser Keate live*.—Mr. Keate well observes of this little sentence, that a long discourse on portrait painting could not better have explained its utility and intent.

Mrs. Wilson, happening to sit opposite to Lee Boo at table, desired him to help her to some cherries. He was about to take them up with his fingers; but Mrs. Wilson pleasantly noticing it to him, he instantly made use of a spoon. A blush, however, with which his countenance was immediately covered, shewed very visibly, even through his dark complexion, the sense he entertained of the small breach of politeness he had been guilty of.

Another lady of the same party, being near fainting from the heat of the weather, was constrained to quit the room. Our amiable prince was greatly distressed at the incident; and, when at tea-time, the

lady again made her appearance, his enquiries and particular attention to her, manifested alike his tenderness and good breeding.

He preferred riding in a coach to any other mode of conveyance; because he said, at the same time that people were carried where they wished to go, they could sit very commodiously, and converse together.

Lee Boo derived particular pleasure from going to church, where, though he did not understand the words of the service, yet he perfectly comprehended the intent of it; he always behaved with the greatest attention and reverence. Once, when Captain Wilson told him, that saying prayers at church was to make men good, that, when they died and were buried, they might live again above, pointing to the sky, Lee Boo answered with much earnestness—*All same Pelew—bad men stay in earth—good men go into sky—become very beautiful*, holding his hand in the air, and giving a fluttering motion to his fingers—thereby explaining his countrymen's

belief of the existence of the spirit, after the death of the body.

In order to avoid the small-pox, as already mentioned, and also to prevent his mind from being disturbed, and drawn off from the attainment of the English language, the great means by which information was to be conveyed to him, Captain Wilson was very cautious, and sparing in letting him go abroad; however, he not only generally accompanied the Captain on visits to friends, but had also a view of most of the public buildings in the metropolis, the river, shipping, and bridges, which struck him greatly; he was moreover, several times gratified with seeing the Guards exercised in St. James's Park, as every thing of a military kind greatly engaged his attention.

There was something very singular in Lee Boo's opinion of the art of ascending into the air in a balloon, which so much engrossed the attention of the people of this country, at the time of his coming here. It was given in conversation with his friend

Mr. Keate, whose words we shall quote in laying it before the reader.

“ I went to see him,” says that gentleman, “ the morning after Lunardi’s first ascent in the balloon, not doubting but that I should have found him to the greatest degree, astonished at an exhibition which had excited so much curiosity, even amongst ourselves ; but to my great surprise, it did not appear to have engaged him in the least. He said, *he thought it a very foolish thing to ride in the air like a bird, when a man could travel so much more pleasantly on horseback or in a coach.*”—He was either not aware, adds Mr. Keate, “ of the difficulty or hazard of the enterprise, or it is not improbable, that a man flying up through the clouds, suspended at a balloon, might have been ranked by him as a common occurrence, in a country which was perpetually spreading before him so many objects of surprise.”

Whenever he had an opportunity of viewing gardens, the plants and fruit-trees excited his particular attention : he would

make many inquiries concerning them, saying, when he should return home, he would carry with him seeds of such as would grow in Pelew. He frequently used to talk of the things he should then persuade the king his father to alter or adopt; and his principal researches were directed to the discovery of whatever might prove beneficial to his country.

This inquisitive and pains-taking young man was proceeding extremely fast in gaining the English language, and making so rapid a progress with his pen, that in a short time he would have written a very fine hand, when, alas! he was attacked by that very disease against which so much caution had been used. On the 16th of December, he found himself greatly disordered, and in the course of a day or two, an eruption appeared all over him. Captain Wilson, full of apprehension, had immediate recourse to Dr. Carmichael Smyth, whom we have before mentioned, requesting him to see the prince. That gentleman kindly attended, and upon the first

sight of him, not only pronounced the distemper to be the small-pox, but was obliged to add the melancholy information that the appearances were such, as almost totally precluded the hope of recovery. However, the Doctor ordered what was then necessary, and, on Captain Wilson's earnestly soliciting the continuance of his visits, assured him, that, however inconvenient the distance, he would not fail daily to attend the issue of the disease.

In this sad situation, the afflicted youth was deprived of the solacing presence of his dear friend Captain Wilson, who not having had the small-pox himself, yielded to the entreaties of his family not to go into his chamber. However, his first and faithful friend Mr. Sharp, on hearing of his illness, repaired to his assistance, nor quitted the Captain's house, till it was become the scene of death!

However much our suffering prince regretted the loss of the Captain's company, yet, when informed of the reason and necessity of his absence, he could not but

acquiesce in it, anxiously inquiring from time to time concerning his health, full of dread, lest he should catch the disorder, as he still continued in the house.

During the progress of this grievous distemper, Lee Boo maintained the utmost firmness of mind, and having the highest opinion of Dr. Smyth, never refused to take any thing administered to him, when informed that he desired it.—The youthful reader is here particularly called upon to imitate poor Lee Boo, in cases of like necessity.

Hearing of an indisposition which now happened to Mrs. Wilson, and confined her to her bed, Lee Boo instantly took alarm, exclaiming, *What, mother ill, Lee Boo get up to see her!* He actually did so, and would go to her apartment to be sure how she really was.

On the Thursday before his death, as he walked across the room, he looked at himself in the glass, and finding his face much swollen and disfigured, and covered, as well as his whole body, with sores shook his

head, and in seeming disgust with his own appearance, turned away, telling Mr. Sharp that *his father and mother much grieved, for they knew he was very sick.* This he several times repeated. In the evening, growing worse, he became sensible of his danger; and taking Mr. Sharp by the hand, and steadfastly fixing his eyes upon him, said, with great earnestness, *Good friend, when you go to Pelew, tell Abba Thulle that Lee Boo take much drink to make small-pox go away, but he die—that the Captain and Mother (Mrs. Wilson) very kind—all English very good men—was much sorry he could not speak to the king, the number of fine things the English had got.* He then enumerated the presents which had been made him, and expressed his wishes that Mr. Sharp would distribute them, when he returned to Pelew, amongst the chiefs, recommending to his especial care, the blue glass barrels, on brackets, which he particularly directed to be given to the king.

His faithful servant, Tom Rose, who stood at the foot of the bed, melted into

tears at this melancholy scene: the agonized master gently rebuked him for his weakness, saying, *Why should he be crying so because Lee Boo die?*

Whatever he felt, his spirit did not allow him to complain. Mrs. Wilson's chamber joined to his own, and he would often call out to inquire if she was better, always adding, to prevent her suffering any disquietude on his account, *Lee Boo do well, Mother, Lee Boo do well.*

The small-pox not rising, after eight or nine days from its coming out, he began to feel himself sink, and told Mr. Sharp *he was going away.* What he suffered in the latter part of his existence, was severe indeed: his mind, however continued perfectly clear and calm to the last, and the strength of his constitution struggled long and hard against the violence of his disorder, till, overwhelmed nature yielded in the contest.

His good friend Mr. Keate (in addition to the intelligence obtained by his own personal inquiries,) was kindly informed

every day by Dr. Smyth, of the state of his patient, and being under an engagement, with his family, to pass a week with Mr. Brook Watson, at Sheen, (who was equally anxious and alarmed for this amiable young man,) he requested the Doctor to have the goodness to continue his information to him there. Accordingly, two days after he left town, he received from that gentleman, an account of the melancholy issue, which we cannot forbear laying before the reader, in his own words.

“ Monday, Dec. 27, 1781.

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ It is an unpleasant task for me to be the herald of bad news; yet, according to my promise, I must inform you of the fate of poor Lee Boo, who died this morning without a groan, the vigour of his mind and body resisting to the very last.—Yesterday the secondary fever coming on, he was seized with a shivering fit, succeeded by head ache, violent beating of the heart, anxiety, and difficult breathing: he again used the warm bath, which as formerly,

afforded him a temporary relief, he had a blister put on his back, which was as ineffectual as those applied to his legs. He expressed all his feelings to me in the most forcible and pathetic manner, put my hand upon his heart, leant his head on my arm, and explained his uneasiness in breathing; but when I was gone, he complained no more, shewing, that he complained with a view to be relieved, not to be pitied.—In short, living or dying, he has given me a lesson, which I shall never forget: and surely, for patience and fortitude he was an example worthy of imitation!—I did not see Captain Wilson when I called this morning, but the maid servant was in tears, and every person in the family wore the face of grief; poor Lee Boo's affectionate temper, made every one look upon him as a brother or a son.—I make no doubt, Mr. Watson and his family will all join in regretting the untimely end of our poor prince. From you, my friend, something more will be expected; and, though you cannot bring him back to life,

you are called upon particularly, (considering his great attachment to you,) not to let the memory of so much virtue pass away unrecorded.—But I am interrupted in these melancholy reflections, and have only time to assure you, of (what will never pass away but with myself,) the sincere friendship of your affectionate, &c.

“*James Carmichael Smyth.*”

Captain Wilson having notified to the India House, the death of this admirable youth, received orders to conduct his funeral with every mark of decency and respect. He was accordingly interred in Rotherhithe church-yard, attended by the Captain and his brother; and such was the affectionate regard, which all who knew him entertained for him, that not only the young people of the school, but even the whole parish, assembled to see the last ceremonies paid to his remains. An additional honour was soon afterwards done him, by the India Company's ordering a tomb to be erected over his grave, on which is the following inscription: -

TO THE MEMORY OF

PRINCE LEE BOO,

A native of the Pelew or Palos Island ;

And Son to

ABBA THULLE,

Rupack or King of the Island

COOROORA ;

Who departed this life on the 27th of

DECEMBER, 1784,

Aged 20 years ;

THIS STONE IS INSCRIBED BY THE

Honorable United

EAST INDIA COMPANY,

As a testimony of esteem

For the humane and kind treatment afforded

By his Father to the crew of their Ship,

THE ANTELOPE, CAPTAIN WILSON,

Which was wrecked off that Island,

On the night of the 9th of August, 1783.

Stop, reader, Stop! let Nature claim a tear—

A Prince of *mine*, LEE BOO lies buried here.

Mention has already been made of the presents consigned by Lee Boo, to the care of Mr. Sharp for his father and friends. Amongst the other little property, which the lamented youth left behind, were found, carefully and separately put up, the stones or seeds of most of the fruits he had tasted in England. We have before remarked, that the benefit of his country, seemed to be his ultimate aim in all his observations; and here is a striking instance, considering his abode with us, was no more than five months and twelve days, that, amidst all the novelties which surrounded him, he had duly given his attention to the object, which, it is presumed had been particularly recommended to it, previous to his departure from Pelew.

We shall conclude this little narrative, with Mr. Keate's reflections, upon the fate of the excellent subject of it, in his own words, as too interesting to be omitted, and too perfect to be altered or abridged without injury.

“ From these trifling anecdotes of this amiable youth,” says he, “ cut off in the moment that his character began to blossom, what hopes might not have been entertained, of the future fruit such a plant would have produced.—He had both ardour and talents for improvement, and every gentle quality of the heart to make himself beloved ; so that, as far as the dim sight of mortals is permitted to penetrate, he might, had his days been lengthened, have carried back to his own country—not the *vices* of a new world—but those *solid* advantages, which his own good sense would have suggested, as likely to become most useful to it.

“ But—how carry *back*?—That event depended not on himself;—a naked, *confiding* stranger—he trusted implicitly to others, and left the protecting arms of a father without apprehensions—without conditions.—The evening before the Oroolong sailed, the king asked Captain Wilson, how long it might be before his return

to Pelew? and being told that it would probably be about thirty moons, or might chance to extend to six more, Abba Thulle drew from his basket a piece of *line*, and, after making thirty knots on it, a little distance from each other, left a long space, and then adding six others, carefully put it by.

“As the slow but sure steps of Time have been moving onward, the reader’s imagination will figure the anxious parent, recurring to this cherished remembrancer, and with joy untying the earlier records of each elapsing period;—as he sees him advancing on his *line*, he will conceive the joy redoubled;—and when nearly approaching to the *thirtieth* knot, almost accusing the planet of the night, for passing so tardily away.

“When verging towards the termination of his latest reckoning, he will then picture his mind, glowing with parental affection, occasionally alarmed by doubt,

yet still buoyed by hope,—he will fancy him pacing inquisitively the sea-shore, an often commanding his people to ascend every rocky height, and glance their eyes along the level line of the horizon, which bounds the surrounding ocean, to see if haply it might not, in some part, be broken by the distant appearance of a returning sail.

“ Lastly, he will view the good Abba Thulle, wearied out by that expectation, which so many returning moons since his reckoning *ceased*, have by this time taught him, he had nourished in vain. But the reader will bring him back to his remembrance, as armed with that unshaken fortitude, that was equal to the trials of varying life.—After some allowance for natural grief, he will suppose him placidly resigned to the will of Providence.

“ Should this not be absolutely the case of our friendly king—as the human mind is far more pained by *uncertainty* than a knowledge of the *worst*—every reader will

lament, he should remain ignorant, that his long-looked for son can return no more!"



PRINCE LEE BOO.

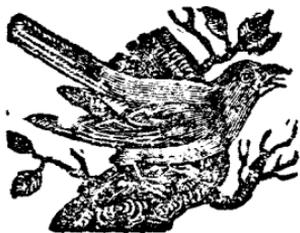
From the mighty Pacific with soft swelling waves,
That a thousand bright regions eternally laves ;
Mid rocks of red coral, with shell-fish abounding,
The notes of the Parrot and Pigeon resounding ;
Crown'd with groves of Banana and taper Bamboo,
Rise the gay sunny shores of the Isles of Pelew.

From China returning, with silk and with tea,
The tall English vessel sails over the sea ;
Ah ! look how she heaves ! on the rock she is stranded !
But the boats are thrown out, and the sailors are landed,
What black men are these in their slender canoe,
Who gaze with such wonder ?—the men of Pelew.

How kindly they welcome the sailors on shore,
And yams and sweet cocoa-nuts bring from their store :
But vain ev'ry effort to soften their anguish ;
For home, distant home, the poor Englishmen languish ;
They build a stout bark, they sail off from Pelew,
And away with the strangers, sails young Prince Lee Boo

Oh what is his rapture, and what his surprise,
When in gay busy London he opens his eyes ;
Fine shops, houses, coaches, O joy beyond measure,
Yes, yes, my dear friends shall partake in my pleasure,
Fine clothes, coaches, horses, I'll bear to Pelew,
What wonder for them, what delight for Lee Boo !

Fond projects ! in vain shall his father explore,
The wide shipless waves—he shall see him no more ;
O chide not the English, thy darling detaining,
And chide not thy son, cried the strangers remaining ;
For death has arrested him far from Pelew,
And the strangers have wept o'er the gentle Lee Boo.



POSTSCRIPT.

THERE are very few young persons, whom the preceding narrative has brought acquainted with Lee Boo, but regret that Providence denied him a return to his native country. Until that fatal disorder, the small-pox, seized him, every reader was no doubt, picturing to himself the happiness which Lee Boo's arrival in Pelew would give to his excellent father, Abba Thulle—the improvements he would introduce, amongst an innocent and benevolent people, and, the joy his own feeling heart would experience, at being the instrument of so much good to his countrymen.—But these scenes were never to be realized; other hands than his were to present the little presents he had so carefully packed up for his friends, and other eyes to witness the growth or failure of the seeds, which he intended to plant on his return.

In speaking of Captain Wilson's fears for the health of his adopted son, the word inoculation was mentioned several times,

and, as perhaps you do not understand its meaning, it may be necessary to add a few words in explanation, the more particularly, as it will give an opportunity of informing you, that the small-pox is seldom seen now, and of course, if our regretted friend had arrived in England some years later, it is more than probable, he would have revisited Pelew.

The small-pox is a disorder which breaks out in sores over the whole body—nothing can be more distressing than the appearance of a person afflicted with it; the face swells, as you have already been told *Lee Boo's* did; the body is covered with one sore from head to foot, and yet the most skilful physicians know no cure for it; the disorder takes its own course. If it is a malignant kind, and it often is so, it carries off the young and strong; if mild, and that the patient recovers, it sometimes leaves large scars and marks on the skin, and not unfrequently deprives him of sight.—When it once makes its appearance in a family, or village, it spreads with the greatest

rapidity; there is no mode of checking it but by removing those who have never had the disorder to a distant place, where they can have no communication with the sick.

At length, after the small-pox had continued for many years to make great ravages, it was discovered by *Lady Mary Wortley Montague*, wife to the English Ambassador in Turkey, that the people there, were acquainted with a mode of giving the disorder in a milder way, than if it was taken naturally. They used to scratch one of the arms with the point of a needle, or sharp knife, which had been dipped in one of the sores of a person affected with the small-pox, and this in a few days, produced every symptom of the natural disorder in him who was thus inoculated, as it is called, and though many died, notwithstanding this inoculation, they who recovered never after caught the small pox.

This mode, however, was not effectual, many parents neglected to inculcate their children, others were not fit for inoculation from bad health, and these were the

first to suffer, when the natural disorder appeared. Only think what a cruel pestilence that must be, which should sweep away the whole population of a city as large as Dublin in ten weeks, yet there is not a doubt, that if all were to be calculated together, who died in the same space of time of this disorder in Europe, they would amount to above two hundred thousand; in these countries alone, not less than forty thousand died every year.

For many years, previous to the year 1798, Dr. Jenner, of Berkeley, in Gloucestershire, had observed, that cows are subject to a disease, which shews itself in pimples on their teats, and is called the cow-pock; he found also, that it was very infectious, being frequently caught by the milkers, who thus became secure from ever having the small-pox.

He discovered also, that if the watery matter of one of these sores, was communicated to the arms of a person who never had the small-pox, by making a scratch as in the former case with a needle, dipped in

one of these cow-pock pimples, it would not only preserve him from any future attack of the small-pox, but also be preferable to the other mode of inoculating him; the sickness produced by it was always mild, it often removed other complaints, with which the patient was affected before, and lastly, *never* caused death.

It is now twenty years, since Doctor Jenner first made known this important discovery—it was soon inquired into by every Physician in Great Britain, and subsequently, after the most patient examination, recommended as efficacious. Parliament, also, appointed a number of wise and learned men to search into its merits, and they found that, before the year 1802, 2000 persons had died, every year, of small-pox in the city of London alone; that of those who took it in the natural way, one in six died; of those who were inoculated with the small-pox infection, only one in three hundred died, and, of those inoculated with the cow-pock infection, only one in

fifty-four thousand died. A reward of 30,000*l.* was afterwards voted to Doctor Jenner, for the benefit he had conferred upon mankind. *Vaccination*, as it is called, has since been introduced into every part of the world; and, it is a very remarkable fact, that at the time we were carrying on the most violent war against France, not less than sixty thousand were inoculated in Paris, with vaccine matter sent from England; we had thus a fine opportunity of lessening the inevitable miseries of war, by doing good even to our enemies.

There is not a country in Europe, which has not acknowledged the merits of this great discovery. It is pervading with success, the immense population of Asia, penetrating the regions of Africa, and is cordially received by the Indians in America. It has stood the test of twenty years trial and experience—during which, no instances have occurred to lessen our confidence, as it is a safe and secure preventive against the small-pox, and it may be said,

that every parent * who does not make use of it for his child, is answerable to his conscience for the life of that child, if it is lost through his neglect.

After this narrative of the shipwreck of the Antelope packet, and the fortunate preservation of a number of lives, by the humanity and benevolence of a people either altogether unknown, or ranked among the savages which inhabit the uncivilized part of the globe, perhaps it may not be uninteresting, to devote a few additional lines to some more recent transactions, which have taken place with the natives of the Pelew islands.

* An Institution has been opened in Dublin, at No. 62, Sackville-street, patronised by the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and conducted by some of the most respectable Physicians, where the children of the poor are inoculated with cow-pock infection, in the most careful manner without charge; or the matter taken from the cow-pock sore, and dried, (which is found to answer the purpose, though not as well as if applied fresh,) will be sent in a letter to any part of the kingdom.

The Directors of the East India Company, having resolved to send out vessels to acquaint the king with the death of his son, orders were sent to Bombay, to equip two for that purpose. Accordingly, the Panther and the Endeavour sailed on the 24th of August, 1790, having on board two officers who had been shipwrecked along with Captain Wilson. During the month of November, the vessels were occupied in working up the south coast of Java, where they experienced much bad weather. The thunder and lightning were dreadful, many of the people on deck being deprived of sight for several minutes after a flash. On the first of January, 1791, a peal of thunder broke just over the Panther; the lightning ran down the conductor in a stream of fire, and the concussion was so violent, and the ship shook in such a manner, that Captain M'Cluer, who commanded her, thought she had run aground.

The southmost of the Pelew islands was in sight on the 21st, and on the 22nd,

the vessels came to an anchor within two miles of the shore.—Several canoes were seen, but they did not come near the ships, whence it was concluded, they were either hostile to the king, or going express to inform him of the arrival of the English. In the evening, a number of canoes were observed rowing very fast, and one of them had a great number of paddles. This was known to be the king's canoe. He received the account of his son's death with fortitude, saying, he never entertained any doubt of the goodness of the English, and Captain Wilson, who, he was sure, had cherished him. He was greatly disappointed at not seeing the Captain, but appeared satisfied that he was alive and well, and promoted to the command of a much larger vessel than the Antelope. The two officers, Lieutenants Wedgeborough and White, were immediately recognized by the natives, and experienced the most affectionate reception from them.

Late in the preceding year, the English learned, that the king had conquered the

island of Pelelew, when an obstinate engagement ensued, in which Raa Kook, Arra Kooker, the king's eldest son, and many old warriors, the friends of the crew of the Antelope had been killed.

Mr. Wedgeborough found the cove where the Oroolong had been built, now a perfect wilderness, being quite overgrown with underwood, except where the coconut-trees stood, which had been planted by Raa Kook. These were very flourishing, though they had not yet produced any fruit. The inscription affixed to a tree, had been taken away by the natives of Pelelew, and was one cause of the war that had just terminated.

A considerable quantity of live-stock, was landed for the purpose of breeding on the Pelew islands, where the only quadrupeds are rats, if the animal, which was supposed to be the flying squirrel be excepted. These, it was afterwards understood, thrive wonderfully well. The presents sent by the East India Company to the king, were conveyed ashore, under a detachment of

sepoys and officers in uniform; and, after repast, the packages containing them were opened. The effect which they had on the natives was wonderful; they did not utter a word, but only exclamations of astonishment. The part which consisted of arms, the king immediately distributed to his principal chiefs, recommending that they should be kept clean, and fit for service when wanted. Grindstones, shovels, saws, and the remaining packages of utensils were next landed, and presented to the king. When these were opened, and the different things exposed to view, and their uses explained to him, he was himself as much surprized as his subjects. He broke silence in about an hour, and, calling his chiefs and principal people round him, made a long harangue, wherein the name of the English was frequently repeated. He then distributed various articles with his own hands to several persons, apparently with regard to their rank.

The king was perfectly at a loss how to express his gratitude to the English chiefs

who had sent him these things, when they knew that he had nothing to give in return; he said, that his country, if he could send it, would be inadequate to what was now before him. At length, being made perfectly to understand, that no return was expected, and that these things were sent from England, in acknowledgment for his great humanity and kindness, to the shipwrecked crew of the Antelope, he replied, that his services were very trifling, for their situation at a distance at Oroolong, prevented him from aiding them as he desired.

Captain M'Cluer, having resolved to make a survey of the Pelew islands, one of the vessels, the Panther, was to proceed to China, and the Endeavour, commanded by Captain John Proctor, to remain. By this means, the natives were to be instructed in the use of the tools and instruments of husbandry which they had received.

Seeds of different sorts were sown on the 8th of February, in the places already fitted to receive them, and a large piece of ground was prepared for another

plantation; but the badness of the weather prevented the progress of the work from being as quick as could have been wished.

The Panther, which had carried four of the natives to China, three of whom survived, returned with them more impressed in favour of the English than with the Chinese. A few days after her arrival, the king solicited the Captain's assistance against his enemies of Artingall, to which he acceded. The long-boat was therefore made ready, with a six-pounder, two swivels, a musquetoon, and ten men with small arms. Lieutenant Wedgeborough, Mr. Nicholson, the surgeon, and twenty sepoy, also embarked.

On the arrival of the hostile army at Artingall, a messenger was sent by the king of Pelew, to offer terms of accommodation, which after a considerable delay were brought to a close, the enemy being chiefly intimidated by the sight of the English allies, and the report of their fire-arms. There, the English, when an amicable settlement was made, played off some rockets and fire-works, to the great amazement of

the inhabitants of Artingall, and the enjoyment of their friends; and an opportunity was taken to make presents of beads and other things, to shew that they did not come as natural enemies. The king of Pelew was in future acknowledged the undoubted sovereign of all the neighbouring islands.

The English vessels were next employed in a survey of the coast of New Guinea, in their way to which, they touched at Amboyna; sailed to the coast of New Holland, and thence to the island of Timor. Mr. Nicholson was unfortunately killed by the natives of New Guinea, in the course of the voyage, and two of three Pelew passengers died during its continuance.

In January, 1793, the two ships arrived at Pelew, where they learned the melancholy tidings of the death of the humane and benevolent king, Abba Thulle, which had taken place about three months after their departure.



LIFE
OF
PAUL CUFFEE,
A MAN OF COLOUR.



THE following story of Paul Cuffee, will plainly shew how foolish the notion is which some ignorant people have, that those whose skin is black, or not of the same colour as their own, are inferior in sense and understanding to themselves.

The father of Paul Cuffee was born in Africa, whence he was brought as a Slave into Massachusetts.—He was there purchased by a person named Slocum, and remained in slavery great part of his life. He was named Cuffee, but as is usual in those parts, took the name of Slocum, as

shewing to whom he belonged. Like many of his countrymen, he possessed a mind superior to his condition, and although he was diligent to the business of his Master, and faithful to his interest, yet, by great industry and economy, he procured the means of purchasing his personal liberty.

At that time, the remains of several Indian tribes, who formerly had the right of cultivating the soil, lived in Massachusetts; Cuffee became acquainted with a woman descended from one of those tribes, named Ruth Moses, and married her. He continued in habits of industry and frugality, and soon afterwards purchased a farm of 100 acres, in Westport, in Massachusetts.

Cuffee and Ruth had a family of ten children. The three eldest sons, David, Jonathan, and John, are farmers in the neighbourhood of Westport, fill respectable situations in society, and have good natural abilities.—They are all married, and have families to whom they are giving good educations. Of six daughters, four are respectably married, while two remain single.

Paul was born on the island of Cutterhunker, one of the Elizabeth Islands near New Bedford, in the year 1759. When he was about 14 years of age, his father died, leaving considerable property in land, but which, being at that time unproductive, afforded but little provision for his numerous family: thus the care of supporting his mother and sisters devolved upon his brothers and himself.

To fulfil this important duty, therefore, Paul Cuffe entered as a sailor on board a merchant vessel, and made several voyages to the West Indies; during three years that he continued in this situation, he neglected no means of improving his knowledge and skill as a seaman, and always brought the earnings of his industry to his family.

Being now about 20 years of age, he thought himself sufficiently skilled to enter into business on his own account.—He laid before his brother David, a plan for trading with the people of Connecticut. His brother was pleased with the prospect, and they

built an open boat and put out to sea.— Here, for the first time, his brother found himself exposed to the dangers of the ocean, and the hazard of being plundered by the Pirates or sea robbers.—They had not sailed many leagues, before his brother's fears began to increase, and his mind to think more of the dangers ; his courage sunk, and he resolved to return. This disappointment was a severe trial to a young man of Paul's adventurous and bold spirit, but he was affectionate, and many years younger than his brother, and therefore submitted to the determination. Paul returned to his farm and laboured diligently in his fields ; but his mind was frequently thinking on new schemes of trade. He collected the materials for another effort, and made the attempt. He went to sea, and lost in a storm all the little treasure, which, by the sweat of his brow he had gathered. Paul, however, seemed to possess that true courage, which is in the mind of a man who is satisfied, his plans

may succeed, and knows he has the power to put them in practice. He therefore resolutely determined to persevere in the road, which he had marked out for himself. The necessity of supporting his mother and her family, was a constant and strong incitement to renew his efforts. His money was not sufficient to purchase a boat; but in order to get over this difficulty, he set himself earnestly to work, and with his own hands formed and built a boat, from keel to gun-wale. This vessel was without a deck, but he had been on a whaling voyage, and was therefore perfectly skilled in its management. He launched his boat into the ocean, and as he was steering for one of the Elizabeth Islands to consult with his brother on his future plans, he was discovered by the Pirates, who chased and seized both him and his vessel. Robbed of every thing, he returned home penniless, but without sinking under this discouragement. Thus circumstanced, he applied to his brother David, who, though in some degree afraid

from the want of success which had hitherto attended Paul's attempts, yet joined in his proposal to build another boat, by giving Paul the materials. This being accomplished, the respectability of Paul Cuffee's character, procured him sufficient credit to enable him to purchase a cargo. He proceeded towards Nantucket, and on the voyage, was again chased by the Pirates, but escaped them by night coming on; he however struck upon a rock on one of the Elizabeth Islands, and so far injured his boat, as to render it necessary for him to return to Westport to repair; which being done, he again set out for Nantucket, where he arrived in safety, but did not sell his cargo to advantage. He afterwards undertook a similar voyage, with better success; but, as he was returning home, he again fell into the hands of the Pirates, and was robbed of all except his boat which they permitted him to take; not however without his having received much injury and ill treatment from them.

Under such numerous and great difficulties, the courage of most persons would have failed, but Paul's disposition was not of that nature. He possessed that determined spirit of perseverance and firmness of mind, which entitled him to more success in his endeavours; and he believed, that while he maintained integrity of heart and conduct, he might humbly hope for the protection of Providence. Under these impressions, he prepared for another voyage. In his open boat and with a small cargo, he again directed his course towards the Island of Nantucket. The weather was favourable, and he arrived in safety at that port, and disposed of his little cargo to advantage. The profits of this voyage, by increasing the good opinion his friends had of him, enabled him still farther to enlarge his plans.

At the time of his father's death, Paul had not received the benefit of education, and scarcely knew the letters of the alphabet; but this great disadvantage, he obviated

by his diligence ; and, at the time of his marriage, could not only read and write, but was so well skilled in figures, that he was able to work all the common rules of arithmetic. He then applied himself to the study of navigation, in which, by the assistance of a friend, he made a rapid progress, and found himself able to engage in naval and commercial pursuits of great extent.

Being now master of a small covered boat of about 12 tons burthen, he hired a person to assist him as a seaman, and made many advantageous voyages to different parts of the state of Connecticut ; and when about 25 years old, he married a woman of the country, a descendant of the tribe to which his mother belonged. For some time after his marriage, he attended chiefly to his farming business ; but from his family increasing, he at length thought it necessary to pursue his commercial plans more extensively than he had before done. He settled his affairs for a new voyage, and hired a

small house on Westport River, to which he removed his family. A boat of 18 tons was now procured, in which he sailed to the banks of St. George, in search of cod-fish, and returned home with a valuable cargo. This important adventure was the beginning of an extensive and profitable fishing establishment from Westport River, which continued for a considerable time, and was the source of an honest and comfortable living, to many of the inhabitants of that country.

At this period, Paul entered into a partnership with his brother-in-law Michael Wainer, who had several sons well-fitted for the sea service, four of whom have since ably filled responsible situations, as captains and first-mates. A vessel of 25 tons was built, and, in two voyages to the straits of Bellisle and Newfoundland, he met with such success, as enabled him by joining with another person, to build a vessel of 42 tons burthen, in which he made several profitable voyages.

Paul had experienced many disadvantages in not being better educated, and he resolved, as far as it was in his power, to save his children from the like inconvenience. The neighbourhood had neither a tutor nor a school-house. Many of the citizens were desirous that a school should be established. About 1797, Paul proposed a meeting of the inhabitants, for the purpose of forming such plans as should accomplish the desired object. The difference of opinion respecting mode and place, occasioned the meeting to separate without coming to any determination: several meetings of the same nature were held, but all were unsuccessful. Perceiving that his efforts to make them all agree were fruitless, Paul set himself to work in earnest, and had a proper house built on his own ground, which he freely gave up to the use of the public; and the school was opened to all who pleased to send their children. How gratifying to humanity is this anecdote! and who, that reads this account of

the exertions of Paul Cuffee, the son of an African slave, in the cause of benevolence, does not feel, that every one, however humble his condition, may find means of doing good to his fellow-creatures, provided the inclination be not wanting.

About this time, Paul proceeded on a whaling voyage to the Straits of Bellisle, where he found four other vessels completely fitted with boats and harpoons or spears, for catching whales. Paul discovered that he had not made proper preparations for the business, having only ten men on board, and two boats, one of which was old and almost useless. When the masters of the other vessels found his situation, they withdrew from the usual practice of such voyages, and refused to assist his crew. In this difficulty, Paul resolved to prosecute his undertaking alone, till at length, the other masters thought it most prudent to agree to the usual practice as they feared his crew, by their ignorance, might alarm and drive the whales from their

reach, and thus prevent their gaining any thing by their voyage. During the season, they took seven whales. The circumstances which had taken place, roused the exertions of Paul and his crew; they were diligent and enterprising, and had the honour of killing 6 of the 7 whales; two of those fell by Paul's own hands. He returned home in due season, heavily laden with oil and bone, and arrived in the autumn of 1793, being then about his thirty-fourth year. His success in trade had been such, that his pecuniary circumstances were by this time in a flourishing state. When in Philadelphia, he purchased iron, necessary for bolts and other works suitable for a schooner of 60 or 70 tons, and, soon after his return to Westport, the keel for a new vessel was laid. In 1795 his schooner of 69 tons burthen was launched, and called the Ranger.

He now sold his two boats, and was enabled to place on board his schooner a cargo valued at 2000 dollars; with this, he sailed to Norfolk, on the Chesapeak Bay,

and there learned that a very plentiful crop of Indian corn, had been gathered that year on the eastern shore of Maryland, and that he could procure a schooner-load for a low price, at Vienna, on the Nanticoke river. Thither he sailed, but, on his arrival, the people were filled with astonishment and alarm: a vessel owned and commanded by a black man, and manned with a crew of the same complexion, was never seen before, and quite surprised them.

Finding the crew, however, not only inoffensive but well conducted, and Paul being a man of prudence and industry, many of the principal people visited his vessel, and in consequence of the pressing invitation of one of them, Paul dined with his family in the town.

In three weeks, Paul sold his cargo, and received into his schooner 3000 bushels of Indian corn. With this, he returned to Westport, where that article was in great demand; his cargo sold quickly, and yielded him a profit of 1000 dollars. He re-loaded

his vessel, sailed for Norfolk, sold his cargo, and took in another, which, on his return proved as profitable as his first voyage. The home market was now amply supplied with corn, and it became necessary to seek a different employment for his vessel. He sailed to Passamaquoddy in search of a cargo. When he arrived at the river, James Brian, a merchant of Wilmington, (Delaware state) made him a liberal offer for his vessel to carry a load of Plaister of Paris. Paul thought the proposed price for the freight would equal the profits of any other business, and agreed to his terms. He took on board the proposed cargo and proceeded to the place of destination.— Since that time, some of the vessels in which Paul has a share, have annually made one or two voyages to the same port.

During the year 1797, after his return home, Paul purchased the house in which his family resided, and the adjoining farm. For the farm and its improvements he paid 3,500 dollars; and placed it under the management of his brother, who was a farmer.

By judicious plans, and diligence in his business, Paul by degrees increased his property, and by his integrity and proper conduct, gained the esteem and regard of his fellow-citizens. In the year 1809, he had a share of one-half in building and fitting out a brig of 162 tons burthen. One-fourth belonged to his brother, and the other fourth to persons not related to his family. This vessel is now commanded by Thomas Wainer, Paul Cuffee's nephew, whose talents and character are perfectly equal to such a situation.

The ship Alpha, of 268 tons, carpenter's measure, of which Paul owned three-fourths, was built in 1806. Of this vessel he was the commander; the rest of the crew consisting of seven men of colour. This ship performed a voyage under his command from Wilmington to Savannah, from thence to Gottenburg, and thence to Philadelphia, and in 1811, finding his property sufficient to warrant the undertaking, and believing it to be his duty to appropriate part of what God had given him to the benefit of his

unhappy race, he embarked on board of his own brig, manned entirely by persons of colour, and sailed to the land of his forefathers, in the hope of benefitting its natives and descendants.

When he arrived at the colony, he first made himself acquainted with its condition, and held several conversations with the governor and principal inhabitants; in which he suggested a number of important improvements. Among other things, he recommended the formation of a society for the purpose of promoting the good of its members, and of the colonists in general; which plan was immediately adopted, and the society named, "*The Friendly Society of Sierra Leona.*" From thence he sailed to England, where, meeting with every mark of attention and respect, he was favoured with an opportunity of opening his views to the board of managers of the African Institution; who cordially acceding to them all, gave him authority to carry over from the United States, a few coloured persons of good character, to

instruct the colonists in agriculture and the mechanical arts. After this, he returned to Sierra Leona, carrying with him some goods to the "Friendly Society," to encourage them in the way of trade; which having safely delivered, and having given them some good advice, he set sail, and returned again to his native land.

Thus ended his first mission to Africa; a mission that gave rise to the most happy consequences; undertaken from the purest motives of benevolence; and solely at his own expense and risk.

Returned to the bosom of his family and friends, where every comfort awaited him, he could not think of enjoying ease, while he reflected, that he might, in any degree, administer to the relief of the multitudes of his brethren, who were suffering under the yoke of slavery, and wasting their time in ignorance. Scarcely had the joy at his return time to subside, before he began to prepare for a second voyage; unmindful of the ease which the decline of

life requires, and to which his long-continued and earnest exertions gave him a peculiar claim. In the hope of finding persons of the description named by the African Institution, he visited most of the large cities in the United States, held frequent conversations with the most reputable men of colour, and also with those among the whites, who had shewn themselves the friends of the Africans; and recommended to the coloured people to form associations for the continuance of the benevolent work in which he was engaged.

The consequence was, the formation of two societies, one in Philadelphia, and the other in New York, and the discovery of a number of proper persons, who were willing to go with him and settle in Africa. He however met with many difficulties in the accomplishment of his purpose, but having, at length, by his perseverance, removed them all, he prepared for his departure, and in December 1815, took on board his brig 38 persons of the African Nation, and after a voyage of 55 days,

landed them safely on the soil of their forefathers. Of these the African Society had engaged to defray the expenses only of eight, so that the outfit and support of the remaining 30, fell entirely on Paul Cuffee, and cost him no less a sum than 4000 dollars.

On the arrival of Paul Cuffee at Sierra Leona, he presented his passengers to the Governor, who gave to each family a lot of ground in the town, besides from 30 to 50 acres of land, according to their number, on a spot about two miles distant from it. Afterwards, in a letter which he wrote to England, in answer to one which he had received, requiring him to say what should be done for the advantage of the new comers, he prudently advised, that a house should be built for their families on each of their farms.

His stay at the colony, at this time, was about two months, and when he took his departure, particularly from those whom he brought over with him, it was like a father taking leave of his children, receiving marks of their affection, and with

religious advice, commending them to the protection of God.

Such a man as Paul Cuffee is a blessing to the human race, and we may well suppose from his active benevolence he would have rendered himself still more extensively useful, but whilst he was preparing to undertake another voyage, he was seized with that complaint which terminated his labours and his life. He was taken ill in February, and died on the 7th day of September, in the 59th year of his age.

During his illness, the subject of bettering the condition of his brethren, continued deeply fixed on his mind, and occupied his time, as he wrote several letters to their friends; and, though he was unable to serve them as he had done, he was pleased to find his plans adopted by a number of benevolent and good men in America.

As a private man, he was just and upright in all his dealings, an affectionate husband, a kind father, a good neighbour, and a faithful friend. In a word, he was a truly good and pious Christian, humane and kind

to all his fellow creatures, but earnest more particularly for the relief of his African brethren. Regardless of the honors and pleasures of the world, in humble imitation of our blessed Saviour, he went from place to place doing good ; looking not for his reward among men, but in the favour of his heavenly Father. Thus religious and useful, with the comfort of an approving conscience, and the favour of God ; he enjoyed, through life, a great calmness and satisfaction of mind, and when his last illness came upon him, he was in peace, ready and willing to die. In that solemn hour of death, which we must all come to, he felt such a composure within, and it so appeared in his countenance and actions, that the most wicked sinner, had he seen him, could scarcely help saying : " Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his."

A short time before his death, feeling sensible that it was near, he called his family together to take his leave. It was an affecting scene. A scene of the greatest solemnity—of tears and bitter anguish to

them, and Christian firmness and resignation to him. His wife and children, and several other relatives, being all assembled around him, the good old man reached forth his feeble arm, and aftershaking hands with each, and giving them some pious advice, he commended them to the tender mercies of God, and bade them all a last farewell. From this time his mind seemed almost entirely occupied with the eternal world, and he died shortly afterwards.

In his person, he was large and well proportioned. His countenance was serious, but mild. His speech and dress, plain and without any shew. His manners, kind and good-natured ; joining gravity with modesty and sweetness ; and firmness with gentleness and humility. His whole outward appearance shewed, that he was a man of respectability and piety. Such would a stranger have supposed him to be at first view.



SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE LATE

JOHN SACKHOUSE,

THE ESQUIMAUX.



JOHN SACKHOUSE was born in 1797, on the west coast of Greenland, in latitude about 70° north: In 1816, when the whale ships of the season were about to return home, he contrived to get on board the *Thomas and Ann*, Captain Newton, of the port of Leith. Having made friends of all the sailors, he found no difficulty in concealing himself, and in stowing away his canoe: when the ship was well clear of the land, he made himself known to the captain, who, supposing that he had been carried away by accident, very kindly offered to return and put him on shore. But

John entreated that this might not be done, declaring that he wished to go to England with the ships, and to abandon his own country. He was accordingly permitted to remain. During the voyage he learned a little English, and made himself a tolerable expert seaman. At Leith, during the winter of 1816—17, he frequently exhibited in his canoe in the docks, and excited, in that neighbourhood, and in Edinburgh, a great deal of notice by his extraordinary dexterity.

He went to Davis' Straits again in the Thomas and Ann, in 1817, upon which occasion, Captain Newton was strictly enjoined by his owners, Messrs. P. Wood, Weddwell, and Co. of Leith, to treat the Esquimaux with the greatest kindness; to give him an opportunity of rejoining his friends; and not on any account, to bring him away from his own country again, unless at his own particular request.

It is due to these gentlemen, as well as to Captain Newton and his son, to state, that from the earliest period of John's acquaintance with them, till his last

moments, he was treated by them with a kindness, and a liberality, which do them more honour, from being bestowed at a time when he was unknown; and had no claims to their notice but his being far from home, and without friends; claims which, however, to such generous minds, are the most powerful of all.

On reaching Greenland, in the season of 1817, John found that his only remaining relation, his sister, had died in his absence. Upon receiving this affecting news, he said that he would revisit his country no more. What his objects were in making this resolution, it is difficult to say. Probably he did not distinctly know himself; though perhaps, having acquired a taste for enjoyments which he knew were not to be found at home, and having no ties of kindred to bind him to the place of his birth, he would easily resolve for a time at least, to follow the new line of life which accident had thrown in his way.

About the beginning of 1818, Mr. Nasmyth, an eminent Painter in Edinburgh accidentally met John Sackhouse in the

streets of Leith, and having some years before been engaged to execute a set of drawings of the Esquimaux costume, he was naturally attracted by his appearance, although his dress was a good deal modified by his European habits. Mr. Nasmyth brought him up to Edinburgh, and finding that he had not only a taste for drawing, but considerable readiness of execution, very kindly offered to give him instructions. It soon occurred to Mr. Nasmyth, that the Esquimaux might be useful to the expedition then about to sail on a voyage of discovery in the Northern seas, under Captain Ross, and this idea being communicated to Sir James Hall, President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and John's merits being found, upon examination, to promise very well, a letter was written to the Secretary of the Admiralty, who instantly desired that the Esquimaux, if he were willing to join the expedition, should be sent to town. Very liberal offers from the Admiralty Board accompanied this invitation, and he at once agreed to go; appearing, however,

to care very little about the proffered compensation, and only bargaining very explicitly, that he was not to be left in his own country.

We must look to Captain Ross's account of the voyage for the details of John's proceedings. It may suffice here to say, that he behaved not only with great address, but with much courage and presence of mind, on some trying occasions ; and, throughout, gave entire satisfaction to the officers employed on that service.

On the return of the expedition, the Esquimaux became an object of great interest in London, and was so much noticed, that there was reason to apprehend, either that the poor fellow's head would be turned, or that he might get into company, which would give him habits, above his condition, and besides the injury to his moral character, unfit him for further service on the next expedition. Soon tiring of London, however, he was sent, at his own request, to Edinburgh, and placed under the charge of some of his old friends.

The Admiralty Board being fully sensible of the importance which it might prove to the expedition to have a good interpreter, gave directions for John's being educated in as liberal a manner as possible. He concurred in these views, and engaged in a number of pursuits with an ardour and a steadiness truly astonishing. His friend Mr. Nasmyth, resumed his drawing lessons, in a more methodical manner however, than at first; and was of still greater service to him by teaching him English and by introducing him to his family, all of whom took the warmest interest in his improvement. As John wished to learn writing, a master was engaged to teach him: and another person who was desirous of acquiring the Esquimaux language undertook to give him regular lessons in English. He was like all his countrymen fond of modelling and of carving canoes; but he applied himself zealously to whatever tended to improve him: and after each day's business was over he took much pleasure in walking about, and

paying visits. He had great delight also in society ; and being himself very entertaining, his circle of acquaintance soon extended itself, so that his evenings passed cheerfully, and profitably.

But in the midst of all this, he was seized with an inflammatory complaint, from which, in a few days, he in a great measure recovered, but relapsed, and died on Sunday evening, the 14th February, 1819. He was attended with the utmost assiduity by Mr. George Bell, and several other eminent medical gentlemen. He had many friends, too, who attended him during his illness, with the most anxious care.

John Sackhouse was about five feet eight inches high, broad in the chest, and well set, with a very wide face and a great quantity of coarse black straight hair. The expression of his countenance, however, was remarkably pleasing and good humoured, and not in the least degree savage. There was at all times great simplicity and absence of pretension in his manners. His modesty was great : when asked his opi-

nion of the elephant he had seen in London, he said, with a look of deep humility, "Elephant more sense me." His disposition was gentle and obliging; he was grateful for the least kindness shewn to him, and, upon several occasions, exhibited a goodness of heart, and a consideration for the wishes and the feelings of others, which would have done honour to any country. His fondness for and kindness to children were very striking. In a snowy day, in the winter of 1818, he met two children at some distance from Leith, and observing them to be suffering from cold, he took off his jacket and having carefully wrapped them in it, brought them safely home: he would take no reward, and seemed to be quite unconscious that he had been doing any thing remarkable. He was temperate in all his habits: he was docile, and was always open to conviction; shewing, however, the greatest desire to be treated with confidence, and of this he never proved himself unworthy.

He had a quick sense of insult, and one evening being attacked by some disorderly

characters in the streets, he resented the indignities put upon him in a very summary manner, by fairly knocking several of the party down: it is due to poor John to state, that upon this occasion, he behaved for a long time with great forbearance; but upon being struck, he was roused to exert his strength, which was prodigious.

Nothing could exceed his industry and his desire to learn, yet he made but slow advances. He certainly did improve, however, in all that he undertook, particularly in drawing. He was easily pleased, and took great delight in relating his adventures with the Northmen, as he called the people recently discovered in Baffin's Bay. Speaking of the barbarism of these people, he once adverted, with great good humour, to his own ignorance, on first landing in this country. He imagined the first cow which he saw to be a wild and dangerous animal, and instantly retreated to the boat for his harpoon, that he might defend himself and his companion from this ferocious looking beast!—His curiosity was lively, and he

sought for information with great perseverance. But he never expressed any of that idiotic surprise, which savages sometimes evince, on seeing any thing very different from what they have been accustomed to.

When he was placed, for the first time, before a large mirror, he gazed at it for several minutes with evident satisfaction, and then turning round, cried "fine, fine! too pair rooms!" He played on the flute, and danced very well, so that, wherever he went he was a most welcome guest. He looked forward with the utmost keenness and anxiety to the sailing of the expedition which was fitting out at the time of his death; being perfectly aware, at the same time, of his own value upon the occasion.

During the height of his first illness, he was very obedient; but when he was freed from pain, and began to gain strength, he by no means liked the discipline to which he was subjected, but more than all, the prescribed regimen displeased him. One day when the Surgeon called, John's door was found locked. No intreaties could prevail

upon him to open it. "No no," said he, "no want more physic—no want doctor—not sick now." After a time, finding him resolute, the doctor took John at his word, and went away. One of his friends called to remonstrate with him on this proceeding; when it came out that he had no objection to seeing the doctor;—"but," added he, "doctor say, John, you no eat fish (Yakees man no like, no eat fish) I go out buy little fish—doctor come—I make fry fish on fire—no like doctor see fish—lock door!"

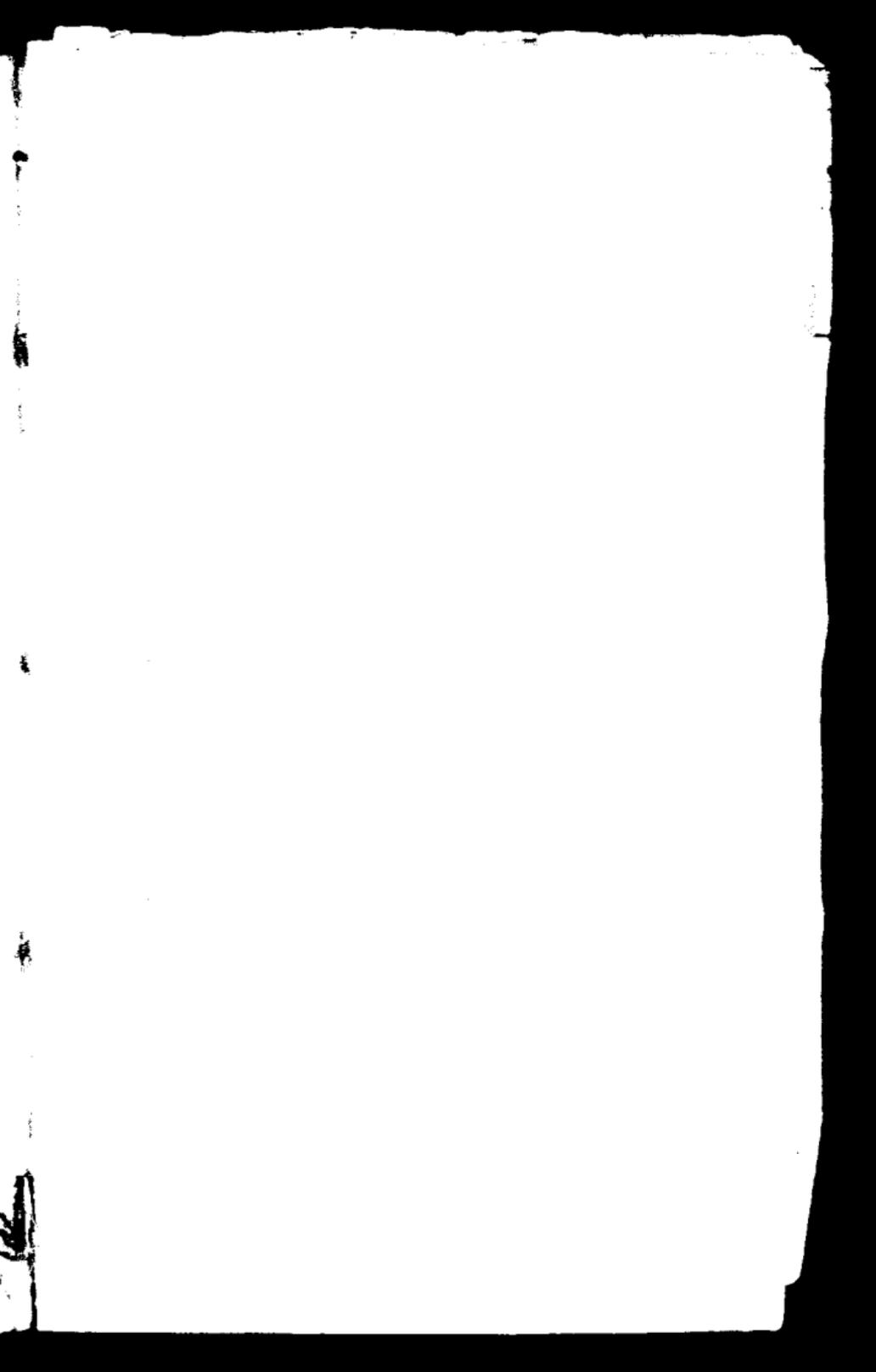
His dying moments were soothed by the attendance of his friends. He felt and acknowledged this attention, but said it was of no use, for his sister had appeared to him and called him to come away. It must not be supposed, however, that this arose from superstition, or was any thing more than the effect of the fever under which he was then suffering; for he was unaffectedly pious; and having been early instructed in the Christian faith, continued to derive support and consolation from this source to the last hour of his life. He

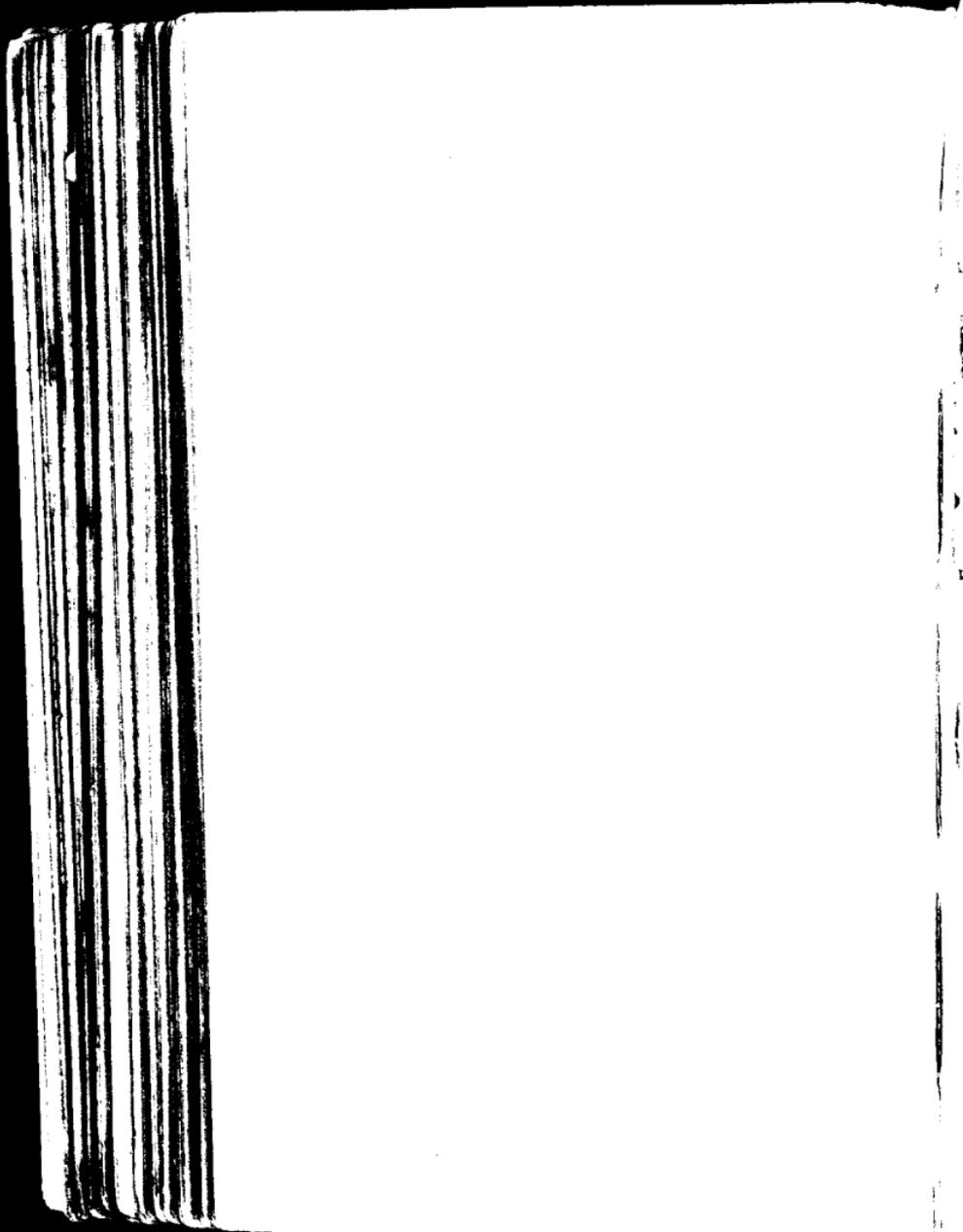
held in his hand an Icelandic catechism, till his strength and sight failed him, when the book dropped from his grasp, and he shortly afterwards expired.

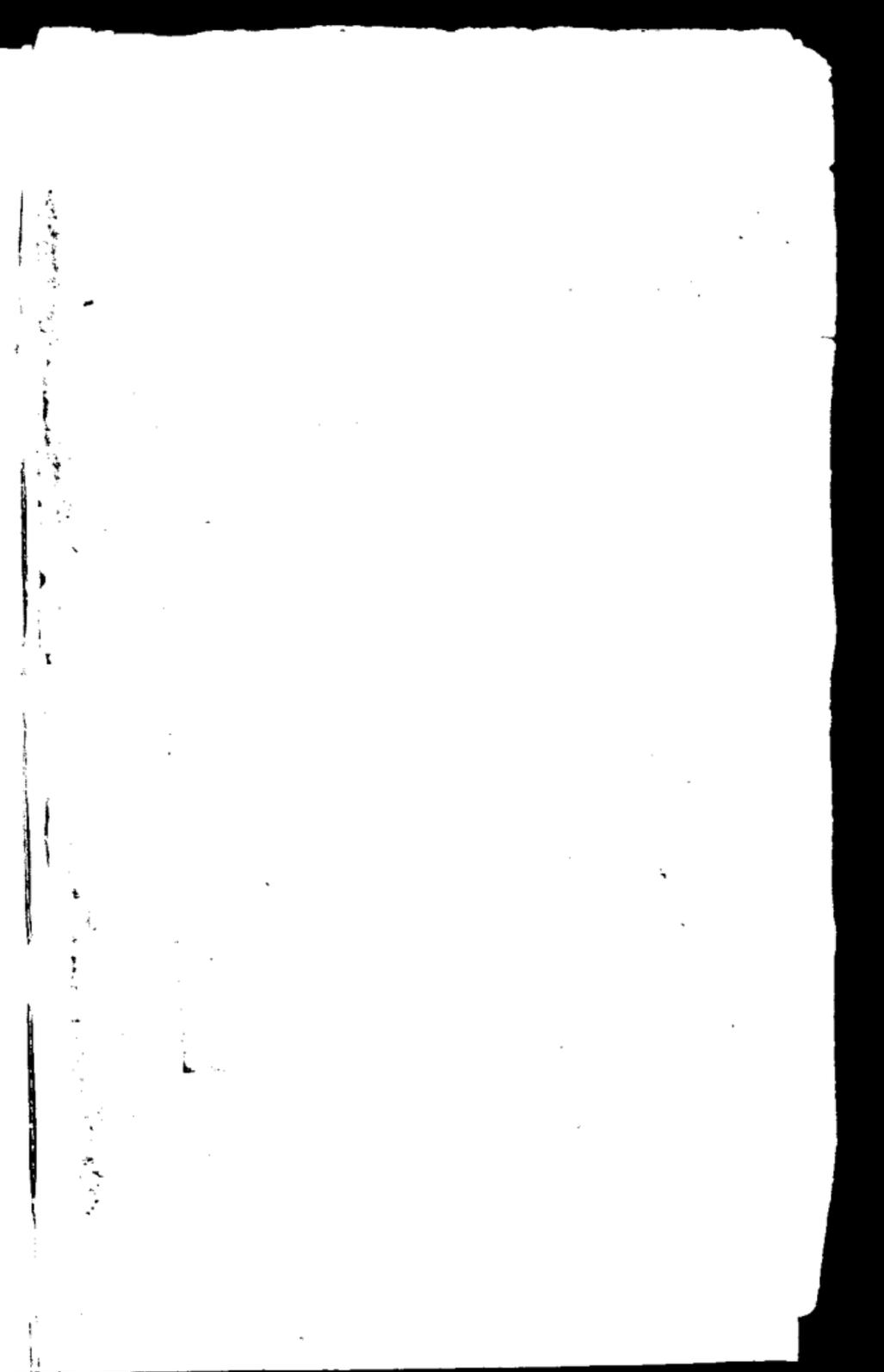
He was followed to the grave, by a numerous company, among whom were not only his old friends and patrons from Leith, but many gentlemen of high respectability in Edinburgh.

It is pleasing, in every point of view, to see such attentions, and honours paid to so humble and insulated an individual as John Sackhouse. It is also worthy of remark, as affording a striking example of the distinction between a civilized, and a savage state of society.



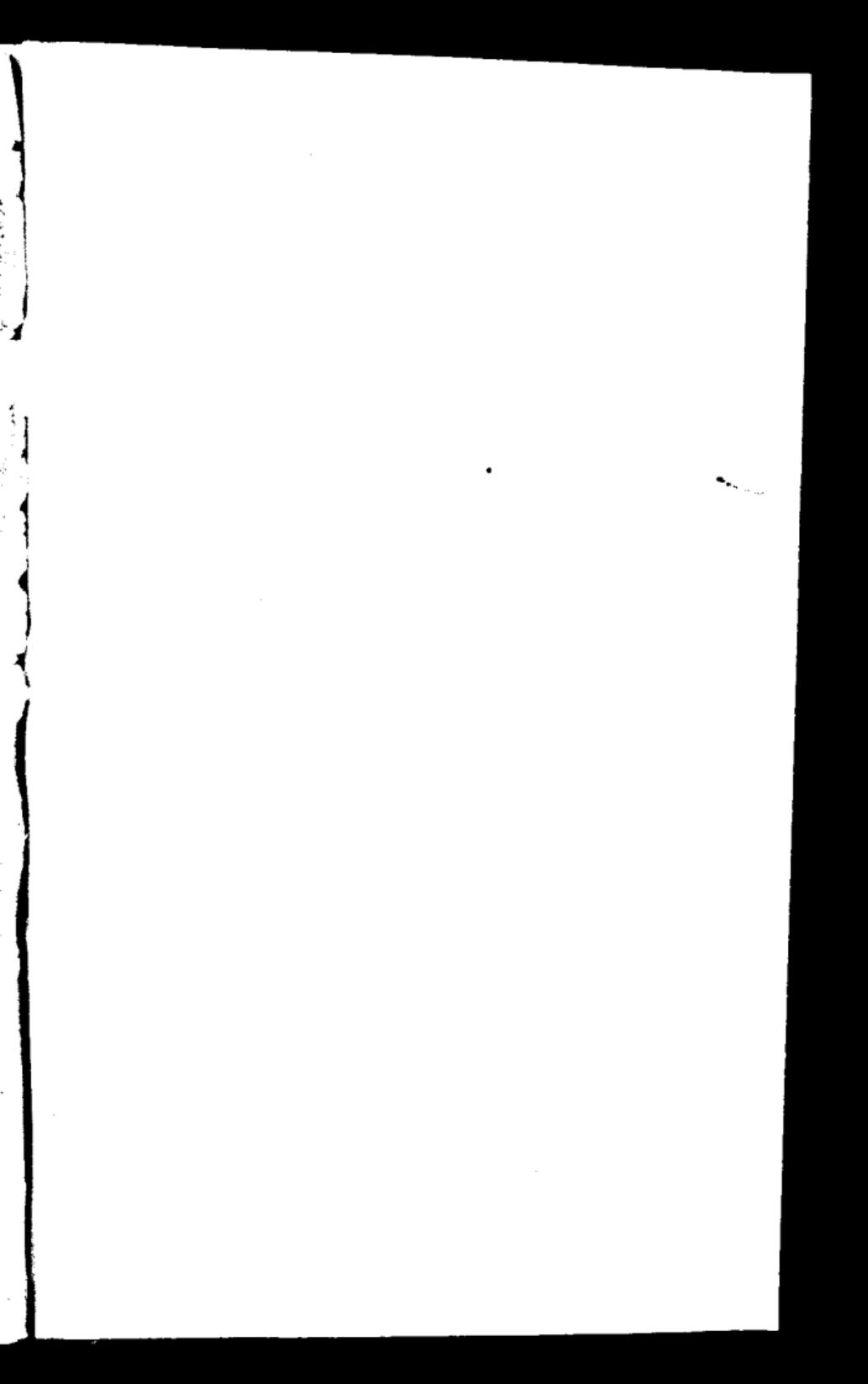








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