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A  
NARRATIVE  
OF THE  
TRANSACTIONS  
OF THE

BRITISH Squadrons in the *East-Indies*, during the late War ;

Comprehending,

A particular ACCOUNT of the Loss of MADARAS, the Operations of the Squadron under the Command of Admiral *Griffin*, in relation to which he is to be tried by a Court-Martial, at *Chatbam*, on *Monday, December* the third ; and the Siege of *Pontichery*, by Admiral *Boscawen*. Together with some Account of the Countries, and the *European* Settlements in them, &c. With many other Particulars never before made publick.

By an OFFICER who serv'd in those Squadrons.

L O N D O N :

Printed for D. WILSON, at *Plato's Head*, near *Round-Court*, in the *Strand*. MDCCLI.

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A

V O Y A G E

T O T H E

E A S T I N D I E S .

U P O N the Declaration of War with *France*, in *March 1744*, a Squadron of 4 Men of War was fitted out at *Portsmouth* to protect our Company's Trade, and distress that of the *French* in the *East Indies*; which being ready to proceed on the Voyage, under the Command of Commodore *Barnet*, in the *Deptford*, of 60 Guns, on the first Day of *May* following we sail'd from the *Isle of Wight* in the *Preston*, of 50, commanded by the Right Hon. the Earl of *Norfolk*, in Company with that Ship; the *Medway* likewise of 60, and the *Dolphin* of 20 Guns. We steer'd out of the Channel with a fair Wind at ENE, and met with nothing worth Observation till we saw the *Canary Islands*, which are seven in Number, and so called from the great Quantity of Dogs that were found in them, when first discover'd by the *Spaniards* in the Year 1402.

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The 20th of *May* we pass'd between the Islands *Grand Canary* and *Teneriff*, and saw the famous *Pique* above the Clouds, which when we computed ourselves to be 32 Miles from it, we found to have nearly two Miles of perpendicular Height by the Angle of Elevation, taken by a *Quadrant* at that suppos'd Distance. It lies in the Latitude of  $28^{\circ} 20^m$ . North, and by our Reckonings is about  $10^{\circ} 50^m$ . of Longitude to the Westward of the Meridian of the *Lizard*. It is look'd upon to be the highest Land in the World, for it may be seen distinctly in a clear Day 30 Leagues off, and there is no going up to the Top of it, which is a good Day's Journey, but in the Months of *July* and *August*; because during all the rest of the Year, 'tis cover'd with Snow, tho' there is never any seen in the other Parts of that or at all in the other *Canary* Islands, which can be plainly discover'd from the *Pique*, tho' some of them are, at least, 50 Leagues distant from it.

*May* the 25th, in the Afternoon, we saw the *Ile of May*, one of the *Cape de Verd* Islands, which tho' not large, but surrounded with Shoals, is a Place very much frequented by our *British* Shipping for its great Plenty of Salt \* made in Ponds by the Heat of the Sun. The Inhabitants are Blacks that were settled there and in the other *Cape de Verd* Islands from the Coast of *Guinea*, when they were first discovered by the *Portuguese*, who have Governors in them all, who are subject to the King of *Portugal's* Vice Roy at *St. Jago*, which lies in the Latitude of  $14^{\circ} 55^m$ . North, and  $23^{\circ} 16^m$ . West from the Meridian of

\* The Liberty of gathering Salt at the *Ile of May* was granted to the *English* only, as Part of the Dowry of *Catherine* of *Portugal* to King *Charles* the Second,

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*London*, is about 5 Leagues to the Westward of the *Ile of May*, and is the largest and best inhabited of all the *Cape de Verds*, but mountainous, and has much barren Ground in it. On the East Side there is a Harbour call'd *Port Praya* where most Ships that are bound to the *East Indies* touch for a Supply of Water and fresh Stock, as does their own *Portuguese* Fleet for *Brazil*. While any Ships are there, the Country People dispose of Goats, Hogs, Fowls, &c. to the Seamen, in Exchange for any Sort of old Cloaths; they are much inclin'd to be thievish, and will over-reach those that have Dealings with them if possible. When we were there, one of our Sailors straggling from the Tents which we had pitch'd for the Conveniency of our People that were filling our Water Casks, was taken hold of by some of them, stript to the Skin of what Cloaths he had on and tied to a Tree, where he was found by some of our Men coming that Way, and let loose after having been confin'd in that Situation for a whole Night.

*May* the 26th. in the Forenoon, our Squadron anchor'd in *Port Praya* Bay, about two Miles and a half from a Fort on the Top of a Hill, commanding the Bottom of the Bay; the Extremities of which when we were moor'd bore Eb.N. and Wb.S. the Depth of Water being 15 Fathoms with rocky Ground. Soon after we got in we began to send ashore all our empty Water Casks to be fill'd; likewise we found lying in the Bay a *Spanish* Privateer, which our Commodore wou'd not have molested, but observ'd the Neutrality of the King of *Portugal's* Port, had he not, soon after we came in, been inform'd from the Shore, that the Privateer had taken and burnt some *English* Vessels at the *Ile of May*; upon which we sent our Boats on board, and took Possession of her and a *British* Ship she had made a Prize of. We

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found about seventy *Spaniards* on board them both, which our Commodore thought proper to turn ashore, and the *Galloper* Sloop, which had come from *Portsmouth* with us, having on board Stores for the Squadron, was sent after a Brigantine we saw about 4 Leagues from the Island, which was brought in by her; she had been taken by the *Spaniards* at the same Time as the Ship was, and twelve *Englissmen* who had carried her out of the Bay the Night before our Arrival were kill'd by some *Spaniards*, whom they had not confin'd with so much Security as is necessary upon such an Occasion, these (the *Spaniards*) left the Brigantine as soon as they saw the Sloop coming towards them, and got ashore in a Boat at another Part of the Island.

When we lay in *Port Praya* Bay, we saw the Flames bursting out of the Top of the burning Island of *Fogo*, which is but small, being about 5 Leagues to the S. W. of *St. Jago*, and exactly like a Mountain in the Sea; 'tis of a considerable Height, and is seen to smoke very much in the Day Time, the Flames being only to be discover'd in the Night, and then it may be a great Way off.

*June* 4th. Having got all our Water on board, and being otherwise ready for Sea, the Squadron weigh'd and steer'd to the Southward with the Wind at N. E. as did likewise the Brigantine, which with our Tender the *Galloper*, when out of Sight of the Island, haul'd away to the Westward, being bound for the *West Indies*; our Commodore having restor'd the two re-taken Vessels to their former Masters, the Ship belonging to *Glasgow*, and the Brig to *New York*, and sold the Privateer to the *Portugueze* for 1200 Dollars. We likewise had taken every thing out of the Sloop that belong'd to us before we discharg'd her.

*June*

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*June* the 21st. We cross'd the *Æquinoctial* Line within a Degree of the Meridian of *St. Jago*, and stood to the South-westward with the S. E. Trade Wind.

*July* the 9th. in the Night, being in the Latitude of  $20^{\circ}.40^m$ . South, and  $10^{\circ}.00^m$ . of Longitude made West from *St. Jago*, Variation from *Azimuth*  $5^{\circ}.00^m$ . Easterly, we parted Company in the *Preston* with the Commodore and the rest of the Squadron, and we then had the Winds variable from N N W. to E S E. which continued so till the 26th. having, during that Time, steer'd East Southerly; after that we began to have fresh Gales from the South-westward, which lasted till we struck Soundings on the Bank of *Cape Lagullas*, viz. the 6th of *August*, when we had 70 Fathom Water, and were that Day at Noon in the Latitude of  $35^{\circ}.17^m$ . South, and had made  $46^{\circ}.30^m$ . of Longitude East from *St. Jago*, Variation per *Azimuth*  $18^{\circ}.30^m$ . West.

*September* the 2d. We arriv'd in *St. Augustine's* Bay, at the Island of *Madagascar*, which lies in the Latitude of  $23^{\circ}.00^m$ . South, and we found to be 71 Degrees to the Eastward of the Meridian of *St. Jago*, and  $24^{\circ}.30^m$ . of the Soundings off *Cape Lagullas*.

We moor'd our Ship with the Northmost Anchor in 35, and the smallest in 15 Fathom Water, having at our Arrival found our Commodore and the other two Ships of the Squadron which had got there only four Days before us.

The next Day after we came into the Bay, we sent all our sick Men, about 70 in Number, ashore to a Tent we pitch'd for them near the Watering Place, which was at a small River, and employ'd the rest of the Ship's Company in over-hauling the Rigg- ing, and getting on board Wood and Water.

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This Part of that Island abounds in great Plenty of fine Cattle, and the Beef is very good for present Use, not coming far short of our *English*; while we lay there it was serv'd daily to our Ships Crews, and when we came away each of them had as many Bullocks alive upon Deck as could be carried without hindering their Working; there is likewise abundance of Sheep, Fowls, &c. which the Inhabitants dispose of by exchanging them for Pieces of old Linnen Cloth, Knives, Needles, and other Trinkets. The great Men among them, to whom the Cattle belong, are very much delighted with Musquets and other Fire Arms, for I have seen an old Musquet, not worth Half a Crown, purchase a Bullock of above 600lb Weight; and the best of them that was bought for Money did not cost above 6 *Spanish* Dollars.

The Inhabitants at St. *Augustine's* Bay, who are all Blacks, are much more civiliz'd than those which live more remote from that Part of the Sea Coast of the Island, on Account of the frequent Commerce they have with *Europeans*, who often touch there; they live in small Huts not six Feet high, built of Bamboo (a hollow Sort of Cane); their chief Subsistence is upon Rice and *Indian* Corn, and I have Reason to believe that their great Men keep the poorer Sort under vast Subjection; for when we kill'd our Cattle, I have seen them very glad to have the Guts and Intrails, and without being at the Trouble to clean them of the Excrements, wou'd dress them and make a hearty Meal without shewing the least Disgust; they live with their Wives and Children three or four Families in one Hut, tho' they have a great Abhorrence for Polygamy.

Their Religion is *Mahometan*, but they differ in their Rites and Ceremonies from the *Turks* and other *Mahometans* on the Continents.

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The Day before we sail'd, the King of that Part of the Country, call'd the King of *Baba*, came down to the Watering Place, attended with about Five-hundred of his Grandees, who, with their Master, had nothing to cover them except a small Piece of Cloth about their Middle; they were arm'd chiefly with Lances which they all throw with great Dexterity; several of them also had Musquets, which they are at great Pains to keep bright and clean. They are a People of a warlike, or rather barbarous Disposition, for when any *Europeans* come there to purchase Slaves, they soon find a Pretence, if never so frivolous, to declare War with their Neighbours, and fall upon them while unprovided, afterwards disposing of all the Prisoners they take in that Manner.

The King of *Baba* was of such an uncommonly large Size of Body, as not to be able to walk without the Assistance of some of his Attendants; and when he travel'd he was carried upon a Sort of Hurdle made of several short Pieces of Wood laid across and two long Pieces at each Side by six or more Men, according to the Haste his Majesty happened to be in; he was extremely well pleas'd with some Brandy that was given him, for he drank it as if it had been Water.

The Soil of this Part of the Island is very fruitful, affording in great Plenty whatever the Inhabitants think proper to plant or sow, as necessary for their Subsistence, as well as Sugar Cane, Tobacco, &c. growing wild; the Country is very full of Trees, and has many inland high Mountains, but near the Sea 'tis low and even.

*September* the 15th, having got on board all our Water and Wood, and most of our sick Men recover'd, we sail'd with the Squadron out of the Bay, and

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and stood to the Southward with variable Winds, till we were got in the Latitude of  $34^{\circ} 00^m$ . South, when we found fresh Gales of Westerly Winds, and then steer'd to the Eastward.

*October* the 8th. we saw the Island of *St. Paul*, which is very high Land, and is about 4 Leagues in Length from East to West, 'tis the Northmost of the two Islands which are promiscuously call'd *St. Paul* and *Amsterdam*, and we found it to be in the Latitude of  $38^{\circ} 00^m$ . South, and about 38 Degrees of Longitude to the Eastward of *St. Augustine's Bay*.

*October* the 10th, the *Medway* and *Dolphin* parted Company with us, being bound for the *Streights of Malacca* to cruize for *French* Ships coming from *Manila*, and we, with the *Deptford* our Commodore, made the best of our Way for the *Streights of Sunda*.

*November* the 6th. we arriv'd at *Princes Island*, which is quite full of Trees, and being about 6 Leagues in Circumference, is but thinly inhabited by *Malayes*, the same Sort of People with those of *Java*, concerning whom I design afterwards to say something.

*Prince's Island* is about three Leagues from the South-west Point of *Java*, and the Entrance of the *Streights of Sunda*; there most Ships from *China* and other Places touch for Water before they proceed on their Voyages. We stay'd two Days at it to recruit our Water, and then sail'd for *Batavia*, where we arriv'd the 11th. in Company with the *Deptford*, and after taking on board a Stock of Arrack, with a Supply of some other Provisions we wanted, sail'd again from thence to cruize for the *French* Ships expected from *China* in the *Streights of Banca*, which are between the Island of that Name and *Sumatra*,  
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where we continued some Time, and spoke with all Vessels that passed, having plyed to Windward, viz. to the NW. (that Monsoon constantly blowing between the Months of *October* and *April*, amongst all the *Sunda* and *Molucca* Islands, and on the Coast of *China*, the SW. Wind prevailing in those Parts, with frequent Storms and rainy Weather during the other Months of the Year) and kept when under Sail, between  $4 \frac{1}{2}$  Fathom Water, muddy Ground, about a Mile and a half from the *Sumatra* Shore, which is very low Land, and 12 or 13 Fathom in the middle of the Channel, in most Places about 7 Leagues broad, towards the *Banca* Shore, near which the Ground is foul and rocky, that Island being high and mountainous.

We had got no further up the *Streights* than between the second and third Points of *Sumatra*, as the Current or Tide only favour'd us, by setting to Windward about the Full and Change of the Moon, on the 25th of *January*, when at Six in the Afternoon, we saw three large Ships off the third Point, coming down the *Streights*. As soon as 'twas dark, being at Anchor in the Mid-Channel, we weighed with the Commodore, and stood over towards the *Sumatra* Shore, and anchored at Nine, in  $10 \frac{1}{2}$  Fathom Water, that the Ships might not pass us unseen in the Night, as 'tis common to keep the Land close aboard in sailing along. At Four o'Clock in the Morning of the 26th, we both got under Sail, and ply'd to Windward (with *Dutch* Colours up, and our Ships otherwise much disguised) till Nine, when the three Ships we saw the Night before, having *French* Colours flying came up with us; then we hoisted our *English* Ensign, &c. as did the Commodore with his broad red Pendant at the Main-top-mast Head, and attacked the Enemy with a total  
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discharge of the great Guns and small Arms, which they immediately returned in the same Manner, and we both continued closely engaged with them till Eleven o'Clock, when they all struck their Colours, not being any longer able to stand our Fire, which had damaged their Rigging very much, and otherwise disabled them greatly.

We sent our Boats on Board, and took Possession of them, being three *French* Ships bound to *Europe*, richly laden from *China*; and call'd the *Dauphin*, *Jason*, and *Hercules*.

We took 135 Prisoners out of the *Hercules*, and sent one of our Lieutenants with 40 Men to command her, the Commodore taking Care of the other two Ships; and then we both anchor'd with our Prizes near *Sumatra's* second Point, to repair the Damage done our Rigging in the Engagement, in which we had our Main-mast and Main-top-mast render'd unserviceable, our Jibb-boom quite shot away, three Men kill'd, and several wounded.

*January* the 27th, we weigh'd, and steer'd to the southward, in Company with the Commodore and Prizes, and pass'd the small Island of *Lucipara*, which is about 3 Miles in Circumference, very low, and quite cover'd with Trees, is surrounded with Shoals, and lies nearly in the Mid-Channel, between the Southmost Part of *Banca*, and the Shore of *Sumatra*, being about 5 Leagues from either Side of the *Streights*, which are not so broad further to the Northward. On the 31st, the *Deptford* and Prizes parted Company with our Ship, and proceeded for *Bavia*, while we kept on for *Princes-Island*, where we arriv'd the 5th of *February*, and after taking in some Water and Wood, sail'd again from it, to wait in the *Streights* of *Sunda* for some *English* Ships coming from *China*, on account of sending home

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home by them a Packet we had on board from the Commodore. *February* the 13th, the *York* and *Strafford*, the Ships we expected, anchor'd near where we lay in 28 Fathom Water, *Bantam* Point bearing S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  E. distance about 8 Leagues; and we put on board them seven of the principal *French* Officers that were Prisoners in our Ship, to be carried to *England*, on their Parole, with Mr. *Barnet's* Dispatches for the Lords of the Admiralty. After stopping a few Hours, the two Ships left us, and we proceeded for *Batavia*, where we arriv'd the 16th Inst. and found the *Deptford* and Prizes, several *Dutch* Ships, the *Fame* and *Winchelsea* *English* Privateers, with three of our Company's Ships, and a vast Number of *China* Junks, which are large unhandy Vessels, having commonly on board several hundred Families of *Chinese*, and come yearly laden with the Commodities of their Country, and return home again with a fair Wind, after their Merchants have dispos'd of their own and purchas'd other Effects.

Soon after we came into the Road, we were inform'd, that the Commodore had sold the three *French* Ships to the *Dutch* Governor for 72000*l.* which disappoint'd us very much in our Expectations, as we imagin'd they wou'd have been sold to better Advantage, for they were fine Ships, of above 600 Tons each, and had carried more Money to *China* to purchase their Cargoes.

*February* the 22d, the *Medway* and *Dolphin* anchor'd in the Road with two *French* Prizes, taken by them in the *Streights* of *Malacca*, one of them being a Company's Ship lately come from *Europe*, and the other a small Ship belonging to *Pontichery*, with 60000*l.* in Silver on board from *Manila*. The first of these Ships was soon after purchas'd by our Commodore, who made a sixth Rate Man of War of

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her, with 30 Guns, and call'd her the *Medway's* Prize; the *Dolphin* at the same Time being converted into an Hospital and Storeship.

During our Stay at *Batavia*, we were joined by the *Lively*, a 20 Gun Ship, with a Pacquet from *England* for the Commodore, and the Squadron received a Supply of Beef, Rice, &c. from the *Benjamin*, one of our Company's Ships. In the Interim, our *French* Prisoners were kept upon the Island *Edam*, which is about a League to the Northward of the Road, where they were guarded by the Marines of all our Ships; but when we took them on board again at going away, their Number was considerably lessen'd, many of them, as well as of our own People, having been carried off by Sickness; some of them likewise enter'd into the *Dutch* Service, and most of their Officers went home to *Europe* upon Parole, on board the *Dutch* Ships which sail'd that Season.

Before we left *Batavia*, we hove down all the Ships of our Squadron, and had their Bottoms clean'd at a small Island called *Onruest*, about a League from the Road, which, with several others shut it up, and serve as a Bulwark to it on the NW. Quarter. At that Island, there are Wharfs, on which are fixed Capstones to heave Ships down by, with Storehouses and other Conveniencies. Before we careen'd we had a new Main-mast made for the *Preston* by *Dutch* Carpenters, the old one being render'd unfit for Service, by Rottenness, and Damage done it by a Shot in the Engagement with the *French* *China* Ships.

Before I continue to remark the further Proceedings of our Squadron, I think it will not be amiss to take some Notice of the first Discovery of the Way  
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by Sea to the *East-Indies*, and then of *Java* and the neighbouring Islands.

Before the Way by Sea was found out, the *Aegyptian* and *Asiatic* Merchants had transported by shipping, the Spiceries and other Commodities of the *Indies*, to Ports in the *Red-Sea*, where they were bought up by others, who, after being at vast Expence for Land Carriage, sold them again at *Alexandria*, (now *Scandaroon*) to the *Venetians*, who dispos'd of them to all the other *European* Nations.

The *Portuguese*, after having discovered the southmost Part of the Coast of *Africa*, in the Year 1497, fitted out four Sail of Ships, and the Command of them was given by their King *Emanuel*, to *Don Vasca de Gama*, who after having undergone great Hardships in his Voyage, at last arrived at the Cape of *Good Hope*, which had that Name given it some Years before, upon the first Discovery of it, because it gave them room to hope they would find out what they wanted. From the Cape he steer'd Eastward, and arrived at the Coast of *Malabar*, where he contracted an Alliance with the Prince of the Country, and return'd home with his Ships richly laden, after a two Years Voyage. His Countrymen afterwards made many Voyages to the *East-Indies* with Success, and establish'd themselves very advantageously in many Places; which they held till disposs'd of most of them by the *Dutch*, who made their first *East-India* Voyage in the Year 1595, where they soon got Footing in many Places, chiefly by driving out the *Portuguese*, and did not stop to perpetrate the greatest Cruelties to procure their own Advantage and promote their worldly Interest, which they exercis'd at several Places, especially at *Amböina*, one of the *Molucca* Islands, upon their old Friends the *English*. For after they had  
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drove out the *Spaniards* and *Portugueze* from these Spice Islands, they, at last, upon a Pretence of the *English* having conspired with the Natives to prove treacherous to them, put them all to Death, by the most cruel Torments they cou'd invent, in the Year 1623, and ever since that time they have ingrossed wholly to themselves, the very beneficial Trade of the Spice Islands.

In the Year 1620, they found Means to turn the *English* out of *Jaccatra*, (now *Batavia*) a Town in the Island of *Java*, and at present the Capital of it, being the same Place we were then at with our Ships. Not many Years after that, the *English* were dispossess'd of the only Settlement they had remaining to the Eastward of the Streights of *Sunda*, viz. at *Bantam*, where they were most harshly treated by their unrelenting Rivals in Trade, and then obliged to leave that Island intirely, of which I shall now make the following Remarks.

*Java* extends itself from about the Latitude of 6°. 00<sup>m</sup>. South, to the East South Eastward about 150 Leagues in Length; 'tis situated near the Island of *Sumatra*, which is much about the same Bigness, equally fertile with it, and has Inhabitants who profess the same Religion, and have in general the same Manners and Customs with those of the former. They both produce a vast Quantity of Rice, and several different Sorts of Fruit, have plenty of Cattle of various Kinds, and in their Woods are many wild Beasts. On their Mountains and along the Sides of their Rivers is found Gold, with some precious Stones, and each of them produces a great Quantity of Pepper, Coffee, and several valuable Sorts of Drugs, and other Commodities. The Inhabitants of *Java* are probably originally descended from those People who inhabit the *Malaye* Coast, which borders

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borders to the Northward with Part of *Siam*, and extends to the Streights of *Malacca*, for they differ little from them in their Way of Living, and speak the same Language.

This Island was formerly govern'd by several petty Kings, who were all subject to the King of *Bantam*, as being the most powerful, and possess'd of Dominions of the greatest Extent; but ever since the *Dutch* have been the only *Europeans* settled in the Island; the *Javaneze* Princes have had only a Shadow of Royalty and Power, being intirely over-awed by them, who have Forts in many Places of the Island, and obliged to pay them a yearly Tribute to procure a Continuance of their nominal Honours.

When we were at *Batavia*, the titular Monarch of *Bantam* liv'd in the *Dutch* Castle at that Place, and was always attended with a Party of their Soldiers, who under pretence of doing him Honour by their Attendance, kept such a strict Guard upon all his Actions, that he cou'd do nothing without their Knowledge; and, that he might not have it in his Power to join in a Revolt with the other petty Princes, who have often attempted, but in vain, to shake off the Yoke of the *Dutch*.

Those who inhabit the high Country, or Heart of *Java*, are Idolatres; but near the Sea Shore of the Island, and particularly on the Northern Coast, which is best known to the *Dutch*, and most frequented by the trading Nations of that Part of the World, the People are mostly *Mahometans*, and have several large Towns; of which *Bantam*, situated at the Westmost extream Point of the Island, which is nearer than any other Part of it to *Sumatra*, (the Streights of *Sunda* which separate them, being at that Place only about six Leagues broad) was formerly the most considerable,

siderable, but ever since the Year 1620, *Batavia* has been the Metropolis not only of *Java*, but of the *Dutch* Empire in general in the *East-Indies*.

The chief Produce and principal Branch of Commerce of this Island, is black Pepper, which is found in it as well as in *Sumatra* in vast Quantities. It grows upon Bushes almost in the same Manner as Juniper Berries do in *Europe*, being at first green, it becomes black and dry by the Heat of the Sun, and is gathered in the Months of *December* and *January*. Though there is scarce any other Sort of Spice besides Pepper grows in *Java*, yet as the *Dutch* solely, now possess the other valuable Branches of that Commodity, I shall say something of the Growth of Cloves and Nutmegs in the *Molucca* Islands, and of Cinnamon when I come to *Ceylon*. Nutmegs grow only in *Banda*, and some other of the *Molucca's* in which the *Dutch* have Settlements. They have three Crops of them in a Year, viz. in *April*, *August*, and *December*. The *April* Crop is reckon'd to be the best, and they are then had in the greatest Quantity. The Tree on which they grow, is about the bigness of a common Apple Tree, having little round Leaves and many small Branches. The Fruit is inclos'd under three different Covers; the first is a thick Husk, like that of a green Walnut, which when the Fruit is ripe, breaks and discovers another thin Covering, of an aromatic Smell and reddish Colour. This is called Mace, and by some improperly the Flower of the Nutmeg. It wraps up the third Cover or Shell of the Nut, which is of a blackish Colour, and has under it the Nutmeg as we see it in *Europe*. This Fruit, when green, taken intire from the Tree, and preserv'd with Sugar, makes a most excellent Confection, which is greatly esteem'd all over the *Indies*.

Cloves

Cloves likewise are particular for growing only in *Amboina* and some other Islands near it. Their Tree resembles that of the Lawrel, its Leaves being somewhat longer and narrower. Its Branches, which are small and numerous, have on them a prodigious Quantity of Flowers, each of which produces or becomes a Clove. They are at first white, then green, and at last red and hard. While the Flower is green it has the most odoriferous Smell imaginable, and when the Cloves are gather'd they are of a dusky red Colour.

The *Dutch* are not put to the Trouble of planting the Clove Trees, because the Cloves, when they fall from them and are scatter'd about upon the Ground, produce a sufficient Quantity, which by the frequent Rains grows so soon to Perfection, that in eight Years Time one of these Trees bears Fruit, and if let alone, will continue to do so for a hundred Years to come. They have such a particular Quality as to hinder all Sorts of Herbs or Grass from growing near them, their vast Height attracting to themselves the Moisture of the Earth around. The *Dutch*, who have had Possession of these Islands ever since the Year 1623, when they cut off the *English* at *Amboina*, burn yearly vast Quantities of the different Sorts of Spice, that their Markets at Home may not be over-stocked with the Commodity, and by that Means the Price of it reduced. Having said thus much about the Spice Islands, I'll return to *Java*, and give some Account of *Batavia* the Capital of it.

*Batavia* is situated in the Latitude of 6°. 00<sup>m</sup>. South, on the Northern Coast of that Island, where it has several small Islands which serve as a Bulwark to the Road. Towards the Land it is surrounded with a beautiful Champain Country, where are a

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great many fine Pleasure Houses belonging to the *Dutch* Merchants, who also have exceeding fine Gardens, and agreeable Walks, under the Shade of Coconut, Orange and Citron Trees. To these they frequently resort, going in their Coaches, which none of the principal Inhabitants are without. About 10 Miles to the Southward of the City, there is a very high Mountain, which overlooks the neighbouring Country, and serves as a Barrier to the *Dutch*, from the Incurfions of the most restless of the *Javanese*.

In *Batavia* the *Dutch* Governor-General in the *East-Indies* resides. The Houses are grand, and magnificently furnished, being most built of Brick. The Streets are large and spacious, and have agreeable Canals running thro' them, upon which Boats go to different Parts of the City. They are supply'd with Water from the River *Jaccatra*, which runs thro' the Town into the Sea, and forms a Harbour, which contains a vast Number of *Malaye* Proes (Vessels so well made for sailing, that they'll run at the Rate of 20 Miles per Hour in smooth Water,) and other small Barks, which come over a Bar at the Mouth of the River, where there are eight or nine Feet Water at Spring Tides.

The Castle of *Batavia* is situated on the East Side of the River near the Sea. 'Tis fortified with four Bastions, surrounded with strong Walls, and has good Gates and Draw-Bridges. There is in it, a large Magazine, with Store-Houses to hold the Company's Effects, besides several stately Buildings for the Governor and Council. 'Tis defended by near a hundred Pieces of Cannon, and has a Garrison of six or seven hundred Men, who are for the Guard of the City, as well as the Castle. The Walls of the City are neither very thick nor high, but furnished with above four hundred Pieces

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Pieces of Artillery, and incompassed with a deep Ditch. There are several Outworks, Forts, and Redoubts, which serve to keep off an Enemy. In the City there is a Town-House, which is a very fine Building. There are likewise very strong Prisons for their Criminals, with a spacious Hospital for the Sick.

The *Dutch* have a very fine Church in the middle of the City, which they rebuilt not long ago, after having been considerably damag'd by an Earthquake, which are very frequent in *Java*, and the neighbouring Islands.

*Batavia* is the most considerable Place for Commerce in the *East-Indies*, as there arrive frequently Ships from the *Dutch* Settlements in the other Parts of the Country, besides a great Number of *China* Junks, between the Months of *November* and *March*. The *English* likewise, come there often to purchase the Arrack, which is made there by *Chinese*, and is reckoned to be the best in the *Indies*. The People of the other trading Countries traffick thither with their respective Commodities; from all which, the *Dutch* reap no small Advantage, for all Goods imported and exported there, not belonging to the Company, pay 7 per Cent. Duty. Thus they get immense Riches, which they amass at *Batavia*, as into a common Magazine, to be sent from thence to *Holland*. Most of their Ships rendezvous there before they proceed for *Europe*. To give some Sort of Specimen of the Commodities of the *East-Indies* in general, that I may not afterwards have Occasion to say any Thing of the Produce of other Places, touch'd at in the Voyage, I shall here take Notice of what is brought from them, &c. to *Batavia*.

From *Bengal*, they bring fine Silks and Muslins, with a great Quantity of Saltpetre, which they use

in making Gunpowder there, to supply their Ships and Garrisons in the *Indies*, and Rice, which is the best in that Part of the World. From *Malacca*, they bring a Metal very like Tin, call'd *Toothanegg*, and much made Use of for Alloy with Silver in Coining at all the *European* Settlements; and in the Dominions of the *Grand Mogul*, where they mix it with *Spanish* Dolars in making \* *Ruppees*, which are current Money all over the *Indies*. From their Factories on the Coast of *Coromondall*, are brought all Sorts of Cotton Cloths and Muslins; fine Handkerchiefs from *Pullecat*, red Wood for Dyeing, &c. From the Coast of *Malabar* they bring raw Cotton, Stuffs of different Kinds, wrought with Gold and Silver, precious Stones, and other valuable Merchandize.

From *Bassura* in *Persia*, they bring *Persian* Silks, Gold and Silver, and other rich Commodities. From the Island of *Sumatra* is brought Pepper, some Gold and precious Stones, and a hard Kind of Wood, of which are built at *Batavia* several Bridges, and Piles drove to form the Grand Canal or Harbour, at the Mouth of the River. From *Banda*, and the other *Molucca* Islands, the *Dutch* bring a great Quantity of Cloves, Mace, Nutmegs, Gum Aromatic, Red-Wood, &c. and from *Ceylon*; Cinnamon, several Sorts of fine Wood, precious Stones and Rubies of great Value. From *China*, are brought all Sorts of China-Ware, Tea, Brocade-Silks, and other valuable Goods. The *Dutch* Trade to *Japan* is very beneficial, as they have had it almost intirely in their own Hands ever since the Year 1636, when they found Means to ingratiate themselves with the

\* A *Ruppee* is about the Value of 2 s. 6 d. Sterl.

King

King of the Country, and prepossess'd him with such Notions of the Christians, who profess'd the Roman Catholic Doctrine, that the *Spaniards* and *Portugueze* were turn'd out of *Japan*, (as were the *Englisch*, whom the *Dutch* likewise got excluded there in the Year 1664,) tho' they had traded there many Years before the *Dutch*. They were likewise prohibited from ever returning again, and several thousands of the *Japanese* who had become Profelytes to Christianity, having been converted by the Roman Catholick Missionaries, were put to Death by the most cruel Torments that cou'd be invented.

The *Dutch* that trade now to *Japan*, to procure a Continuance of their exclusive Trade to that Country, are oblig'd to profess an open Disregard for the Christian Religion. They are otherwise greatly restricted by the Natives, who are not a little jealous of their acquiring sufficient Power to make themselves independent.

The *Dutch* Factors who reside there, are confin'd to live on a Peninsula, where they have Storehouses for their Effects, and are supply'd with all Sorts of Provisions by the Country People, who oblige them always to keep within the Bounds allotted them, except while the Fair lasts, in which they dispose of the *European* and other Commodities brought by their Ships, in Exchange for the different Manufactures, and Products of *Japan*, with which the Natives resort at that Time from the remote Provinces of the Empire, to the neighbouring Country.

This Fair is only once in a Year, when, commonly, two *Dutch* Ships arrive from *Batavia*, and it is not held for above a Month or six Weeks. The *Dutch* bring from thence a great Quantity of Copper, (amongst which is found not a little Gold) Camphire, Porcelain Ware, nicely wrought, very rich

rich Silks, and an infinite Quantity of wooden Works, such as Cabinets, Tables, &c. very curiously varnished, and figured with a vast Collection of other rare and curious Things.

The City of *Batavia* is inhabited by a Concourse of People of different Nations, viz. *Dutch*, *Portuguese*, *Malayes*, *Moors*, and *Chinese*, of these last, before the Year 1741, there was a greater Number than of all the others put together. But ever since that Time, there has not been but a certain Number of *Chinese*, not exceeding 600, allowed to live within the Walls, and the rest, of which there are now again several Thousands, and have their Houses in the Suburbs, must not be seen within the Gates after Six o'Clock at Night. For at that Time, when there were reckoned to be in *Batavia* 500 *Chinese* for 1 *Dutchman*, upwards of 60000 of the former were cut off by the latter.

When we were at that Place, I tried all I cou'd, to learn the true Cause of this Massacre, which few of the *Dutch* car'd to talk of, and the only Account I cou'd pick up amongst them, which I take to be too favourable on their Side, is as follows :

“ The *Chinese* taking it much to Heart, to be so greatly kept under by the *Dutch*, whose Yoke they had long sought an Opportunity to shake off, being burden'd with Taxes, and otherwise oppress'd, at last rousing themselves from their natural Timidity, growing bold, and confident in their Numbers, took a Resolution, and conspir'd together to destroy the *Dutch*. They all agreed to be ready at a Time appointed in the Streets, with what Arms they cou'd secretly provide. The Conspiracy was undiscovered till within a few Hours of the Time fix'd upon for perpetrating their Design, when it was disclos'd, (as

the *Dutch* pretend,) to the Governor, by an old *Chinese*, who immediately got together all the Soldiers in the Garrison, and Sailors from the Ships in the Road, whom he arm'd, with all the Burghers. He then order'd the Town Clock to be struck an Hour before the Time, upon which the *Chinese* appear'd, mostly in Confusion, and fearing the Plot was discover'd, trusted to each other to begin the Attack. They were then set upon by the *Dutch*, who put them to Death without Distinction of either Age or Sex. Many of them shut themselves up in their Houses, chusing rather to be burnt alive, than suffer the Cruelties they saw their Countrymen undergo by the Hands of their merciless Enemies. The Slaughter of them was so great, that the Canals run with Blood, being cover'd with dead Bodies. And the Boom which is laid across the grand Canal was open'd four several Times to let out the dead Carcasses into the Sea. The least Number of the killed is computed to be near 70,000. The Women and Children were order'd to be spar'd; but many of them suffer'd the same Fate with their Husbands and Fathers.

“ To compleat this Scene of inhuman Barbarity, after the general Havock was over, some Hundreds of the principal *Chinese* were most cruelly murder'd in cold Blood, by a few *Dutch* Soldiers in the Castle.”

As I have already given some other Instances of the barbarous Usage which those whom the *Dutch* look'd upon as their Rivals in Trade, have suffer'd from them under the Name of Conspirators, tho' altogether innocent, I have sufficient Reason to imagine, that there never was any such Plot form'd by the *Chinese* as the *Dutch* talk of, but on the contrary, as the Commerce of the *Chinese*

These were then in a very flourishing Condition at *Batavia*, that the Report of their Conspiracy was chiefly, if not intirely invented by the subtle *Batavians*, that they might have a seemingly plausible Pretence for their Cruelty, to destroy these poor inoffensive People, and enrich themselves; which they did very effectually; for many private Persons among them, made their Fortunes by the Plunder they got in the Houses, besides the principal Effects of the *Chinese*, which were confiscated to their *East-India* Company.

*April* the 5th, the Prize Money for the three *French China* Ships, which amounted in all to 92000*l.* was divided between our Ship's Company and the *Deptford's*, and a Foremast-man's Share of it came to 130 *Spanish* Dollars. Before these Ships were given up to the *Dutch* Governor, who sent two of them to *Europe* that Season, and had only bargain'd for the Ships and Rigging with the Bulk of their Cargoes, a Quantity of Goods which were the Property of their Officers, had been taken out of them and dispos'd of ashore at *Batavia*, to the Value of 20,000 *l.* Sterling. Immediately after that, having receiv'd on board the Ships of our Squadron a Supply of Arrack, and what other Provisions we cou'd get, we sail'd from *Batavia* in the *Preston*, in Company with the *Deptford*, *Medway*, and *Dolphin*. The *Medway's* Prize and *Lively* being left to be hove down at *Onrust*. We made the best of our Way thro' the Streights of *Sunday* with these Ships, and on the 30th of *April* we arrived at *Mew-Bay*, which is near the West End of *Java*. In that Bay there is a small Island of the same Name, which is very woody, and about two Miles from the *Java* Shore, where the Water taken in by Ships that come there, runs over a Steep Precipice into the Sea.

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There we took in a Supply of Water and Wood, and on the first of *May* sail'd from it with the Squadron, for the Coast of the Island of *Ceilon*.

In our Passage to that Island, for some Time we kept as far to the Southward of 10°. 00*m.* South, that we might have the SE. Trade-Wind more effectual, as it blows constantly in the Eastern Ocean between that Latitude, and about 25°. 00*m.* South.

*June* the 2d, we got Sight of *Ceilon*, and from that Time, till the 17th of *July*, we continued to cruize on it, near the *Dutch* Fort at *Baticalo*, which lies in the Latitude of 7°. 50*m.* North, and is situated near the Sea, between two high Mountains in the Country, very remarkable for their Shape and Appearance at a Distance. One of these Mountains, which is to the Southward of that Place, resembles a *Frier's-Hood*, and is called by that Name, when seen by Ships on the Coast. The other, to the Northward of it, is for the same Reason known by the Name of the *Sugar-Loaf*. We were supply'd with Water and some fresh Provisions for our Sick Men, by the *Dolphin* from *Baticalo*, while we continued to cruize there, and spoke with all Vessels we saw. In the mean Time, we had for the most Part fair Weather, in which our Commodore frequently exercis'd the Squadron, by forming the different Lines of Battle, &c.

*July* the 17th, we bore away to the Northward, with the Squadron, for the Coast of *Corromandel*.

On the 19th in the Forenoon, we saw the *Four White Pagodas* or *Temples*, which are near the Sea Coast, about two Leagues to the Northward of the *Dutch* Settlement, at *Negapatam*, before we got Sight of the Land. For the Coast of *Corromandel* is very low all along to the Northward, as far as *Pullecat*. So that these *Pagodas* are often taken for as many

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Ships.

Ships under Sail, by Seamen coming in with the Coast, and not well acquainted.

The same Day at Noon we were within three Leagues of *Negapatam*, which is the Southmost Settlement any *Europeans* have on the Coast of *Corromondel*.

*July* the 20th, sailing along Shore to the Northward, we pass'd by the *French* Settlement at *Carri-cal*, the *Danish* at *Trinkebar*, and the *Dutch* at *Porto-Novo*, five Leagues to the Northward of which, is the *English* Factory at *Fort St. David*, where we anchor'd with the Squadron.

That Place our *East-India* Company purchas'd of an *Indian* Prince, about the Year 1686, and the Territories belonging to the Fort, by Agreement, were to be as far as any Gun the *English* had could throw a Shot every Way round the Fort. But whether the Buyer or Gunner were Conjurers I cannot tell. For I am pretty sure that the *English* Bounds reach above eight Miles along the Sea-Shore, and four Miles Inland. The Country is Pleasant and Fruitful, and water'd with several small Rivers, which serve to strengthen the *English* Fort; which is strong enough to keep off the *Morattoes*, who are a Sort of Banditti that commonly live in the Mountains, and have for many Years past bred great Disturbances all over the *Mogul's* Dominions, by their frequently putting a Stop to Trade, and ravaging the Country. But our People found it far from being sufficiently well fortified against a regular Siege, carried on by *Europeans*. For it was very near taken not long after *Madaras* fell into the Hands of the *French*, in the Year 1746, when our Squadron was at *Bengal*. For which Reason, when we left that Country, they were building some advanced Works to defend the weakest Places of the Fort. About a Mile to the  
Southward

Southward of the Fort is *Cuddalore*, a Moorish Town depending upon it. 'Tis pretty large, and being wall'd round, is garrison'd by some of the Soldiers belonging to the Company. *Cuddalore* and *Fort St. David's*, have each of them a small River, both which have Bars that are not easily got over with Boats, except before the Sea Breeze comes in, which is commonly about Noon, during the Time of the SW. Monsoon. And 'tis very dangerous to pass them at all in the Time of the NE. Monsoon, of which, with the other, I shall afterwards take some further Notice. Nevertheless 'tis much more convenient, to land or ship Goods at *Fort St. David's* or *Cuddalore*, than at *Madaras*, or any other Place on that Coast, which has no River at all, but lies quite open to the Sea.

The Governor of *Fort St. David's* has a pretty good House and Garden, where he generally resides. It is about two Miles to the Northward of the Fort, near which there are now few Houses on that Side, tho' there was formerly a considerable Number, as most of them were destroy'd when the Place was besieged by the *French*. Upon which Account, the Merchants and others now live mostly at *Cuddalore*.

The original Inhabitants on the Coast of *Corromondel*, who are still the most considerable for Numbers, are Pagans of many various Sects, who have a great Number of *Pagodas* or *Temples*, in which they worship Images of different Kinds of Animals, &c. being grossly and ridiculously impos'd upon by their Priests and Brahmans, whose Religions are a Complex of Church Policy and Superstition; the Mysteries of which, are all safely lock'd up in their Temples, as being too holy to be expos'd to the Vulgar,

and they seldom appear abroad but in a Language generally unknown to the Populace.

The *Gentows* are the most noted Sect of these Idolaters. Many of them are rich Merchants, and live in *Cuddalore* and other trading Towns on that Coast, as do likewise not a few Moors, who are *Mahometans*, and the natural Subjects of the *Great Mogul*. Several *Indian* Christians which are *Armenians* and *Portugueze* are also settled in these Places. All which People make Use of the Language (tho' much corrupted) of the *Portugueze*, who, when they were so extensively settled in these Parts, have left a Vestige of it. And 'tis the Language that most *Europeans* take Care to learn, to qualify themselves for a general Converse with one another, as well as with the different Inhabitants of *India*.

July the 22d, the *Medway's* Prize and *Lively* from *Batavia*, join'd the Squadron at Fort *St. David's*, where we put ashore our sick Men, and the remainder of the *French* Prisoners we had on board. There we took in a Supply of Water and other Provisions; and after staying a few Days, sail'd from it to cruize with our Ships off *Negapatam*, where we (in the *Preston*) left the Commodore and the rest of the Squadron, after being with them there only for a short Time, and with the *Lively* in Company, proceeded to the Northward for *Madaras* Road, where we anchor'd on the 11th of *August*.

*Madaras*, or *Fort St. George*, before it was taken by the *French* in the Year 1746, was the most considerable Place the *English* had on the Coast of *Corromandel*; tho' 'tis very badly situated, being built on a sandy Soil, and quite expos'd to the Sea, which makes a continual Breach under the Walls of the Town. Many private rich *English* Merchants resided there, together with a great Number of wealthy

thy *Armenians*, *Portugueze*, *Moors*, and other *Indians*, who had been settled there several Years before that, having come from other Places in the *Mogul's* Dominions, on Account of the Advantages they cou'd trade with under the *English* Government, and to be near the Diamond Mines of *Golconda*, where great Riches are sometimes got. By which means that Place which does not produce much of the Manufacture of the Coast for foreign Markets, was become very wealthy and populous, notwithstanding its natural Inconveniencies.

The Town is divided into two Parts. In the first of which, call'd the *White Town*, the Governor with the Company's Servants, and *English* Merchants dwell. In the other Part, call'd, the *Black-Town*, the *Indian-Christians*, *Mahometans*, *Gentows*, &c. have their Houses. There are likewise Temples and Churches for each Religion; every one being tolerated there.

The Town of *Madaras* extends in Length, about three Quarters of a Mile along Shore, and about half a Mile towards the Land, where it has a broad wet Ditch, and a double Wall. When the Place was taken by the *French*, the Wall was in a very tottering Condition by not being kept in Repair; and was very badly flank'd with Bastions.

The great Compass of Ground it inclos'd, requir'd many more Soldiers to defend it, than at that Time belong'd to the Garrison, as they did not amount to above 350 Men, several of which were Foreigners, and all wretchedly disciplin'd.

'Tis to be suppos'd that the Loss our *East India* Company suffer'd by the taking of that Place, as they now have it again in their Possession, will cause more Care to be taken for the future, in keeping



ing it better provided, to resist the Attempts of an Enemy.

*Madaras*, with most other Places on the Coast of *Corromondel*, (which is in general barren, and does not produce Grain enough for the Subsistence of its Inhabitants,) is oblig'd to be yearly supply'd from the more fertile Coasts of *Orisa* and *Bengal*, with vast Quantities of Rice, which is the chief Food of most of the People in the *East Indies*; so that an Enemy that is superior at Sea, may easily distress them very much, by taking the Vessels laden with Rice coming from the Northward.

We only stopt a few Hours at *Madaras*, to take aboard some black Sailors, to assist in working our Ships, as we were much deficient in our Complement of Men by a great Number we had lost by Sickness.

From that Place we both sail'd for *Ballasore Road*, at the Bottom of the Bay of *Bengal*: It is so call'd from a Town of that Name, which is situated upon the Side of a small Bar River to the Northward of it. This Road is near the Mouth of the famous River *Ganges*, and has for its Southmost Extremity, *Point Palmier*, on the Coast of *Orisa*, which is very low Land, and sends off to the South Eastward a dangerous Sand Bank so far into the Sea, that if Care is not taken, a Ship may be run a-ground upon it, before the Point can be scarcely seen; for within 60 Yards of the Bank there are 15 Fathom Water, which sudden shoaling, makes it very dangerous. In the Road, the Water deepens very gradually all the Way from the Shore of *Ballasore*, which is very low, tho' the Land in the Country is mountainous, and a Ship at Anchor in 13 Fathom Water, will have no Land in Sight, unless the Sky is very clear to the North Westward, as there are only

are only 4 or 5 Fathom Water three Leagues off Shore.

From the Month of *April* to *October*, which is the Season for Shipping to come to *Bengal*, Sloops with Pilots on board, sent down from the *European* Settlements in that Country, lye ready in this Road to carry them up the River *Houghly*, a Branch of the *Ganges*, the Navigation of which is very difficult by the great Numbers of dangerous Sand Banks in it, and the vast impetuosity of its Tides.

*August* the 22d, we got into *Ballasore Road*, in Company with the *Lively*, and that same Night we took two *French* Pilot Sloops. The next Day we took a large *French* Ship from *Surratt*, on the Coast of *Malabar*, bound up the River, to their Settlement at *Chandernagor*. Soon after we sent the Ship and one of the Prize Sloops to be sold at *Calcutta*, the chief *English* Settlement in *Bengal*. It is likewise situated upon the Banks of *Houghly River*, and is about 60 Leagues from the Mouth of it.

We continued in *Ballasore Road* till the 15th of *September*. In the mean Time we lost four of our Anchors, which we cou'd not weigh again on account of the Grounds holding so fast as to cause us break our Cables in heaving up, to supply the Want of which, we were furnish'd with one Anchor, from a *Dutch* Ship bound up the River, and three brought down to us, by our *East India* Company's Pilot Sloops.

Then we took two other *French* Country Ships, which is a Name given these that belong to the *European* Settlements in the Indies. They are all work'd with black Sailors, who have only a few white Men to command them. These Ships, one of which came from *Mocha* in the *Red Sea*, and the other from *Bassura* in the Gulph of *Persia*, both bound to *Chandernagor*,

*dernagor*, we likewise sent up to *Calcutta* to be dispos'd of, with most of the *French* Officers we had taken. After that, together with the *Lively* and one of the *French* Sloops which we continued to keep as a Tender, and call'd her the *Fanny*, we took all favourable Opportunities of getting more to the SE. ward, because we expected the Change of the Monsoon would be in a short Time; when hard Gales of Wind and stormy Weather often happen.

The SW. Monsoon, then about to cease, all along the Coasts of *Corromandel*, *Golconda* and *Orixa* blows from about the beginning of *April*, till the End of *September*; and during the other Months of the Year, the NE. Wind generally prevails there, and frequently blows with great Violence till the middle of *December*: So that few Ships venture to come upon these Coasts, especially upon the Coast of *Corromandel*, till about *Christmas*, tho' the bad Weather is commonly over in *Ballasore Road*, and at *Bengal*, in the Month of *November*.

All Ships likewise that happen to be upon the Coast of *Corromandel* (which all Vessels should leave entirely, if not within the Bars of the Rivers there, before the Month of *October*) at the beginning of the SW. Monsoon, should prepare for bad Weather, tho' it does not so constantly come then as at the other Time of the Year already mentioned, by keeping off from the Land in about 20 Fathom Water. They will then be almost out of Sight of the Coast, where they should remain at Anchor till the SW. Wind is certainly set in for that Season; for if one of the Hurricanes which sometimes are at that Change, overtakes them any way engag'd with the Land, they will be in very great Danger, as the Wind blows then with irresistible Force, perhaps for 20 or 30 Hours, veering all round the Compass. It was  
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in one of these Storms, that the *Namur*, with the other Ships of Admiral *Boscawen's* Squadron at *Fort St. David's*, together with several Merchant Ships there and at other Places on that Coast, were lost in the Year 1749, whose Misfortune will, undoubtedly, make others more cautious for the future, about being near that Coast, at the same Season of the Year.

*September* the 25th, we were as far to the Southward as *Point Palmier*, where we received 35 Men, Volunteers, from on board a *Calcutta* Pilot Sloop. They were mostly Blacks, and we sent 15 of them on board the *Lively*.

On the 29th, in Company with that Ship and the *Fanny*, we sail'd from *Ballasore Road*, and proceeded for the East Coast of the Bay of *Bengal*, where there is always good Weather during the stormy Months of the Year on the opposite Coast.

*October* the 22d, we anchor'd not far from three Islands, which lie between the Latitudes of 16°. 13<sup>m</sup>. and 15°. 50<sup>m</sup>. N°. and are about 5 Leagues from that Part of the Continent where the Kingdoms of *Arracan* and *Pegu* join together.

Two of these Islands are call'd great and little *Negrais*. The Southmost Point of the largest, which extends about 8 Leagues from North to South, is known by the Name of *Cape Negrais*. From that Point a Shoal runs off SE. about a Mile and a half, which makes it very necessary to keep at that Distance off from it in going with a Ship into the Bay, which is within it.

That Bay is between the two Islands, *Negrais*, the smallest of which is next to the Main, and being very high, is not far from the larger one of that Name. The Course to be steer'd in for the Bay in the right Channel, is NE.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N. in 5 or 6 Fathom Water, which will carry a Ship into good anchoring Ground

in the same depth close to the two Islands, where she'll be land-lock'd all round.

About 5 Miles to the Southward of *Cape Negrais*, lies the other Island, which is called, from having the Figure of a *Rhombus*, *Diamond-Island*. It is very low, about four Miles in Circumference, and quite full of Trees. It has also many Rocks round it, especially a very dangerous Ridge, which runs off from its SW. Point, about a Mile, and is cover'd by the Tide at high Water.

Five Leagues SW. from *Diamond-Island*, there is another ridge of Rocks call'd the *Leguades*, which are mostly above Water, and extend SE. & E. and NW. & W. about two Miles; but there is a good Channel for Ships between them and the Island. There are many other Islands to the Northward of these, on the Sea Coast of *Arracan*, which extends from *Chittegang*, (a Place that borders on that Country and *Bengal*, whose Poverty makes it a matter of great Indifference whom it belongs to) to *Cape Negrais*, above 100 Leagues in Length, but has few Places on it inhabited, because there are such Numbers of wild Elephants and Buffaloes, that wou'd destroy the Productions of the Ground; and Tygers to molest tame Animals, that they think it impracticable to people it. Only some Islands on the Coast have a few poor Fishermen living on them, who get their Bread out of the Water to keep them from starving, and are glad to stay there out of the Way of Oppression, for the Country of *Arracan* (the Capital of which having the same Name, where most of the Inhabitants live, is several Miles distant from the Mouth of a large River which disembogues itself into the Bay of *Bengal*) has been in Troubles and Comotions for these 60 Years past, when the Line of their Kings was extirpated by the Death of two

Brothers who were contending for the Throne, and both cut off. Ever since the Government there has been Anarchial, from which proceed frequent Quarrels among themselves, who notwithstanding, are often at War with their Neighbours the *Pequers*, whose Country they invade, by making Devastations along the Coast and up the Rivers, with large arm'd Boats, with which they are likewise very glad to fall upon any *European* Vessels that come in their Way, for being Idolaters and a barbarous Sort of People, they are not at all dispos'd for having any Commerce or Connection with Christians, and scarcely with any body else. People should be very cautious about going near their Coasts, if not in Ships of Force, for not long before our Squadron came into the *East Indies*, some Ships from *Bengal* watering at *Negrais* were attack'd by a great Number of *Arracan* Boats; which had been plundering in *Pegu*. They obliged the Ships to be gone from thence after losing some of their Men in the Skirmish they had, and leaving others that happened to be ashore on the Island, which fell into the Hands of these Savages; whom I shall take no further Notice of, but proceed to give a more particular Account of these Ships, as their Story is somewhat otherwise extraordinary.

The *Ostend East-India* Company, which was first establish'd about the Year 1720, but did not long continue to carry on any Trade, which was obstructed by the Means of the other *European* Nations trading to the Eastward of the Cape of *Good-Hope*, had a Settlement at *Bankebazar*, up the River *Houghly* above *Calcutta*, which was still maintained by a Governor, who had the Queen of *Hungary's* Commission in the Year 1743, when he finding his Credit quite lost with the Country People, and his Affairs in a desperate Condition, resolv'd to strike a

bold Stroke, and declare War against the *Mogul's* Subjects, which he accordingly did. In a very short Time a great Number of other *Europeans*, who deserted from their own Settlements and Ships, entered into his Service, being induced thereto by the great Hopes of Plunder they thought of getting by having to do with such despicable Enemies as the *Moors*, and indeed, they were not at first disappointed in their Expectations; for from having only a small Sloop at the Beginning, in a few Months they got Possession of six or seven large *Moors's* Ships, which they took in the River, and being come from *Suratt* and *Persia*, had on board immense Riches in Gold, Silver, and Diamonds, with other very valuable Effects. After that, the Governor finding he cou'd not any longer continue in the River without running the Risk of being stript of what Treasure they had got, by the Servants of the other *European* Companies, who were beginning to interest themselves, under Pretence of a Hinderance being put to their Trade with the *Moors*, sail'd from the *Ganges* with his Ships, in which he had 5 or 600 White Men, and after being drove from *Negrals*, as already related, proceeded with them for *Syrian* in *Pegu*. At that Place, as I was informed by some of his Men that escap'd, he intended to have built a Fort, and made a Settlement on his Mistress's Account; but being too easily prevail'd upon by the Inhabitants there, who are all of a very treacherous Disposition, and had then civil Wars amongst themselves, to go to their King's Court, which was 40 or 50 Miles from where his Ships lay, he set out attended with an 100 of his Men arm'd. When the Governor was admitted to the Audience of the proud *Eastern* Monarch, who demanded more Respect from him than he thought fit to pay, he was surrounded, with  
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all his Guard, who were overpowered by the great Number of the cruel *Peguers*, and with them most inhumanely put to Death. Immediately after that, some of his Ships, that were lying aground, were burnt by these People, who destroyed there many more of his Men, so that only a few of them saved themselves, and got off in some of the Vessels that happened to be afloat, who forthwith dispersed, and shifted for themselves, after having sufficiently experienced the Vicissitude of Fortune.

The Dominions of *Pegu*, which border to the Southward with those of *Siam*, extend along the Sea Coast from *Negrals* to the Bar of the River of *Syrian*, about six Leagues from which is the City of that Name. It is built at the River's side, on a rising Ground, and is surrounded with a stone Wall, without a Mortar. It was many Years ago in Possession of the *Portuguese*, 'till, by their Pride and Insolence, they were obliged to quit it.

The Kingdom of *Pegu* once made as great a Figure as any in the East, but now its Glory is in the Dust, for not a fourth Part of it is inhabited. The Cause of the Ruin of it, I was told of by several People that had been there, and is as follows. There was great Love and Friendship between the People of *Pegu* and *Siam*, being Neighbours, till in the fifteenth Century, they (being all Pagans) fell out about an Image, which the *Peguers* stole from their Friends the *Siamese*. This was the Cause of a long and destructive War, which at last obliged the King of *Pegu*, finding his Dominions daily lessened, and his own Forces not able to protect what he had left, to demand Assistance from the King of the *Burmese*, a potent Prince, whose Territories lay about 500 Miles up the River from *Syrian*.

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That Monarch immediately sent an Army of 100,000 Men, who joined the *Peguers*, and conjunctly marched against the *Siamese*, whom they soon drove from their new Conquests; and the *Burmese* observing the Weakness and bad Discipline of the *Pegu* Army, fell upon, routed it, and killed their King. The *Burmese* then made themselves Masters of that Country, which they held in profound Peace and Prosperity till not many Years ago, when some of the ancient Race of the *Peguers* stirred up a Rebellion, and brought about another Revolution in the Government, by turning out the *Burmese*.

These People now remain in Possession of the Kingdom, but are far from being well established in their Acquisition, for they have Civil Wars amongst themselves, and are frequently disturbed by the *Burmese*, who, 'tis very likely, will again recover that Country before long, as they are much esteemed by many of the *Peguers*; because during their Government, Trade and Commerce were encouraged, and Riches brought into their Country, which has been for some Time past in a miserable Situation. Formerly, the other Nations in *India* drove a great Trade to *Pegu*, and the *English*, and other *Europeans*, built several Ships in that Country, as it has great Plenty of Wood fit for that Purpose, but now there is little Trade of any Sort carried on, except that the *Moors* bring yearly from it some Elephants to the opposite Coast, for the Use of the *Mogul's* Annobobs, or Governors.

The common Method of taking the Elephants, when they run wild in the Woods, is by going out with a great Number of armed Men, who carry along with them several tame Elephants, with which they chase great Flocks of them, 'till they get them surrounded in a narrow Place, when they take as many

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many as they please, and permit the rest to escape for that Time. The Elephants they take are killed for the sake of their Teeth, or made tame by Degrees, which they effect by making them suffer hard Usage, Hunger and Thirst, and by other Means, till they begin to know the Voice of their Keeper, and understand his Motions. After that, they anoint them with Oil, wash them often, and give them every thing to please them. Thus they are rendered as tame and submissive as any other Creature whatsoever. The common Food of the Elephants in that Country is Sugar-Cane, which grows wild, with any sort of Herbs or Fruit, and the Leaves of the *Palmero* Tree. They drink a vast Quantity of Water, and when they sleep, they lie down and bend their Knees, as other four-footed Beasts do; so that 'tis a mistaken, tho' a generally received Notion among those that never saw them, that they cannot rise again when once down, by having no Joints in their Legs. The Ships that bring the Elephants from *Pegu* and *Siam* to the Coast of *Coromandel*, commonly have each of them about 20 of these Animals on board, where they stand tied close to one another, like Horses in our Passage Vessels in *Europe*. When the Elephants are to be landed, the Ships are haul'd near the Shore, and have a great Part of their broad Sides, from the Gunnel almost as low as the Water, entirely taken down: then these Creatures are forced into the Water, and swim to the Shore, where their Keepers are ready to receive them. They are made use of in the *Mogul's* Dominions for Carriage, and for War, when they have Towers raised on their Backs, made to hold seven or eight Men, with Fire-Arms and Bows and Arrows.

October the 31st we sailed from *Diamond-Island*, and proceeded across the Bay of *Syrian* where we had  
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Soundings all the Way over, and the greatest Depth of Water we had did not exceed 30 Fathoms till we got Sight of the Cluster of Islands which lie to' the N. W. of *Mergu oni* the Coast of *Tannafary*, a Province of *Siam*, which was on the 4th of *November*. Till the 9th we were detained amongst these Islands, which are all very high, uninhabited, and full of Trees, with calm Weather and little Wind; then we anchored with the *Lively* and *Fanny* in  $4\frac{1}{2}$  Fathom Water, about half a Mile from *King's Island*; where we found the *Deptford* and *Medway* lately arrived there from *Madaras*, to be out of the way of the bad Weather on the Coast of *Coromondel*; from whence the Commodore had sent the *Medway's* Prize and *Dolphin* to *Bengal* to get Provisions for the Squadron.

In the Bay where we were, which is formed by the Circumflexion of *King's* and *Plantain-Tree Islands* (which are only separated from each other by a small Creek, and have about four or five Miles Distance between their Points, which make the Entrance) we were sheltered from all Winds, except the N. E. from which likewise, the small Islands near the Opening into the Bay, and the Continent of *Tannafary* serve in a great measure as a Bulwark; the contiguous Islands, which are without Inhabitants, and full of Trees, being very high and mountainous. We lay with our Ships about a Mile within the N. E. Point of *King's Island*, which in coming in we were obliged to keep close to, on account of a Shoal which lies about a quarter of a Mile from it, towards the North Point of *Plantain-Tree Island*. *November* the 15th the *Lively* sailed out of the Bay, the Commodore having ordered her to go on a Cruize to *Atchin* at the Island of *Sumatra*, to see if any Men of War had been, or were there, come to join us from

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from *England*. In the mean time we cleared and refitted our Ships, and took on Board Wood and Water from *King's Island*, where a Rivulet running down from the mountainous Part of it, discharges itself into the Bay, not far from where we were at Anchor. We likewise received a small Supply of Rice and other Provisions, by the Sloop and our Boats, from *Mergui*, which is a Town at the Mouth of a River in *Tannafary*. That Place which lies S. E. about 7 Leagues distant from the North Point of *Plantain-Tree Island*, was some Years ago a Place of great Trade, and several *Europeans* were settled there; but now 'tis seldom frequented by any but the *French*, who often go there in the Time of the N. E. Monsoon. The *Siamese* still drive a considerable Traffick from it, as they export every Year great Quantities of Tin, with a Number of Elephants to the Coast of *Coromondell*.

*November* the 24th we sailed from *King's Island* with the Squadron, and on the 26th parted Company with the Commodore, *Medway* and *Fanny*, they being bound to the southward for *Atchin*. We proceeded to the northward in the *Preston*, intending to get into *Ballasore* Road, having with us one of our Company's Pilot-Sloops which had joined us the Day before, and brought some of our Men from *Calcutta*, that had gone up in the Prizes to that Place.

*December* the 5th we passed *Diamond Island*, and till the 19th had very frequent Calms, in the Intervals of which we continued to take all the Opportunities we could of getting towards *Ballasore* Road, but found all our Endeavours in vain. We were greatly deceived by unconstant and variable Currents, both upon the Coast of *Arracon* which we saw, and in the middle of the Bay of *Bengal*; so that as our

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Provisions

Provisions began to grow short, we left the Sloop to ply to the northward, and stood on for the Coast of *Golconda*, which we saw in a few Days.

1745. *January* the 4th we anchored near the *English* Settlement at *Vizagapatam*, where we recruited our Water, and received on Board a Supply of Rice and other Provisions. This Place, which is on the Coast of *Golconda*, is very remarkable by a white Temple on the Side of a Hill to the northward of a River. Our *East India Company* has two small Forts there, which are not far from each other; one of them is near the River Side, built upon a Declivity; and the other where the *English* Flag is kept flying, is upon a rising Ground near the Sea. Further up in the Country there is a Hill resembling a Sugar-loaf, and high Mountains more remote. Ships that draw 12 Feet Water can go into *Vezagapatam* River (which has a Bar) at Spring-Tides. At low Water there is no less Depth upon the Bar than 5 or 6 Feet, but a very great Breach when the Wind blows upon the Shore. To the northward of the Forts, near the Water-side, there is a fine champaign Country, but to the southward the Land is high and mountainous.

*January* the 6th, we sailed from *Vizagapatam*, which we found to be in the Latitude of  $17^{\circ} 30''$  North. On the 13th we saw the high Land of *Pullecatt*; at that Place the *Dutch* have a Settlement which stands close to the Sea, where the Land is low, though mountainous in the Country behind it. The *Dutch* Fort at *Pullecatt* is about 6 Leagues to the northward of *Madaras*, where we anchored on the 17th, after having been till then detained by a strong Current setting to the Northward.

We found in the Road the *Harwich* Man of War of 50 Guns, with the Commodore's broad Pendant flying

flying on Board her. That Ship, with the *Winchester*, of the same Force, and then gone to *Bombay* on the Coast of *Malabar*, had lately arrived at *Madaras* from *England*, with a Convoy of several Companies Ships.

We took on Board a Supply of Stores and Provisions at *Madaras*, and on the 25th of *January* sailed from it to the Southward, in Company with the *Harwich* and *Dolphin*, which had joined us the Day before; having brought Provisions for the Squadron from *Bengal*.

*January* the 27th, we joined the *Deptford* off *Ponticherry*, the principal *French* Settlement in the *Indies*; of which I shall afterwards have occasion to take further Notice. With her and the other Ships we cruized there, and hindered all Vessels from touching at that Place, till the 1st of *February*, when the *Medway* and *Lively* came to us from *Madaras*. Soon after that the *Deptford* and *Dolphin* left us, and sailed from *Fort St. David's* with some of the Company's Ships under their Convoy for *England*.

*February* the 11th, the *Medway's* Prize joined the Squadron, with a further Supply of Provisions from *Bengal*.

*February* the 21st, the *Harwich* left us, and sailed to the Northward for *Madaras*, to take in a new Mainmast made for her there, and the other Ships of the Squadron anchor'd in *Fort St. David's* Road, where we remained 'till the 26th of *March* following, when the *Harwich* returned. A few Days after that, our Ship's Company, with the *Lovely's*, received their Prize-money for the *French* Ships and Sloops taken by us in *Ballasore* Road; of which a Foremast-man's Share was only 70 Ruppees, as one of the Ships called the *Chandernagor* (tho' since adjudged by the Court of Admiralty in *London*, on producing

ducing the Depositions made by some of the Officers of that Ship, before the Governor of *Madaras*, to have been a lawful *French* Prize) was delivered by Mr. *Bradyl*, the Governor of *Calcutta*, and our Joint-Agent with Mr. *Roswell*, Commodore *Barnett's* Secretary for these Prizes, but not at all empowered to act as he did, to some Moors, Merchants in *Bengal*, upon claiming the Ship as their Property, without doubt at the Instigation of the *French*, and threatening to stop our Company's Trade in the *Ganges*.

The *East-India* Directors, and *Bradyl's* Executors, who is since dead, upon Application being made to them, absolutely refuse giving any Satisfaction to the Captors for their Loss of that Ship, and in all Probability, they'll never get a Farthing for her, unless they gain an expensive Law-suit, which is altogether unlikely, on account of the Dispersion of all, and the Poverty of the greatest Part of them, as our Lawyers don't care for pleading for Clients that can't give them good Fees for their Trouble.

*March* the 28th, we sailed with the Squadron from *Fort St. David's*, and plied to the Southward, our Commodore having an Information from *Trinkebar*, of a *French* Ship's being there.

On the 30th, we anchor'd near the *Danish* Fort about 6 o' Clock in the Afternoon, and the *Medway's* Prize, and *Lively*, were sent in after it was dark, to attack the *French* Ship which lay under the Command of the Guns, ashore at that Place. The Captains of these Ships performed the Duty imposed upon them so effectually, altho' they were considerably damaged, both by the Shot from the *French* Ship, and the *Danish* Fort, that they obliged the *Frenchmen* to cut their Cable, and leave their Ship, when stranded. In the Morning we sent our Boats on board her, and took every Thing out of her that was

was worth moving, as there was no Possibility of getting her off, for she was bulged in several Places. We found her to be a *French* Ship, called the *Pontichery*, with no Cargo on board, and lately come from the Island of *Mauritius*. We left her lying stript of every Thing but her lower Masts close under the Walls of the *Danish* Fort. 'Till the 26th of *April*, we cruized with the Squadron between *Negapatam* and *Fort St. David's*, often finding great Difficulty in getting to the Southward, on account of a strong Current which set to the Northward, especially about *Calderon Point*, two Leagues to the Southward of *Porto Novo*.

On the 12th of that Month we burnt another small *French* Ship, which her Crew had run ashore, and left near *Caricall*. The *French* could not molest us by firing the Guns of their Fort at that Place, as it is situated near the Side of a small River, above half a Mile from the Sea, so that we kept close to the Ship, 'till she was burnt down to the Surface of the Water.

On the 2d of *May*, Mr. *Barnet*, our Commodore died at *Fort St. David's*, where he had been put ashore sick from the *Harwich*, a few Days before. Upon which Captain *Peyton* of the *Medway*, being the next eldest Officer, took the Command of the Squadron, which was join'd by the *Winchester* from *Bombay* on the 24th Instant. In a short Time after that we sail'd from *Fort St. David's* with all our Ships, and cruiz'd to the Southward till the 17th of *June*, when, after we had been plying between the Island of *Ceilon* and the Coast of *Coromandel*, without being able to get Sight of that Island, on account of fresh Gales of Wind we met with from the South Westward; we anchor'd in *Negapatam* Road, where we recruited our Water, and fish'd our Bowsprit, which was



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was sprung. On the 24th in the Morning, we saw 10 Sail of strange Ships to the Southward, and we immediately weighed with our Squadron, and steer'd towards them in a Line of Battle a-head. About Noon, we discover'd they were *French* Ships, *Negapatam* not in Sight, then bearing NW.bN. distance about 9 Leagues. In the Afternoon, we continued our Course towards them, lying to in a Line of Battle a-head under their Top-sails, to Leeward of us. Their Line consisted of 9 Ships, one of which we saw had about 70 Guns, and most of the others above 40 each, while our Line was made up of only 5 Ships, all of them wanting many of their Compliment of Men; and the *Medway* was so leaky as to keep both Chain Pumps constantly going. About Four o'Clock, Mr. *Peyton* made the Signal to engage the Enemy, and we being in the *Preston*, in the Van of our Squadron, leading on the Larboard Tack, and come up within Musket-shot of the Enemy's headmost Ships, began the Attack by discharging a Broadside into them. They immediately return'd their Fire upon us, while the Ships of our Squadron a-stern of us, closely engag'd their Center and Rear Ships, which, with those of their Van fill'd their Topsails, and stood on soon after the Engagement began, which oblig'd us to make as much Sail as enabled us to keep up with them. About Five, two of their headmost Ships, not any longer able to stand the Fire from us and the *Winchester*, next a-stern of us, bore away to Leeward out of the Line, in order to form again in the Rear. At Half an Hour after Five, when the Enemy's Van was got out of the Reach of our Shot, our Commodore made the Signal for the Van of our Squadron to tack first, which we did, and fir'd upon, and receiv'd the Fire of, all the Ships of the  
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Enemy's Squadron, as we pass'd to their Rear, while ours were standing on, and still engaging, in order to tack abreast of their Van. At Half an Hour after Six, our Ships were all tack'd, and we were then opposite to the Ship in the Enemy's Rear, which led on the other Tack, and we oblig'd her again to quit the Line of Battle, by the brisk Reception we gave her. At Three Quarters after Six, we all left firing, our Commodore thinking it most adviseable to discontinue the Engagement, while the Darknes of the Night might hinder us from seeing how to improve an Advantage gain'd, or from shunning an impending Danger from the Enemy, as we had great Reason to be cautious, on Account of their apparent Superiority, by the great Number of Men we saw they had on board, which would have been very serviceable to them in Case of boarding, as their Ships were all seemingly prepar'd for it, by having their Spritsail Yards fore and aft, while we had scarcely Men enough to work our great Guns, besides having our Ships to manage, after their Masts and Rigging had sustain'd great Damage, and several of our Men were kill'd and wounded in the Engagement. We kept Sight of the Enemy all Night, and were employ'd in knotting and splicing the Ropes as well as the Time would permit.

In the Morning the *French* were three Leagues to Leeward of us, steering to the Northward, under an easy Sail, for one of their Ships crippled by the Loss of a Maintopmast to keep up with the rest. They were then only 9 Ships, the 10th Ship, which was in Company with them the Day before, though not in the Line, because she was but small, having (as we afterwards were inform'd) proceeded in the Night with their wounded Men to *Pontichery*.

We continued to steer after them all that Day, but having little Wind, 'twas Night before we could get near them, and then an improper Time to renew an Engagement. We kept sight of them again during the first Part of it, but having, about Midnight, chas'd a Ship we saw to Windward, and thought was one of the *French*, tho' she proved to be a *Dane* bound to *Trinkebar*, when Day-light appeared, the *French* Squadron was not to be seen, being gone to the Northward; upon which, our Commodore considering the Strength of the Enemy, and the Damage the best of his Ships had suffered in the Action, as the *Harwich* had her Foremast very much wounded, and the *Medway* her Mainmast greatly damaged, besides being vastly leaky, thought it most for the Good of the Service not to hazard a second Engagement, as the Loss of our Squadron must have been attended with that of all the *English* Settlements in the *Indies*, and the Destruction of some other of His Majesty's Ships daily expected with a Convoy of Company's Ships from *England*: so that instead of pursuing the Enemy, whom it would have been impossible to get up with again, before they had reach'd *Pontichery*, we proceeded with our Squadron for *Trinkonomalle Bay*, at the Island of *Ceilon*, where we refitted our Ships, took in a Supply of Water, and tried in vain to find the *Medway's* Leak. This Bay, which is on the East Coast of the Island of *Ceilon*, in the Latitude of  $8^{\circ} 30^m$  North, is very large, as there are about two Leagues Distance between the Points that make the Entrance into it, and above four towards the Bottom of it; but there is in it very little Safety for Ships, except on the N. W. Side of it, where there is good Anchoring Ground for above a Hundred Sail, well shelter'd from the Sea by several small Islands,

Islands, and a Peninsula of the Continent of *Ceilon*; for in the Middle of the Bay the Depth of Water exceeds a Hundred Fathoms: And tho' Ships may anchor in tolerable good Ground, from 20 to 30 Fathom Water, all along the S. W. Side of the Bay, yet 'tis far from being safe to lie in, because it is quite exposed to the N. E. Wind, which heaves in a great Swell, during the Months of the Year in which it continues to blow with great Violence.

We continued at *Trinkonomalle* with our Squadron from the 2d till the 14th of *July*, and from that Time 'till the 7th of *August*, we cruized upon the Coast of *Ceilon*, where we retook from the *French* an *English* Country Ship, which they had surprized on the Coast of *Mozambique*. We sent her to *Bengal*, to be disposed of, and then bore away for the Coast of *Coromondell*, with a full Intention to have attack'd the *French* Squadron, if not stronger than when we saw them first: We got Sight of them off *Negapatam*, and form'd our Line of Battle for engaging them, but when we were got within half a Mile of them, lying too in a Line to Leeward of us, consisting of eight Ships, we discover'd them all to have a Teer of Guns between Decks, which few of them had when we engaged them before; for (as we were afterwards told) they had been had at *Pontichery*, where they had cleared and fortified their Ships. As they were thus by far too strong for us, it would have been Rashness for us to have risked another Engagement with them in that Situation, therefore we haul'd the Wind again with our Squadron, and made Sail from the *French*, who stood after us for some Time, but were obliged to leave off the Pursuit, on account of some of their Ships going very badly.

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We cruized on the Coast of *Ceylon* with our Ships, 'till the 17th of *August*, expecting daily a Reinforcement of Ships from *England*, and with them to go and drive the Enemy off the Coast, or destroy them, when we were informed by the Captain of a *Dutch* Ship come from *Point-de-Galle*, a Port at the S. W. Point of the Island of *Ceylon*, that on the 29th of *July*, ten Ships, with *English* Colours flying, had passed that Place, sailing to the Northward. We reasonably supposed that these were our Ships from *England*, and that they were gone to *Madaras*; we immediately bore away to the Northward, and on the 22d Instant fell in with *Pullecatt*, where Mr. *Peyton* sent his Boat ashore, and had Information, that no Ships had lately arrived at *Madaras*, except those of the *French* Squadron, which had been there, and were at that Time only a few Leagues to Windward of it. Then we concluded, that the Account the *Dutchman* gave us near *Ceylon* was false, and our Commodore, with the Captains under his Command, consulted in a Council of War on board the *Medway*, where 'twas resolved upon, as most proper, to go with our Squadron to *Bengal*, as we were much in want of Provisions, and could be of no further Service on the Coast, where the *French* had so much superior Force.

We took in Pilots from the Sloops in *Ballasore* Road, and arrived in the River *Houghly*, with all our Ships, on the first of *September*, where we lay at *Culpee*, a Place in the River, about 15 Leagues below *Calcutta*, the principal *English* Settlement in these Parts, from which our Squadron was supplied with Rice, Bread, Arrack, &c. Our *East-India* Company has a Fort at *Calcutta*, which was built soon after the Revolution, and called *Fort William*, but 'tis far from being considerable for Strength, as it

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has few Guns, except such as are on a Platform towards the River's Side, where the Governor's House is. It is a large and spacious Building, near which there are many convenient Lodgings for Factors and Writers belonging to the Company, with Storehouses for their Goods, and Magazines for their Ammunition.

The Garrison of *Fort William* generally consists of 3 or 400 Men, chiefly for conveying their Boats from *Patna*, a Place on the *Ganges*, in Lat. 26. 00 N. with the Company's Saltpetre, and Bale Goods; for there are many troublesome Rajahs, or tributary Princes to the Mogul, whose Territories lie on the Banks of the *Ganges*, between *Patna* and *Cazambazar* (another Place above *Calcutta*, where our Company has a Factory) who pretend to tax all Goods and Merchandize that pass by or through their Dominions; and often raise Forces to compel Payment, but some Soldiers from *Calcutta*, in Boats, generally clear the Passage, tho' there are frequently some of our Men killed in the Skirmishes.

Besides the Company's Trade from *Bengal*, which is very considerable, as they commonly have five or six Ships sent home to *England* Yearly with the Commodities of that Country, there are many private *English* Merchants settled at *Calcutta*, who have several Sail of large Country Ships, with which they trade to most Places in the *Indies*. There are likewise many *Armenian* Merchants, with not a few *Portuguese*, *Moors*, and *Gentows*, who live in the Town, and deal very largely in the Mercantile way.

In *Calcutta* the *English* have a Church, as likewise have all those who differ from them in Religion, Places of publick Worship.

The Town is of large Extent, as almost every House in it has a Garden; but it has no Wall about

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it, and is quite open for the Tygers, and other wild Beasts, which come sometimes and devour People at Night in the Streets; for that Country all along the Banks of the *Ganges* is over-run with these destructive Animals, and I was told, that whole Villages are frequently depopulated in *Bengal*, by them destroying the Inhabitants, who are notwithstanding very expert in killing the Tygers, by setting for them Traps with poisoned Arrows, fix'd in such a Manner, as to go off with great Force, when touch'd in the Ways they know they are to pass. For at whatever Place these Creatures catch any Prey, they are sure not to be gone from it entirely, but return again when Night comes, which is the common Time for them to make their Appearance; and then either to do more Mischief, or are prevented from ever having it again in their Power, as above.

An Instance of this I saw when we lay at *Culpee*, for one of the Seamen belonging to the *Winchester* taking a Walk in the Fields, near the Village, which is up a small Creek called *Rogues River*, about half a Mile from where our Ships were, was seized upon by one of these rapacious Animals, which after sucking out the Blood left the mangled Body in the same Place, from whence it was taken the next Day and buried. Some of the Country People set the Arrow-Trap to kill the Tyger returning; and they were not disappointed, for that same Night the Creature came, without doubt expecting to be as successful as in the former; but happening to touch the Trap, laid for him, was killed immediately, being shot through the Side. After which, the dead Carcase was brought into the Village in great Triumph by the black Fellows, who had a Reward, which is allowed by the Annobol for every one that is destroyed. *Bengal* is by far the richest Country in the

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the Dominions of the Great Mogul, which extend from the River *Indus* to the Eastward of the *Ganges*, and lie between the 10th and 36th Degree of North Latitude; both by the great Quantities of the many rich Commodities it produces, and the great Fertility of its Soil in some Places, where the Ground is cultivated, (as 'tis mostly covered with Woods, which are full of wild Beasts) and brings forth in Plenty, all Sorts of Grain, Herbs, and Roots we have in *Europe*.

The Annobob or Governor of *Bengal*, who commonly resides at *Patna*, is generally of the Royal Blood of the Moguls, but he who held that Post when we were in the *Ganges* was an Usurper, who not many Years ago turned out him that was put in by the Mogul, and held the Government of that rich Country, unconcerned about being molested by his lawful Sovereign, who had it not in his Power to dispossess him by Force. The Grand Mogul, at that Time, was the same who was conquered by *Kouli Kan* in the Year 1738, and minded nothing but the Pleasures of his Court and Seraglio; so that his Annobobs or Governors of Provinces, in that vastly extensive Empire had little to fear from being called to an Account for any Mismanagement in their Governments. The established Religion in *Bengal* is the *Mahometan*, but as its Inhabitants were all *Pagans* till conquered by the *Moors*, about three hundred Years ago, there are still many more Idolaters than of any other Sect whatsoever.

While we lay in *Houghly River*, about the End of *September*, we had an Account that *Madaras* was taken by the *French*, under the Command of *Monf. La Bourdonne*, the Commodore of their Squadron, and Governor of *Mauritius*, who landed about 2000 Men to attack the Place by

Land,

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Land, while his Ships cannonaded it. He took it without meeting with much Resistance, as it was far from being in a Situation for making a good Defence, as I have already taken Notice.

*La Bourdonné* likewise took at *Madaras* the *Princess Mary*, a Company's Ship, which he found in the Road, the Governor having taken the Crew out of her to help to defend the Town, which was altogether defenceless; when they might have saved their Ship by going to *Bengal*, or the opposite Coast, as they knew very well that the *French* had superior Force upon the Coast long before they appeared off *Fort St. George*; where about a Month after the *French* took Possession of the Place, their Squadron was greatly damaged in a Storm which overtook them at Anchor in the Road. They lost two Ships, with all their Men, several *English* Prisoners, and a great Quantity of valuable Effects which they had taken in there; and the other Ships with great Difficulty were saved with the Loss of their upper Deck Guns and all their Masts. *Mons. La Bourdonné* with that scattered Squadron, having on board the Spoils of the Place, soon after sailed for *Mauritius*, a small Island, which with another not many Leagues from it, called *Don Mascarin*, both to the Eastward of *Madagascar* about 100 Leagues, belongs to the *French*, and left *Madaras* under the Direction of *Mons. Duplex* the Governor of *Ponticherry*, who kept it in Possession, in Spight of an Agreement made for its being immediately restored to the *English* between them and *La Bourdonné*.

It may seem strange, that the *French* should wage War with Impunity in the Dominions of such a nominally mighty Monarch as the *Grand Mogul*, 'till 'tis consider'd, that, for the Reasons I have already given, his Subjects were then little influenc'd by his Authority.

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Authority. His Annobobs being almost constantly at War with one another, each striving to be more powerful than his Neighbour. On the same Account *Nazam Almullock*, who was Prime Minister and Generalissimo to the *Mogul*, when *Kouli Kan* plunder'd their Capital City of *Dellbi*, having intestine Broils and Discords to compose amongst his own Countrymen, was not at all well provided to hinder the Undertakings of the *French* in the Territories of his Government, which was very extensive, and comprehended all the vast Track of Land which goes under the Names of the Coasts of *Coromondell*, *Golconda*, and *Orixa*.

He indeed made some Show of opposing them, and sent an Army of about 6000 *Moors* for that Purpose, who encamp'd near *Madaras* not long after 'twas taken, which the *French*, flush'd with their late Success against the *English*, and knowing what contemptible Fellows they now had to deal with, as their Enemies, made a great Slaughter of, having routed and put them intirely to Flight.

Immediately after, the *French* took and plunder'd the *Moors* Town of *St. Thomé*, which is about two Miles to the Southward of *Madaras*. These Losses induc'd *Nazam* to clap up a Peace with the *French*, whom he could not deprive of what they had got by unlawful Conquest.

Having already shewn how little Regard was then paid to the *Mogul*, on Account of his Pusillanimity and inactive Disposition, I shall now take Notice of the excellent Properties of the Country, together with the immense Wealth possess'd by the *Mogul* Emperors, and their Subjects, which, as their Power is absolute, might render these Monarchs not only capable of curbing their rebellious People, and commanding Respect and Obedience, wherever they should

should think proper to exert their Authority throughout their extensive Dominions, but make them very formidable to the neighbouring Princes, whose Territories are bounded by theirs.

*Tamerlane*, the Founder of the present Empire of the *Indies*, was descended from a Race of the *Tartars*, call'd *Monguls*, or *Moguls*, inhabiting the Southern Parts of *Great Tartary*. From them the Emperors, Successors to that famous Conqueror, have taken the Name of *Grand Mogul* for above these three Centuries past, during which Time, that Family of *Tartars* has possess'd the Throne of *Indostan*. This Empire is compos'd of 32 Provinces, (or rather Kingdoms, each of which is as large as *France*) which are sovereignly govern'd by their respective Annobobs, and being immensely rich, pay vast Tributes to the *Mogul*, who receives yearly large Quantities of Diamonds, and other precious Stones from *Golconda*, and has, as I have been inform'd, 400 Oxen, laden with Ruppees and Gold Coin, sent him as the annual Tribute of *Bengal*; from which one may form a Judgment of the inexhaustible Riches of that Empire, which has been reckon'd, for many Years past, as a Gulph that swallows up great Part of the Treasure of the Universe, as some Gold, and a very great Quantity of the Silver, dug out of the Mines by the *Spaniards* in *America*, after having been current for some time in *Europe*, comes to terminate its Circulation, and be lock'd up for ever in the *Mogul's* Dominions, where the Inhabitants can easily dispense with the Want of all the other Productions of the rest of the World, as the Soil of their Country, bringing forth in Abundance the Necessaries of Life, furnishes them, by their Industry, all Sorts of Conveniencies in great Plenty. Besides which, Nature seems to afford them the Means of acquiring

acquiring the greatest Wealth and Opulence by their inestimable Mines of Diamonds, &c. and vast Products of Silk, Cotton, and other valuable Commodities. So that it may be easily perceiv'd, that the *Mogul's* Subjects stand very little in Need of the Assistance or Supplies of Strangers, who, on the contrary, flock to the *Indies*, to furnish themselves with the Merchandizes they want, where the People of the Country only barter their own Manufactures, &c. with them, for such *European*, and other Goods as they chuse to take, which coming far short of the Consumption that is made of the Effects purchased there by Foreigners, who pay for the Over-balance in nothing but Money, it follows, that the Coin of other Nations finds many Ways to enter, tho' few or none to return from the *Indies*; and still more so, because the *Moguls* take Care to draw towards themselves the greatest Part of that Money, to be heaped up, and buried in their vast subterraneous Repositories, which few People know any thing of. From these Hoards they never take any out, but for the most urgent Necessities of the State, and they always chuse rather to burden their Subjects with a Continuance of heavy Taxes, than to bring forth to the Light, or make the least Use of their accumulated Wealth. The *Grandees* dispose of the Riches they do not spend in the same Manner, and even the common People hide in the Earth whatever Sums they can scrape together by their Industry and Labour, to which they are all, very probably, not a little induced, by a superstitious Belief, greatly prevailing all over the *East-Indies*, that after Death their Souls pass into other Bodies, and that in the Time of Necessity and Want they will then find a Resource in the Riches they have buried before their Transmigration.

In the Beginning of *December* 1746, Commodore *Griffin*, in the *Princess Mary*, with the *Pearl Man of War*, the one of 60, and the other of 40 Guns, arriv'd at the Mouth of the *Ganges* from *England*.

Having continued in the River with our Ships, for the refitting of the *Medway*, 'till the 18th of *February* 1747, we then all sail'd, under the Command of Commodore *Griffin*, for *Fort St. David's*, where we arriv'd on the 2d of *March*. We found that Place had been so closely besieg'd by some *French* Forces detach'd from the Garrison of *Pontichery*, who had immediately left it, and retir'd precipitately in Disorder to their own Bounds, as soon as they saw our Squadron appear in Sight to the Southward of the Fort, that it could not have held out above two Days longer without being reliev'd.

From the 2d of *March* 'till the 19th of *September*, the Commodore continued at Anchor with his Ship the *Princess Mary*, near *Fort St. David's*, and during all that Time, kept *Pontichery* and *Madras* constantly block'd up by the other Ships of the Squadron.

*September* the 20th, we sail'd from *Fort St. David's* with the Squadron, and anchor'd off *Madaras*, where we found the *Pearl* cruising.

On the 23d Instant, we saw two Ships in *Madaras* Road, which lay close under the Guns of the Fort. One of them we knew to be a *French* Ship called the *Neptune*, which had been disabled from going along with *La Bourdonné* to *Mauritius*, by the Storm; and the other was the *Princess Amelia*, one of our Company's Ships, which the *French* had taken by Surprise there, not long before our Squadron came upon the Coast from *Bengal*. That same Day some random Shot were exchanged between some of our Ships, and the *French* from their Ships and the Shore, without

without any Damage being done to either Side, as we kept too far off to do Execution, and did not care to go any nearer, lest our Ships should be disabled in their Masts, and render'd unfit to keep the Sea during the N. E. Monsoon, at that Time about to commence. In the following Night we mann'd and arm'd most of the Boats of the Squadron, and the Absence of the Moon's Light favouring their Approach, boarded and set Fire to the *Neptune*, a 50 Gun Ship, on board which we found no Body, except a few Blacks; for the *French* had got off in Boats, as the Ship was not above 100 Yards from the Beach, as soon as they heard the Noise of the Boats Oars coming towards them. She burnt down to the Surface of the Water, and sunk in the Offing, the same Day about Noon.

We would likewise have attempted to board the *Princess Amelia*, but found our setting Fire to the other Ship, had so alarm'd the *French*, as they fired very hot both from her and the Shore, tho' without doing any Damage to the Boats, the Shot going over them, that it would have been Rashness to have gone along-side of her, whom we might well suppose to find them prepared for our Reception.

*September* the 25th, we weigh'd from *Madaras*, and stood out to Sea with the Squadron, as 'twas dangerous, at that Time of the Year, to be near the Coast any longer, on account of the N. E. Monsoon's beginning to set in.

'Till the 23d of *October*, we continued with the Squadron, plying mostly out of Sight of Land, with the Wind from the North Eastward, when the Current setting to the Southward, had drove us as far down as the Coast of *Ceilon*, where we had strong Gales of Wind, and squally Weather, which parted our Ship from the Commodore and the rest in the

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Night, and not knowing which Way the Wind and Current had carried them; besides, fearing to be forced into the Ocean by the great Impetuosity of the Current setting out of the Bay of *Bengal*, we proceeded in the *Preston* for *Trinkonomalle Bay*, where we arrived on the 20th Instant. We found the *Harwich* had got in there the Day before us, and that same Day the *Winchester* and *Bombay Castle*, a Company's Ship, came into the Bay.

Soon after our Arrival at *Trinkonomalle*, the *Harwich* and *Bombay Castle* hove down along side of our Ship, in a Cove between two small Islands, which are called *Dwarfsandwecht* and Company's Island, and are about an hundred Yards distant from each other.

On the 2d of *December* our Commodore, in the *Princess Mary*, with the *Pearl*, came into the Bay, after having kept at Sea till then, mostly between *Madaras* and *Fort St. David's*, and had much bad Weather.

On the 11th of the same Month, the *Medway* came in with a Jury Foremast up, and otherwise in a very shattered Condition, having drove from her Anchors in a Storm out of *Fort St. David's Road*, lost her Foremast and Topmasts, and been in imminent Danger of being swallowed up with all her Crew. She hawl'd into the Cove, and the *Medway's* Prize, which arrived in the Bay a few Days before the *Princess Mary* and *Pearl*, hove down along side of her.

In a short time after that an unlucky Accident happened ashore near the Town of *Trinkonomalle*, where above a hundred Barrels of Powder belonging to the Ships of the Squadron, at a House where it was to be sifted and cleaned, blew up by the Carelessness of some of the Men that were at work. Three of them were

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were tore to pieces, and several others very much scorched by the sudden Explosion that was made.

*January* the second, the Commodore, and all the other Ships of the Squadron except ours, the *Medway*, and *Medway's* Prize, sailed from *Trinkonomalle*, where they took in a Supply of Wood and Water, for the Coast of *Coromondell*.

A few Days after that the *Medway's* Prize being hove down, likewise proceeded for the Coast: then we careened our Ship by the *Medway*, and repaired what we could of her Bottom; but did not get the principal Leak at her Keel stopped, as the Water she made, when down, settled her so fast, as to oblige us to right her in a very short time, so that we continued to pump once every two Hours, after all we could do to make her tight.

The Island of *Ceilon*, supposed by some to be the *Ophir* of *Solomon*, and the *Taparobane* of the Antients, is governed by its own King, who resides at *Candea*, the Capital of his Dominions, which is about 150 Miles up in the Country from *Trinkonomalle*; but he cannot be called a powerful and independent Monarch, as all the Places that have Harbours are in the Possession of the *Dutch*, who about an hundred Years ago took them from the *Portuguese*, and ever since that time have kept them, with the whole Trade of the Island, intirely in their own Hands. *Colombo* is their chief Settlement in it, and their Governor there has Command over those of the other Factories belonging to them in that Island, and on the Coast of *Coromondell*.

In general the Soil of this Island is very fertile, but by not being cultivated in many places, produces only a sufficient Quantity of Rice for the Subsistence of its Inhabitants, who employ great Part of their Time in hunting, as the Woods which grow all over



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over it abound in plenty of wild Beasts of all Sorts, and especially in Elephants, which, if Credit is to be given of the People of that Country, are more sagacious than, and are respected by the other Animals of the same Species, which are propagated elsewhere.

The *Palmero*, or Coco-nut Trees, famous for their great Use in many Parts of the World, grow in *Ceilon*. They are very high and erect, and have their Branches, which are but few, and very small, with large Leaves, commonly used in covering Houses, growing out near the Tops of them. The Fruit or Cocoa-nuts being, with the Rind taken from them, about the Bigness of Ostrich's Eggs, grows at the Ends of the Branches, close to the Trunk of the Tree, where they hang in Clusters much in the same manner as Grapes.

The Coco-nuts are covered with a thick sort of Rind, while they hang to the Trees, which has its Outside green and smooth; but when the Fruit is ripe, and gathered in the Rind becomes stringy, somewhat like Hemp, tho' of a different Colour, being of a dusky red: it is used for making running Rigging and Cables for all the Ships and Vessels in the *East-Indies*. When the Nut is ripening, it is full of a clear sort of Water, which is very sweet and refreshing, one Nut containing about half a Pint of it. This Liquor, as the Fruit grows quite ripe, is changed by Degrees into small white Particles, which, joined together, make a hard sort of Kernel, which sticks close to the Inside of the Shell, and is very good eating, having a Taste not much unlike to that of our common Hazle Nuts in *Europe*, tho' somewhat sweeter and harder.

The *Ceylonese*, and others, rear up great Quantities of these Trees, not only for the sake of the Co-

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co Nuts, but likewise on account of extracting from them a pleasant Liquor called Toddy, which they draw by cutting off the Blossoms from which the Coco Nuts grow, and tying at the Place where they have made the Hole an earthen Pot, with its Mouth closely shut round with Clay, to hinder the Air from getting in. This Pot is soon filled, if applied in a proper Time with the above Liquor, which must be immediately drank after it is taken from the Tree; for if let stand above an Hour, especially in the Heat of the Sun, it becomes sour, and is then very good Vinegar; for which reason, when it is wanted for present Use, it is commonly extracted in the Morning and Evening.

This Liquor and Rice are two of the principal Ingredients in the Composition of which the Arrack made at *Batavia*, and other Places, consists.

Such vast Quantities of Coco Nut Trees grow in the *Maldiva* Islands, which are not far from *Ceilon*, that many Ships from *Bengal*, and other Places, lade there yearly with Cayer, which is the Name of the Rind of the Shell. From these Islands likewise is brought the greatest Part of the small Shells call'd *Cowries*, which pass current for Money, at the Rate of about 40 lb. Weight for a Ruppee, in several Countries in the *Indies*, and are sent home to *England* in our Company's Ships, to be traffick'd with very advantageously in the *Guinea* Trade. *Ceilon* is likewise famous for having the best Cinnamon in the World, growing in its Woods. It is the Bark of a Tree not very large, which has its Leaves resembling, in Colour and Shape, those of the Laurel, and of a most agreeable Smell. When the Cinnamon is first taken from the Tree, 'tis flat, and commonly double, and has little Smell or Taste; but being laid out to dry with the Heat of the Sun, it

twists

twists or forms itself like a Stick or Cane, as we see most of it in Pieces is, when brought to *Europe*.

On the 29th of *January*, our Ship being still at *Trinkonomalle*, the *Benjamin*, a Company's Ship, came into the Bay, with a Supply of Bread, Arrack, and other Provisions for us, which were most acceptable, and came very opportunely for our Ship's Company, as they had had nothing issued out to them, besides Salt, Meat, and Rice, for several Weeks before that.

On the 7th of *February*, leaving the *Medway* to be repair'd at *Trinkonomalle*, where we took on board a good Stock of Fire-Wood and Water, we sail'd for *Fort St. David's*, where we arriv'd on the 12th Instant, and found the Squadron was lately join'd by the *Exeter*, *York*, and *Eltham* Men of War from *England*. The first of these Ships was then gone with the *Winchester* on a Cruize to the Coast of *Malabar*, from whence she return'd in *May*, having left the *Winchester* to be hove down at *Bombay*.

We continued with the Squadron at Anchor near *Fort St. David's*, the Commodore only keeping one Ship off *Ponticherry*, and another cruizing off *Negapatam*, till the 9th of *June*, when about 10 o'Clock at Night, the *Lively* which had been cruizing to the Southward, made the Night Signal for discovering strange Ships, and at 11 on her anchoring in the Road she informed us, that she had been that Day chas'd off of *Negapatam* by nine Sail of large Ships, who had almost got up with her, and that by their Appearance and Signals she judg'd them to be Enemies Ships of War. At half an Hour after 5 in the Morning, on the 10th, C— G— loos'd his Foretops with the rest of the Squadron, and made the Signal for the *Harwich*, then lying about 4 Leagues to the Northward off *Ponticherry*

to join the Squadron. About One o'Clock eight Ships and a Sloop appeared in Sight, coming down to us from the Southward. At half an Hour after Two we could see some of their Hulls; four of them look'd like Line of Battle Ships, one seem'd bigger than the rest, two like our Company's Ships, and one very small. At Three the Signal was made for a Council of War, and as 'twas talk'd some Time after the Affair was over, the Debates in it held so long that the Members seem'd much concern'd at the Enemy's drawing so near; and no Conclusion being made or Preparation to engage, at half an Hour past Four the Enemy shortened Sail, and at the same Time made several Signals, by which we knew them to be *French*. They brought to in a Line of Battle, with their Heads to the Eastward, about 3 Leagues Distance from us. At the Breaking up of the Council of War 'twas concluded by every body in our Ships, from the Orders their Captains gave when they came on board from the C—, that it had been resolv'd upon to proceed to Sea immediately, and the C— loos'd his Maintopsail; but why he did not get under Sail with the Squadron, I cannot answer. The *Harwich* was then coming into the Road with a large Wind, and as her Officers said, could have lain up with the Enemy; but her Signal was kept flying till she anchored at 5 o'Clock. We had three exceeding good sailing Vessels in the Road, viz. the *Lively*, *Lapwing*, and *Swift Snow*; but none of them were sent out to endeavour to keep Sight of the Enemy's Ships, which tack'd at 6 o'Clock, being then about two Leagues from us, and stood under their Topsails to the Southward. Between Six and Seven the C— furl'd his Topsails, and made the Signals for some of the Captains to advise what was

best to be done, in order to keep Sight of the Enemy, and 'twas propos'd to send out some of the small Vessels to observe their Motions; but nothing was determin'd upon, except a private Signal to anchor without Guns. We had the Wind between the S. E. and S. from the Time that the *French* Ships began to appear, till soon after 'twas dark, when it came about to the Westward of South, and continued to blow off the Land all Night. At One o' Clock in the Morning on the 11th the C— weigh'd and stood to the N. E. under an easy Sail, as did his Majesty's Ships *Exeter, York, Harwich, Preston, Medway's Prize, and Lively*; the *Winchelsea* and *Bombay Castle* Company's Ships. The C— intended, as I suppose, to have cut off the *French* Ships from getting into *Ponticherry* Road, if they had been complaisant enough to stay for us so long, but our great Precaution prov'd ineffectual, for when Day-light came we saw no Enemy; for they had proceeded to the Northward for *Madaras*, as soon as it was dark. From 6 in the Morning till 4 in the Afternoon we all lay fast at Anchor, in 19 Fathom Water, about 3 Leagues from *Ponticherry*, when a Signal was made for a Council of War, in which it was agreed, to go to *Madaras*; but by an unfortunate Delay the Enemy had been there, landed a considerable Reinforcement of Men, Money, and Stores, and sail'd again from thence the 12th at Day-light.

I shall not pretend to say, how far Mr. G— is blameable for his Management in this Affair, as it is to be examined before a Court Martial, where he will have an Opportunity of answering the Charge brought against him for it: Yet till then I shall be at a Loss to determine, why we did not get under Sail with our Squadron, when the Enemy was so near;

near; as it may be seen, that we had Force enough to fight the *French*, by comparing the Strength of the two Squadrons, according to the following exact Lists.

*The English Squadron in Fort St. David's Road.*

	Men.	Guns.
Princess Mary	415	60
Exeter	400	60
York	400	60
Harwich	300	50
Preston	300	50
Medway's Prize	200	38
Winchelsea	200	32
Bombay Castle	200	32
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Lively Frigate  
Lapwing, and 2 Snows, for Tenders.  
*In the Road without Rudders, which were repairing a shore.*

Pearl	250	40
Eltham	250	40

*French Ships off Fort St. David's.*

Centaur	600	70
Lys	600	64
Mars	450	54
Anglesea	350	40
Apollo	450	50
Brilliant	350	40
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	2800	318

Princess Amelia Hospital Ship  
Sybil Frigate  
A Dutch Sloop, taken off *Ceilon*.

Though we could not propose to ourselves to get up with the Enemy in the Afternoon, by getting under Sail with our Squadron, when they were not above 3 Leagues from us, as they were to Windward of us, by having the Sea Breeze from the S. E. yet, in my humble Opinion, we should then have begun to pursue them, as in all Probability we would have been able to keep sight of them all Night, by the Help of our small Frigates, which sail'd vastly well, and got up with some, if not all of them next Day, by the Assistance of the Land Wind, which is known to blow Part of every 24 Hours on that Coast, during the S. W. Monsoon, and did actually blow all that very Night and next Morning. And if we had not been lucky enough to come up with any of them, we might, at least, have chas'd them entirely off the Coast, and disappointed them in their Design of supplying *Ponticherry*; which, if we had done, Mr. *Boscawen* would have stood a fairer Chance of taking that Place, when he arriv'd with that Intent soon after.

Having got under Sail with our Squadron, when 'twas dark we proceeded to the Northward for *Mandaras*, which we got Sight of the 12th in the Afternoon, but came too late to find the *French* Ships there; for they had sail'd about 10 Hours before we appear'd off that Place, and left only one of their small Ships at Anchor, close under the Guns of the Fort. Upon which the C— dispatch'd the *Lively* and one of the *Snows*, to warn the *English* Governors at *Vizagatam*, and in *Bengal*, to be upon their Guard against the *French* Ships which had escap'd him. We ply'd to Windward again with our Ships, and anchored in *Fort St. David's* Road on the 24th Instant, where we were inform'd, that the *French* from *Ponticherry* had made an Attempt to surprize

surprize the Garrison of *Cuddalore*; but were oblig'd to retreat with some Loss, while we were gone to the Northward.

July 27th, Admiral *Boscawen* arriv'd at *Fort St. David's*, with a Squadron of Men of War, and several Company's Ships, which had 1200 Soldiers on board, having brought that Force with him from *England* to besiege *Ponticherry*. Accordingly, on the 30th, these Troops were landed, as were the next Day all the Marines of his own and Mr. *Griffin's* Squadrons, who all encamp'd near the Garden House, about a Mile and a half from the Fort. August the 10th all the Artillery Stores were got ashore, and the Army under the Command of Mr. *Boscawen* began their March towards *Ponticherry*, consisting of 2500 Foot, and 80 Horse, *Europeans*; (the Horse, with about 300 of the Foot, being Part of the Company's Garrison at *Fort St. David's*) and about 1600 Peons and Sea-pies, which are *Indians* that bear Arms in the Company's Service, with 1600 Coolies, or black Porters, to supply the place of Waggons. The next Day after the Army decamp'd; the Fleet, consisting of ten Ships of the Line, a Bomb-ketch, &c. fell down, and anchored off in sight of them, on their March to *Ariocopang*, a Fort of 12 Guns, in possession of the *French*, and commanding the Passage of a River, which must be ford'd to get to *Ponticherry*, being about four Miles to the Southward of that Place: so that the Reduction of that Fort was of great Consequence, as well to cover their Passage over the River, as for keeping a Communication open with the Army and *Fort St. David's*. The next Day a Detachment of Foot, supported by the Grenadiers of the Army, attacked the Fort, but were repuls'd, with the Loss of 30 Men killed and wounded. Mr. *Boscawen* found by that

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that Repulse, that it would be impracticable to take the Fort without battering Cannon; and there being none with the Army, he ordered two to be got ashore that Evening from the Squadron, and next Morning 1100 Seamen were put ashore. They had been well disciplined in the Firelock and Grenade Exercise, and were formed into eleven Companies, under the Command of their own Officers, Lieutenants being as Captains, and Midshipmen as Lieutenants and Ensigns. The whole Battalion was commanded by a Captain of a 20 Gun Ship as Colonel.

August the 16th, the Trenches were opened before *Ariocopang*. The 18th the Approaches were carried on nearer the Fort, which the Enemy perceiving on the Morning of the 19th, made a Sally of almost the whole Garrison, but were beat back with Loss; tho' they took a Major and Captain belonging to Mr. *Boscawen*, thro' the Indiscretion of his Men. In the Height of the Skirmish, a Battery, which the Enemy had thrown up on the opposite Side of the River, and greatly discommoded our Men, blew up by Accident, and killed 48 Men, with the Officer that commanded them. Those in *Ariopang*, seeing that, and fearing their Retreat might be cut off from *Pontichery*, our Lines being all under Arms on their March towards them to make a general Storm, quitted the Fort, and passed the River under the Cover of their own Guns, leaving only a few Men to make a Shew of Defence, and to protect the main Body's Retreat. These likewise quitted the Fort as soon as the others had got safe over the River, and blew up the Bastion that faced it, to prevent our turning its Guns upon themselves.

Our Forces immediately took Possession of the Fort, but the Garrison, by that time, had all pass'd the

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the River, and got safe under the Cannon of *Pontichery*.

August the 23d, our Camp mov'd under the Walls of *Ariocopang*, and lay there three or four Days for the Army to refresh, in which Time the Fort was repair'd by the Coolies. A small Garrison being left in *Ariocopang*, the Army then mov'd on towards *Pontichery*, and encamp'd three Miles to the NW. of it, having an open Communication both with *Fort St. David's*, and the Squadron which was at Anchor to the Northward of the Town.

August the 29th, our Men open'd the Trenches before the Town, and began their Approaches.

The 31st, the Garrison made a Salley, but were beat back with the Loss of 100 Men by their own Account. On our Side, a Captain, with a few private Men, were kill'd and wounded.

September the 4th, our Peons intercepted and brought into the Camp 103 French Prisoners, who were coming from *Mabé*, a Settlement they have on the Coast of *Malabar*, to reinforce the Garrison of *Pontichery*.

September the 9th, our Men rais'd two small Batteries, which silenc'd two mud Batteries the Enemy had thrown up on the Flanks of our Works, and kill'd a great many Men belonging to Mr. *Boscawen*, who having carried on his Entrenchments as far as he thought requisite, and, indeed, as far as he could well do, on account of a standing Water which he had in his Front, began to erect Blinds for his Batteries, but for Want of a greater Number of Men, and the heavy Rains, then beginning to fall, quite filling his Trenches by the Lands being so low, and the incessant Fire of Shot and Shells from the Town hindering not a little, it was the 25th before his Batteries were finish'd: In the Interim little happen'd,

worth Notice, except a Skirmish or two, near the Water-side, between the Enemy and some Parties of ours, bringing up Stores landed from the Ships, in which several Men were kill'd on both Sides.

September the 25th, our Men unmask'd two Batteries, one of 8; and another of 4 Guns, 24 Pounders each, which, with the Bomb Batteries, where they had 30 Mortars, great and small, mounted, began to play on two Bastions, and the Citadel of the Town. The Bomb Ketch likewise, which came out with the Squadron, had kept an incessant Fire from the Time of their first opening the Trenches.

The 27th, Admiral *Boscawen's* Squadron warp'd in near the Bastions of the Town, and kept a continual Fire all Day, which oblig'd the Enemy to quit their Guns, so that they did the Ships little or no Damage, but on the Land the Army did not succeed so well, for the Enemy's Fire being greatly superior to ours, kill'd a great many of our Men, and dismounted several of our Guns, the *French* having thrown up mud Batteries on the Glacis of the Town, and mounted a great many Guns on the Curtain between the Bastions; and though our Shot knock'd down most of the Merlons of two Bastions, and dismounted the Guns, yet the Enemy soon fired them from thence again, making use of Cotton Bags, &c. to supply the Place of Merlons. Their Walls were so thick, that our Guns made no Breach, tho' they were fired incessantly for upwards of a Week, our Batteries being at too great a Distance to batter in Breach, especially such Walls as they had to deal with. And there being, as I said before, a standing Water in their Front, 150 Yards over, our Men could have no dry Ground to raise Batteries on that Side of the Town, unless they carried on their Approaches, another Way, to the very Glacis of *Pontichery*,

*ichery*, which Mr. *Boscawen* thought to be a Work of great Difficulty and Hazard, especially in the Condition his Men were in, scarce one of them being free from the Flux, and great Numbers were sent to the Hospital at *Fort St. David's*. 'Twas therefore thought impossible to reduce the Town that Season, the NE. Monsoon being set in, and the Rains then falling very heavy, which greatly harass'd the Besiegers, who were so weaken'd by Deaths and Sickness, that some were oblig'd to be on Duty for two or three Days together, and those that mounted Guard in the Trenches, were forced to stand up to the Breach in Water.

Accordingly, *October* the 4th, Mr. *Boscawen*, after doing with them all that Men could do, order'd all the Guns, Mortars, Ammunition, &c. to be brought from the Batteries, and burnt the Platforms, and such Carriages as were render'd useless; and next Morning having shipp'd off every Thing in Safety, the Battalion of Seamen imbark'd. The Day after that, the whole Camp mov'd in great Order towards *Fort St. David's*, having blown up *Ariocopang*, where they arriv'd next Day, without meeting with any Thing, worth Notice, to obstruct their March, after having between 3 and 400 Men kill'd at the Siege; and the *French* lost, according to their own Accounts, a greater Number.

*Pontichery* is a large Garrison Town, five Miles in Circumference, and about 16 to the Northward of *Fort St. David's*; but the Number of the Buildings in it are not in Proportion to the Extent of the Place, great Part being Gardens, which caus'd the prodigious Number of Shells our Men threw into the Town, not to do the Execution they otherwise would. The whole is surrounded by a very fine Wall, of great Thickness, built of Brick, and properly

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ly fortified with Bastions, Ravelines, &c. and such Parts of it as are not wash'd by the Sea, encompassed with a wet Ditch, Glacis, Pallisadoes, Counterscarps, &c. according to the modern Way of Fortification. In the Center of the Town is a Citadel, capable of making a good Defence after the taking of the Town; the Garrison of which, when Mr. *Boscawen* open'd the Trenches, consisted of about 2000 *Europeans*, besides a Multitude of Blacks, and was well provided with Ammunition, Provisions, and all manner of Necessaries; so that it would have taken at least 10000 Veteran Troops to reduce it, as 'twas defended with upwards of 300 Pieces of Cannon, mounted on the different Works of the Place, and must have had then a great Number of Mortars, by the vast Quantity of Shells they threw daily amongst our Men.

I shall now return to remark the Proceedings of our Squadron, under Mr. *Griffin's* Command, after having anticipated a further Relation of them, by the above Account of the Siege of *Pontichery*. Not long before Admiral *Boscawen* arrived at *Fort St. David's*, Mr. *Griffin* hoisted the red Flag at the Mizen-topmast-head, being appointed a Rear-Admiral by the Lords of the Admiralty; and soon after, our Ship the *Preston* being leaky, and, in some Parts of her, the Wood considerably decay'd, was survey'd by Order of the Admirals, by the Carpenters of the other Ships, who represented her Condition to be such, that 'twas thought proper she should be left in the Country as a Hulk; accordingly, we put all the Guns ashore at *Fort St. David's*, and on the 16th of *August* sailed for *Trinkonomalle*, with the *Princess Mary*, Admiral *Griffin*, the *Pearl* and *Medway*, which last had come from that Place about a Month before, where they had strengthened her upper Works,

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Works, and hove her down, tho' all the Pains they took with her was to little Purpose, as she still continued to be as leaky as ever.

The *Exeter*, *York*, *Harwich*, and *Eltham*, having joined the Squadron under Admiral, *Boscawen's* Command, and the *Medway* Prize being sent to *Bengal* for Provisions, to serve the Ships that were bound to *England* in a short Time, we ply'd to the Southward with the Ships under Mr. *Griffin*, took in a Supply of Arrack at *Negapatam*, and arrived at *Trinkonomalle* the 4th of *September*, where we found the *Winchester*, lately come from *Bombay*, at which Place she had been to get a new Mainmast, and hove down to stop her Leaks. That Ship, with the *Exeter*, had sail'd for the Coast of *Malabar* in *February*, and forced ashore a *French* Company's Ship, near their Settlement at *Mabé*. Soon after our Arrival at *Trinkonomalle*, our Ship the *Preston*, and the *Medway*, were haul'd into the Cove, between the two small Islands, where they were both put out of Commission, and their Crews were distributed amongst the other Ships in the Bay. The *Preston* having the Boatswain left in her, with a few Men to pump her, was converted into a Hulk, to heave Ships down; and the *Medway* was left sunk close to *Company's Island*, as she was so much decay'd and leaky, that she could be no longer kept afloat with incessant Pumping, which her Men had been constantly used to for several Months before that.

In the Month of *November*, the *Princess Mary* was hove down by the *Preston*, as was immediately after the *Pearl*; and some of the Ships of Admiral *Boscawen's* Squadron, came in there to refit, after the Siege of *Pontichery* was raised. While we continued at *Trinkonomalle*, where the *Dutch* have a Fort, with about 200 Soldiers in Garrison, and there is a Town

near it, inhabited by the *Cylonefe*; we were daily supplied with Plenty of Fish, which we either caught in our own Boats, or bought cheap from the Inhabitants; but we found a Scarcity of almost every other sort of Provisions, occasioned by the extraordinary Consumption made of every thing, by so many Ships being at that Place, which is but small, and with the neighbouring Country thinly inhabited, so that we lost a great many of our Seamen by Sickness, for want of sufficient Refreshment; for the Country People being Pagans, and enjoined by the superstitious Customs prevailing in their Religion, to have a great Veneration for Cows and Oxen, did not care for disposing of them readily, tho' they had Plenty of fine Cattle; and 'twas with Difficulty that fresh Beef, for the worst of our sick Men, was sometimes purchased.

January the 17th, 1749, the Squadron being fitted for Sea, by taking on board a Stock of Water and Wood, and a Supply of Bread, Rice, &c. from the *Medway's* Prize, some Days before that arrived from *Bengal*, as the *Lively* had in the Month of *October*, we sail'd from *Trinkonomalle*, with the Ships under Admiral *Griffin's* Command, viz. the *Princess Mary*, *Winchester*, *Pearl*, *Medway's* Prize, and *Lively*. We proceeded on our Passage to *England*, till the 9th of *March*, when after making 62 Degrees of Longitude West from the Island of *Ceylon*, and we had observed in the Latitude of  $34^{\circ} 39^m$  South, we saw the Land; being some Part of the Coast of *Africa*, to the North Eastward of *Cape Lagullas*. For 13 Days after that, we had hard Gales of Wind from the South-Westward, which kept us plying in Soundings, where we had between 70 and 40 Fathom Water, on the Bank which lies to the Eastward of the Cape, but we gained little Ground,

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as it blew so hard, sometimes with a great Sea, as to oblige us to lie to under our Mainfalls, till the 22d Instant, when the Wind shifting to the Eastward, enabled us to steer for *Table Bay*, near the *Cape of Good Hope*, where we arrived with all our Ships on the 24th. Next Day we put ashore, at the Cape Town, all our sick Men, where they had all the Refreshments the Place afforded, and being lodged in Houses hired of the *Dutch*, by our Admiral's Order, were taken Care of, and attended by our own Surgeons.

The *Dutch* have been settled in that Country ever since the Year 1650, and have great Numbers of their own People inhabiting several hundred Miles from their Capital, the Cape Town, which is well peopled; and being about 3 Miles in Circumference, is built close to the Sea, on the SW. Side of the Bay, at the Foot of a very high Mountain, which is flat at the Top, and for that Reason call'd the Table Land. The Houses in the Town resemble much those in *Holland*, except as to their Covering, for they are all, together with the Church, thatch'd with Straw; because if they were tiled, they would be more liable to be uncover'd with greater Danger to the Inhabitants, by the sudden Blasts of Wind which come sometimes down from the high Land, and the frequent Storms which blow there with great Violence from the N.W. between the Months of *May* and *September*.

The Soil of that Country is very fertile, and produces Plenty of Corn and Wine: With the former the *Dutch* supply their Settlements in the *East-Indies*, and of the latter, which is reckon'd to be the best in the World, they send great Quantities to *Europe*. The *Hottentots*, who are the original Inhabitants of the Country, and a sort of Savages, differing, in many



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many Respects, little from brute Beasts, permit the *Dutch* to make what Improvements they think proper, and reserve only a Liberty to themselves of feeding their Cattle, in which they take great Delight, and employ all their Time, in such Places as do not suit the Conveniency of the *Dutch* to cultivate.

*April* the 21<sup>st</sup>, our Men being mostly recover'd, after taking on board a Supply of Wine and a great Number of Sheep alive, for the Use of our Ships Crews, we sail'd with our Squadron from *Table Bay*, which is in the Latitude of 34 deg. 00 min. South, and about 8 Leagues to the N. W. of the Promontory, properly call'd the *Cape of Good Hope*; and in that Bay we observed the Variation of the Compass to be 16 deg. 12 min. Westerly. We had variable Winds, and much calm Weather, from the Time we left *Table Bay* till we got as far to Northward as the Latitude of 26 deg. 00 min. South, where we found the settled S. E. Trade, which carried us in a few Days to the Island of *St. Helena*, where we arriv'd with our Squadron on the 20<sup>th</sup> of *May*.

This Island lies in the Latitude of 15° 58<sup>m</sup> South, and is about 540 Leagues to the N. W. of the *Cape of Good Hope*. It is about 8 Leagues in Circumference, very high and mountainous, and is kept entirely by our *East-India Company*, on Account of its proper Situation for their Ships from the *East Indies*, to stop at for Water and Refreshments. There it a small Town built in a Valley, about the Middle of the N. W. Side of the Island, where the Company has a Fort, with some good Batteries of Guns fronting the Road where the Ships lie at Anchor, which is on a narrow Bank about a Mile from the Shore.

In that Fort the Governor resides, and it has a Garrison of about 200 Soldiers, who likewise are for the

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the Guard of some other small Forts in different Parts of the Island.

Besides the Company's immediate Servants, there are many private Families settled in the Island, who have Plantations in the Vallies and on the Sides of the Mountains, where they rear up Cattle, and all Sorts of Poultry, which they sell to the People of the Ships that stop there. The Ground produces little else besides Pasturage for their Stock, and Potatoes and Yams (a Sort of Root which is very good eating when well boil'd) which are commonly made use of in the room of Bread for the Inhabitants; for, though in many Places of the Island Corn would grow very well, 'tis impossible to preserve it till ripe from being destroyed by the Rats and Mice, which swarm in the Fields there.

Many of the Mountains in this Island are almost inaccessiblely steep, and the Tops of them by their great Height frequently attract the Clouds, which descend in Rain, and cause a perpetual Verdure in the Valleys below. The Garrison is supplied with Provisions yearly by a Storeship from *England*, and the Planters receive frequent Recruits to their Stock of Bullocks and Sheep, by the Ships that touch at the *Cape of Good Hope*, in their Way to the Island; by which Means they are enabled to furnish, though at a pretty dear Rate, fresh Provisions to the Company's Ships that stop there for Refreshments.

Fish is very plenty at *St. Helena*, especially a certain Sort call'd Horse-Mackarel, which are extremely good, and are commonly catch'd in the Night, when 'tis usual to carry a Light in the Boat that goes a Fishing, which makes them approach in Shoals, and so are easily taken in great Quantities. While we lay in *St. Helena* Road, where we observ'd by an Amplitude the Variation of the Compass 9° 56<sup>m</sup> Westerly.

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Westerly. Most of our Ships fetch'd their Water from *Lemon Valley*, which is about a Mile and a half to the Southward of the Town, where the Watering Place is not so convenient for filling of Casks.

June the 7th, having taken on board a sufficient Stock of Water, and the *Eastcourt* Company's Ship under our Convoy, we sail'd from *St. Helena* with our Squadron from *England*.

We met with nothing material in our Passage, and arriv'd safe at *Spithead* on the 31st of July with our Ships, which were all soon after put out of Commission in the River *Thames*, except the *Princess Mary*, which was paid off on the 20th of August following at *Portsmouth*.

Before I conclude, I think it will not be amiss to make the following Remarks concerning the Trade Winds and Currents in the *Atlantic Ocean*.

In the *Atlantic Ocean*, which separates the Continents of *Africa* and *America*, the NE. and SE. Trade-Winds, the former prevailing mostly between the Tropic of *Cancer* and the *Æquator*, and the latter between that and the Tropic of *Capricorn*, blow the whole Year, without Intermision, but not with equal Force, at all times, nor in all Latitudes; for sometimes Ships, either bound to the Southward from *Europe*, or coming from *Brazil*, or the *East-Indies*, carry these Winds 3 or 4 Degrees on the contrary Sides of the *Æquator*, tho' they commonly meet with calm Weather, attended with Thunder, Lightning, and Rain, within four or five Degrees of each Side of the Line. But more to the Northward or Southward, it may be looked upon as a general Rule, that these Winds, for the most part, blow moderately at E. N. E. and E. S. E. and are sometimes found in the Latitudes of 30 Degrees, by Ships which will keep them till they get the true Trade  
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near the Tropics; but as that does not always happen, it is not to be looked upon as a general Rule.

In the middle of this Ocean, near the *æquinoctial* Line, it is not so much subject to Tornadoes and Calms, but more to fair Weather and fresh Breezes; therefore all Ships bound to the *East-Indies* should endeavour to cross the Line as near as they can the Mid-Channel, for fear of meeting Calms near the Coast of *Guinea*, or the soaking Currents to the Westward, of which I have experienced the bad Effects, in a former Voyage in his Majesty's Ship *Preston*, bound to convoy our Company's Ship in the Year 1743, from the Island of *St. Helena*.

Tho' we crossed the *æquinoctial* Line within a Degree of the Meridian of *St. Jago*, we met with much calm Weather, with Thunder, Lightning, and Rain, between the Latitudes 5°, 00' North, and 2° 00' South; and tho' I allowed the Ship's Drift to the Westward to be at the Rate of 15 Miles in 24 Hours; yet in the Progress of our Voyage we had reason to conclude our missing the Island of *St. Helena* was chiefly owing to not giving a larger Allowance to the westerly Current near the Line; for we were by our Reckonings five or six Degrees to the Eastward of the Island, when we bore away for it in the same Parallel of Latitude; but did not see it, because, as we found afterwards, we had not been far enough to the Eastward, when we began to steer for the Island; tho' the Variation we had then was above 11 Degrees westerly, which must have been owing to a Fault in the Azimuth Compass, as the Variation at *St. Helena* is only about 10 Degrees.

Having missed the Island, we bore away for the Coast of *Brazil*, where we saw one of our Company's Ships lying upon a Ridge of Rocks, from which she was afterwards got off, and proceeded to  
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the *East-Indies*. She had run ashore in the Night, likewise by her Officers imagining they were above 30 Leagues from the Land, when she struck.

I have sufficient Reason to conclude, that the not giving due Allowance to the Westerly Current, near the Equinoctial Line, was chiefly the Cause of our missing the Island of *St. Helena*, and of this Ship's running ashore on the Coast of *Brazil*; both which Instances ought to make those who have Occasion to go on Southern Voyages, very careful about keeping their Reckonings, and making exact Observations of the Setting of the Currents, when calm Weather will permit them. Besides, when they may suppose they are not far from Land, the Colour of the Water, which may be seen to change when near any Continent, should be carefully observed; and likewise Care ought then to be taken to sound at proper Times in the Night. But there is nothing more necessary than to keep a constant good Look-out, when sailing towards any Land; as in such long Runs as Ships have in an *East-India* Voyage, 'tis altogether impossible to keep a tolerably exact Account of their Easting and Westing, for want of a more certain Method than that which is now used by Navigators, for finding the Longitude made from the Meridian of the Place last departed from; which is a Subject that has taken up the Time and Study of many ingenious Men of late Ages, and various Schemes have been by them thought of, but none of them yet have answered the Purpose of Navigation to any Degree of Exactness, so as to be depended on with Certainty or Safety: And if ever that important Discovery of ascertaining the Longitude at Sea is made, it must be by some more lucky Genius than has ever attempted to search after it in Time past.

F I N I S.